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DIGSIGHT

Departmental Newsletters

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Winter 2008

## **Winter 2008 DigSight Newsletter**

Southern Adventist University

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# DigSight

Institute of Archaeology  
Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

## Special Edition: Student Issue

**W**hat is biblical archaeology? Why is biblical archaeology important? How can I make a living as an archaeologist? These are important questions to consider as students head off to college.

In this special edition of *DigSight* we hope to tell you what biblical archaeology is, show you what a degree in biblical archaeology is all about, present some career options, and share with you the amazing way that biblical archaeology can bring the Bible to life.

If you enjoy ancient history and

languages, then this is the degree for you. If you like to travel and spend time learning about other cultures, ancient and modern, then this is the career for you. If your desire is to bring people closer to the Bible then this is the ministry for you. If you like to dig in the dirt and discover an artifact that has not been touched for 3,000 years, then take a look inside, visit our website, give us a call, send us an email, or come by for a tour. Take the time to discover what biblical archaeology has to offer.

## Museum Open House and Lecture

**O**n February 21 the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum hosted a special open house event to exhibit a newly acquired clay figurine of an ancient Canaanite fertility goddess. The pillared figurine (so-called because of its pillar-like base) gave visitors an actual visual of one of the ancient gods of Canaanite religion. Following the open house Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Museum Curator and Director of the Institute of Archaeology, delivered a lecture entitled "Religion and Gods in Ancient Israel" addressing the question of whether we can identify Baal and Asherah in the archaeological record and how they came to play such a prominent role in the courts of the Judean kings. The goddess Asherah, whose



worship was vehemently opposed by biblical writers, is mentioned 40 times in the Bible as the consort of Baal and was even placed in Solomon's temple by King Manasseh (1 Kings 21).

Hasel, a professor of archaeology at Southern, conducted a comparative study of Asherah from Ugarit, Syria, and traced its history through the Late Bronze Age in Egypt and Israel. He is a sought after lecturer who has published several books and articles. Most recently he was interviewed for the National Geographic documentary, "Engineering Egypt" which premiered in 2007. He is currently finishing a book on Egyptian toponyms and onomastica throughout the eastern Mediterranean world.

Jan/Feb 2008

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## Do You Dig Archaeology?



**SOUTHERN**  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

# Uncovering Biblical Archaeology

## Why Study Biblical Archaeology?



Raymond Thompson, Hazor Dig 2007

Archaeology (sometimes spelled archeology) is the study of the material remains of past cultures and civilizations. Biblical Archaeology is the study of the ancient Near Eastern civilizations that are mentioned in the Bible.

Biblical archaeology provides the student of the Bible a clearer understanding of the peoples, places, and events described in the biblical text. Archaeology can often confirm the historical reliability of the Bible. For this reason archaeological research has become an indispensable tool of the biblical scholar and a necessary field of study for pastors, teachers, and evangelists.

## Biblical Archaeology at Southern

Southern Adventist University is one of only two academic institutions in North America that offer an undergraduate degree in biblical archaeology (and the only Seventh-day Adventist undergraduate program). Southern's Bachelor of Arts in archaeology has two concentrations--Near Eastern and

Classical studies. Near Eastern studies covers the time period of the Old Testament and Classical studies that of the New Testament and beyond.

Both concentrations require mastery of an ancient language--Koine Greek for Classical studies and Classical Hebrew for Near Eastern studies. Since an archaeologist is a historian who is not limited to the written word, archaeology majors are also required to travel to the Middle East to participate in archaeological excavations and study tours.

## Archaeological Museum, Library, and Excavations



Student studies at the museum

Archaeology students at Southern have free access to several educational resources. The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum is home to the prestigious William G. Dever Near Eastern Collection which is comprised of more than 200 artifacts and over 300 ceramic sherds (pieces). This unique teaching collection is an invaluable instructional resource for the student of archaeology. The museum's laboratory facilities serve as a basis for teaching pottery typology, ceramic conservation, and artifact cataloging and accession. Today this



Bill Shearer, Turkey Tour 2002 collection is the largest teaching collection of ancient Near Eastern ceramics in North America.

Archaeology majors also enjoy access to the William G. Dever Research Library made up of an outstanding collection of books and journals in the field of Near Eastern studies, Classical studies, and Egyptology. This rare collection is a great research aid for both faculty and students.

