



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. 6:2 Spring 2018

Creating Archaeological Museums at Home and Abroad

Larry Geraty and Douglas Clark

The Center for Near Eastern Archaeology is pursuing two seemingly impossible dreams which seem, well, more and more likely to happen all the time. This article reports on progress with the proposed La Sierra University Museum and the Madaba (Jordan) Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP).

La Sierra University Museum Progress Report (Geraty)

La Sierra's administration has authorized fundraising for the brand new University Museum building on campus (at the entrance, opposite the Zapara School of Business), anticipated to cost \$30 million dollars. Nearly half of this amount has already been pledged. One can see that of the building's three key segments (archaeology, natural history including minerals, and the Stahl Center's anthropology/ethnography collection), archaeology is prominently featured! Thanks for your continuing support that makes that possible. If you wish to contribute, feel free to contact Larry Geraty at lgeraty@lasierra.edu or call (951) 318-2526, leaving a voicemail message if he isn't available.

Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project Report (Clark in Madaba, Jordan)

Thousands of miles away, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, preparations for another museum are well underway. Begun in 2015, an American, Italian, and Jordanian initiative envisions a new regional archaeological museum in the center of downtown Madaba, just across a side street from the famous "Map Church," St. George's Greek Orthodox Church. La Sierra University, along with Gannon University in Erie, PA; Perugia University in Perugia, Italy; Sapienza University in Rome, Italy; and the Madaba District of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan have developed an unbeatable synergy. Committed to what we call "community archaeology," the project follows best practices in modern archaeological research to recognize cultural heritage as a public asset, thereby encouraging everyone to preserve their ancient legacy.

Following two field seasons (May 2016 and May 2017) and a 15-month continuous presence of workers onsite courtesy of a grant from USAID through SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project) administered by ACOR (the American Center of Oriental Research), some of the late 19th-century settlement of Christian families who immigrated from Karak in the south is being prepared to serve as the ground floor of the new museum. However, a huge amount of stone wall consolidation remains to be accomplished before the Italian architectural firm, Studio Strati in Rome, can complete their plans. We hope these 140-year-old stone buildings will remain intact for decades to come and feel that a museum built over them is the best way to make that happen.

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Inside

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
VISITOR CENTER AND MUSEUM
The Heart of Education

Near Eastern Archaeology	10,558 sqft
Natural History	8,900 sqft
Stahl Anthropology	2,862 sqft
Visitor Center	1,625 sqft
University Programs	5,280 sqft
Museum Administration	800 sqft
Other	1,222 sqft
Subtotal:	31,257 sqft
15% Additional:	4,689 sqft
Total:	35,946 sqft

10th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend • Nov 10-11 2018

Reinventing Biblical Archaeology

Results after 50 Years of Excavating in Central Jordan

Archaeology at Homecoming Weekend – April 20, 2018

Kristina Reed

The theme of La Sierra University's Homecoming 2018 was "Portraits of Change," looking at campus changes from the past into the future. Growing on this theme, Dr. Geraty and Dr. Clark presented on how two new museum projects are taking shape [for a summary of their lecture, see the title-page article]. On Saturday the CNEA hosted a well-attended open house complete with Bedouin hospitality tent, mint lemonade, stuffed dates, and exhibits displaying artifacts from Tall al-'Umayri (Ammonite site) and Khirbat Balu'a (Moabite site), the CNEA's two excavations in Jordan.



Walla Walla University Celebrates Archaeology at Homecoming, April 26–28, 2018

Monique Vincent and Jody Washburn

Walla Walla University's involvement in the 50th anniversary of Adventist archaeology in the Middle East actually began with Siegfried Horn's graduation from WWU in 1947. Walla Walla has supported the MPP–'Umayri as a consortium member since 1987. Therefore, WWU was excited to take part in the MPP's golden anniversary by featuring MPP events and speakers throughout homecoming weekend this spring. The Peterson Memorial Library hosted an artifacts exhibit from Tall al-'Umayri and from the La Sierra University collections. This exhibit was companion to the annual William Landeen Library Lecture, which was co-presented by Dr. Washburn and Dr. Vincent on "The Life of a Pot", an object biography illustration of the study of ancient pottery in household and burial contexts. Dr. Clark and Dr. Bramlett presented "Adventist Archaeological Work in Jordan: MPP@50" to an audience that included numerous veterans of the various MPP projects, who enjoyed reminiscing over hummus and baklava afterward. Dr. Bramlett, Dr. Vincent, and Dr. Washburn then discussed "The Madaba Plains Project @ 50: Reinventing Biblical Archaeology" in the final feature of the weekend, highlighting major changes and contributions related to key figures, ideas, and technological innovations in Adventist archaeology.



(continued from page 1)

As with all projects of this nature, pulling together the necessary funding is a challenge. The estimated cost at present is \$6–7 million.

As I am writing this article, our team of 17 archaeologists, specialists, students, and volunteers is excavating through the broken floor of one of approximately ten buildings to see what archaeological remains might surface and also digging probes in courtyards to explore where pillars for support of the upper floors of the museum might be placed.

Alongside our fieldwork, we continue to develop wide swaths of community stakeholders who will benefit from the presence of a major educational and tourist attraction and who will also contribute to the museum's success. Among our newest best friends are several Jordanian university architecture students (graduate and undergraduate) whose projects have connected them with the new museum. Five from the American University of Madaba are currently interns working with our architects and team, exploring the best ways to integrate this new facility into its urban setting. They are also becoming aware of archaeological methods and research.



