



MEDIA CONTACT:

Wendy Aitkens

Curator, Galt Museum & Archives
403.320-3907 |
waitkens@galtmuseum.com

Shawn Bubel

Associate Professor of Archeology,
University of Lethbridge
403.329-2531 | bubest@uleth.ca

**“THE OTHER SIDE OF CAIRO” TELLS ARCHEOLOGY STUDENTS’ STORIES**

PHOTO EXHIBIT ON THROUGH FEB 01.09

A local component has been added to the exhibit *Egypt, Gift of the Nile* at the Galt Museum & Archives with the exhibit ***The other side of Cairo***, organized by guest curator Chrissy Foreman, featuring photographs by University of Lethbridge Archaeology students. Following four-week digs in Israel the students traveled to Cairo, Egypt to see the ancient sites – including tourist destinations and places not on the usual tourist itinerary – and captured their experience on camera.



“When I was asked to work on this exhibit, I thought it would be better to show Lethbridge its own students visiting modern Egypt than displaying souvenirs they bought in the market place that are actually made in China or India,” says U of L Archaeology student Chrissy Foreman. “These photos may show people an aspect of Cairo that they do not see on the Discovery Channel or in National Geographic. These are not professional photographers, just ordinary students exploring another culture.”

Along with the **pyramids**, the **sphinx** at Giza, and the **step pyramid** at Djoser just outside Cairo, the students explored **modern Cairo**, **historic sites being rebuilt** by local people and **Christian churches**. After renting warm blankets from local Bedouin, they walked for hours to the top of **Mount Sinai** [2285 m] where they stayed the night and enjoyed sunrise from its heights. Their night life also included a **party in a Bedouin tent** complete with traditional dress, drinks in a modern bar, and the spectacular light and sound show at Giza. The students encountered **Egyptian military personnel** everywhere. “They are there to protect tourists and tourist attractions,” according to Foreman.

These trips to the Middle East are part of **Archaeology 3000** [Excavation Techniques in the Near East] and **3300** [Archaeological Field Work in Israel] **course work** led by **Dr. Shawn Bubel**, who will be the featured speaker at Café Galt on January 13, 2009 when she presents “Excavating Ancient Egypt and the Near East”.

The other side of Cairo will be displayed until February 1, 2009 on the lower level foyer, and is also available on the photo-sharing site [flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) [search for *The other side of Cairo* or [link directly](#)]. Photographers are Bobbi Bartek, Frank Deheer, Jill Deheer, Chrissy Foreman, Krissy Fryklund, Darren Joblonkay, Dylan Johnson, Kara MacMillan, Ryan Mallard, Tammi Mills Sorkilmo, Graham Ouwerkerk, Ian Ouwerkerk and Alli Smithdorf. Photography by Dr. Bubel is also included.

In addition to the photographs, a number of **locally sourced, Egypt-related artifacts** are displayed in the **Archives Reference Room**. These include a 1920s wall-hanging from The Netherlands – inspired by the discovery of King Tutankhamen’s tomb – as well as a number of mementos obtained by Canadian World War One soldier **Gerald Saltmarsh**. Saltmarsh was stationed in Egypt in 1916 and brought with him amulets, a tomb fragment, carvings and Greek coins upon his return. Postcards he sent home from the warfront are also included.

The Archives Reference Room is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. The Galt Museum is open Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm; Sundays and holidays from 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

For information on other exhibits, events and programs, please check www.galtmuseum.com.

- 30 -

The Galt Museum is located at the west end of 5 Avenue South, off Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta
Access to parking lot from 4 Avenue South | enter Galt through the sliding north doors
tel 403.320-3898 | info: 320-GALT | fax: 403.329-4958 | www.galtmuseum.com
MAIL 910 – 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6