



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. 9:3 Autumn 2021

13th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend

November 13-14, 2021

Southwest Turkey

Famous Cities, Churches, and Synagogues

Held In Person and Online:
Find out more at
lasierra.edu/archaeology



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Western Science Center
World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California
Zapara School of Business

Schedule

Saturday, November 13

Illustrated presentations and discussions and Bedouin Hospitality Tent!

Sunday, November 14

Illustrated presentations and discussions and Kids Dig.

Lecture Topics

Southwest Turkey (part of ancient Anatolia and Asia Minor) has long been an important region in the Mediterranean world, known for its dynamic cultural, political, and religious landscapes. It is home to the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse, ancient synagogues, monumental cities of antiquity, philosophical movement toward scientific thought, rich religious artistic traditions. Presenters include internationally known and respected archaeologists from Turkey, Austria, and around the US.

Locations

In Person and Online

Center for Near Eastern Archaeology &
Zapara School of Business
at La Sierra University
4500 Riverwalk Parkway
Riverside, CA 92505

lasierra.edu/archaeology

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Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2021

The 13th annual edition of Archaeology Discovery Weekend this year will see several changes from past events. First, it signals a format we may see for some time to come: a hybrid onsite/online arrangement which will provide the benefits of in-person engagement we have come to appreciate over the years (safety protocols in place), while at the same time allowing the interactive involvement of a global audience via the internet. Second, adjustments due to the continuing presence of COVID include the unfortunate suspension in 2021 of the Sunday evening hands-on lab experiences and displays and, more consequentially, the traditional Saturday night Mediterranean banquet. Third, outdoor options are still available in the Bedouin Tent and at the Kids Dig.

Thus, the overall program looks like this:

Saturday 13 November (3–6 PM) – Four illustrated presentations at the Zapara School of Business on the religious landscape of Southwest Turkey, the ruins of Ephesus, the Great Synagogue of Sardis, and artistic representations of Artemis of the Ephesians. At 6 PM we will open the Bedouin Tent at CNEA for refreshments.

Sunday 14 November (1–4 PM) – Four more illustrated presentations, this time on the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, a Revelation specialist’s response to this lecture, the origins of science in the region, and Christian art found in the area. The Kids Dig will be held as usual at 2–4 PM at CNEA.

Please visit the CNEA website often for the most up-to-date information – <https://lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>.

Giving Day – December 8, 2021

La Sierra University will mount its second annual Giving Day event on Wednesday, December 8. Last year, CNEA’s participation resulted in donations of over half of our annual budget! We need to repeat this feat again in order to help keep CNEA active



in the fulfillment of its global mission and wide-ranging activities. The CNEA is 100% dependent on charitable contributions to function. Thank you for your support!

As during the 2020 Giving Day, we are planning this year to hold a live, interactive event at some point during the day. And we are hoping to have in place a matching pledge or two in order to encourage further support. We also plan to feature special projects which lie outside the annual budget, like new book shelves for the CNEA library. With the recent additions of Norma Kershaw’s library (mostly art history) and that of Brian Byrd (pre-history), along with others and the ongoing acquisition of new volumes, our shelf space is extremely limited. By rearranging books and adding new shelving units, we will be able to accommodate these book donations, but this will require seven new units (84” tall, 36” wide, and 12” deep), each costing \$340. The total for all seven is \$2,380. Your choosing to fund one or seven will help us increase our library capacity.

We look forward to seeing you on Giving Day 2021!

Arrival of Jordanian Fulbright Scholar Dr. Ziad Al-Saad

Larry Geraty

September 16, 2021, saw the arrival on campus of La Sierra’s newest Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Ziad Al-Saad, Professor of Archaeology at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, and a former Director General of the Department of Antiquities for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Delayed by COVID, the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology is delighted to finally host this distinguished campus visitor who himself chose us as the location to spend his sabbatical year when receiving this coveted award from the United States Government. After a year-long search for a suitable apartment to house him, his wife, and teenage daughter, one was found not far from campus. As part of his



fellowship, Dr. Ziad is teaching an archaeology course related to archaeological site preservation that is available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Ziad was introduced to the campus community by CNEA Director Clark, during

the first session of the Campus Colloquium Monday morning, September 20, 2021, and that evening, Dr. Clark hosted a reception for the Ziad family at CNEA where interested faculty, students, and friends of archaeology were able to meet and greet these university guests. Interestingly enough, Dr. Ziad is the second Jordanian archaeologist who has chosen La Sierra for a sabbatical Fulbright Fellowship appointment, the first being Dr. Khair Yassine, a noted professor of archaeology from the University of Jordan in Amman who taught on campus a few years ago. The fact that these Jordanian scholars, with contacts across Europe and North America, have chosen La Sierra for their research year abroad speaks well for the university’s reputation in the field of Near Eastern archaeology.

Update on La Sierra University Museum & Visitor Center

Larry Geraty

During our “COVID hiatus,” La Sierra University’s University Museum & Visitor Center project activities have “heated up” again. The aim is to break ground on the University’s Centennial, October 3, 2022. Overall guidance is being provided by the Museum Board which holds monthly meetings—the latest adopted a Museum Collections Management Policy. In addition, a number of subcommittees have been at work. One of the most active is the Museum Design & Construction Group chaired by Bill Emerson, university alumnus, retired dentist, and former California Senator, who recently retired as Executive Director of the California Hospital Association. They have sent out an RFQ (Request for Qualification) to a dozen recommended architectural firms who will be responding to the university with their interest in the project. Membership in this group includes an alumna architect and the alumnus owner of an active construction company.

