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DAYTON

## Teacher going to Belize to study

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Kathrene Mayne is a science teacher at Horace Mann PreK-8. CONTRIBUTED

By Virginia Burroughs

Contributing Writer

Kathrene Mayne, science teacher at Horace Mann PreK-8 School, will be heading to the Central American country of Belize at the end of this month, returning just two days before school starts. But, Mayne won't be vacationing; instead, she'll be busy studying marine biology, scientific examination and conservation through Global Field Study, a Miami University on-site master's program.

"It's an intense, very challenging program, with a lot of preparatory and follow-up work at home," said Mayne. "It's a three-year program for a master of arts and teaching biological sciences. This year's class started in April, and I've already turned in a paper.

"Last year, I went to Baja, Calif., and studied ecology and marine biology. Other students in my group include biologists, conservationists, and educators from all over the world, and their

level of expertise is very high. We work with real scientists; in Baja we had to count and measure cacti in the desert and keep track of the different species."

Each year, Mayne has to do an action inquiry project on an aspect of her experience, which will come in handy, since Horace Mann will be partnering with Wright State University this year as a professional development school, with the focus on inquiry science.

Although the heat in Belize will be similar to that in Baja, there will be more humidity. "In Baja, it was dry heat, and we slept outdoors in cots off the desert ground to keep us away from the scorpions," she said.

"There will be a lot more bugs in Belize, and I've already gotten my malaria and other shots and medicines. We'll have lodges when we study at the zoo, and will do home stays when we go to the baboon sanctuary. We'll also be looking at their conservation programs and studying marine biology, which is one of my favorites."

Mayne's been teaching since 1986, starting in surrounding school districts and parochial schools before coming to Dayton Public Schools. Her two children, who went through DPS, are now grown.

"I wasn't seeking a master's degree program when I learned about Miami University's Earth Expeditions and Global Field Study programs. I was looking for a professional challenge and inspiration," she said.

"I'll be teaching for at least another ten years, and there is always more to learn. I'm gaining a worldwide network of new friends and colleagues."

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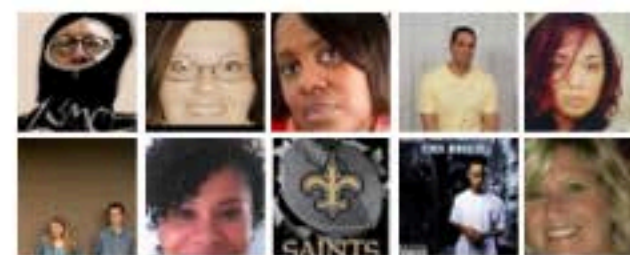
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