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Kyla graduated with a B.S. in Geology (minor in Chemistry) from the University of Miami in 1997. While there she rowed varsity crew and began doing undergraduate research at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RMSAS), which she then turned into a masters thesis "Volatiles in basaltic glasses from the Easter-Salas y Gomez Seamount Chain and Easter Microplate: Implications for geochemical cycling of volatile elements" in 2000. While at UM she was T.A. for courses like Mineralogy and Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology.

Her doctoral dissertation at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (completed 2007, with Langmuir and Goldstein) was an extension of the geochemistry research she started at UM, combining traditional geochemical tracers (major and trace elements, radiogenic isotopes) with light stable isotopes (primarily Li) to investigate the large scale mantle processes of recycling and convection. At the time, measuring H, Li and B isotopes was challenging, as the techniques to measure these were still being developed. After many technical challenges she was able generate some of the first Li isotope measurements on rocks suites that represent the inputs to mantle recycling (*i.e.,* down-going crust and sediments). Further work on MORB and OIB suites helped constrain the outputs of mantle recycling, and led to her dissertation entitled "Li isotope variability: New constraints on mantle heterogeneity".

After a year of teaching Earth Science at a new charter high school in Washington Heights, she decided to pursue a post-doc at the University of Miami. This work was an extension of the geochemical investigations into mantle heterogeneity that was begun at UM and L-DEO, and focused on the complexities of the slab-mantle interface during subduction, as well as the behavior of light stable isotopes in magmas, such as the role of diffusion. After a 3 year post-doc and teaching numerous courses at UM and Miami-Dade College as an adjunct, and being an adjunct at the American Museum of Natural History, there was an opportunity to change directions and explore the oil and gas industry with ExxonMobil. She is currently as exploration geologist in Houston with ExxonMobil and has worked on a variety of projects at different scales and complexities in diverse settings (*e.g.,* North Caspian, Gulf of Mexico and Middle East). Although her academic career did not directly tie into day to day issues faced by industry, the scientific training it gave her provided the right tools to be able to make a successful transition.