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Immediate Release : Assistance Professor of Biolody on 17-Day Trip for Archeological Expedition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A friendship started 10 years ago at an archeological expedition in Eastern Turkey has led to a 17-day trip to Egypt for Dr. John McArdle, assistant professor of biology at Illinois Wesleyan University.

McArdle will leave Thursday to join the Hierakonpolis expedition which is conducting a dig near that ancient city that was the capital of Egypt more than 5,000 years ago.

His job will be to analyze bones found for the purpose of reconstructing the diet and environment of the culture. The project is located in the southern portion of Upper Egypt, about 70 miles north of Aswan.

Dr. Michael Hoffman, curator of Egypt for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, a leader of the expedition along with Walter Fairservis of New York's American Museum of Natural History, worked with McArdle in Turkey 10 years ago when both were graduate students, Hoffman at the University of Wisconsin and McArdle at the University of Chicago.

"We spent a lot of time in the evenings talking about our work and comparing notes. He remembered our conversations and we made the arrangements in October for me to go there," said McArdle.

This is the third year of the project. Work is conducted only in January, February and March to avoid extreme heat. Even in late March, midday temperatures reach 100 degrees or more.