Chris Groves Feature

VFTH

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Anchor Intro: A WKU Professor of Geography and Geology is using his expertise in hydro-geology and water resources to impact people around the world.

Amy Bingham profiles Dr. Chris Groves in this week’s View from the Hill.

Amy Intro: Chris Groves has been teaching at WKU for the past twenty years but his research has taken him way beyond the vast cave and karst areas in this region.

Supers:

:00 - :04 Dr. Chris Groves \WKU Prof. of Geography & Geology

PKG: 1:30

14:49 “Some of the things going on now or that have happened I couldn’t have imagined ten years ago, or even five years ago.”

Dr. Chris Groves is talking about the progress that’s been made in China when it comes to improving water supplies and air quality.

9:17 “What’s happening is my colleagues and I are training Chinese scientists and government officials in methods to develop water resources in their areas.”

The research has come a long way since Groves made his first trip to China in 1995 when Dr. Wei-Ping Pan was leading an exchange program for WKU faculty.

5:13 “Of all the China stuff going on at Western right now he was sort of doing China before China was cool.”

Now, as a distinguished professor, Groves is head of the China Environmental Health Project and is also working on a trilateral agreement between WKU, China and Barbados.

The impact of that agreement will be enormous but Groves says working with students is just as rewarding as the research itself.

8:43 “One thing I enjoy is getting students involved regardless of what it is.”

The China connection has impacted Groves’ personal life as well. He and his wife have adopted both of their daughters from there. They also serve as a host family for one of the Chinese teachers that has come here through the Confucius Institute.

He says it’s all made for an interesting life and he can’t wait to see where the research takes him next.

14:50ish “The thing that excites me about that is what sort of opportunities are out there that we can’t even dream of now.”

TAG

You may remember that just over ten years ago, Groves was trapped inside a cave near Mammoth Cave for more than 14 hours before he was rescued. You can read more about the accident and all his accomplishments in the spring issue of “Spirit” magazine.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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