



CENTER FOR
NEAR EASTERN
ARCHAEOLOGY
LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

La Sierra Digs

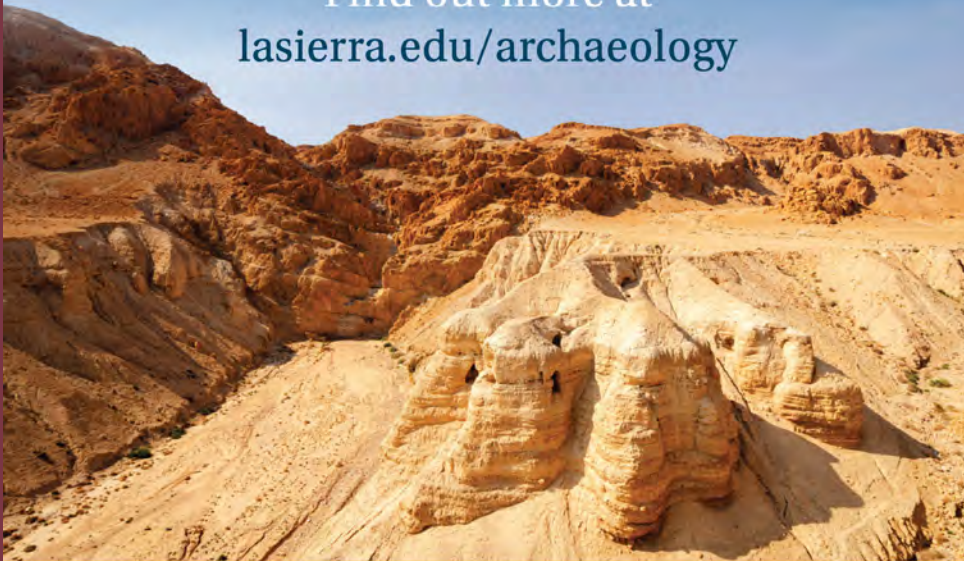
Newsletter of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology | HMS Richards Divinity School | La Sierra University | Vol. 11:3 Fall 2023

15th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend

November 11-12, 2023

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible

Held In Person and Online
Find out more at
[lasierra.edu/archaeology](https://www.lasierra.edu/archaeology)



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Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2023

The Center for Near Eastern Archaeology extends an open invitation to everyone to attend the 15th annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend on 11-12 November, on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible. Featuring some of the world's best and most prestigious Dead Scroll scholars, the weekend event promises to be one of our best ever. Check out the entire program and register at <https://www.lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) 76 years ago set in motion a massive effort to excavate them carefully, to understand them in their context, and to see how they related to the Bible. With the help of several world-class DSS scholars, this year's Archaeology Discovery Weekend will focus on the archaeology and background of the scrolls and their discovery (Saturday) and on the relationship of the scrolls to the Bible and its study (Sunday).

Sat., Nov. 11

Illustrated presentations, displays, Bedouin Hospitality Tent Reception, and more!

Sun., Nov. 12

Illustrated presentations, Kids Dig, displays, hands-on activities, and more!

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Madaba, Jordan at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis

Over a year in planning, a new exhibit opened on 6 September at the largest children’s museum in the world, The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Consisting of superb displays from six cities around the world, “Sacred Places” presents six world religions to children and their families, dedicated to enriching understanding and fostering appreciation for the global reach of religion and religious traditions. Madaba, Jordan, site of CNEA’s internationally collaborative project, the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project, was chosen from among many cities to represent Christianity. The city’s rich history witnessed an expanded Christian population during the Byzantine Period in the 4th through early 7th centuries, with the birth of the modern city of Madaba growing out of a late 19th-century migration of Christian families from Karak, Jordan following a millennium of near abandonment, and the newsworthy co-existence of large Muslim and Christian populations in Madaba today. The grand opening featured Ms. Jude Twal from Madaba in attendance, along with Doug Clark, and Mr. Kacey Hadick of CyArk.org, the IT brains behind much of the exhibit. It was a brilliant example of the collaboration between ancient and modern, foreign and domestic, professional archaeologists and local children and their families, all in an attempt to be informed and inclusive.



