

relief and a great sense of achievement. We all hugged and congratulated each other.

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa, so at the summit all you see is glaciers and snow. You can barely see the clouds because they are so far below you. The summit is not that big, maybe half a football field, and there's a sign where people have left stickers and mementos. We stayed about an hour taking pictures.

I had no idea that going down is twice as difficult. It took two days, and we went down 9,000 feet the first day, which was really dangerous and tough. Everybody was complaining about their quads, although a couple of us were skiers, so we had trained for it. And walking on scree, the little stuff that comes off the rock, is like walking on ice because it's really slippery. The first thing you do when you come down is sign out, with your name, address and age. When I signed out the guard said, "Wow, congratulations! You are the second-oldest woman in the history of the mountain to make it to the summit. The oldest was 82."

Then, everybody stepped forward one at a time to get our certificates. I was the last one, and three porters ran up and threw me on their shoulders. They were carrying me around and singing, "Bibi, Bibi, Bibi!" That wasn't in the brochure!



Ausman plans to reunite with her group to climb Mt. Whitney in California.



Ellis with the 500-year-old Chachapoyan mummy



...to Unwrap a Mummy

AS TOLD TO BETH STOCKWELL

KEYE *We Are Austin reporter Hunter Ellis has led an exciting life. The former Naval aviator and Survivor contestant has flown with the Blue Angels, tracked gorillas in an impenetrable African jungle, dived down into pirate shipwrecks and traveled to Timbuktu. But he says his most memorable experience was unwrapping a 500-year-old mummy in Northern Peru in June 2007. Luckily, he doesn't want to keep that story under wraps.*

My journey began when I flew to Peru for a History Channel series I hosted called *Digging for the Truth*. I was sent to access caves dug into La Petaca, a 1,500-foot limestone cliff that's

taller than the Empire State Building. The caves had only been accessed once before that I knew of, and that was nearly a decade earlier. More research was needed on the Chachapoyan people, who commanded a large kingdom that stretched across the Andes from the year 800 to the 15th century. The people were known as fierce warriors with great respect for their dead. They buried their dead in the cliff, so they could honor them and be protected from above.

After a bumpy flight to Chiclayo, Peru, the team, which consisted of me, a few sound guys and Rich the cameraman, packed up our video and audio gear and took vans through winding, washed-out roads into the northernmost part of the