



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. 12:2 Spring 2024

## A Sign of the Times



*Douglas Clark, Kaitlyn Satelmayer, and Dawn Acevedo*

As the photo indicates, there is a new sign in front of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology at La Sierra University. The inclusion of the two names on the Center's official title reflects the wishes of C. Fred Cornforth (1959–2024) who generously created an endowment for CNEA, his donation dependent on this name. We will install a plaque inside CNEA, recognizing Fred's contributions to the Center.

Read our tribute to Fred inside this issue of *La Sierra Digs*.

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### Tribute to C. Fred Cornforth

*Douglas Clark*

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and volunteers of the Lawrence T. Geraty and Douglas R. Clark Center for Near Eastern Archaeology (CNEA) at La Sierra University, I want to express our deepest sympathies and warmest encouragement to the family of C. Fred Cornforth on his passing on the 15th of March, 2024. We join them in their sorrow, but also, in keeping with Fred's eternal optimism, in their Christian hope for the future.

Fred's fascination with Near Eastern archaeology began with an encounter with Larry Geraty in Jerusalem in 1970–1971. In time this led to a three-week excavation season in Jordan with the Madaba Plains Project-Tall al-'Umayri excavations in the summer of 1989, co-directed by Larry and me and several others. Along with two close friends, Mark Carr and Rick Jordan (yes, the moniker—"Three Musketeers"—did come to mind a time or two), Fred took a deep dive into the excavation of a rural hinterland site, al-Drayjat, a small farming/fortress structure originally inhabited in the sixth-fifth centuries BC. This brief encounter with dirt archaeology laid the foundation for his enthusiastic embrace of the discipline, as well as a life-long commitment to archaeology and how it could best be used to illuminate the world and words of the Bible.

With the founding of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology in 2012, came a renewed interest in the ancient Near East. Fred became one of the founding members of the CNEA Advisory Council, which shared in discussions about the nature and purpose of the Center, as well as providing financial contributions to ensure that this new, entirely donations-dependent non-profit would succeed in its mission. A natural donor at heart, Fred helped keep CNEA afloat. Because of his generous philanthropy, I asked him a few years ago if he would allow us to name the Center in his honor, making it the C. Fred Cornforth Center for Near Eastern Archaeology. Not one to seek attention, he was coy about the idea, favoring a different

approach. He wished to establish a substantial endowment to provide sustainable support long into the future, but only if we would name it in honor of his two beloved archaeologists: Larry Geraty and Doug Clark. We both objected ... strenuously. We wanted to honor his generosity with his name on the building, but he would have nothing of it. He insisted on the new name, the Lawrence T. Geraty and Douglas R. Clark Center for Near Eastern Archaeology, telling me that he was sure he would receive a "D-minus" grade from both of us for not following our instructions. We will, however, mount a plaque inside the building, giving appropriate credit where it is due.

Several colleagues join me in expressing their sentiments about Fred and his impact on them:

**Dr. Larry Geraty**, President Emeritus at La Sierra University—Ever since Fred, as a student, turned up at our apartment in Jerusalem during my Fulbright Year there in 1970–1971, we have been friends. He always appreciated our showing him the sights and has kept in touch ever since. We at CNEA could not have had a more supportive, generous donor and friend! May he rest in the peace he has so richly earned!

**Dr. Kent Bramlett**, Professor of Archaeology and the History of Antiquity at La Sierra—He was a really decent person and made a positive contribution with his life. And he made the most of his last months.

**Mr. Norman Yergen**, Vice President for Strategic Engagement: Advancement and Marketing at La Sierra—Having attended college with Fred, I know my former classmate's magnanimous spirit which has impacted not only La Sierra's archaeology center but many other nonprofits and charities as well. We are extremely grateful for the \$1 million Fred contributed, which has endowed CNEA. The center and its programs will be enhanced and supported for years to come as a result. We also admire Fred's generosity to dozens of other change-making entities around the world. He has truly left a legacy of philanthropy that will continue to benefit communities and societies far into the future.

**Dr. Monique Roddy**, Publications Manager at CNEA and Associate Professor of History at Walla Walla University—In the summer of 2017, I met Fred when he invited me to share archaeology with the children of his church in Idaho. I appreciated this opportunity to engage with these young people as they were thrilled to touch pieces of the past and learn more about the context of some of their most beloved stories. Fred's enthusiasm to help make these connections was clear!