Children lining up outside the museum for class.

Measuring Participants’ Knowledge Pre- and Post-Workshop (Questions):

- 1) Which of the following civilizations built Petra (Roman, Nabataean, or Byzantine)?
- 2) Why do birds migrate?
- 3) Who is the person who works in excavation?
- 4) Which of the following photos is natural heritage?
- 5) This photo is representing (past, present, future)?
- 6) Which of the following photos represents youth?
- 7) Which of the following photos represents Byzantine craft?
- 8) Which of the following photos represents a cultural heritage site?
- 9) Which of the following photos represents Intangible Cultural Heritage?
- 10) This photo is considered part of the (past, present, or future)?



Sacred Places Entrance at The Children’s Museum

“When we learn about the religions of our neighbors... we’re better able to understand and communicate with one another.”



Sacred Places Madaba with Museum and MRAMP personnel:

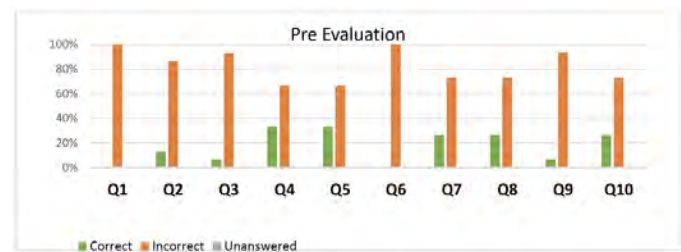
(L to R) Melissa Pederson, Jessica Simmons, Kacey Hadick (kneeling), Chris Carron, Jude Twal, Doug Clark, Natalie Lyon

MRAMP-PNT-DoA -- Education in Protecting One’s Heritage

As promised in the email accompanying the volume 11:2 of *La Sierra Digs*, the editors are including a brief report on the educational mission and work in Madaba, Jordan, of a coalition of the Petra National Trust, the Department of Antiquities, and the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (co-sponsored by CNEA).

Following four three-hour classroom sessions on how students can learn about and help preserve their own legacy and cultural heritage, one each for students aged 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, and 16-18, this pilot program has proven particularly effective. The school children were engaged in a wide range of hands-on activities geared to raise awareness of their own world and culture and to nudge them to commit to the protection of the antiquities among which they live and go to school.

The benefits of the program are clearly demonstrated in the following data of first-year class assessments:



The program has been so successful that we are in the process of signing a new MOU for the next three years, supported in part by the ASOR/Geraty Endowment.

Lifetime Achievement Award to the Geratys

The inaugural ceremony marking the recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the common good, sponsored by the Zapara School of Business, is dedicated

to Gillian and Lawrence Geraty. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for an endowment for scholarships for student success. The gala will be held at the Riverside Convention Center on Thursday evening, 26 October, and will feature dramatic and artistic “acts” connected to lifelong locations and contributions of the Geratys.

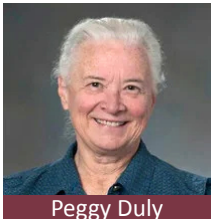
For more information and to find out how to participate, visit: <https://lasierra.edu/article/biz-schools-award-gala-to-honor-geratys-seed-endowment/>. The Center is lead sponsor for the first “act” of the evening (archaeology, of course) and would be happy to add your name and contribution to the sponsoring list (email us at archaeology@lasierra.edu).



Gillian and Larry Geraty

Celebrating Peggy Duly

Our community was deeply saddened by the recent passing of long-time supporter, event attendee, and friend, Peggy Duly. Peggy was often on campus for Archaeology Discovery Weekends, captivated by presenters and engaging with scholars and fellow non-specialists alike. While small in stature, she could stand with the best in archaeological conversations, always shared with enthusiasm and sincerity. Before she died



Peggy Duly

on 27 August 2023, she generously bequeathed her entire library to CNEA, 46 boxes of mostly archaeological volumes, but also books and tapes growing from a wide range of interests. We are deeply indebted to Peggy and will miss her and her spirit of adventure and curiosity.

