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Fall 2011

Fall 2011 DigSight Newsletter

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NEWSLETTER



BA IN ARCHAEOLOGY EXPANDS

Beginning next academic year, Southern Adventist University will offer new courses for the Bachelor of Arts in archaeology. The four-year degree has two concentrations, **Near Eastern Studies and Classical Studies**. The program offers interdisciplinary courses in ancient languages, ancient Near Eastern history, archaeological fieldwork, archaeological method and theory, art history, museum studies, and biblical studies.

The addition of a new faculty member, Dr. Martin G. Klingbeil, who is just completing his first year as associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, prompted the department to create additional archaeology classes with a biblical studies emphasis. Six new courses, four of which are upper-division seminars, represent a major addition to the archaeology program, which began in 2000. The seminars focus on the nexus of biblical text and archaeology, exploring some of the most hotly debated issues in the discipline.

“Exodus, Egyptian Warfare, and Archaeology,” a class first offered in the

winter semester of this year, explores the events of the book of Exodus in relation to Egyptian and Near Eastern historical texts and warfare tactics of the ancient world. Students tackled questions of historicity and dating, while comparing extra-biblical and archaeological sources to the exodus tradition. The class was very well received, drawing students from outside the major who needed an upper division general education course. “It was amazing to be able to study the original Egyptian sources as a background to this event and have the library resources right at hand,” said Jonathan Gardener, a junior archaeology major. “It was evident that the professor had done a great deal of research and writing in the area.”

“Biblical Imagery and the Archaeology

of Near Eastern Images” was partly the product of Dr. Klingbeil’s own research on ancient Near Eastern iconography. This course examines the rich motifs of biblical imagery and the development of metaphors of God in the Old Testament in relationship to artifacts, images, and seals of the ancient world. “The privilege to have a world-class scholar specializing in this very field here at Southern allows students to study the interweaving themes of imagery in the Bible and ancient Near East in a whole new light,” suggests Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology.

The Institute of Archaeology’s involvement with the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project, a fortified city in Judah from the time of King David, allows fresh perspectives on the course “David, Solomon and the Archaeology of State Formation.” The course explores the development of kingship and state formation in ancient Israel. Excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa (biblical Sha’arayim) have provided archaeologists with a wealth of knowledge about the early days of the Israelite monarchy. Students are privileged to have access to primary source material from this site to use in their research.

The fourth seminar course, “Sanctuary, Temple, and the Archaeology of



A battle ready Ramesses II riding a war chariot, preceded by an archer. Illustration by Ippolito Rosellini from the Abu Simbel temple.

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Religion,” examines the development of religion and cult in ancient Israel in relation to ancient Near Eastern texts, iconography, and archaeological excavations. Special attention is given to the exegesis of the biblical texts before comparisons are made with cultural, political, and historical events in the ancient Near East. Like the previous topics, the archaeology of Israelite religion is a trending issue in biblical archaeology circles.

The last two classes pertain to technical skills for the archaeology student. The course “Museum Education” introduces students to the didactic role museums play in their communities and the need for interpretive methods in the exhibition of collections. Archaeology majors, who volunteer at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum as part of their undergraduate education, receive docent training to enable them to give guided tours. “Levantine Ceramic Typology” is a class designed to familiarize the student with the ceramic forms of the ancient Near Eastern world. The ability to recognize and date ceramic types is an indispensable skill of the field archaeologist. Students take this class in preparation for “Archaeological Fieldwork.”

In addition to the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum’s ceramic typology collection, students are encouraged to make use of the William G. Dever Research Library’s archival resources. Primary source material, in the form of archaeological site reports, journals and reference works provide the students with the ability to conduct original research for their term papers.