As the life sketch written by the Cornforth family in tribute to Fred indicates, he was "passionate about archaeology, history and astronomy throughout his education." But his life was lived in generosity to others. "He worked very hard to improve living conditions in the cities and communities he served in. The business he founded, Community Development Inc (CDI), donates to and supports many universities, nonprofits and various other charitable programs. In 2022 Boise State University recognized him with the Silver Medallion award for his contributions to the student food bank." The business "combined two of Fred's passions and talents, with dedication to business growth while committing the greater majority of his efforts



towards philanthropy. He acted as CEO and chairman of the board until his passing. He developed over 6,000 affordable housing apartments in 19 states from Alaska to Louisiana.” “Fred had a great love for people, he firmly believed we were placed on this planet to serve and love those around us. He led by example and will be greatly missed.”

Fred may have expected a “D-” grade from Larry and me for not following our instructions, but we both give him an “A++” for his exemplary life of generosity which has benefited archaeology at La Sierra but has also enhanced the lives of thousands of recipients of his largess around the globe. We will miss him dearly.

To capture something of the length and breadth of Fred’s philanthropic reach, visit the moving tribute to Fred Cornforth [here](#).

### Gratitude for Support ... and Ongoing Needs

Running a non-profit organization like CNEA is always a challenge. On the one hand, keeping the bills paid and extending our influence in research and outreach at the same time keeps us thinking about finances; but on the other hand, contacting (and being contacted by) friends who share the vision of CNEA puts us in touch with the nicest people! The Who’s Who Honor Roll of CNEA benefactors is deep and wide ... and made up of many life-long friends. Who could ask for more?! (The double entendre of that question was unintended, but let’s go ahead and run with it!)

We could not ask for more generous and helpful supporters, whose contributions make possible what CNEA sets out to accomplish. While we continue to work on a comprehensive donor Honor Roll of contributors over the past decade plus, two major gifts stand out from this winter/spring: 1) funds from Community Development Inc, a company founded by C. Fred Cornforth in Boise, ID, who was CEO until his untimely passing on 15 March (see our tribute to Fred in this issue of *La Sierra Digs*) and 2) the Versacare Foundation grant awarded to CNEA in support of next November’s Archaeology Discovery Weekend on Petra, Jordan. Thank you!

But we would also like to ask for more! Income from anticipated sources this year did not materialize completely, leaving us short, given our staffing needs. To make up the deficit, we could make good use of another \$20,000–25,000 to keep us operating until the next fundraising cycle in November. Thank you for thinking on these things! And donating [here](#).



### Petra, Jordan—Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2024

Plans for the 16th annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend, this year on the enchanting rose-red sandstone city of Petra, Jordan, are moving along nicely. Mid-November at CNEA always witnesses the arrival of famous presenters, special exhibits, a kids dig and hands-on lab activities, fine refreshments in our Bedouin tent, and a chance for hundreds of attendees to experience another part of the ancient Near Eastern world. Titled “Petra: Ancient World of Wonder,” the 2024 event will feature presentations by specialists in Petra’s history, archaeology, human inhabitants, religion, leisure time, and preservation.

Presenters hail from all over the US, including CNEA’s Dr. Kent Bramlett, and from Jordan: Dr. Fadi Al-Bala’awi, Director General of the Department of Antiquities. Professor Fadi will also help us celebrate how CNEA, while representing civilizations throughout the Middle East, has become “Little Jordan.” We are dedicating this entire event to the honor of C. Fred Cornforth (1959–2024), a life-time member of the CNEA Advisory Council and generous benefactor of the Center.


In addition, we may also sponsor, in the days preceding the weekend event, a focused workshop on ancient dolmen burial installations, this because several contributors to a final volume on the 5,000-year-old dolmen found at our site of Tall al-'Umayri could be on campus together, including the Director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, an anthropologist who recently graduated from Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, and several other widely respected specialists in the archaeology, anthropology, and forensic facial reconstruction of the 25–28 individuals preserved in the 'Umayri dolmen. Still working on this idea!