Betty Adams Graduates!

Douglas Clark and Monique Vincent

Betty Adams is graduating from La Sierra in June with an MA in Near Eastern Archaeology. Faculty in the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology and the HMS Richards Divinity School are especially proud of Betty's accomplishments, particularly in light of her full-time employment in her family business in the Tri-Cities, WA, her ever-cheerful personality and encouraging manner, and the high quality of her work in the classroom and in the field.

Betty presented results from her masters thesis at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Region of the American Academy of Religion Pacific Lutheran University, May 11-13, 2018. Her paper was titled "Iron Age Cosmetics: The Proof is in the Palette." Betty spends weekends working at the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site, excavated as part of the Mid-Columbia Basin Old Natural Education Sciences Research Center Foundation.



Display Case

Kristina Reed

For millennia people have transformed raw materials into vitreous glass vessels. Beginning in the 1st century AD in Syro-Palestine, glass workers began using the blown glass technique to create vessels. During the late Roman Empire (AD 4th–6th century) the glass industry flourished. Increased demand resulted in regionalism and specialization in various forms, techniques, and colors of glass. One of these distinct forms was the double cosmetic tube or kohl unguentarium.

The body of the double cosmetic tube is comprised of two blown-glass tubes connected by an inner wall, with a flat base and rounded rim. Some have an attached basket or multiple-loop handle. Decorative trails of glass were often wound around the body. The glass is usually blue-green, a natural color, but some tubes were made of colored glass. These tubes are believed to have been used for kohl, an eye makeup paste. The cosmetic would have been applied around the eyes with a metal, bone, or glass applicator. It is uncertain whether the double tube construction was meant to hold two different colors of makeup or if one tube was for the cosmetic and the other to hold the applicator.

The glass workshops produced elaborate double cosmetic tubes with multiple compartments (usually 2–4) and interlacing loop-handle designs as a result of ostentatious competition. Some of the applied handles, loops, and trails were so numerous they rendered the vessel unusable, thus making it more a piece of art to be displayed than a functional container.



La Sierra Digs

Editors: Monique Vincent, Douglas Clark
Photographs: Natan Vigna,
WWU Media Team—Patrick Anderson,
Monique Vincent, MRAMP, Studio Strati,
Kristina Reed, APAAME
Center for Near Eastern Archaeology
HMS Richards Divinity School
La Sierra University
4500 Riverwalk Parkway
(951) 785-2632 (CNEA)
archaeology@lasierra.edu
www.lasierra.edu/archaeology
www.facebook.com/CNEAatLSU

La Sierra University
Center for Near Eastern Archaeology
4500 Riverwalk Parkway
Riverside, CA 92505



CENTER FOR
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2018 Calendar of Events

MPP@50

www.lasierra.edu/archaeology

2–15 July

MPP-sponsored tour of Israel and Jordan with Larry Geraty and Larry Herr <http://multi-madabaplains.org/madaba-plains-project-50th-anniversary/mpp50-tour-of-israel-and-jordan/>

10–11 November

Tenth Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend at the CNEA—MPP@50 focus! <https://lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>

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!

Yearlong Celebration of 50 Years of Archaeology in Jordan

Douglas Clark

Here is the calendar of celebratory events honoring 50 years of archaeological research in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: some past, some present, and some future:

Summer 2017: ACOR (American Center of Oriental Research) *Newsletter* (see at <https://www.acorjordan.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ACOR-Newsletter-Vol.-29.1-1.pdf>)

28–30 September 2017: Andrews University Homecoming (see at <https://alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming-2017/#1467994040509-c3e6b148-99e1>)

15–19 November 2017: ASOR annual meeting in Boston (search Madaba Plains Project at: <http://www.asor.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ASOR-Program-2017-online.pdf>)

7 April 2018: Session at West Coast Religion Teachers Conference at Loma Linda University—Present Truth in Ancient Ruins: Lessons Learned from 50 Years of Biblical Archaeology on the Madaba Plains in Jordan

26–29 April 2018: Walla Walla University Homecoming (see <https://www.wallawalla.edu/alumni/events/homecoming/madaba-plains-project-anniversary/>)

2–15 July 2018: Tour of Israel/Jordan (with special events on 11 July) by Larry Geraty & Larry Herr

Summer 2018: *Spectrum Magazine* (planned issue)

10–11 November 2018: Archaeology Discovery Weekend at La Sierra University (<https://lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>)—Reinventing Biblical Archaeology: Results after 50 Years of Excavating in Central Jordan

In preparation: MPP 50th-anniversary volume

All are welcome to attend events celebrating this monumental achievement in the history of archaeology in the Middle East. Especially important for reviewing the past and previewing the future are events during La Sierra’s annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend 10–11 November. All five founding directors, as well as a large contingent of Madaba Plains Project (MPP) participants and friends will be on hand to reflect on a half century of research in the biblical land of the ancient Ammonites. Over the course of these past 50 years in biblical archaeology, the discipline has changed dramatically; while MPP has been a part of these at times seismic shifts, other internationally respected scholars will join in to help us assess these changes and what they mean for the future of biblical archaeology.

For more information, email archaeology@lasierra.edu.