Another important subcommittee is the Business Plan Group which is headed by Vice President Norman Yergen and includes knowledgeable business people who are thinking ahead as to how the new University Museum & Visitor Center can derive operating income to offset its regular operating expenditures. About half of the \$40M budget for building the museum and endowing its operations has been secured with active fundraising for the rest underway, with the goal of achieving success by the end of the current school year. Should any reader be interested in participating in any of these active committees and groups, feel free to contact Vice President Norman Yergen who leads the team assisting the university in meetings its goals for this long-desired new facility.

CNEA Christmas in September

Douglas Clark

Distinguished Professor Tom Levy at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), in collaboration with his Jordanian colleague Dr. Mohammad Najjar, and with approval of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, has decided to donate his massive collection of research materials from 20 sites in southern Jordan to CNEA. Watch for a more complete report on this donation from the Edom Lowlands Regional Archaeology Project (ELRAP) in the winter issue of *La Sierra Digs*; we offer here only a few comments. The wide range of collection materials — ceramics, animal and human bones, metallurgical remains from copper mining, stone vessels, botanical samples, 14C specimens, etc. — filled five labs on the UCSD campus. Three



truckloads have been transferred to newly installed shipping containers near Physical Plant, but two truckloads remain. With the purchase of one more container and use of space at CNEA, the transfer will be complete, likely in December, and then

to storage and curation in the new campus museum. Adding this rich collection to CNEA current holdings will make La Sierra a research destination for the study of ancient Ammonite ('Umayri in north-central Jordan); Moabite (Balua and Ataruz in south-central Jordan); and Edomite (southern Jordan) territories and civilizations.

CNEA in Action

It has been exhilarating, especially during recent months dramatically affected by COVID, to watch CNEA maintain and at times increase its footprint in the world and work of Near Eastern archaeology. The Center was established for such a time as this, to become and remain fully engaged in recovering and preserving the past in Middle Eastern and biblical history and culture. One need only review a few indicators of past and continuing activities and future plans to test this assertion:

- The Balua Regional Archaeological Project (BRAP) excavation co-directors Kent Bramlett, Monique Roddy, and Friedbert Ninow are planning to be in the field in June and July with a full-sized team for the six-week season in central Moab (south-central Jordan). If you would like to participate in or support the project, visit: www.BRAPJordan.org.

- The Ataruz excavations will also be in the field this summer, under the direction of Chang Ho Ji and in affiliation with Brigham Young University (visit: <https://www.ataruz.org>).

- The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) continues to work toward a new archaeological museum in Madaba, Jordan (<http://www.madabamuseum.org/en>). The past year has witnessed several workshops and training courses on such topics as how to organize an archaeology lab and manage thousands of artifacts, the conservation of artifacts, and the pottery of Jordan. The project has also benefited from collaboration with several partners in producing interactive virtual tours of several locations in Madaba, funded by the US Department of State.

- Research leading to presentations and publications continues on all CNEA-related projects, contributing to the collective knowledge of much of central and south-central Jordan, while at the same time raising the visibility of CNEA.

Display Case

Dawn Acevedo

Amphorae, best known from Greek and Roman times but having typologies spanning from the Bronze Age or earlier, are jars used for storing a variety of food products in ancient times, most notably wine, oil, and garum or fish sauce. The shape of these vessels includes a bulbous body between a narrower neck and base, typically with two handles which run from the shoulder of the vessel to the upper neck. The size of these storage containers varies greatly from small amphoriskoi a few inches tall to large amphorae several feet high. CNEA's Biblical Life Collection includes amphorae from the Early Bronze Age up to the 4th century AD. Such vessels would have been common throughout the Roman empire, including Italy, Israel, and Turkey. Pictured here is a small Roman amphora, CNEA004958.



La Sierra Digs

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Layout: Monique Roddy
Photographs: CNEA, Dawn Acevedo,
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2021–2022 Calendar of Events

13–14 November 2021

Archaeology Discovery Weekend 2021:
Southwest Turkey: Famous Cities, Churches,
and Synagogues

8 December 2021

Giving Day

TBA Spring 2022

Homecoming Weekend

TBA 2022

Ataruz Excavations

26 June – 2 August 2022

Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project

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

An Ancient Coin in Outer Space

A recently excavated coin dating to the Bar Kochba revolt (AD 132–135) will accompany Israeli astronaut Eytan Stibbe on the Rakia mission to the International Space Station in early 2022. The coin bears the name of Shimon Bar Kochba, the leader of the revolt, and was found along with “dozens of 2,000-year-old biblical scroll fragments.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-astronaut-to-take-1900-year-old-bar-kochba-revolt-coin-to-space/>

A Roman Sewer in Turkey

Recent archaeological work in the ancient city of Tripolis uncovered a well-preserved sewage system over 5 feet high and more than 2 feet wide. Because of its preservation, this rare example of “the sewerage system reveals the Roman architecture and engineering” of this region. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/culture/2-000-year-old-roman-sewage-system-unearthed-in-southwestern-turkey/2363624>

Hadrian in Southwestern Turkey

A statue of Emperor Hadrian dating to approximately AD 120 has been uncovered in the ancient city of Alabanda in Turkey. Six fragments of the 8-foot-tall marble statue were excavated throughout an ancient government building, “one of the largest parliament buildings in Anatolia.” Moreover, the team continues to work on a possible inscription which may honor the emperor’s arrival to the city. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/roman-emperors-statue-discovered-in-aydin-167808>