

WSU professor receives award for excellence

Assistant professor Dr. Lisa Kenyon was awarded the President's Award for Excellence: Early Career Achievement from Wright State University.

An expert in the field of biology education, Lisa Kenyon joined the Department of Biological Sciences as an assistant professor in 2005.

"Her specialty might be called developmental scientific epistemology—that is, how do elementary age children come to have an understanding of the nature of science and to apply that way of knowing to their view of the world," said department chair David Goldstein. "Lisa is passionate about this subject. She has a deep-seated commitment to instilling scientific reasoning skills in school-children and to understanding how those skills develop so that she can teach others how to impart them."

Kenyon established a research program involving teachers in the Beavercreek, Fairborn and Oakwood



Dr. Lisa Kenyon

school districts to implement and analyze curricula that promote scientific modeling. To support that research, Kenyon and a team of collaborators at nationally prominent institutions received funding from the National Science Foundation.

"This work represents the leading edge of research in the field, at a time when engagement in the 'knowledge economy' is of highest priority," said Goldstein.

To implement some of these ideas, Kenyon secured funding from the Ohio Board of Regents to support

professional development programs for in-service teachers, including summer workshops and follow-up training and studies. Kenyon has also been involved with selecting teachers for the new Dayton Regional STEM School and has worked with these teachers to develop the school's curriculum.

Inside her own classroom, Kenyon trains tomorrow's elementary school teachers with the same passion and enthusiasm she has for teaching science. In a recent evaluation, one student described Kenyon as a "great role model for what a teacher should be." Another student said, "Teachers like Kenyon make me interested in science and want to teach it."

Dr. Kenyon is a resident of Oakwood.

O'Hara recognized at AFP luncheon

Oakwood High School alumna Barbara O'Hara was named the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser at the 2009 National Philanthropy Day luncheon held at the Benjamin and Marion Schuster Center last Thursday.

O'Hara has devoted her talent and an immeasurable number of hours to positively impact our region. Her touch extends from supporting budding athletes, to improving the lives of animals, to empowering job seekers, to preserving our history, to bolstering the arts. Barbara believes it is important to be a spokesperson for her community, to learn about what is happening and to be involved. She funds an annual athletic scholarship for an outstanding female athlete at her alma mater, Oakwood High School, and is an active and passionate advocate for numerous Dayton nonprofit organizations.

As a volunteer fundraiser at Clothes That Work, Dayton History,



Barbara O'Hara

the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Barbara is adept at building relationships, matching people's passions with nonprofit missions and leading by example. She has been instrumental in founding major giving societies and re-energizing fundrais

See **O'Hara** on page 4

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