



CENTER FOR
NEAR EASTERN
ARCHAEOLOGY
LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

La Sierra Digs

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14th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend

The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt: *Glory, Grit, and Grandeur*

In Person and Online

November
12-13
2022



Find out more at
lasierra.edu/archaeology

Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2022

The year 2022 auspiciously signals not only the 100th anniversary of La Sierra University, but also the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's Tomb and the 10th anniversary of CNEA. To celebrate this convergence of anniversaries, Archaeology Discovery Weekend focuses on the ever popular and intriguing pharaohs of ancient Egypt. There will be lectures by world-famous Egyptologists, a special 10th-anniversary reception at CNEA, and activities for campus and community, including kids. To locate the entire program and to register cost-free in advance, visit <https://lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>.

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Summer 2022 Digs
at
Khirbat al-Balu'a
& Madaba

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La Sierra Centennial Gala

Larry Geraty

Exactly one hundred years to the day, on October 3, 2022, La Sierra University celebrated the institution's opening day of school on October 3, 1922—this time downtown at the Riverside Convention Center where more than six hundred guests heard a brief summary of La Sierra's history, heard classical pianist Alpin Hong play one of the most difficult pieces ever written for piano, and alum Anthony Leon sing two tenor solos—both musicians receiving standing ovations. President Fehr honored one hundred individuals with her University Centennial Award, representative of a host of others deserving recognition. Each attending family received the gift of Higher Ground: A Centennial History of La Sierra University, 1922–2022, a 722-page volume of history and photos. Altogether, an amazing celebration, highlighting the institution's growing importance to both church and society.

We're Ten Years Old ++!

While serious engagement with the archaeology of the Near East has been embedded at La Sierra since the 1970s, it wasn't until the summer of 2012 that the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology was born. A community project from the beginning, CNEA was given renovated space on campus in what began as the "Agriculture Department," providing venues for research offices, a library/conference room, and lab and storage space for the tens of thousands of artifacts in its care. It is currently home to four major archaeological projects in Jordan, massive artifact collections from Jordan and Israel/Palestine, and large library donations.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



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2012 - 2022

Giving Day for CNEA – 7 December 2022

An annual tradition now, Giving Day 2022 will be held on Wednesday 7 December and CNEA will again play an important part in the program, since the center exists entirely because of the generosity of friends and colleagues. Two special features of this year's Giving Day: 1) CNEA is sponsoring an illustrated presentation, available via Zoom and Livestreaming, by a new post-doctoral fellow at CNEA for two years, Dr. Ian Jones from the University of California, San Diego, on archaeology from the Islamic periods in the Near East (the seventh century through modern times) and 2) a very generous matching donation of \$25,000 by Fred Cornforth which is a nice way to double your investment. Visit <https://lasierra.edu/givingday>.

Tale of Two Curatorial Assistants

Douglas Clark

The Center has been blessed over the past decade with remarkable staff, in particular the senior assistants. Between summer and fall of this year, CNEA saw a major transition from Dawn Acevedo, an MA graduate from La Sierra who served admirably as Curatorial Assistant since 2018, but who reduced her hours and changed titles (to Social Media Coordinator) to give more time to her family, especially their new daughter Anna, to Rory Slattery, a very recent MA graduate from University College London who now holds the position. Dawn established herself as efficient, aesthetically gifted, consummately detailed, warm and welcoming. Rory brings to the position new educational and experiential background and skills in cultural heritage and the archaeology of the Near East, high energy levels, and a thirst to explore all the nooks and crannies of CNEA.



CNEA 10th Anniversary Noted in Adventist Review

La Sierra University Publicist, Darla Martin-Tucker, submitted an article on the 10th anniversary of CNEA which was published in the Adventist Review. Read the entire piece at: <https://adventistreview.org/release/center-for-near-eastern-archaeology-celebrates-10-years/>.



[Photo: Natan Vigna]

Tale of Two Museums

Larry Geraty and Douglas Clark

Museums take a lot of planning, generous donors, specialists from a host of fields, and movers and shakers. Leadership at CNEA is currently engaged in the establishment of two museums, as regular readers of *La Sierra Digs* know well. At present, the architectural design concept is virtually complete for the proposed new La Sierra University Museum which will house and display world-class collections from CNEA, the World Museum of Natural History, and ethnographic materials in the Stahl collection. Simultaneously, CNEA has joined with Italian and Jordanian partners to realize a new regional archaeological museum in Madaba, Jordan, a city which has been designated by the Arab Tourism Organization as the Arab Tourism Capital for 2022. The race is on to see which museum celebrates groundbreaking first.

