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Spring 2010 DigSight Newsletter

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NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Institute of Archaeology, Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum



INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern Adventist University. The institute is a premier academic organization dedicated to the scientific exploration and study of the art, history, and culture of the ancient Near East. Since its founding, the archaeology program has graduated nearly 30 archaeology majors and minors, directed 13 study tours and excavation seasons, established an archaeological museum and research library, designed two award-winning exhibits, co-sponsored evangelistic meetings, participated in academic lectures and symposia, and contributed to scholarly publications.

The institute continues the long tradition of scientific archaeological research and education by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Adventist scholars recognize that archaeology can provide the student of the Bible a better understanding of the peoples, places, and events described in the biblical text. We are privileged to be a part of this important mission and help prepare the future generation of Adventist scholars.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

After finishing a doctorate in Near Eastern archaeology from the University of Arizona in 1996, Michael Hasel

returned to his home state of Michigan to pursue pastoral ministry. In 1998, administrators at Southern Adventist University invited him to join the faculty as the first archaeologist in the School of Religion. Jack Blanco, then dean of the School of Religion, knew very well how valuable archaeology could be for the study of the Bible and wanted to launch an archaeological museum on campus.

Blanco encouraged Hasel to ascertain how a museum collection might be obtained. One of the people he contacted was William

Dever, America's foremost Near Eastern archaeologist, who had been Hasel's major professor at the University of Arizona. In the 1970s, Dever established what would become the largest doctoral program in Near Eastern archaeology in the country. The program closed shortly after Hasel finished his studies. In a phone conversation, Dever told Hasel how difficult it is to acquire a collection, and then added, "Well, I could loan you about 20 artifacts from the Arizona collection." As the conversation went on, that number kept increasing on Dever's initiative.

"By the time I hung up the phone he was speaking about 50 artifacts," recalls Hasel. "I could not believe it!"

Then in November 1999, a scholar

who was scheduled to speak for the R. H. Pierson Lectureship cancelled at the last minute, and Blanco immediately thought of Dever. Certain that Dever would be unable to come on such short notice, Hasel nevertheless made the call. To Hasel's amazement, the November date was the only opening in Dever's speaking calendar, which was booked solid for the next five months. Dever said he would be delighted

"THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES THE LONG TRADITION OF SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BY THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH."

to take the appointment.

Impressed with the serious and purpose-focused atmosphere he witnessed while visiting campus, Dever decided that Southern was the place he had been looking for to place his legacy.

"The future of [Near Eastern] archaeology is in schools like this," he remarked, "where there is still a love and appreciation for the Bible."



IN THIS ISSUE

1

Tenth Anniversary

4

Evangelism and Archaeology

5

Institute Timeline

6

Director's Letter

7

Supporting our Efforts

8

Upcoming Events



Visitors examine ancient coins at the Faces of Power coin exhibit.

In January 2000, the William G. Dever Near Eastern Collection arrived on campus. Although boasting several stone, metal, and clay objects, the strength of the collection is in its pottery pieces. The ceramic repertoire consists of hundreds of jars, jugs, juglets, bowls, lamps, and pottery sherds (fragments), assembled over a period of years in the 1960s and early 1970s when Dever directed the two American schools in Jerusalem. The vessels and sherds represent thousands of years of human history—from before the time of Abraham down to Islamic times. Southern had received one of the largest and most complete teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern ceramics in the United States!

The question then was how best to use these archaeological treasures. The directive to build a museum had been approved but would take years to complete. In the meantime, Hasel thought it a shame to put the artifacts back in storage and forget about them. That's when the School of Religion faculty decided that a teaching collection should be used for *teaching*. A new bachelor's degree in archaeology was added to the academic catalog beginning in the 2000-2001 academic year.

"If the collection was the basis for the largest Ph.D. program," remarked Hasel at the time, "it certainly could be used for an undergraduate program."

THE DEGREE

The bachelor's in archaeology 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, and biblical studies.

Since archaeologists are historians who are not limited to the written word, learning is not confined to the classroom. Archaeology majors must travel to the Middle East to participate in study tours and archaeological digs. Currently, Southern Adventist University is the only Adventist institution to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in archaeology and is one of only two Christian universities in the United State to offer this degree.