Currently, the Institute of Archaeology is preparing to launch its own permanent excavation project in the Middle East. In the meantime, students have dug at Cyprus and Israel and toured Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus, and Egypt.



Bucket Chain: Joel Willis and Dr. Hasel, Hazor Dig 2004

# Uncovering Biblical Archaeology, cont.



Excavating requires many different skills. Here Dr. Hasel works with a student on an architectural top plan, Hazor dig 2004.

## Biblical Archaeology and Evangelism

Popular books such as *The DaVinci Code* and TV shows like *Bone Hunters*, *Digging for the Truth*, and the *Naked Archaeologist* have created a surge of interest and provoking questions concerning archaeology. By linking current archaeological findings to biblical events we are able to share the good news with those who would otherwise not be interested in the Bible. The Institute of Archaeology has recently produced a ten-part television series available on DVD with companion study guides. Evangelist Mark Finley and professor Michael G. Hasel collaborated on this project to provide archaeological insights into the study of the Bible. This is but the first of many evangelistic resources we hope to make available to Church in the coming few years.

## Core Archaeology Courses

RELB 237 Archaeology and the Old Testament  
RELB 247 Archaeology and the New Testament  
RELB 340 Middle East Study Tour  
RELB 455 Archaeological Fieldwork  
RELB 497 Archaeological Method and Theory

## Near Eastern Studies Concentration

RELB 245 Old Testament Studies I  
RELB 246 Old Testament Studies II  
RELT 458 World Religions  
RELL 221 Introduction to Biblical Exegesis  
RELL 181 Biblical Hebrew I  
RELL 182 Biblical Hebrew II  
RELL 330 Intermediate Hebrew  
HIST 497 Research Methods in History

## Classical Studies Concentration

RELB 435 New Testament Studies I  
RELB 436 New Testament Studies II  
RELL 221 Introduction to Biblical Exegesis  
RELL 191 New Testament Greek I  
RELL 192 New Testament Greek II  
RELL 331 Intermediate Greek  
ENGL 445 Ancient Classics  
HIST 497 Research Methods in History

**It's not what you find,  
it's what you find out.**  
~ David Hurst Thomas



A Southern study tour to Turkey of the seven churches of Revelation made a stop at this magnificent Roman temple.

Southern students enjoy a day off from digging at Hazor, Israel. Swimming in the Dead Sea is a unique experience not to be missed.



Digging in Cyprus and Israel, Southern students have found jars, tablets, figurines, and small artifacts like the spear head shown here, all dating to biblical times.

## The Digging Experience

Archaeology has been called “a discipline of methodical destruction.” The Institute of Archaeology at Southern wants to build things up. Through the life transforming knowledge gathered at the University, we are hoping to build up God’s Word. Reading the Bible, the living Word of God, is life transforming. The Institute of Archaeology offers students the opportunity to experience the biblical text through all their senses. They will hear the sounds, see the places, touch the material culture, walk the streets.



Chris Chadwick participated in the excavations at Hazor in 2004 and 2005. A Southern graduate, he is currently completing a masters program at Andrews University.

Working on my degree in Near Eastern archaeology at Southern Adventist University was an incredible experience. I developed an appreciation for the language, history, and peoples of the Old Testament.

Touring and excavating in Israel has expanded my understanding at an exponential level. I see the texts of Scripture with new perspective that has only enhanced my love and desire to study the Bible. The opportunity to excavate at Hazor--one of the most important cities in ancient Palestine--gave me an understanding of the city that I would never be able to gain from studying a book.

I have been to the Middle East three times and every time I come home I have a greater desire to return. As I now further my education with an MA in Archaeology I am preparing to teach others about the Bible. I hope to give them a more colorful and realistic perception of history and events that have taken place.

By experiencing Israel I am better prepared to understand the nature and function of archaeology and how it helps shed light on the stories of the Bible. These now are not merely abstract stories and peoples whose names are difficult to pronounce. Now, I am able to create a mental picture of where and how they lived, what they ate, and the struggles they faced. Now I have gained a more realistic perspective.

My trip to Israel was meaningful to me in many ways. Of course, traveling the world and seeing other cultures are always experiences that broaden the mind. This particular trip, however, was more than that to me. It gave me a deeper and more powerful connection to the stories I’ve heard all my life.

