



Before the Pharaohs: Breaking New Ground in the Study of Egypt's Ancient Prehistory.

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Miss El-Sayed is co-founder of Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology center (MUVP), the first Egyptian school dedicated to studying vertebrate paleontology. She is currently a PhD student in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, USA, where her studies are supported by a scholarship from the Egyptian government. Miss El-Sayed is the first female National Geographic Explorer in Egypt and the Middle East in the area of paleontology, as well as the first female in the Middle East to lead an international peer-

reviewed paper in vertebrate paleontology. In 2019, Miss El-Sayed was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Michigan in USA and was also shortlisted as one of three Egyptian female scientists for the L'Oreal UNESCO for Women in Science Fellowship. Miss El-Sayed received multiple awards from the most significant conference in the field of vertebrate paleontology, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP), for the novelty of her research. Miss El-Sayed is actively involved as a leader/co-leader of several paleontological field projects and involved in more than 40 vertebrate paleontological field projects in Egypt, which aim to recover vertebrate fossils from the Late Cretaceous and Paleogene. Miss El-Sayed research is supported by competitive awards from the National Geographic Society, the Leakey Foundation, and other scientific organizations. Due to Miss El-Sayed's outreach efforts as a female role model, MUVP now includes three female graduate students. In addition, there have now been roughly one hundred female volunteers and undergrad students in MUVP over the years.