16<sup>th</sup> Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend  
November 16-17, 2024

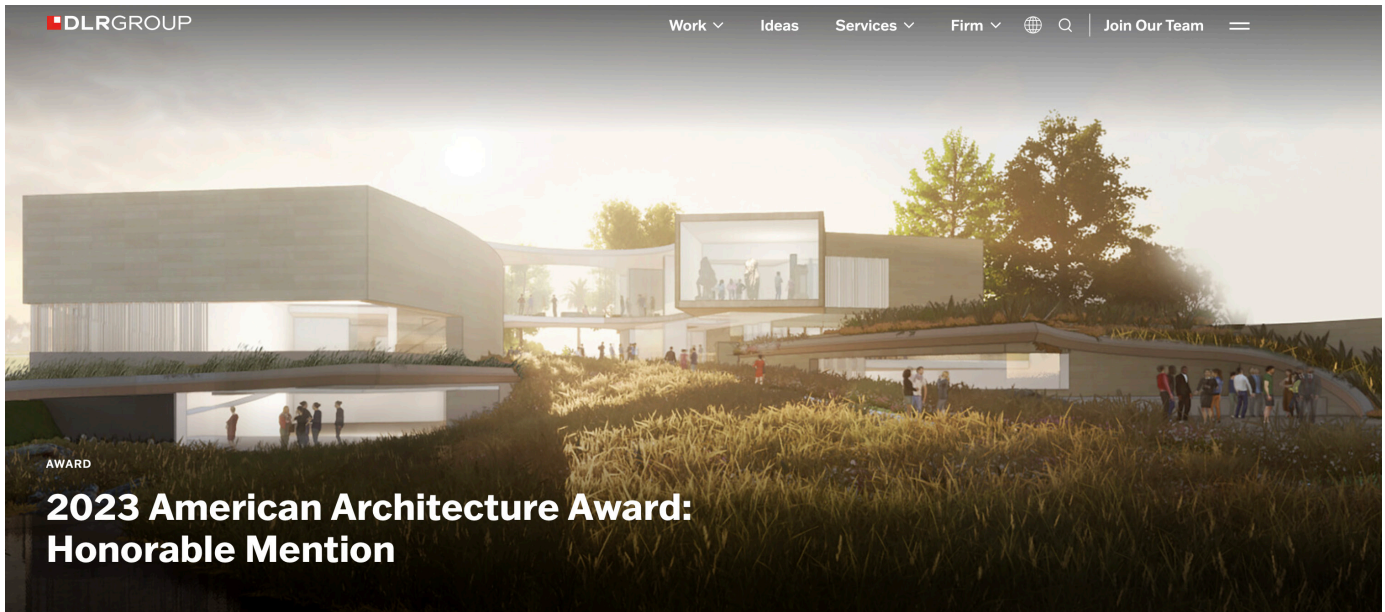
## Petra: Ancient World of Wonder

Fadi Bala'awi (Director General, DOA Jordan)  
Leigh-Ann Bedal (Penn State University, Erie)  
Kent Bramlett (La Sierra University)  
Glenn Corbett (Editor, *Biblical Archaeology Review*)  
Cynthia Finlayson (Brigham Young University)  
Megan Perry (East Carolina University)

In-Person & Online  
Find out more at:  
[lasierra.edu/archaeology](http://lasierra.edu/archaeology)

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The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies recently recognized [DLR Group's La Sierra University New Museum and Visitor Center project](#) with [The American Architecture Award Honorable Mention for 2023](#).

### DLR Architecture Award

The La Sierra University Museum Board decided several years ago to engage the services of the national DLR architectural firm, with offices in Riverside, to create a concept design for the proposed new campus museum to house natural history, archaeology, and ethnography collections in La Sierra's possession. Last year, the design won the prestigious 2023 American Architecture Award: Honorable Mention. Congratulations to DLR on being recognized for their stylish design; we look forward to seeing the museum come to fruition in the near future. Readers can help make this vision a reality by donating to the La Sierra University Museum and Visitors Center fund [here](#)."

### Celebrating our MA Students

*Kent Bramlett*

We celebrate this Spring with four of our MA in Near Eastern Archaeology students who will be participating in the June graduation ceremonies: Joseph Rutkin, Kaitlyn Satelmayer, Zamani Moyo, and Raul Zanatta. Special congratulations to Joseph Rutkin on the recent successful completion of his thesis. Joseph researched the Phoenicians and examined the archaeological and historical data to understand better why the Phoenicians established trade colonies mostly in the western Mediterranean, bypassing regions much closer to their homeland.