These new course offerings effectively double the number of core archaeology classes available to majors. “I think it’s great that these new classes are being offered,” remarked Sara Nalley, who minored in archaeology and participated in the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavations in 2010. “They all sound interesting and very relevant to current issues in biblical archaeology.” Each of these courses builds on an essential section of the Old Testament, from the Pentateuch (Exodus), to the Historical books (Monarchy and State formation), to the Writings (Sanctuary and Religion), to the Poetic books (Biblical imagery). All courses are open to non majors. ✍️



Left to right (clockwise): Archaeology students Jonathan Gardner, Sara Nalley, Joy Payne, Clay Perez, Harald Fredheim, and Mackenzie Mahan utilizing the Dever Library’s resources.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY CORE COURSES

RELB 237 Archaeology and the Old Testament
 RELB 247 Archaeology and the New Testament
 RELP 257 Museum Education
 RELB 340 Middle East Study Tour
 RELP 435 Levantine Ceramic Typology
 RELB 455 Archaeological Fieldwork
 RELB 477 Exodus, Egyptian Warfare, and Archaeology
 RELB 479 Biblical Imagery and the Archaeology of Near Eastern Images
 RELB 481 David, Solomon and the Archaeology of State Formation
 RELB 483 Sanctuary and Temple and the Archaeology of Religion
 RELB 497 Archaeological Method and Theory

NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

RELL 181 Biblical Hebrew I
 RELL 182 Biblical Hebrew II
 RELB 221 Intro to Biblical Exegesis
 RELL 330 Intermediate Hebrew
 RELB 245 Old Testament Studies I
 RELB 246 Old Testament Studies II

CLASSICAL STUDIES

RELL 191 New Testament Greek I
 RELL 192 New Testament Greek II
 RELB 221 Intro to Biblical Exegesis
 RELL 331 Intermediate Greek
 RELB 435 New Testament Studies I
 RELB 436 New Testament Studies II

REQUIRE COGNATES

ARTH 344 Ancient Art History
 ELIT 445 Ancient Classics

RECOMMENDED

ARTH 465 Museum Studies
 Intermediate French or German

DIGGING THE PAST: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

When you hear the words “David and Goliath” what comes to mind? A battle scene with two armies yelling insults at each other? A cowardly king who is too afraid to fight? A young lad, courageously charging a massive warrior? Personally, I will never look at this story the same way again.

My name is Antonio (Tony) Anobile and this summer I was privileged to go with Dr. Michael G. Hasel and a group of 50 staff and students from Southern Adventist University to dig at Khirbet Qeiyafa, an archaeological site overlooking the valley where David fought Goliath.

I found out a lot about myself on this excavation. It's not easy work. I discovered very soon whether or not I had determination and whether or not I could work well with people. I found out just how far deep down I can reach into myself, and through faith and force of will, push on through the 4 a.m. wake-up calls. A dig tests you. In fact, just getting there is a test of faith! The cost to go is actually a

bargain when you crunch the numbers, but it took a minor miracle for God to get me there. Once I made it to Israel, the culture shock hit. Here in America we're not used to watching people walk around with rifles, not being able to read any of the signs on the street, the general attitude of Chutzpah, or walls separating one ethnic group from another. But they are the norms in Israel, and one has to adjust rather quickly.

Then comes the hardest part—digging! We actually began by simply marking out the areas we were going to be digging and making sandbags to outline the balks (dirt walls). Once that was finished, the digging began. I had always imagined a dig to be more like you see in paleontology pictures, where the workers carefully use toothbrushes to wipe away bones. But this is archaeology—we used picks. Large ones. Brushes and small picks were used on architecture and pottery, but that came after scooping up all the excavated dirt into buckets and dumping them into wheelbarrows to be moved to the dirt dump. Every day you literally pull your own weight in rocks, dirt, and sand. Though it may seem tedious and difficult, in the end, you get a sense of genuine accomplishment.

It wasn't all mindless labor, mind you. Every day someone found something

amazing. Whether it was an ancient coin, a seal, a whole vessel, or even some plaster on a wall, the excitement of discovery never stopped. It's a wonder to see things that people used 3000 years ago and to let your imagination wander as you picture people living in this town of yesteryear. Oh, the scope of imagination is very wide on an excavation!

The best thing about an excavation is that you will grow. As a person, as an individual. I can't accurately convey what I felt and experienced on the weekends in Jerusalem, surrounded by the history, the sights, and the smells of a culture far older than our own. Basking in the sun by the Red Sea, feeling the wind rush on the Sea of Galilee, walking the same places Jesus walked, tasting the food He would have eaten, watching people where He would have watched them, and reading the Bible where it happened are experiences I would recommend to everyone.

Every time I hear about David and his band of men, I will remember the gang of unique and wonderful people with whom I shared an experience of a lifetime. And I can forever picture that young man who stood up to his problem, giant though it may have been, and, with the help of God, was victorious. 🏹



Dig participants Florian Hasel, Josh Barrow, and Tony Anobile taking down a balk, an unexcavated wall of dirt used for stratigraphic control.

