NELSON REVEALS NEW EVIDENCE OF EARLIEST DOMESTIC CATTLE

Charles M. Nelson, associate professor of anthropology, has uncovered evidence in three separate sites in the central highlands of Kenya that reveals a continuous record of reliance on domestic cattle for more than 15,000 years. The earliest use of domestic cattle, which were herded rather than hunted, he says, took place in the context of local hunting and gathering societies. They developed intensive food-producing economies between 5,000 and 3,500 years ago. The new discoveries, dated using radiocarbon and obsidian hydration, push the age of the earliest known domestic animals back nearly 5,000 years, according to Nelson.

Evidence, recovered during a five-year excavation program, includes numerous bones and teeth of domestic cattle and a variety of hunted animals, thousands of obsidian artifacts, and pottery which may date as early as 10,000 years ago. "This evidence raises serious questions about the conventional notion that the western world can trace its origins and development to a single cradle of civilization," says Nelson. "From our earliest school days we are taught that civilization first developed in the Middle East and then spread to India, Central Asia, Europe and North Africa. But the evidence our team has unearthed in East Africa, when coupled with recent discoveries from North Africa and southern Eurasia, suggests that many of the elements necessary to the development of civilization in the Near East actually originated in surrounding areas and were subsequently introduced to the Near East through trade and cultural diffusion."

Nelson and his chief collaborator John Kimengich, an expert in the identification of skeletal remains from the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi, also point out that the 15,000-year record of domestic cattle from East Africa, an area where wild cattle have never existed, will enable scientists to study the long-term skeletal and genetic evolution of cattle under domestic conditions for the first time. This study, which is just beginning, may well lead to a reassessment of early cattle remains associated with ancient cultures in other parts of the world, particularly Europe, the Near East and Asia.

Collaborating institutions and sponsors of Nelson's work include the National Museums of Kenya, the U of Nairobi, Penn State U, Geochron Labs in Cambridge, U of Cal Riverside, the National Science Foundation and the Massachusetts Foundation.

She has also been appointed coordinator of resources. Next spring, previously foreign student and international programs advisor, will direct the new Office of International Exchange. She moves to the third floor of the Adm Build where she will continue to handle all foreign student affairs as well as overseas study and exchange programs.

TRUSTEE ACTION

At their regular meeting in Aug the Board of Trustees officially voted to name UMB's new athletic facility The Catherine Forbes Clark Athletic and Recreation Center to reflect the dual uses of the building -- intramural and intercollegiate sports and campus and community recreation.

PUBLISHING


GRANTS & CONTRACTS

The Office of Grant and Contract Administration reports that UMB received 13 awards in July. They went to Kit Bryant of the Higher Education Prison Program from the Department of Correction; to the Chancellor from the Department of Education for professors emeriti to study various UMB issues and recommend alternatives; to Dean Frank at CFPS from the Administration on Aging for a three-campus project on careers in gerontology; to Bill Joiner of Veterans' Affairs from the Department of Education; to Joan Lien of the Center for Survey Research and the Psychology Department from Boston College to undertake the third year of her project on family and individual coping; to Dorothy Marshall, professor emeritus of politics, a grant for a lecture program about "The City" from the Sperry and Hutchinson Foundation; to Molly Matson of the Illinois Committee for the Department of Education; to Michael Milburn of the Psychology Department from Harvard to survey teenage drinking; to Ben Noll of the Physics Department to continue his M.I.T. contract; to Celia Moore of the Psychology Department a National Science Foundation grant to continue her research on hormones and experience in gender differentiation; also from the National Science Foundation to Diane Paul of the Politics Department for work on Marxism and evolutionary biology; and to Joseph Slavet of the Boston Urban Observatory from the City to evaluate fair housing in Boston.
CHANCELLOR'S ANNUAL PICNIC

On Sat 23 Aug, more than 200 UMB staff members and their families gathered at the Harbor Campus for the Chancellor's annual staff picnic. Throughout the day a lively assortment of bluegrass, country blues, folk and contemporary music was provided by the popular three-piece band, "Slim Pickers." There was plenty to eat and drink, volleyball & frisbee games, swimming contests, horseshoes and a variety of children's races. Activities included "warm-up exercises" directed by Arlene Zubris and balloon distribution by UMB clown, Stephanie Gibson. Says coordinator Kathy Foley, "Special thanks for the success goes to John "Muskie" Maslauskas, Bob Linehan, Bob Kelly, Bob O'Malley, Ellie Riordan, Gerry McLean, Pat Monteith and the WUMB radio staff, Joe Zarnie, Andy Cajoulet, John Pisente, Bill LeBlanc and Ed Simpson, the UMB Campus Police and MDC Sergeant Bob Carlson."

ROAD RACE

Twenty-five runners and numerous spectators gathered for the first annual three mile UMB road race. There were four categories: Men's Open, comprising men 40 and over and Women's Master's.

Richard Thibodeau ran away with the race from the start and took 1st in Men's Open. Todd Eachus followed and placed 1st in Men's Master's. Other winners were Karen Purple, 1st in Women's Open, Carolyn Schneider, 1st in Women's Masters, Noel Cotterel, 2nd in Men's Open and Ed Ginsberg 2nd in Men's Masters. The winners received gold medals; those placing 2nd got silver. Everyone who finished received a UMB athletic T-shirt. More UMB road races are planned for the future.

Calendar TUE 9/2-MON 9/22

- TUE 9/2
  CLASSES BEGIN
  CPCS ADMISSIONS SEMINAR/Information Session Rm 419 Downtown every Tue 9am and 6pm Free.
  CONSIDERING RETURN TO COLLEGE SEMINAR FOR ADULTS/Repeat Tue 9/2.

- MON 9/8
  EXHIBIT/Large and Small Paintings by Domenic Cretara M-F 10am-5pm 2 Oct Free.

- TUE 9/9
  CPCS ADMISSIONS SEMINAR/Repeat Tue 9/2.
  CONSIDERING RETURN TO COLLEGE SEMINAR FOR ADULTS/Repeat 9/2.

- WED 9/10
  RECEPTION/Large and Small Paintings by Domenic Cretara 3-7pm Harbor Gallery Free.

- THUR 9/11
  ROY HASHANAH/through Fri 9/12.

- TUE 9/16
  GALLERY TALK/Large and Small Paintings by Domenic Cretara 12:30pm Harbor Gallery Free.

- FRI 9/19
  MEETING/Professional Staff Association Steering Committee Rm 308 Admin Build 9:30am

- SAT 9/20
  YOM KIPPUR.