CNEA Archaeology Awardees

Recipients of the 2023 CNEA Archaeology Awards, announced during Homecoming weekend at La Sierra last April, include Carolyn Waldron, of Ridgefield, WA, and Corona, CA, and husband-wife couple Daniel Hantman and Marcia Gilman. The archaeology Center is deeply indebted to Carolyn for years of engagement with three of the four CNEA excavation projects and years of volunteer service in various capacities, most recently in the CNEA library. Daniel and Marcia have been long-time supportive members on the CNEA Advisory Council after an interest developed from the time of Daniel’s participation at



Carolyn Waldron, right, receiving her CNEA Archaeology Award.



Marcia Gilman and Daniel Hantman, CNEA Archaeology Award recipients.

the Tall al-`Umayri excavations in 2004. None of the recipients were present on campus during the Homecoming events but have since received their awards.

CNEA Giving Day - 6 December

Giving Day for CNEA (and for La Sierra University as a whole) has helped us focus our annual fundraising schedule on a particular time each year. The 2023 version of Giving Day will take place on Wednesday, 6 December. The CNEA staff thanks you for all of your support, especially what Giving Day inspires.

The Center is entirely dependent on donations for its existence and for what it accomplishes in the fulfillment of its mission.

Please watch for the invitation to join us for this occasion. Not only will Giving Day provide much-needed financial support; it will give everyone an opportunity to “visit” the archaeological projects undertaken beneath the umbrella of CNEA. At 7 PM on 6 December, we are hosting a multi-presenter, interactive, and illustrated, online-only presentation of brief reports on our work in Jordan: the Madaba Plains Project (publication stage), Khirbat Balu’a, Khirbat `Ataruz, and the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project. The program will appear via Zoom (with opportunity for discussion) and Livestream.



La Sierra University
presents the 4th annual

Giving Day

6 December 2023
lasierra.edu/givingday

Display Case

Kaitlyn Satelmayer

The use of jars was essential in the ancient Near East. Not only were they employed to store various items, including grain and oil. But in some cases they held precious objects, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls jars stood 24 inches tall, with a diameter of 11 inches. These jars also included lids which were 3 inches high and 7.1 inches in diameter. The design of the jars permitted the manuscripts to be rolled tightly and stored securely inside. Their tight-fitting lids, firmly in place, provided the perfect environment for preservation, protecting the scrolls from the elements—especially rodents, insects, molds, etc.—and subsequently making possible their extraordinary discovery. (Dimensions taken from the MET.)



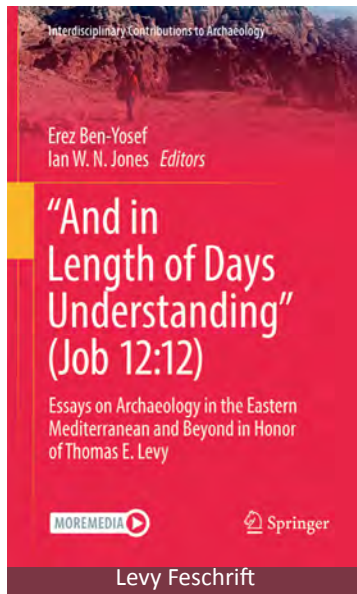
Terracotta scroll jar and lid,
1st c. B.C.–1st c. A.D.
Walters Art Museum, 48.2058



Massive Volume Honoring Dr. Tom Levy

A major benefactor of CNEA, Dr. Tom Levy of the University of California, San Diego has recently been honored by the publication of a huge volume of articles written by friends and colleagues he has known through a long career of archaeological research in the Middle East. The Center continues to process over 130 boxes of books Tom donated and several tons of research material from his excavations in southern Jordan in the Wadi Faynan. Tom has also been responsible for connecting us with other colleagues and donors.

The book is entitled: *And in Length of Days Understanding (Job 12:12): Essays on Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond in Honor of Thomas E. Levy*, edited by E. Ben-Yosef and I.W.N. Jones. Its two volumes boast 82 articles and cover over 1,950 pages, a testament to the respect archaeologists have for Tom Levy. In addition, several CNEA-connected faculty were involved in the book: Dr. Ian Jones was a co-editor of the volume and author of an article on Roman religion; Drs. Kent Bramlett, Monique Roddy, and Friedbert Ninow submitted an article on their excavation project at Balu`a, Jordan, along with Dr. Craig Tyson; Dr. Chang Ho Ji wrote on the area around Dhiban, Jordan; and Dr. Doug Clark co-authored a piece with Dr. Suzanne Richard on community archaeology in Madaba.