THE MUSEUM

Archaeology has been called a discipline of methodical destruction. However, Southern wants to build things up. The completion of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum was another building block of the archaeology program. Once the academic degree was established, the university concentrated its efforts on finishing the museum. This major undertaking would require the combined dedication of architects, designers, artists, lighting specialists, museum professionals, and scholars, as well as the generous support of benefactors and friends.

Nearly five years after the artifacts arrived at Southern, the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum opened its doors. The permanent exhibition, "Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World," tells the story of human history through ceramic, as well as living, vessels. Illustrated with hundreds of photographs, drawings, and original art, this award-winning exhibit showcases more than 200 artifacts, including household vessels, cultic relics, and weapons of war.

The grand opening in November 2004 brought hundreds of visitors from around the country and made local and international news. The flagship magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the *Adventist Review*, pronounced it "a technically strong and accessible exhibit that never loses sight of its goal to make the life ways of the biblical world understandable to contemporary people."

Since the museum's opening, more

than 10,000 visitors have passed through its doors. Many of these visitors are school-aged children whose educational experience has been enhanced through archaeology.

A museum lecture series on archaeology, held three or four times a year, brings leading experts from around the world, providing students and community visitors with a unique educational experience.

In 2008, Southern hired the museum's first full-time professional, Justo Morales, to work as the museum coordinator. Under Morales' supervision, the museum has created an award-winning exhibit on biblical coins, produced an iPod audio tour for the permanent exhibit, and completed a museum assessment program. Future goals for the museum include expanding the educational programs for children, developing new changing exhibits, and achieving accreditation from the American Association of Museums.

THE LIBRARY

The William G. Dever Research Library is housed in Hackman Hall, adjacent to the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and the archaeological laboratory.

The institute's plans to have an archaeological library on campus also date back to Dever's first visit to Southern. At that time, Dever mentioned the possibility that his professional library might one day accompany the artifact collection. Although he received many offers from other academic institutions, Dever felt that his artifacts would be best studied together with his library. William Dever's scholarly library arrived on campus in March 2008. Along with his books and journals, Southern acquired Dever's collection of nearly 10,000 lecture slides assembled over a period of 40 years of travel and research in the Middle East.

But the story of the institute's research library is more involved than that. In 2005, physician Kenneth Mathews was introduced to Southern's archaeology program. Mathews' interest in archaeology soon grew from the occasional charitable gift to a full-fledged involvement. Mathews not only enrolled in the undergraduate

program in archaeology but also founded the Archaeology Synchronisms Research Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to expand the research potential of the Institute of Archaeology.

In 2007, Mathews purchased a large portion of the library of Kent Weeks, a world-renowned Egyptologist, who in 1995 discovered the largest tomb in the Valley of the Kings. In addition, Mathews, through his foundation, has added hundreds of volumes in the fields of Near Eastern and classical studies and Egyptology to the library.

These library collections make up the William G. Dever Research Library, which currently holds about 3,000 volumes plus journals and periodicals. In November 2008, the William G. Dever Research Library opening was celebrated with a banquet and open house honoring the benefactors who made its creation possible.

Without these collections, students and staff would have to rely on other libraries in Chicago, Boston, and Atlanta or interlibrary loans to do research.

Future goals for the library include expanding its collections and digitizing its rare archival volumes.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Southern Adventist University's first archaeological expedition was to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in the summer of 2003. Pamela Gaber invited Hasel to bring a group of students to her archaeological field school, a project sponsored by Lycoming College. For seven weeks, Southern students worked at the ancient city of Idalion, one of the 10 major city kingdoms of Cyprus in the first millennium BC.

In the summer of 2004, Southern students joined the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's team, under the direction of Amnon Ben-Tor, for a six-week dig season.

At 200 acres, Tel Hazor is the largest biblical city being excavated in Israel. Located a few miles north of the Sea of Galilee, Hazor is one of the most important archaeological sites for establishing the chronology of ancient Israel. The city is first mentioned in the book of Joshua, where the biblical writer explains that Hazor "was the head of all

those [Canaanite] kingdoms."

Southern students returned to Hazor for a second season in 2005. That same year, the Institute of Archaeology's advisory board established the Burton and Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation and Publication. The endowment's twofold purpose is to provide funding for archaeological excavations in the Middle East and for publication and dissemination of quality archaeological publications. The institute now had a clear mandate to sponsor and direct Southern's own

University as a partner. In 2009, Hasel became associate director of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project, directing Southern's own excavation field.

