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Professor takes TV crew on cave tour

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# Professor takes TV crew on cave tour

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Northern Kentucky University made national news last week when the CBS "Early Show" featured biology professor Hazel Barton on its "Keoghan's Heroes" segment with host Phil Keoghan of "The Amazing Race."

The piece, called "Underground Rock Star," was about four minutes long.

"I've never gone looking for involvement in documentaries or news shows, but I get about three or so inquiries a year," said Barton. "I've been asked to host television series three times now. Not sure why."

**ADVERTISEMENT** The Sept. 20 segment featured Barton's work collecting extremophiles in a southern Kentucky cave. Extremophiles are organisms that thrive in places normally inhospitable to life - such as caves, deserts or places with high chemical or salt concentrations. Collecting their enzymes may open the door to powerful new drugs, Barton said.

"The potential is huge. I mean everything that we're learning about extremophiles is just like blowing everybody's mind," Barton said during the segment.

The segment also showed Barton working and joking with students.

"They came to NKU, spent the afternoon filming there, then we all went down to southern Kentucky and filmed the following morning," said Barton. "They were supposed to be around filming for longer, but Phil Keoghan was nominated for an Emmy, so he had to get back to L.A. for the Emmy Awards."

Working with CBS gave her some insight into the level of professionalism they have.

"These national news folks are extremely good at their job and the filming was done with a natural ease and flow, despite the challenging conditions that filming in a cave present," she said. Barton also learned that a four-minute morning news segment makes her a celebrity to some people.

"I got a letter from someone asking me for my autograph," said Barton. "That was very strange."



PROVIDED PHOTO

A CBS "Early Show" camera crew prepares to shoot footage of professor Hazel Barton working in a cave in southern Kentucky.

Video of the segment can be found on [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com).

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