Curation of and Research into the UCSD Artifact Donation

Dr. Ian Jones, our post-doc in residence, completed his work at CNEA at the end of August and has already begun his new, full-time academic career in the Anthropology Department of New York University, a prestigious appointment. Since leaving cam-



Ian and Shaun at work on UCSD research collection.

pus, Ian has been in regular contact with Shaun Eccles (CNEA Curatorial Research Assistant) regarding the UCSD research materials donated by Dr. Tom Levy.

Ian and Shaun have made great progress in numerous ways. They have nearly completed unpacking everything on the CNEA patio, repacking material in new or repaired crates, re-labeling everything, and organizing new storage patterns on the patio. They have also reconfigured the CNEA patio to give space for and allow continuation of CNEA's Archaeology Adventures program for elementary and middle school students.

In addition, we have already enjoyed the presence of two researchers:

1. Sara Carrion Anaya, from the UK, sampled domestic and technical ceramics in the Wadi Faynan collections from Khirbat en-Nahas, Khirbat Faynan, and Khirbat Hamra lfdan for chemical sourcing analysis as part of her ongoing doctoral research comparing strategies for sourcing clay during the Early Bronze and Iron Ages.
2. Anthony Tamborino, a PhD candidate in Anthropology at UCSD, visited the collections to produce 3D models of Iron Age metallurgical material (slag, technical ceramics, molds, and mining hammers) from Khirbat al-Jariya, Khirbat en-Nahas, and nearby mine sites and Islamic-period ceramics from Khirbat Nuqayb al-Asaymir using Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry to be published in collaboration with Dr. Matthew Howland (Wichita State University), Dr. Brady Liss (University of Vermont), and Dr. Ian Jones (New York University).

La Sierra University Museum Board Update

Larry Geraty

The La Sierra University Museum Board, chaired by Vice President for Advancement, Norman Yergen, met in person on September 18, 2023, the first meeting since June 8. Attendance was excellent, demonstrating high interest in this long planned-for key addition to the campus. Awaiting adequate funding for the project, the agenda consisted primarily of reports, updating members on the design and anticipated construction (Bill Emmerson), the selection process for design and build with potential construction companies (Andrew Walcker), a brief review of the anticipated business plan for the museum (Andrew Walcker), and fund-raising/development (Larry Geraty). Progress depends on meeting our financial support objectives toward approximately \$60M for construction and \$20M for operating endowment. Negotiations are underway for a \$25M lead gift that will help toward the completion of fundraising commitments, hopefully by early in 2024. In the meantime there were updates on collections: a significant mineral donation (Lindi Montes), natural history laboratory improvements (Billy Hankins), CNEA library and research donations (Doug Clark), and Stahl Center curation and lecture series (Doug Clark and Robert Roth). Should any readers have suggestions for potential donors to the University Museum, please contact Larry Geraty <lgeraty@lasierra.edu>.

Upgrading the CNEA Library

Kaitlyn Satelmayer

Staff and volunteers at CNEA have been making extraordinary progress with our library project in the past couple of months. Although we spent some time waiting for our new barcodes to arrive, they eventually came. With the continued generous help of Christina Viramontes from the main campus library, we were able, in an historic step for us, to place new barcodes on three of our books and enter them into the campus library system, using Library of Congress identifications. This was an excellent first step in the second phase of our project! With the help of our incredible volunteers, Terri Shaw (volunteer project lead), Howard Bunte, Carolyn Waldron, and Maribel Carmona Torres, I believe that we will have our 'in progress' library available to students very soon! Shaun Eccles and I are privileged to work with our volunteer corps, which also includes many individuals working on this and other projects.



Scanning the very first volume into the library's new system.



Volunteers at work on the massive library project.