The ruins of Khirbet Qeiyafa sit atop a hill overlooking the valley where David fought Goliath. In 2008, Garfinkel and his team uncovered a four-chamber gate and massive fortifications (about 200,000 tons of stones) at Qeiyafa. Pottery analysis and radiocarbon testing date these structures to roughly 1000–970 BC, the time of King David. This is a significant discovery, considering that many scholars



Student Mackenzie Mahan, Michael Hasel, and Justo Morales at the Dever Research Library

excavations in the Middle East. This, in fact, had been Hasel's goal from the beginning. Dever saw it as the next logical step (after the museum and the library), and advisory board members endorsed the idea wholeheartedly.

Then in 2007, after Southern's third season in Hazor, Hasel met an old friend at the professional meetings in San Diego, California. Yosef Garfinkel, of the Hebrew University, had worked with Hasel years ago at Tel Mique, Philistine Ekron. Garfinkel, who now held the oldest chair in biblical archaeology in Israel, had just begun working at a new relatively unknown site known as Khirbet Qeiyafa and invited Hasel to join the Hebrew

doubt that the united monarchy of David and Solomon was organized enough to construct great buildings like those found at Qeiyafa. The monumental architecture at Qeiyafa speaks volumes about the kind of centralized authority necessary to execute a building enterprise of this scale.

The Hebrew University team also found a pottery sherd with writing (or ostrakon) dating to the same time period. Not only is it the longest inscription of its kind, but it is also the oldest Hebrew writing ever found. The ostrakon, together with the absence of any Philistine pottery, points toward the identification of Khirbet Qeiyafa as a Judahite site. More importantly, the

inscription is clear evidence of literacy, challenging the view that biblical writers could not have recorded historical events this early in history.

In 2009, excavators uncovered a second monumental gate dating to the tenth century BC. Khirbet Qeiyafa is the only excavated city in ancient Israel with two gates. This fact has led Garfinkel to identify Qeiyafa with biblical Sha'arayim. Sha'arayim (literally, "two gates" in Hebrew) is mentioned three times in the Bible, and each time the city is associated with the reign of King David. Last summer, a group of 20 staff members opened four excavation squares in Area D, a new field designed for Southern. This summer, the

Institute of Archaeology is planning to take about 60 participants for a six-week season.

THE FUTURE

Thanks to the generous support of donors and institutions who believe in its mission, the Institute of Archaeology at Southern will continue to conduct archaeological excavations in the lands of the Bible. Khirbet Qeiyafa is only the beginning. The institute's ultimate goal is to direct Southern's own excavation project under the umbrella of the Elah Valley Regional Project.

We are most grateful and dependent on people like you who make these

expeditions possible. Times may be difficult, but there is no better time in history to support God's message and its proclamation in all venues of the work. ✍



Student Clay Perez uncovers a 3,000-year-old jar handle at Khirbet Qeiyafa.

EVANGELISM AND THE POWER OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology continues to capture the imagination of thousands around the world because it has the power to connect us with the most fundamental questions about ourselves: Who are we? Where did we come from? Where may we be going?

When you couple that interest with the Bible, different questions emerge: How reliable is the Bible today? Did the peoples and places of the Bible really exist? Did the stories of the Bible happen? It is this interest that propels the media to produce multimillion-dollar productions on the History, Discovery, and National Geographic channels—programs that are watched by millions around the world.

Over the past four years, Mark Finley, director of the Hope Channel and vice president for evangelism at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Michael G. Hasel, director of

Southern's Institute of Archaeology, have teamed up to create the Discoveries of a Lifetime series for television and public evangelism.

"I still remember our first meetings together in Chattanooga in 2006," recalls Hasel. "Over the two weekends, we had standing room only with more than 900 people in attendance. It was incredible!"

The two-weekend series was presented as a bridge event to the main "Revelation of Hope" meetings that Finley would be presenting at the Chattanooga Convention Center. More than 450 attendees of the archaeology meetings preregistered for the Revelation series.

"There are many avenues that attract people to the gospel message," says Finley, "but in today's skeptical age, history and archaeology are a powerful tool to connect people to the Bible."