FALL MUSEUM LECTURES

As part of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture series, the museum hosted two academic lectures this fall on September 21 and October 12.

GEZER: THE SEARCH FOR THE CITY OF SOLOMON

The city of Gezer is famous in biblical history for being mentioned in 1 Kings 9:15 as one of three cities, alongside Hazor and Meggido, fortified by King Solomon. In the 1950s, Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin identified a tenth-century city gate that was structurally similar to gates in Hazor and Megiddo of the same period. These so-called “Solomonic” gates have become an important piece of archaeological evidence for the United Monarchy of David and Solomon.

Some scholars, most notably biblical minimalists, have since challenged this association with King Solomon and wish to redate these structures to a later period. A new archaeological project at Tel Gezer, under the direction of Dr. Steven M. Ortiz (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) and Dr. Sam Wolff (Israel Antiquities Authority), has sought to settle this issue by searching for new

data that would solidify the dating of the Solomonic gate. Since 2006, a consortium of institutions have been working to uncover the full extent of the Solomonic fortifications at Gezer.

On September 21, 2011, Ortiz, professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was a guest lecturer for the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture series. Ortiz is the principal investigator of the renewed excavations at Tel Gezer. In his presentation, titled “Gezer: The Search for the City of Solomon,” Ortiz provided an overview of the most important discoveries at the site and a summary of the results of the past five years of excavations.

Ortiz’s team has found a number of eighth- and ninth-century buildings which are most likely associated with King Uzziah’s reign, but the tenth century architecture has been more elusive. Part of the problem lies in knowing where to look. The disturbance of previous excavations has been a major obstacle to finding “clean” tenth-century layers. That problem is compounded by the inaccuracy of the architectural plans of previous excavators (most notable, R.A.S. Macalister). But with so much left of the site to uncover, Ortiz is optimistic about reaching the earlier layers associated with Solomon in the next couple of seasons.

EXCAVATING THE FORTRESS OF ELAH: THE 2011 SEASON AT KHIRBET QEYAFA

On October 12, 2011, Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology, presented a report on the results of the 2011 season at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Since 2009, Southern Adventist University has worked with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to excavate this important biblical site. These excavations have uncovered the remains of two gates and a massive fortification system dating to tenth-century B.C., the time of King David.

Last summer the Southern team uncovered the remains of a large Late Persian/Early Hellenistic period (late fourth-century B.C.) building measuring approximately 6000 square feet. This summer 50 Southern students and staff completed the excavation of the Hellenistic building and uncovered a major olive press installation adjacent to the building in the south. This is not only the first olive press excavated at Qeiyafa, it is one of the earliest examples of this type of industry in the Hellenistic period in Israel. Hasel also provided an overview of the work done in the previous seasons. With three seasons of excavation completed, the Institute of Archaeology’s next goal is to finish the analysis and processing of the finds in order to publish the results in the next two years.

The next museum lecture, “Ancient Near Eastern Passports: Two Stamp Seals from Khirbet Qeiyafa,” will also deal with recent discoveries at this important site. This lecture by Dr. Martin G. Klingbeil, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, will take place on February 15, 2012. For more information or to watch past museum lectures, visit: <http://www.southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries/Pages/lectureseriesprogram.aspx>



Famous six-chamber gate of Tel Gezer, most likely an example of “Solomonic” architecture.

COMPLETING THE TASK: PUBLICATION

Our three years of excavation at Khirbet Qeiyafa, the Elah Valley Fortress, has been rewarding, to say the least. After a remarkable investment of time, financial resources, and labor, both in and out of field, the results have been well worth it. The new data discovered by our joint excavations with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem have revolutionized our understanding of the early monarchy in Judah. This resulted in two feature-length documentaries by National Geographic and the BBC, coverage on CNN, and Fox News, and in the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and other newspapers around the world. But even more important, is the impact of our archaeological and historical understanding of a period hardly known in Judah. We now have 60 different and distinct types of pottery from the Iron Age IIA (1000-930 BC), more than all the sites in Judah combined. We have newly discovered weapons, including sling stones and three iron swords found in these contexts. The sanctuaries and cultic materials will revolutionize our understanding of Judah's religious practices.