More Online Content on our Socials

Dawn Acevedo

Want even more of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology? Follow us on our social media pages for the most up-to-date info on goings-on as well as additional content you won't see anywhere else! Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter). Links provided on page 6 below.

Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2023

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible"

Program:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

3:00-6:00 PM (PST) – Illustrated Presentations w/ Q&A

3:00-3:05 - WELCOME - University President

3:05-3:10 - WELCOME - Douglas Clark

PRESENTATIONS

Larry Geraty, Presiding

3:10-3:55 - Emanuel Tov

The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Their Nature, and Their Publication

3:55-4:40 - Jodi Magness

The Archaeology of Qumran

4:40-4:55 BREAK for refreshments

4:55-5:30 - Sabal Al-Zaben

The Discovery of Qumran Cave 1 by My Father, Commander Akash Zaben

5:30-6:00 - Presenters, Larry Geraty, Richard Medina

PANEL DISCUSSION on Saturday Presentations

6:15-7:30 - 15th ADW ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION—Bedouin Tent @ CNEA

Dead Sea Scrolls-themed Exhibits @ CNEA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

1:00-4:00 PM (PST) – Illustrated Presentations w/ Q&A

1:00-1:10 - WELCOME - University Provost

PRESENTATIONS

Friedbert Ninow, Presiding

1:10-1:50 - Dr. Sidnie White Crawford

What Do the Dead Sea Scrolls Teach Us about the Bible?

1:50-2:30 - Dr. Alex Jassen

Jewish Biblical Interpretation and the Dead Sea Scrolls

2:30-2:45 BREAK for refreshments

2:45-3:30 - John J. Collins

The Place of Apocalypticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls

3:30-4:00 - Presenters, Luiz Gustavo Assis, Matt Korman

PANEL DISCUSSION on Sunday Presentations

ALSO ON SUNDAY @ CNEA

2:00-4:00 PM - Kids Dig

4:00-5:30 PM - Hands-on lab activities and DSS-themed exhibits

4:00-5:30 PM - Refreshments at the Bedouin Tent



La Sierra Digs

Editors: Douglas Clark and Dawn Acevedo
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Calendar of Events - 2023-2024

26 October 2023	Geraty Lifetime Achievement Award Gala
11-12 November 2023	Archaeology Discovery Weekend
6 December 2023	4th Annual Giving Day
14 February 2024	Winter Archaeology Lecture
20 April 2024	Homecoming

CNEA presents the 3rd annual
WINTER ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE

Wednesday,
14 February 2024
7 PM PST

Learn more at
www.lasierra.edu/cnea



THOMAS (TOM) LEVY, PhD

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 to <https://www.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!

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Center for Near Eastern Archaeology
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Recent Discoveries

Assembled by Dawn Acevedo

Urbanization in Ancient Palestine Earlier Than Previously Thought

The discovery of a 5,500-year-old (Early Bronze Age I) city gate at Tel Erani, Israel, re-winds "the clock on urbanization" in the region by about 300 years. Previously, the oldest-known gate was at Tel Arad and dates to ca. 3,200 B.C. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/oldestgate>

Four Roman Swords Discovered in a Dead Sea Cave

In a cave overlooking the Dead Sea north of Ein Gedi, "in a near-inaccessible crevice," archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority discovered three Roman long-swords sheathed in their wooden scabbards and one shorter, Roman ring-pommel sword. Researchers believe these were taken by Judean rebels and hidden for future reuse. Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/romanswords>

The Latest Mosaics Uncovered at Huqoq

Dr. Jodi Magness and the Huqoq Excavation Project have concluded the "11th [and final] season of excavations in the 1,600-year-old synagogue," unveiling mosaic panels honoring donors or artists and additional parts of the Samson panels, first excavated in 2012-2013. See the press release here: <https://tinyurl.com/huqoq11>

Jericho Among UNESCO's Latest World Heritage Sites

As of September 2023, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is listed among the newest inscribed UNESCO World Heritage properties. Touted as the "oldest fortified city in the world," ruins in the tell and surrounding area suggest that it has been continuously inhabited since the 9th millennium B.C. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/unescojericho>