### From the Lab to the Classroom

*Luke Poutre*

As someone who has always had a passion for history and the ancient world, discovering this program was like a dream come true. My first encounter with the Archaeology center and its staff was through a fascinating volunteer program geared to-

ward the restoration of large 3,200-year-old ceramic vessels called pithoi (singular, pithos). Once I was fully immersed in the countless artifacts and curios housed in the center's laboratory, I left my career in the legal field and applied to the program. Receiving my acceptance was one of the most invigorating moments I have experienced, and I know that this is what I was meant to do with my life. If you feel any hint of a passion for the story of mankind, this is the program for you.





## CNEA Library Update

Terri Shaw

Since our last report, the efforts of building a library have reached a milestone. We have activated the equipment to make the labels that carry the call numbers for the books. And we have labeled and placed more than 300 books on our library shelves.

Our call numbers follow the Library of Congress [LoC] classification system. This system is used by most universities and research libraries. There are 22 first-level categories which are designated by letters of the alphabet with sub-categories and numbers within each one to further define the specific book. The Center's library focuses on the archaeology of the Levant area, thus a large group of our books will be in the DS category—local history of the world's geographical areas with sub-categories for specific locations. The DS classification also includes our growing collection of books about ancient languages like Ugaritic, Sumerian, the cuneiform script, Hebrew, and Arabic.

While integrating collections from half a dozen donors, all interested in similar topics, we come across duplicates. We have set these aside as they occur. At a future time, we will be sharing our extras with students, patrons, and the public through a book sale. Watch for more news to come.



## MRAMP Grant and Updates

The American-Italian-Jordanian Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP), founded in 2015 to establish a regional archaeological museum in Madaba, Jordan, continues to make progress but more slowly than we had anticipated. Over its nine years of existence (plus a couple of years before it was officially born), MRAMP has been granted over \$1 million, mostly from the US Department of State, but also institutional and local entities, including the Versacare Foundation.

But the next \$7 million for pre-construction, construction, and post-construction costs presents a daunting hurdle.

We are working with various stakeholders in government (Jordanian and international), education, business (especially tourism), and other outlets to secure the funding. When the four co-directors of MRAMP (Suzanne Richard of Gannon University, Andrea Polcaro of Perugia University, Marta D'Andrea of Sapienza University of Rome, and Doug Clark at CNEA, along with Basem Mahamid of the Department of Antiquities) set out on this adventure, we decided quite intentionally to approach it through "Community Archaeology," based on the idea that cultural heritage is a public asset to be protected and used for economic growth in the region. It is absolutely THE best-practices approach to engaging the community in the project, as many studies and projects have shown. However, many in the government would rather see a bricks-and-mortar facility than all this work on building the community. This has made for an intriguing dynamic on our working relationship, but the bottom line right now is getting the funding together. On this we are all working hard!

As part of Community Archaeology, MRAMP has extended its agreement with the Petra National Trust for three years to provide an enriched, hands-on educational experience for local students in elementary, middle, and high schools. The results of the first year's pilot program were so positive that we felt it important to build on the momentum and continue growing the program.

In addition, based on several years of successful training and development of our MRAMP team of specialists in Madaba, we qualified for the first of several grants from the US Embassy in Amman, handled through the American Center of Research, to complete the record-keeping of the current museum's 13,000+ artifacts for entry into a new national artifact inventory (NI). It is a huge honor and major responsibility, and it is already underway. The ultimate really long-term goal is to have every artifact from Jordan (in Jordanian museums and local collections and in collections like those we have at CNEA from our excavations) in the national archives in order to help prevent looting and trafficking of Jordanian material culture.





### Following the Potsherds to Krakow, Poland

*Douglas Clark*

The story began 5,000 years ago when Early Bronze Age peoples around our site of Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan, constructed and used a dolmen tomb (a megalithic, stone-walled and stone-roofed chamber sitting on the ground) and regularly held religious ceremonies around it. And they left broken potsherds, lots of them ... in the burial chamber and on surfaces surrounding it.

Because it was a mostly Polish group of good friends and archaeologists who carried out these excavations for us back in the 1990s and early 2000s, our collection of 2,000+ potsherds was sent to Krakow, Poland to be studied at Jagiellonian University. Nobody recalls the exact date of this transfer, but it had to have been in the early to mid-2000s. In the years following, we have tried to get the pottery sherds to CNEA, since this is the official repository for artifacts and samples from our site. But after years of waiting, one trip to Krakow in 2013, and years more of waiting, these samples still reside in Krakow.

