

# La Sierra Digs

Newsletter of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology | HMS Richards Divinity School | La Sierra University | Vol 5:1 Winter 2017

## Summer Opportunities

### Jesus & Judges Study Tour July 2017

A brand new study tour to Jordan and Israel/Palestine is set to take place this July, sponsored by the HMS Richards Divinity School and the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology. Scheduled for 2-25 July, it is headquartered first in Madaba, Jordan, then Jerusalem and Tiberias, then back to Jordan in Petra and Wadi Rum. Designed as an academic study tour for undergraduate and graduate students registering for 8 units of credit, the tour is also open to a few intrepid souls not pursuing academic credits, who would like to join us, do some reading, keep up with the conversation, and be part of the experience of a lifetime. The study tour is inter-disciplinary in nature—archaeology, biblical studies, theology, literary analysis, feminist readings, anthropology, etc.—and will take us places important to understanding and appreciating the stories of the Judges and Jesus (according to Mark) where these stories were born. Priority deadlines for applying and submitting tour deposit—31 January and 15 February, 2017.

### Balu'a Excavation August 2017



2014 Balu'a Excavation Team

The **Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project (BRAP)** will be excavating at Khirbat al-Balu'a in Jordan this August. The basalt site is impressively large, at over 16 ha (40 acres), and over the millennia has guarded access to the Central Moabite Plateau. Survey and excavations so far have revealed an extensive walled fortification system dated to the Iron Age (13<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC), with a vast lower settlement. Survey sherds from the site and its surroundings date from the Bronze Age into the Islamic periods (3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC through the 19<sup>th</sup> century AD), attesting to the long-lived importance of Balu'a's position. Digging this summer will investigate the stratigraphic sequence of the core of the site while also exploring the vast and impressively intact Iron Age remains.

Interested in joining the team?  
More information on Page 3!

[www.madabaplains.org/umayri/balua-information.htm](http://www.madabaplains.org/umayri/balua-information.htm)

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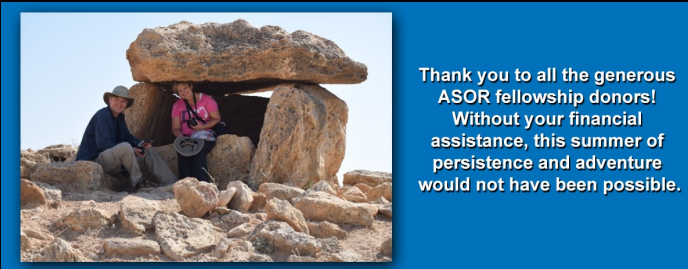
**JESUS & JUDGES  
STUDY TOUR  
JULY 2017**

Visit: [lasierra.edu/jesus&judges/](http://lasierra.edu/jesus&judges/)



## 2016 Recipients of American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Awards

Read more about the experiences our ASOR-funded affiliates enjoyed in Jordan this past summer at the following links:



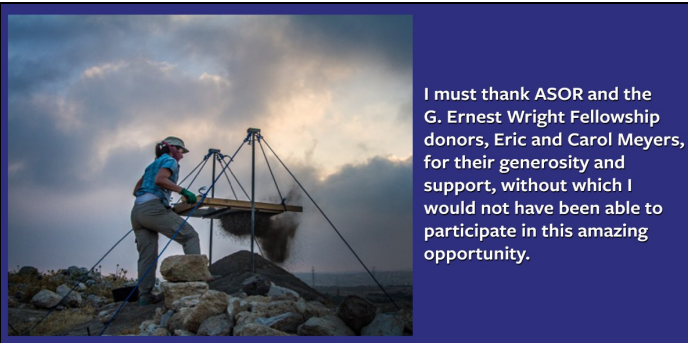
Thank you to all the generous ASOR fellowship donors! Without your financial assistance, this summer of persistence and adventure would not have been possible.

Kristina S. Reed, P.E. McAllister Fellowship Recipient  
<http://asorblog.org/cause-view/have-patience-and-dig-on/>



NEXT STEPS?  
WE ARE ALREADY  
PLANNING THE  
NEXT SEASON.

Suzanne Richard, Douglas R. Clark, Andrea Polcaro, and Marta D'Andrea, co-directors and recipients of the Harris Grant  
<http://asorblog.org/cause-view/different-sort-community-outreach-jordan-building-museum-mramp-project/>



I must thank ASOR and the G. Ernest Wright Fellowship donors, Eric and Carol Meyers, for their generosity and support, without which I would not have been able to participate in this amazing opportunity.

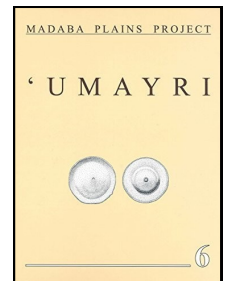
Josephine A. Verduci, G. Ernest Wright Fellowship Recipient  
<http://asorblog.org/cause-view/excavating-jordan-twice-one-season/>

ASOR honored CNEA Director Douglas Clark and 'Umayri Director Emeritus Larry Herr with awards at the annual meetings this past fall, recognizing their contributions to ASOR and Near Eastern archaeology.



### Announcing a New Publication Project at the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology!

The Madaba Plains Project-'Umayri seasonal publication volumes have previously been published by the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, including MPP 1 (1984) to MPP 6 (1996/1998). The MPP5 volume won an ASOR award for scholarly archaeological publications and MPP6 was awarded the 2015 Biblical Archaeology Society Publication Award as Best Scholarly Book on Archaeology. With our gratitude to Paul Ray and his team at Andrews for their excellent work over the years, we are now bringing the publication process in house to the CNEA. Starting with MPP 7 (2000) CNEA will be working with Eisenbrauns (Winona Lake, Indiana) to print these volumes. Monique Vincent, a recent PhD graduate from the University of Chicago's Near Eastern Art and Archaeology Program, has been appointed Publications Manager.



