



Karen Hicks

Associate Professor of Biology, Co-Director of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Professor Hicks has been awarded a GLCA New Directions Initiative Grant for her project “Using next-generation sequencing technology to assess natural variation: a new direction to investigate the evolutionary origins of seasonal regulation of reproduction in land plants.” She requested funding “To become skilled in these [next-generation sequencing technologies] approaches, ...” Professor Hicks will use her new knowledge and skills to “identify the genetic basis of natural variation in daylength responses in *Physcomitrella patens* sexual reproduction. Identification of these genetic variants will allow us to test the involvement of genes that share sequence-similarity between mosses and flowering plants and will help us to identify novel genes that may have arisen or been co-opted into the daylength regulation pathway specifically in the non-vascular plant lineage.”



Robert O'Malley

Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Professor O'Malley's article with William Wallauer, Carson M. Murray, and Jane Goodall, “The Appearance and Spread of Ant Fishing among the Kasekela Chimpanzees of Gombe: A Possible Case of Intercommunity Cultural Transmission” has been published in *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 53, No. 5 (October 2012), pp. 650-663. “Chimpanzee innovations may be low tech by human standards, but they get the job done and are gradually improving and spreading,” the article suggests.

The study, published in the latest issue of *Current Anthropology*, presents the first documented case of successful transmission of a novel cultural behavior—ant fishing—between wild chimpanzee communities. Go to <http://news.discovery.com/animals/chimpanzee-primates-tech-innovation-121024.html> to learn more about Professor O'Malley's chimps in “The Great Chimp Tech Boom.”

October

Marne Ausec

Director of the Center for Global Engagement

Ms. Ausec has been elected to a three year term on the Academic Council of the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES). The Academic Council oversees IES Abroad program quality control by setting educational policy for IES Abroad, advising the IES Abroad President concerning all academic matters, and providing for systematic contact between the Member institutions and IES Abroad both in the U.S. and abroad. Kenyon College is an IES member school.

Jim Carson

Associate Professor of English

Professor Carson has been named the William P. Rice ('66) Chair in English and Literature.

Robert O'Malley

Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

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November

Robert O'Malley

Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Robert's article with Michael L. Power "Nutritional Composition of Actual and Potential Insect Prey for the Kasakela Chimpanzees of Gombe National Park, Tanzania" has been published online (ahead of the printed version) by the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, doi: 10.1002/ajpa.22151 (2012).

December

Karen Hicks

Associate Professor of Biology

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Kenyon Writes

In 2011, a Mellon Presidential Discretionary Grant was awarded to Jenn Fishman, a 1994 Kenyon alumnae and Assistant Professor of English in the Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University, to conduct the Kenyon Writes project. Kenyon Writes is a two-year mixed methods study of writing at Kenyon College.

During the first year of the study (AY2011-12), Professor Fishman administered two surveys: a census-style survey of all faculty and random sample survey of students, first-years to seniors. The second year of the study (AY2012-13), currently underway, is a retrospective longitudinal case study of volunteers from the graduating Class of 2013. Fourteen students from across Kenyon's four academic divisions agreed to participate in interviews and contribute a portfolio of their college writing, including both in- and out-of-class texts.

Brian Jones

Associate Professor of Mathematics



Jenn Fishman ('94)

Assistant Professor of English
The Helen Way Klingler
College of Arts and Sciences
Marquette University

During Spring 2013, in collaboration with Kenyon Associate Professor of Mathematics Brian Jones, Professor Fishman is working on sharing a slice of Y1 survey findings with the Kenyon community via an informational pamphlet. It is their hope that the pamphlet will be informative as well as interesting and useful to an audience that includes students, faculty, and staff. Fishman and Jones anticipate presenting the completed pamphlet to the campus community some time in April 2013.

Featured Program:

Brown Family Environmental Center

Opened in October 1995, the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC) at Kenyon College serves both the College and the broader community of Knox County and beyond, offering a variety of programs and resources for people of all ages throughout the year that are free and open to the public. Programs include explorations of the many habitats found within the 400 acre preserve, including the Wildlife Garden, prairie, forests, streams, and wetlands. Seasonal topics may include migrating birds or bald eagle watches, frog habitats and the sounds of spring, wildflower hikes, star gazing and creek walks.