I picked up a lot of memories just by walking around in Israel and seeing the sights, but being on site at the dig in Hazor was a most amazing experience. Every day at an extremely early hour of the morning, I walked over the stones which made up the Solomonic gate. I just walked right on top of them! I was digging into earth far below that level, and finding things that no one had seen for thousands of years. It lent a reality to those ancient peoples who lived and worked and whose existence are recorded in Scripture and in the earth that I dug up each day.

There is so much I could say about Israel and all the marvelous things I saw, but it couldn’t capture how it all really felt. What I will say, however, is that I have seen the color, tasted the flavor, and gained an overall feel for a place that, until my trip to Israel, were just pictures I had seen in storybooks. Those pictures, although skillfully done, can never do justice to the experience of walking the streets that Jesus walked. I would go again in a heartbeat.



Chrissy Martin is an archaeology graduate from Southern. She is currently finishing her medical degree at Loma Linda University.

## Our Graduates Today

**A**rchaeology, the very word brings different images to one's mind. Many picture Hollywood adventurers hunting for lost treasures and saving the world from certain doom. Others think of dusty, grime-filled hours in the hot sun working meticulously with small dental tools on skeletal remains of Tyrannosaurus Rex. Still others image dry old libraries or dark, empty museums where tedious research takes place. At Southern there is a museum and a library with precious books, and we do excavate in distant lands. In the end we do find "treasures" if ancient Egyptian statues or cuneiform tablets are considered such. What makes the B.A. program at Southern successful, however, are the students who come from across the country to study archaeology. Let me share what a few of our graduates are doing today.

**Leandro Tracchia** is a native of New Jersey. He graduated last year, got married and is now working full-time at the cultural resources management company Alexander Archaeological Consultants in Wildwood, GA. "With a double major at Southern in Archaeology and Computer Systems Administration," says Leandro, "I was able to get a job straight out of college. I manage the IT network for the company and am involved in the planning of excavations across the state." Leandro plans to go on to graduate school combining his experience and skills with computers and archaeology.

**Jyll Taylor** always enjoyed traveling, reading, and learning about other cultures. When she came to Southern from North Carolina and heard about the new B.A. program in archaeology she began taking classes. After graduation she was accepted into the prestigious Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. After a year there she fell in love and moved to Scotland where she enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of Aberdeen. Jyll says, "Southern gave me the tools to be successful in one of the oldest universities in Europe where I can study the Old Testament and discover its rich treasures."



Stephanie Johns on site in Idallion, Cyprus 2003.

**Stephanie Johns** was a Biology/Pre-med major when she learned that Southern also had a program in archaeology. She had always dreamed of studying archaeology and going on a dig. Carefully planning out her schedule, she realized that she could take both programs. After excavating in Cyprus in 2003, she realized that excavation was an incredible experience. During her junior year the interviewer from medical school asked Stephanie what she would do if she did not get accepted into medical school. She replied, "I could always become the next Indiana Jones." Medical schools like to hear about diversity in interest and education. Today Stephanie is one of three archaeology graduates completing medical school.

With over twelve graduates in archaeology, Southern has placed 95% of its students in major graduate programs including Andrews University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Montana. This summer two students will be excavating with Harvard University at Ashkelon in Israel. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education with the purpose of drawing others to a better understanding of the ancient world of the Bible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Havel".

Director, Institute of Archaeology



# Careers in Archaeology

**M**any people have said, “I always wanted to be an archaeologist since I was a kid, but what do you do with archaeology?” The fact is that you can do a lot. An undergraduate B.A. degree in archaeology is preparation for continued study or professional development in almost any field. It is excellent pre-professional preparation for careers in law, business, medicine, or education. Students interested in a career in archaeology itself either in research, higher education, museum work, or cultural resource management, will need an advanced degree. An undergraduate degree from Southern Adventist University will put you in a competitive position to continue in the field. Archaeologists attract considerable interest from employers in areas like publishing, government service, management, and Foreign Service, who are looking for diversity in skills and breadth of knowledge in their employees. The strength of Southern’s program lies in its strong biblical focus in the tradition of broad, liberal arts training.

**University Professor.** Most archaeologists become professors at colleges and universities, but not all of them end up teaching in archaeology programs. Some may teach in the area of Art History and will focus on ancient art and its development. Others may teach in an anthropology department where they study the world’s earliest civilizations. Still others may teach in the area of History. Most Christian archaeologists traditionally teach in Theology or Religion departments because of the emphasis in biblical archaeology. They may teach Hebrew and Old Testament classes or Greek and New Testament classes as well as classes in archaeology. This career goal requires a Ph.D.