This month we are mounting another attempt to bring home the sherds. In a complicated process involving students and teachers in Krakow, Polish and international shipping companies, archaeologists in Canada and the US, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, local Customs officials in Krakow, and a US Customs broker at LAX (Los Angeles International Airport), along with travelers to Poland (Doug and Carmen Clark), there are a lot of moving parts!

We hope the story that began 5,000 years ago will come to a happy conclusion with the sherds landing at CNEA for ongoing research on one of the most famous dolmens in the world.

### Geraty Study Leave at Oxford

*Larry Geraty*

Larry and Gillian Geraty, along with Øystein (Sten) and Asta LaBianca from Andrews University, arrived in Oxford, UK, on April 15 for a two-month stay at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies (OCHJS). Here they have a spring-term appointment to work on the final volume (number 14) in a series



of volumes reporting on the Heshbon excavations in Jordan which took place in 1968–1978. So far, they have secured an Airbnb five minutes' walk from their office and Larry now has his Bodleian Library card which gives him access to all the research libraries in Oxford. While an undergraduate at Newbold College in the late 1950s, Larry's American history professor, Denis Porter, came from the Bodleian where he was a senior librarian. Sten, assisted by Larry, is giving a public lecture on April 25 regarding their work at OCHJS. At that time, they will meet many of the center staff and fellows. In the meantime, Gillian and Asta, both born in England, are enjoying being back in their birth environment!

### Dem Bones

For decades in the early history of Near Eastern archaeology, excavators were not interested in bones, especially animal bones—monumental architecture and shiny objects, yes, but not dry bones. However, modern projects, following best practices, save and study ALL bones and, with the passing of time and the explosion of new technologies to analyze animal and human remains, bones have so much to teach us about life in ancient times.

Two sets of bones at CNEA are currently undergoing serious scientific study, one a collection of sheep mandibles and teeth from various time periods at Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan. The subject of an MA thesis by Richard Pearson at University College London (UCL), these bones were studied with strontium-isotope analysis, generating an encyclopedia of information about where the animals were born and where they traveled before coming to our site (see our report at: [Winter 2023 issue of \*La\*](#)



*Sierra Digs*). Now, having tested strontium-isotope analysis, he is working on his PhD dissertation, also at UCL and also on the bones of sheep from 'Umayri, utilizing additional isotope approaches. He will be back on campus in the months ahead.

Another set of bones at CNEA comes from humans—the 25–28 individuals found in a secondary burial (think of the biblical practice of gathering one's bones to their ancestors) in the 5,000-year-old dolmen referred to elsewhere in this issue of *La Sierra Digs*. Already studied over the past several years by a variety of specialists, these remains will soon see an intensified collaborative effort by anthropologists, archaeologists, and other kinds of scientists to pull together the final published report on this, the most informative dolmen found almost anywhere. We will also hear from one of the major contributors, Dr. James Fraser, Director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, in a special lecture in November on dolmens.



Human and artifact remains in 'Umayri dolmen

### Display Case

*Kaitlyn Satelmayer*

The alphabet is one of the most important human inventions, revolutionizing communication and literacy across civilizations. However, its evolution is quite a complex narrative, leaning on various cultural, linguistic, and technological developments.

The emergence of writing systems, demonstrated by ancient Mesopotamian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphs, laid the early foundations for the symbolic representation of language. However, these systems were logographic or syllabic and often had thousands of characters, which resulted in a lack of common understanding or practice among everyday people. Writing was elite and reserved for those whose special training allowed for these niche job opportunities.

The transition from logographic to alphabetic writing occurred with the development of the Proto-Sinaitic script. With the Phoenician adaptation of the Proto-Sinaitic script, the characters were reduced to a manageable set of recognizable signs. This change enabled greater efficiency and convenience of writing. With the Phoenicians' maritime expertise, it was not long before they facilitated the diffusion of their alphabet across the Mediterranean.

The introduction of the Greek alphabet again represented a transformative jump in the evolution of writing systems. The Greeks, recognizing the importance of vowel sounds, created a revised alphabet capable of representing both conso-

nants and vowels. This innovation made literacy accessible and facilitated the rise of Greek culture and learning.