The BFEC collaborates with local organizations to host a number of larger events, including an Earth Day Health Expo in April, a Kokosing State Scenic River Day in June and a Harvest Festival in October. Adults and families can also stay fit and challenge themselves with a number of outdoor recreation programs including the Earth Day Challenge Marathon, ½ Marathon and Relay, the Dog Days Family Trail Running Festival in August and The MudMan Triple Trail Race Series in November. Since its inception, over 10,000 school children have visited the Center for class field trips. Programs offer hands-on, outdoor experiences that help to inspire children's curiosity and wonder about nature while addressing Ohio academic science standards. Kindergarteners learn about the seasons and using the five senses, 2nd graders learn about the habitats of Ohio and the adaptations of the plants and animals within them and 5th graders learn about food webs and ecosystem dynamics. Programs are also available on topics such as soil and nutrient cycling, the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and river ecology. Many Kenyon faculty and students currently utilize the BFEC for research and studies in anthropology, biology, ecology, animal behavior and environmental studies.



David Heithaus
Facility Manager
Brown Family Environmental Center

Mr. Heithaus is responsible for maintaining and conserving the BFEC's 380 acres of natural habitat. Additionally, he is tasked with monitoring and expanding the center's trail systems and gardens, facilitating research projects, and helping to organize community events. Heithaus is a 1999 graduate of Kenyon College and has worked as a Wilderness Specialist, biological technician, and ecological research consultant in Arizona, North Carolina and Western Australia respectively.



Heather Doherty
Program Manager
Brown Family Environmental Center

Ms. Doherty is responsible for developing educational programs that serve Kenyon College as well as adults and children throughout Knox County. Heather is an Ohio native and grew up in southwestern portion of the state. She earned a B.A. in Biology at Kenyon College in 1998. Since then, Heather has worked in a variety of disciplines related to the environment, including field research in Utah and regulatory work with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources.



Jill Kerkhoff
Facility and Program Assistant
Brown Family Environmental Center

Ms. Kerkhoff is the BFEC administrative assistant and helps coordinate a number of volunteer-staffed activities, including the BFEC student managers, the summer garden program, animal care, and school field trips. She spent 15 years as an elementary and Montessori schoolteacher in central New Mexico and southern Arizona before coming to Ohio.

Featured Program:

Center for the Study of American Democracy

Kenyon has always prided itself on a dedication to debating the issues of the day, no matter how controversial, through deliberative inquiry and civil, probing conversation. Based in the newly opened O'Connor House, the Center for the Study of American Democracy organizes conferences, lectures, and seminars with the goal of stimulating nonpartisan civic and political discourse. The center also provides teaching and research opportunities for faculty and students, and promotes student internships in Washington. The center was established through a 'We the People' Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2007, with matching funds being raised through Kenyon's current campaign.

The Center held its second biennial conference April 12-14, 2012, oriented around the question "Should America Promote Democracy Abroad?" The conference was made possible in part by support from a "We the People" Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities*, the Thomas W. Smith Foundation, and the George L. Ohrstrom Jr. Foundation.

The Center hosted its inaugural biennial conference April 8-10, 2010. The conference was made possible in part by support from a "We the People" Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Thomas W. Smith Foundation, and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. Entitled "The Future of Political Parties," the conference included public panels and private discussions with participants from a variety of fields. The keynote address was given jointly by E.J. Dionne of the Brookings Institute and The Washington Post and William Kristol, political analyst and editor of *The Weekly Standard*.



Thomas Karako
Director, Center for the
Study of American Democracy/
Assistant Professor of
Political Science

Professor Karako became the director of the CSAD in 2011. He often teaches "The Quest for Justice" and "Liberal Democracy in America," two of the core courses in the Political Science Department. In addition, during the years when CSAD holds conferences, he designs special courses relating to the conference topics, such as "Democracy Promotion and U.S. Foreign Policy" in Spring 2012.



Kathleen Tipler
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for the
Study of American Democracy/
Visiting Assistant Professor of
Political Science

Postdoctoral Fellow Tipler teaches Quest for Justice in the Political Science Department. At CSAD, she works with students to publicize and promote events, and has been helping develop the Center's online presence.



Jalene Fox
Administrative Assistant
Center for the Study of American Democracy and the Department of Political Science

Jalene Fox manages the logistics of all CSAD events, including campus lectures, events, campus outreach, and conferences, all toward the Center's goal of stimulating conversation about pressing topics of the day. She coordinates speaker travel, dinners, and the necessary paperwork that goes into each successful event.