**Museum Studies.** Museum visitation is growing in the United States with museums popping up everywhere. These museums require personnel such as curators, conservators, and management staff. A degree in archaeology from Southern Adventist University provides opportunities for working at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. It gives students a solid base for further work in Museum Studies on the graduate level for the M.A.

**Cultural Resource Management.** Most students ask the question, can I even get a job in archaeology with only a B.A. degree? The answer is, YES! Construction projects often require archaeological surveys to locate prehistoric or historic sites and the excavation of some sites before construction can begin. This kind of archaeology is called cultural resources management (CRM). Field positions usually require a B.A. degree and previous field experience in an archaeological field school.

**State and Federal Government.** Many archaeologists work for the federal government. The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have about 800 archaeologists in their ranks. Many archaeologists also work for state government agencies. Every state has a State Historic Preservation Office with one or more archaeologists on staff. Archaeologists even work for the FBI tracking down some of the world’s stolen treasures. Most government positions require at least an M.A. degree.

**Secondary Interest.** Some archaeology students at Southern are not interested in a career in archaeology at all. They simply take archaeology for the fun of it. They want to travel, go on a dig, and experience new cultures and adventures. They take full advantage of the fifty other majors offered by Southern Adventist University and often take a double major or even triple major. They may end up becoming a nurse, business entrepreneur, or a medical doctor. Many aspiring pastors take archaeology to help them prepare for evangelism and mission. Planning early and getting a head start can allow a great deal of flexibility in choosing your programs of study.

## 2006 median earnings:

Museum Curators \$46,300

Archaeologists \$49,930

University Professors \$56,120

Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook

## New Exhibit Planned for Fall 2008

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum announces the development of a new exhibit, "Faces of Power: Ancient Coins from the Biblical World," brought about by the reception of a rare coin collection from the Bechtel family.



Philip II of Macedon

The value of such exhibits for the public is enormous. The exhibit dating as far back as Philip II of Macedon will move through time to Nero of Rome. It will mirror our permanent collection theme, "Vessels in Time," highlighting the progression of coins through time, while sharing important stories from the Bible. On display will be examples of a widow's mite (Mark 12:38-44) and silver shekels from the time of Christ. The coins Judas Iscariot received for betraying Christ (Matt 22:14-15) will be given prominence. All of these coins not only illustrate the monetary and economic systems of the Greco-Roman world, but they also depict portraits of kings and gods. These "faces of power" were widely circulated in order to communicate through art the religio-political structures of the day.

This exhibit will be the first temporary exhibit

since the grand opening of the Museum in 2004. The Museum's plan is to develop a new temporary exhibit every year. This year the Advisory Board hired Justo Morales as museum coordinator to facilitate that goal. As one of only a few programs on campus that draws community visitors to Southern Adventist University, it is the Institute's hope that new collections and temporary exhibits will maintain interest and increase visitor numbers, while providing important insights into the ancient world of the Bible through continued education.

Producing a first-class exhibit of this nature takes time and resources:

- Artwork and photographs collected or produced and graphics designed.
- Text and story line written.
- Display cases built and artifacts mounted and insured.
- Marketing materials sent out to the community and an exhibition guide published.
- Guest lecturers invited to speak on topics relating to the special exhibit.

All of these plans are to ensure that students and the community are aware of this educational resource. Help us reach our goals for 2008 by making a tax-deductible gift.

**You can sponsor a coin in our upcoming fall exhibit! Your donation will help with the preservation and exhibition of our new coin collections:**

- Sponsor a Coin: # \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1000/coin)  
(Receive a photo and history of your coin, plus a special mention on the donors plaque at our new exhibit.)

