



PHR~News from the Basement

End of Winter Quarter Update ~ March 2008

Cats out of Egypt!?



Leslie and Dr. Little examine cat bones strewn throughout the sand at the tomb site.

Leslie with French and Egyptian Egyptologists in the Tomb of Maia examine a cat mummy .



The Lyons laboratory recently had a recent Egyptian adventure – spending 2 weeks chasing cats from Lower to Upper Egypt with National Geographic. Result from the labs January publication in Genomics, the National Geographic Society (NGS) is filming a documentary with the Lyons lab on cat origins. With funding from a National Geographic Society Expedition grant, Leslie Lyons, Rob and Jen Grahn and PhD student Jennifer Kurushima went to Egypt and collected over 80 buccal swab samples from feral cats. Cats were collected from Cairo, Giza, Assuit, Luxor and Abu Simbel, which is near the border with the Sudan. The cats were enticed with Starkist tuna and left-over meat from the previous nights' dinners. By placing the meat on the cytological brush, just above the brush, the cats left sufficient DNA behind when they bit the meat off of the brush. The lab will expand on the previous study, nearly doubling the sample set. They hope to prove if Egypt was a potential site for cat domestication. While in Assuit, the team also provided lectures to the veterinary school as Assuit hopes to develop the first internal medicine program for cats in Egypt. Beside the cat highlights, the team got to ride camels at the pyramids, take pictures INSIDE the Temple of Ramses, and hold cat mummies inside the newly excavated tomb of Maia, the wet nurse for King Tut. The documentary will be an episode of Explorer on the National Geographic Channel this coming summer.

PHR FACULTY SEARCH UPDATE

The search committee has been appointed for two faculty positions in Population Health and Reproduction (Ruminant Nutrition Management and Epidemiology and Biostatistics) to be located at the VMTRC. Jim Cullor, Peter Robinson, Bruce Hoar, Jim Reynolds, Robert Moeller, Tom Farver, Dennis Wilson, and chairing the committee will be Joan Rowe. The position descriptions to be posted on the PHR website soon.

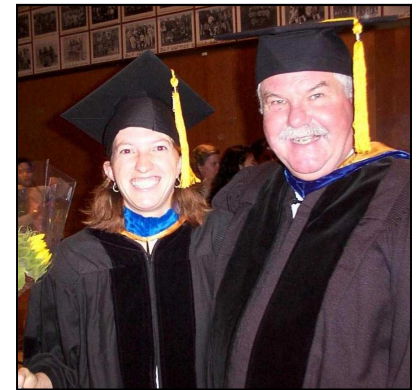
Dates to remember:

- March 29-Cesar Chavez Day Holiday
- March 31-Spring Quarter Begins
- April 19-Picnic Day
- May 14-Awards Ceremony
- May 26-Memorial Day Holiday
- June 6-Instruction ends
- June 13-SVM Commencement

49 days of instruction this quarter



Congratulations to **Barry Ball** for his upper level merit to Professor Step VI. The advancement to Professor, Step VI, calls for evidence of highly distinguished scholarship, highly meritorious service and evidence of excellent University teaching. The total career of the candidate must have distinction when considered as a unit.



Bill with his graduate student Rebecca Stanton.

Congratulations to **Bill Lasley** who was selected to receive the 2008 **Alumni Achievement Award** which is the highest honor the School bestows upon our alumni. This award is in recognition of his outstanding personal and professional contributions to veterinary science or one of its branches, to veterinary practice in any of its forms, or service to mankind and the advancement of human welfare.