However, the evolution of writing is not done yet! The Roman adoption and use of the Greek alphabet eventually brought the Latin alphabet into use. This new system became the basis for numerous modern writing systems, including English. And how might we predict changes and adaptations in language for the future?

We really do have a lot to thank history for regarding the evolution of our writing system. Without it, my "Display Case" would just be scribbles on a page!





### Homecoming Report

*Kaitlyn Satelmayer*

On Saturday, April 20th, the Lawrence T. Geraty & Douglas R. Clark Center for Near Eastern Archaeology (CNEA) hosted our annual Homecoming event, exhibiting exquisite artifacts from The Cohen Family Collection—the second in a series of future installments, with this year’s theme focusing on the evolution of language and writing. Dr. Kent V. Bramlett, Associate Director and Curator of CNEA, presented an engaging, one-of-a-kind lecture, sharing his translation of a Sumerian Dedicatory Cone (a part of The Cohen Family Collection) for the first time. With Dr. Bramlett’s unique linguistic skillset (being one of only two professors qualified to translate Sumerian in the Adventist system), we can look forward to many more translations to come.

Along with the lecture, the program featured updates on the work of CNEA over the past year on campus and in the Middle East, “In Memoriam” pauses for three treasured CNEA friends who passed away in February and March—Daniel Hantman of Riverside, CA; Marilyn Tolson of Corona, CA; and Fred Cornforth of Boise, ID—and the presentation of two CNEA awards: Terri Shaw & Howard Bunte and Denise Herr (posthumously). In addition, as usual for these events, CNEA’s goat-hair Bedouin tent provided space for refreshments and shade from the sun, its food and decor supervised by Carolyn Waldron and Audrey Shaffer.

Our display cases showcased an incredible sequence of writing styles, from Egyptian hieroglyphs to cuneiform tablets

and beautifully preserved parchment. Additionally, one of our cases was designed with a “sneak-peak” in mind, giving a brief glimpse into our upcoming Archaeology Discovery Weekend this fall, November 16 – 17. The theme, Petra!

The CNEA staff want to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make this Homecoming such a fantastic event, and I would like to add my personal thanks as well. A very special thank you to Drs. H. Harvey Cohen and Joe Cohen for your generous donation of beautiful artifacts; without your amazing contribution, these events could not happen as they do. Thank you so much to Dr. Kent Bramlett for your brilliant lecture and your excitement and passion for sharing your expertise and love for archaeology. Thank you to my colleague, Shaun Eccles, whose knowledge of The Cohen Family Collection allowed for a superb display of artifacts. Thank you to Terri and Howard for your dedication to the Center and love of history. Thank you to Maribel Carmona Torres, our amazing anthropologist who assisted in the design of our displays. A very special thank you to an anonymous donor, whose generosity provided a very tasty meal. And of course, I want to thank you, our supporters! Without you, the Center would not function as it does.

If you happened to miss this Homecoming event, not to worry! A recording of the lecture will be available to view on the Homecoming page of our [website](#) very soon.

We hope to see you in November, at Archaeology Discovery Weekend!