**I am interested in biblical archaeology and would like the opportunity to support the Institute of Archaeology in the following area(s):**

- Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Institute of Archaeology \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Burton & Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation & Publication \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- My check is enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to Southern Adventist University, designate "museum" in memo)

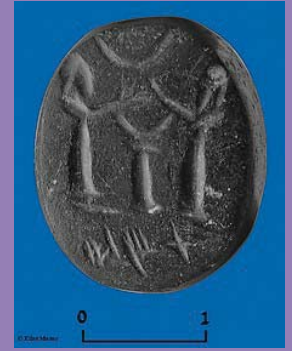
Mail to: School of Religion, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315



# Recent Sightings

## Archaeologist Revises Read of Ancient Seal Inscription - The Jerusalem Post

“The 2,500 year-old black stone seal was found last month amid stratified layers of debris in the excavation under way just outside the Old City walls near the Dung Gate, said archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar, who is leading the dig.” [Click here to read more](#)



## Who Owns History? ~ Time Magazine

“Source nations” like Italy, Greece, Egypt, Turkey and China--homes to the world’s ancient civilizations--think of antiquities as national property, essential to the construction of the modern nations’ identity. Which in part they are. The problem is whether that idea can accommodate the no less plausible notion that the products of ancient civilizations are also the heritage of all humanity.” [Click here to read more](#)

## Health-care Plan in Ancient Egypt?

~ Orlando Sentinel

“As Egyptian mummies go, Asru is a major celebrity. During her life in the 8th century B.C., she was known for her singing at the temple of Amun in Karnak; now she’s famous for her medical problems. Forensic studies have revealed that although Asru lived into her 60s, she was not a well woman. She had furred-up arteries, desert lung (pneumoconiosis) caused by breathing in sand, osteoarthritis, a slipped disc, periodontal disease and possibly diabetes, as well as parasitic worms in her intestine and bladder. Her last years must have been full of pain and suffering. After all, what could her doctor do to help? Say a few prayers and recite a spell or two?”



If you read the history books, that’s about as much as Asru could expect. But not according to Jackie Campbell at the KNH Center for Biomedical Egyptology at the University of Manchester in England. Her research suggests that Asru’s doctor probably consulted a handbook of remedies and prescribed something to soothe her cough, deaden the pain in her joints and perhaps even expel some of those worms. What’s more, Campbell’s findings indicate that Asru’s doctor had more than 1,000 years of pharmaceutical expertise to draw on. If she’s right, the history of medicine needs rewriting.”

[Click here to read more](#)

# Upcoming Events

## Museum Lecture Series

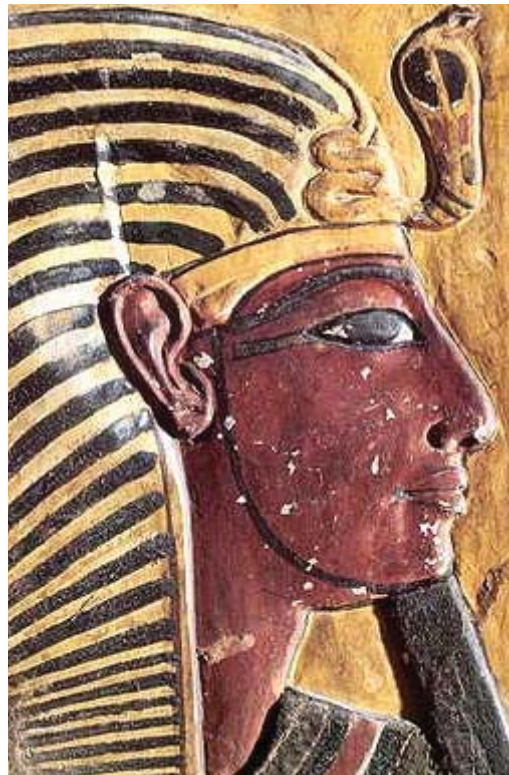
March 29  
7p.m.

Peter J. Brand  
University of Memphis

Topic: Wars of the Egyptian  
king Seti I during New Kingdom  
Egypt in Western Asia

## Extended Museum Hours

The museum will be open one  
hour prior to the Museum Lec-  
tures. Meet our guest lecturer  
and enjoy a special guided tour  
of the museum.



King Seti I

## Scholarly Meetings

American Research Center  
in Egypt

Annual Meetings  
April 25-27, 2008  
Seattle, Washington

## By Appointment Only

Do you have family coming  
into town over the holidays?

Show them Southern's  
archaeological museum!

Schedule a visit to the  
museum by calling  
Star Stevens at 423.236.2988 or  
Susan Brown at 423.236.2977

Coming Soon . . .

The Dever Library

Look for more information in  
the next issue of *DigSight*



# DigSight

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Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum



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