Meetings have since taken place in Boston, Massachusetts; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Portland, Oregon. The series has also been presented by Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Boise, Idaho. Archaeology was also featured in Orlando for the Discoveries '08 satellite series that was broadcast



Hasel shares the significance of the Biblical site of Jerash, Jordan.

throughout North America.

Finley and Hasel have now produced a series of 10 one-hour television programs for the Hope Channel titled Discoveries of a Lifetime, which combine the most recent archaeological discoveries from Egypt, Babylon, Israel, Jordan, and Turkey.

"We live in a time of Earth's history when people are looking for meaning in their lives," says Hasel. "These meetings and resources have the power to connect people with those fundamental questions that each one of us have and opens the door for other insights from Scripture to be presented in a persuasive way."

The next meetings are scheduled for August in the Washington, DC area. ✍

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY TIMELINE

June 1998

Michael Hasel joins the Southern Adventist University faculty.

August 1998

Hasel teaches Archaeology and the Bible class.

May 1999

Southern offers Middle East Study Tour (Israel, Jordan, and Egypt).

October 1999

Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum established at the McKee Library.

May 2002

First archaeology major graduates.



March 2000

Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology degree approved by Board of Trustees.

January 2000

University of Arizona Near Eastern Collection arrives at Southern. Institute of Archaeology officially established.

November 1999

William G. Dever visits Southern for R. H. Pierson Lectureship

June-July 2003

Institute participates in its first archaeological dig in Idalion (Cyprus).

June-July 2004

Institute joins the Hazor Excavations (Israel).



November 2004

Museum opens with permanent exhibit, "Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World."

March 2005

Museum exhibit receives Award of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums.

March 2007

Kenneth Mathews acquires Kent Weeks scholarly library for the Institute.

December 2005

Museum presents first lecture of the Museum Lecture Series.

November 2005

DigSight newsletter's first issue released.

September 2005

The Burton and Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation and Publication established.

September 2007

Justo Morales joins staff as the museum coordinator (full time in 2008).

March 2008

William Dever's scholarly library arrives on campus.

October 2008

Museum premieres special exhibit, "Faces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World."



November 2008

William G. Dever Research Library inaugurated with banquet.



September 2009

Museum debuts iPod audio guide.

June 2009

Southern partners with Hebrew University at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Israel).

March 2009

Museum exhibit receives Award of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER: WHAT GOD HAS DONE

As we look back at God's providence, it is difficult to believe 10 years have past since that phone call that changed the course of archaeology at Southern Adventist University (see cover story.)

As I think back on the first years of the institute, several things come to mind.

First, without divine guidance and providence none of this would be possible. The story that unfolds in these pages merely skims the surface of the many miracles we have experienced. I think of receiving a voicemail message from a donor the morning of the museum's grand opening promising a check for the exact balance of what was still owed for the project. I remember the chance meeting with Burt and Dottie Keppler as I was passing through Florida. Who could have imagined that meeting would lead to a deep friendship and a major endowment for archaeological research and publication? I look back in amazement at the tips by two antiquarian book sellers from California and Massachusetts that a major library was coming on the market, giving us the opportunity to choose the best books of the collection before the catalogue was officially published. To have

both the Kent Weeks and Dever libraries on the same campus is nothing short of a miracle. God's hand has been at work through it all.

Second, without the support and dedication of many people (administration, faculty, staff, students, and community volunteers), we would not be where we are today. The vision of the current and former School of Religion deans, Jack Blanco, Ron Clouzet, and Greg King, and our President Gordon Bietz, along with many others, gave birth to this endeavor. Dozens of volunteers over the past five years have put in hundreds of hours every week to keep the museum open. The staff has worked tirelessly to produce quality programs, publications, and exhibits. Students have given inspiration and insights. It is only by working together toward a common goal that we have been able to accomplish so much in a decade.

Finally, as we look into the future, we can only move forward in faith. We are delighted that we will be adding an additional faculty member to the institute at the end of this year. Martin Klingbeil, who will be serving as associate director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor in the School of Religion, has a distinguished teaching record at universities in South America and Africa. He is currently academic vice president at Helderberg College in South Africa and has published extensively on the



iconography of ancient Near Eastern seals. He will bring a wealth of experience in archaeology, ancient Near Eastern languages, and biblical studies and also be able to provide new expertise for our publications program and future excavations.