Excavations are expensive, and American involvement is an even larger investment. For the 2011 season at Qeiyafa, the Southern Adventist University team, both students and the Institute of Archaeology, spent nearly \$260,000 for the six-week project. This not only included equipment, transportation, room and board, and tuition, but it also financial aid funds for students to participate in the project.

Over the next two years, we will be moving into the final publication phase of the project. In 2012, the focus will be on the production and publication of two scientific books. Volume 1 will focus on the description of the architecture and stratigraphy of the site. This 400-page volume will incorporate contributions from over 40 international specialists and scholars, who will analyze various periods on the site. Volume 2 will focus on Art and Cult. Studies on seals, cultic objects, and ritual space will be brought together as we focus on the sanctuaries uncovered during the last three seasons.



In November 2012 a double session at the American Schools of Oriental Research meetings in Chicago is planned in conjunction with the publication of these volumes. Here the conclusions will be presented to the scholarly community, and the two volumes will be made available. The publication of these two scientific reports, together with a third volume on the pottery analysis and other finds (c. 2013), will cost between \$45,000 and 60,000 to produce.

We need your help to complete this final stage of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project. Thank you for helping us bring not only the world of the Bible, but the roots of Western civilization to life as we continue to conduct archaeological research. ✍️

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Institute of Archaeology (donations will be applied to areas of greatest need)
- Archaeological Excavations Fund
- Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum
- William G. Dever Research Library

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Signature

- Check (made out to Southern Adventist University)
- I'm not prepared to give at this time. However, I would like to commit to a financial gift in the area marked above. Please contact me for payment arrangements.

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RECENT SIGHTINGS

EXPERTS STUMPED BY ANCIENT JERUSALEM MARKINGS *(Yahoo News)*

Mysterious stone carvings made thousands of years ago and recently uncovered in an excavation underneath Jerusalem have archaeologists stumped. Israeli diggers who uncovered a complex of rooms carved into the bedrock in the oldest section of the city recently found the markings: Three “V” shapes cut next to each other into the limestone floor of one of the rooms, about 2 inches (5 cm) deep and 20 inches (50 cm) long . . .

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HEROD BEGAN BUILDING WESTERN WALL, BUT DIDN'T FINISH IT *(Jerusalem Post)*

Findings of archaeological excavations, released by The Antiquities Authority Wednesday, challenge the conventional historical concept that Herod alone was responsible for the building of the Western Wall. In excavating the ancient drainage channel of Jerusalem, archaeologists found an ancient mikve [ritual bath]. This dramatic finding confirms Jewish historian Joseph ben Matityahu's theories . . .

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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CHARIOT TRAPPINGS REDISCOVERED *(Nature)*

The beautifully preserved leather trappings of an ancient Egyptian chariot have been rediscovered in a storeroom of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Researchers say that the find, which includes intact harnesses, gauntlets and a bow case, is unique, and will help them to reconstruct how such chariots were made and used. The ancient Egyptians used chariots — typically with one or two riders and pulled by two horses — for hunting and warfare as well as in processions . . .

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MYSTERY OF DEAD SEA SCROLL AUTHORS POSSIBLY SOLVED *(Live Science)*

The Dead Sea Scrolls may have been written, at least in part, by a sectarian group called the Essenes, according to nearly 200 textiles discovered in caves at Qumran, in the West Bank, where the religious texts had been stored. The Dead Sea Scrolls may have been written, at least in part, by a sectarian group called the Essenes, according to nearly 200 textiles discovered in caves at Qumran, in the West Bank, where the religious texts had been stored. The research reveals that . . .

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

February 15, 2012, 7 p.m.

“Ancient Near Eastern Passports: Two Stamp Seals from Khirbet Qeiyafa,” by Martin G. Klingbeil, DLitt (Southern Adventist University)

March 21, 2012, 7 p.m.

“Transformations in the Twelfth Century B.C.: The Coming of the Philistines to Ashkelon,” by Daniel Master, PhD (Wheaton College)

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.southern.edu/archaeology>

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

February 17-18, 2012, Mobile, AL

Discoveries of a Lifetime Series with Mark Finley and Michael Hasel.

April 12-14, 2012, Dalton, GA

ASI Southern Union Spring Meeting.



DIG SIGHT

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