## Updates from Jordan



**Interested in joining the Balu'a team in Jordan?  
Here is the information you need to know!**

CNEA Director Doug Clark has recently flown twice to Jordan to continue his work on the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP). During the January trip, he signed a USAID/SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project) grant of nearly \$120,000 for MRAMP, with the Chief of Party of SCHEP, Nizar Al-Adarbeh. The signing took place at ACOR. On his latest trip he was also able, with the help of Barbara Porter, Director of ACOR, to bring the La Sierra University graduation experience to CNEA Masters graduate Jihad Haroun, a part of the first cohort of MA students in the new Near Eastern archaeology program.



Excavation dates: 6 - 25 August, 2017

Directed by Friedbert Ninow, Kent Bramlett, & Monique Vincent  
Academic credit will be offered for the following courses through La Sierra University (max 8 units):

ARCH/RELB 494/594 Fieldwork in ANE/ME Archaeology (1-8)

ARCH/ANTH 217 Great Discoveries in Archaeology (4)

ARCH/RELB 445 Old Testament Archaeology (4)

ARCH/RELB 545 Archaeology of the Old Testament World (4)

Cost to STUDENTS including tuition: \$3,400 + Airfare (4 units) or \$6,800 including airfare (8 units)

Cost to NON-STUDENTS: \$2,200.00

Security forms are due by **1 April (ABSOLUTE DEADLINE)**. The application form and deposit (\$400) must be made by **1 May for someone** to be considered for acceptance on the team.

To apply, please go to [madabaplains.org/balua](http://madabaplains.org/balua).

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [mvincent@lasierra.edu](mailto:mvincent@lasierra.edu).

On Facebook? Check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/BRAPJordan>

### Display Case

By Monique Vincent

The Great Roman Bake Off! Kitchens in the Early Roman period (ca. 63 BC to AD 135) would be unfamiliar to us today. Without electric mixers or stoves, householders had to prepare everything by hand and over an open fire. Stone mortars and pestles were used to grind herbs and spices. Stews were heated in a ceramic cooking pot which sat on top of a clay oven, sealing in the heat. This was the original slow cooker! The cooking vessel pictured here, LSU004871, is a good example of one of these handy pots.

Part of such a kitchen was found intact in a house from AD 70 excavated in Jerusalem. The kitchen and house had been burnt during the Roman conquest after the Jewish revolt, giving the house its modern name of the "Burnt House." This kitchen provides a glimpse into a space and activity central to every household, then and now. Two ovens fill most of a tiny room and so conjure up images of chefs toiling in a dark and close atmosphere to serve up the dishes that fueled the family.



### La Sierra Digs

Editors: Monique Vincent, CNEA Publications Manager and Douglas Clark, Director of CNEA

Photographs: Balu`a Project, ASOR, Vera Kopecky, Barbara Porter

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### Calendar of Events — 2017

21-23 April—La Sierra Alumni Homecoming with Friday archaeology lecture and Saturday CNEA open house  
2-25 July—Jesus & Judges study tour to Israel/Palestine and Jordan  
[lasierra.edu/jesus&judges/](http://lasierra.edu/jesus&judges/)

6-25 August—Excavations at Khirbat Balu`a  
[www.madabaplains.org/umayri/balua-information.htm](http://www.madabaplains.org/umayri/balua-information.htm)

11-12 November—Archaeology Discovery Weekend: Herod the Great  
[www.lasierra.edu/archaeology](http://www.lasierra.edu/archaeology)

### SUPPORT CNEA!

If you would like to support the work of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology — ongoing operations, student travel scholarships, the new Museum, etc. — contact the Office of University Advancement at 951 785-2500 or click on “Center for Near Eastern Archaeology” at <https://lasierra.edu/donate/>.

### Recent Discoveries

Assembled by Monique Vincent

#### Earliest Glass?

Egypt and Mesopotamia have been the favored contenders for several debates on “earliest” with scholars arguing that one or the other was the true originator of such civilized firsts as writing. Now glass is adding another arena for these debates. A conservator recently stated that Egypt showed greater sophistication in glass development than contemporary Iraq in glass artifacts from 3,400 years ago. The Egyptians, she argues, were the earlier inventors and the Mesopotamians were tagging along behind. For photos see <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/glassmaking-may-have-begun-egypt-not-mesopotamia>.

#### Tracing the Philistines

Archaeologists working at the ancient site of Ashkelon are tracing the origins of the Philistines after discovering a major cemetery outside the city dating from the 11th to 8th centuries BC. Without human remains, archaeologists have argued over the Philistines’ origins based on their ceramics, their architecture, and even their food, focusing especially on their preference for a pig-based diet. Now they can study their burial practices, which show significant differences from contemporary Judean burials, as well as the skeletons themselves. This fascinating discovery and the results of the DNA and other studies will contribute greatly to the debate, filling out our portrait of this biblically portrayed “infamous” people. Read more at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/07/bible-philistine-israelite-israel-ashkelon-discovery-burial-archaeology-sea-peoples/>.

For recent *Jordan Times* news releases on the archaeological contributions of Douglas Clark (CNEA) and Barbara Porter (ACOR), visit <http://jordantimes.com/news/local/projected-museum-madaba-conserve-protect-jordan%E2%80%99s-past%E2%80%99> and <http://jordantimes.com/news/local/life%E2%80%99s-passion-leads-jordan-one-archaeologist%E2%80%99s-commitment-preserving-past>