Professor, students will visit Kenya

By Carmel Martin
Lantern staff writer

An OSU professor of social studies education will lead a study tour of Kenya this summer in cooperation with the College of Education.

M. Eugene Gilliom, who has led 20 study tours around the world since 1969, said the tour group will be studying the culture and gathering teaching materials in order that social studies teachers will have a better knowledge of Kenya.

"It is based on the assumption that one can teach better what one has experienced," Gilliom said.

Students interested in the tour must sign up at Ohio State and they will earn six hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.

Twenty students have signed up, including two social studies teachers from California, one from New Jersey, a professor from Penn State and a graduate student from Indonesia.

The group will arrive in Nairobi on July 8 and tour eight different areas of Kenya including Samburu, Aberdare (Mt. Kenya), Amboseli (Mt. Kilamanjaro) and Masai Mara.

Kenyan schools, which are based on the British school system, will be toured along with a Kenyan coffee plantation and the teacher training college.

"Much time will be spent in the countryside for our interest in ecology, geography and third-world development," Gilliom said.

Regis Birchbichler, a social studies teacher at Westerville South, and his wife Marilyn, a home economics teacher, will be going on the tour.

Birchbichler said he decided to go because Kenya is studied as part of the world history classes he teaches.

"I have a great interest in seeing the places that I teach about," Birchbichler said.

Birchbichler's wife said she wants to learn more about Kenyan culture.

"I hope to learn more about the people," she said. "Home economics is really more about families within a culture."
Kenyan tour promises a wild time

By Christopher J. Kaune
Lantern staff writer

An OSU professor is offering students a chance to visit Africa and see many species of wildlife that may be extinct in a few years.

Frank E. Poirier, professor of anthropology, is putting together a study group for a 16-day tour of Kenya next summer. The trip will allow students to view wildlife in a natural setting.

"I'd like people to see the wildlife in Africa and see it before it's gone," Poirier said. "It's going to be gone sooner or later no matter how much we try to conserve it."

The trip is open to all university students. Up to five credit hours are available for those who participate.

Poirier said the trip was not designed for students with particular majors but for any students interested in seeing African wildlife.

Egypt National Tours is handling the travel arrangements for the trip. The company has arranged several study tours with Ohio State in the past.

"We've had an excellent response to this type of program," said Magdy M. Amer, owner of the tour company and an OSU graduate. "These trips are mostly lead by professors such as Dr. Poirier, who are highly specialized in their field."

Poirier said many students have expressed an interest in the trip, but as of yet only one person has put a deposit down.

Poirier expects 15 to 20 students to sign up for the trip before their departure in June.

Amer said that although people were usually slow to sign up, "toward departure we always reach the expected number of students."

The group will visit several game reserves, including Amboseli, one of the largest reserves in the world and the site of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The tour group will also see the Mara National Reserve where they can observe the migrations of the endangered wildebeest and zebra, Poirier said.

Poirier said one highlight of the trip was "The Ark," a large resort hotel in Kenya.

"It's a hotel built on stilts up in the trees, and the animals that feed at night are drawn into the area so you can watch all of them as they come in," Poirier said. "It's a major tourist attraction."

The tour is being advertised at 20 to 30 other universities across the United States, Poirier said.

"We're just hoping to pick up people who are interested in the types of things we'll be doing," Poirier said.

"It's a pleasure trip that's also educational," he said. "If anyone wants to see African wildlife in its natural setting, this is their chance."

The cost of the trip is $2,595. A $200 deposit must be made when signing up for the trip. The trip can be charged. Anyone interested in the study tour should contact Poirier at 292-9766.