2022 CNEA Excavations

More detailed updates will follow in the 2023 Winter Issue of the *Digs*. Stay tuned!



The Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project (BRAP)

Monique Roddy, Kent Bramlett, and Friedbert Ninow

The BRAP 2022 team spent six weeks in the field this summer excavating in the ancient remains of Khirbat al-Balu'a. Three

teams continued work in the Iron Age settlement, defining the Moabite construction and use of fortifications and domestic structures. One team started work in a new area, a road inn attached to the medieval Islamic Village, investigating the use of one of many rooms around a central courtyard. 30 crates of artifacts from this year's excavations just arrived at CNEA from Jordan. Read more in the *BRAP Beat* at www.BRAPJordan.org.

The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP)

Douglas Clark

The MRAMP project saw its fourth and final excavation season (sort of) at the site of the proposed new Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum in the downtown Madaba Archaeological Park West. A small excavation, the 2022 team worked in a unique archaeological setting – clearing rooms and spaces once covered by a 1950s (AD!) building which had to be removed to clear the remainder of the new museum's footprint. It's not often that archaeologists trained in ancient culture expose material and architecture from their own lifetimes. Nor do they often dig up a well preserved hammam (Turkish toilet). In an important decision regarding the museum, this excavation area will be preserved inside the new museum to illustrate archaeological methods and may even see renewed activity in time.



Display Case

Dawn Acevedo

The Egyptian process of mummification to prepare bodies for burial and the afterlife was an important religious and social aspect of Egyptian life. During the 4th Dynasty (ca. 2613–2494 BC), embalmers adopted the process of evisceration – the removal of the organs. Canopic jars, carved from stone or wood or made from clay, were used to hold the organs of the entombed. These jars evolved over time, from plain jars with plain lids to, in the New Kingdom, jars with ornate lids in the form of the four sons of Horus: Imsety (a human), Duamutef (a jackal), Hapi (a baboon), and Qebehsenuef (a falcon). Each of the four jars preserved a specific organ: the liver, the stomach, the lungs, and the intestines, respectively. Canopic jars were often painted or glazed and inscriptions became more

common and complex over time. (Pictured here is an unaccessioned glazed canopic jar with a human-head-shaped lid from CNEA's Biblical Life Collection.)



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2022 Calendar of Events

19–23 October

ONLINE Annual Meeting of ASOR (American Society of Overseas Research)

12–13 November

Archaeology Discovery Weekend on the Pharaohs

16–20 November

Boston Annual Meeting of ASOR (American Society of Overseas Research)

7 December

Giving Day for La Sierra and CNEA

SUPPORT CNEA!

As this issue of *La Sierra Digs* makes clear, the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology at La Sierra University is on the move! And it needs your support for student travel scholarships, the new university museum, and ongoing operations. Please go online at <https://lasierra.edu/donate> and click on “Center for Near Eastern Archaeology” to make your contribution. Or contact the Office of University Advancement at (951) 785-2500. Thank you!

Recent Discoveries

Assembled by Dawn Acevedo

Smelling the Past...

In a new avenue of archaeological studies, researchers are investigating ancient scents based on molecular evidence from a wide array of artifacts, including re-creating recipes of ancient Egyptian perfumes, possibly even the same worn by Cleopatra herself! <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ancient-smell-odor-artifacts-texts-egypt-archaeology>

First-Temple Ivories Discovered in Jerusalem

Ornately carved ivory inlay plaques were discovered in an 8th-century palatial residence in the City of David Archaeological Park in Jerusalem’s old city. Israeli scholars reported that, “The discovery of the ivories is a step forward in understanding the political and economic status of the city as part of global administration and economy.” <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/ancient-cultures/ancient-israel/first-temple-jerusalem-ivories/>

Intact Burial Cave from the Time of Ramesses II

An undisturbed Late Bronze Age II burial cave was discovered near the coast of Israel. At the time, Egypt had control of the region and was responsible for ‘extensive international trade’ to the area. Filled with imported and local wares, finds include a variety of ceramic vessels, as well as bronze arrowheads or spearheads. <https://tinyurl.com/pzf2zhjp>

Huqoq Synagogue Mosaics Continue to Surprise

In its 10th season of excavations, led by Dr. Jodi Magness of UNC-Chapel Hill, the Huqoq Excavation Project revealed more surprising and unique mosaics on the floor of its 4th–5th century synagogue. This time, the tesserae tell the story of biblical heroines Deborah and Jael. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/mosaic-two-biblical-heroines-excavated-israel-180980412/>