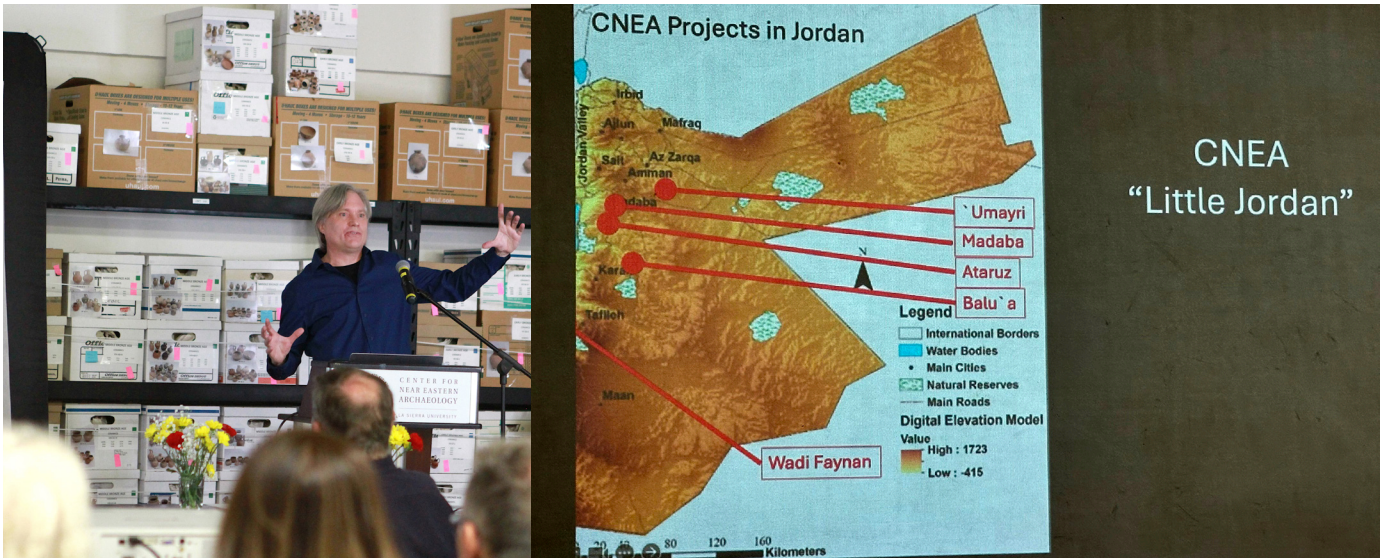


Awards presentation to Terri Shaw and Howard Bunte



Brass setting in Bedouin tent





Kent Bramlett presenting on a Sumerian dedicatory cone

Updates presentation showing CNEA research connections in Jordan



Various types of inscriptions on display

**CNEA Wish List**

Occasionally, the CNEA staff faces a particular need (equipment, supplies, student support, etc.), the cost of which is outside our annual budget. For these we turn to anyone who is willing to provide the support we need with a tax-deductible contribution. We will post items on this list in *La Sierra Digs* and will also keep an updated list on our [website](#). At present, we are looking for someone to help us with the purchase of this or a similar digital projector for use at CNEA functions like Homecoming:

NexiGo PJ40  
ca. \$300

To contribute toward the purchase of this item, feel free to donate online [here](#) OR write a check to "La Sierra University/CNEAWishList" and mail to:

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Riverside, CA 92505



**Thank you!**



### *La Sierra Digs*

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#### 2024 Calendar of Events

- Summer 2024 Balu'a dig postponed  
until Summer 2025, but  
Ataruz dig still on in 2024
- 13 November Lecture on Dolmens by  
Dr. James A. Fraser of the  
Albright Institute in  
Jerusalem.
- 16-17 November Archaeology Discovery  
Weekend—Petra

#### 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*

#### Astrolabe Reveals Major Religious Collaborations

Recent examination of an 11th-century astrolabe, an astronomical instrument used to make scientific calculations related to the position of celestial bodies, reveals centuries of collaboration "by Muslim, Jewish, and Christian users in Spain, North Africa, and Italy." The artifact, housed in the Fondazione Museo Miniscalchi-Erizzo in Verona, Italy, is thought to have been a part of a private 17th-century collection "before passing by marriage to the Miniscalchi family" who founded the museum in 1990.

Dr. Federica Gigante of Cambridge University, who specializes in Islamic scientific instruments, particularly astrolabes, was able to determine the date and original location of this astrolabe, and the "Arabic and Hebrew inscriptions [make] it one of the oldest examples ever discovered and one of only a handful known in the world." Learn more about this significant discovery [here](#).

#### Missing Upper Half of Ramses II Statue Discovered

The lower portion of a statue of Ramses II was excavated in 1930 by a German archaeologist named Gunther Roeder. Now, nearly 100 years later, the upper half of the statue has been excavated in a joint Egyptian-U.S. project south of Minya, Egypt. The upper half measures about 12.5 feet tall "and depicts a seated Ramses wearing a double crown and a headdress topped with a royal cobra." Read more [here](#).

#### Hiding Complex from Bar-Kokhba Revolt Found at Huqoq

An excavation conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority at Huqoq has revealed "the most extensive hiding complex discovered to date in the Galilee." A community-led Cultural Heritage Initiative, the excavation included students of all ages, soldiers, and volunteers. In preparation for the first and second revolts, evidence shows that residents had repurposed the Second Temple-era cistern for hiding, as well as digging other tunnels. Learn more about this discovery [here](#).