Only God knows what the next 10 years will bring, but we have great plans. We are working toward accreditation from the American Association of Museums and hope to continue the quality excavation projects in Israel, which will provide new data to aid in correlating ancient history with the Bible. With an additional faculty member, we want to provide more specialized classes for archaeology majors to prepare them for a life of service. Finally, in this "year of the Bible," we hope to continue to develop new programs that will aid the church in its mission to spread the gospel. ✍️



SUPPORT THE EXCAVATION AT KHIRBET QEYAF A

Last summer, in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Institute of Archaeology began excavating at the site of Khirbet Qeiyafa in Israel. This is the first stage of a 15-year project.

After three seasons at Khirbet Qeiyafa, we plan to direct our own excavation under the umbrella of the Elah Valley Regional Project. We hope to make a lasting impact on the study of the regional history of the Elah Valley, the border of Judah and Philistia during the period of David and Solomon—and we could use your help.

The resources needed for such a

long-term endeavor are significant. This summer, we are taking more than 60 people into the field. Staffing is a major investment since we will need trained archaeologists as well as surveyors, photographers, computer specialists, artists, graphic designers, object and pottery registrars, GPS/GIS specialists, archaeozoologists, geologists, and ceramic specialists. Travel budget for the staff alone will be close to \$50,000. Then there are other costs including transportation, rental cars, tools, artifact conservation and reconstruction, computer equipment, photography, and object processing. (This doesn't include the 44 students and volunteers who will be financing their own participation on the dig.)

Work doesn't end after the season is over. For every year of excavation, a minimum of one year is needed for analysis

and publication. It's estimated that 50 people excavating in one season will produce at least 60,000 pottery sherds and perhaps a hundred objects. These need to be carefully catalogued, photographed, and drawn for publication. Architectural plans need to be drawn and hundreds of hours of post-processing of the GPS data for 3-D reconstructions will be required.

Our agreement with the Hebrew University states that before such a project can be started, we must raise \$350,000. Our fundraising goals exceed this amount so that we can support the long-term project encompassing excavation and publication over the next decade-and-a-half.

We believe we can make a lasting contribution to the integration of sound archaeological studies with biblical history. Thank you for your continuing support! 🍷

61

PEOPLE REGISTERED TO ATTEND TRIP

\$220,000

EXCAVATION FUND
\$220,000 / \$350,000

I would like the opportunity to support the Institute of Archaeology in excavation projects.

First name

Last name

Street address

City

State

ZIP

phone (home office mobile)

Email

Amount

Payment Method

Card Number

Expiration Date

Security Code

Signature



MAIL TO:

Institute of Archaeology
Southern Adventist University
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315



UPCOMING EVENTS

59TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

June 23-July 3, Atlanta, Georgia
Visit our booth!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND MIDDLE EAST STUDY TOUR

June 16-July 29, Khirbet Qeiyafa, Israel

ASI CONVENTION

August 4-7, Orlando, Florida
Visit our booth!

MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

September 16, by William G. Dever

CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

September 16, with William G. Dever

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH MEETINGS

November 17-20, Atlanta, Georgia
Khirbet Qeiyafa session

SPECIAL MUSEUM HOURS

To accommodate guests visiting from the General Conference Session, the museum hours have been adjusted as follows:

Wednesday, June 23

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, June 24

CLOSED

Friday, June 25

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

2-5 p.m.

Sunday, June 27

CLOSED

Monday, June 28-

Thursday, July 1

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.

Friday, July 2

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Saturday, July 3

CLOSED

DID YOU MISS A MUSEUM LECTURE?

DVDs are now available for purchase (\$10 each) of the following lecture series presentations:

Thomas W. Merry: *My Experience as Commanding Officer Over Babylon and Ur in Modern Iraq*

William G. Dever: *The Age of David and Solomon: Myth or Reality*

Alfred J. Hoerth: *The Worlds of Abraham*

Michael G. Hasel: *Religion and Gods in Ancient Israel*

Peter J. Brand: *The Campaigns of Seti I into Western Asia*

Send check or money order to Southern Adventist University

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or download online for free at www.southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries.

DIG SIGHT

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