MPP Gears Up for 1992 Season

Planning is now underway for the upcoming season of the Madaba Plains Project in Jordan, and we would like to invite you to join about 120 people from all walks of life for an exciting season illuminating the ancient past of this important region. This will be Andrews University's 11th field season of archaeological work in Jordan, including six seasons at Tell Hesban and four at Tell el-"Umeiri, Tell Jawa and vicinity.

Discoveries. Previous work has already brought to light evidence from several Ammonite cities, towns, and farmsteads. Remains include houses, fortifications, ancient ostraca (inscribed potsherds), seals and seal impressions, figurines, weapons, tools, household goods, pottery, animal and plant remains, and more! These findings span virtually the entire history of the area, including the Islamic, Byzantine, Roman, Persian, and Assyrian periods; and, of course, the earlier Iron Age or "biblical period" when Ammonites, Israelisites, Moabites and, Amorites cooperated/contended for the land.

Dates. The full season is planned from Tuesday evening, June 16, to Tuesday, July 28, 1992. Half season dates are June 16-July 5, 1992 (first half), or July 1-28, 1992 (second half).

Participation. Modern archaeology offers a wide variety of work opportunities. Excavation is the major undertaking, but there are a number of less strenuous duties, including cleaning, repairing, and labelling. There are also plenty of opportunities for students and specialists. (For example, we are looking for a trained zooarchaeologist and a paleobotanist). You can request an application packet which lists the wide range of available jobs, and gives you the chance to indicate your preference.

Eligibility. No special training is necessary. Key requirements are enthusiasm, interest, a cooperative "team" spirit, and good health. While applicants are typically college age or older, mature younger people may also participate if accompanied by an adult guardian or sponsor. Qualified applicants are accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis. (Please turn to page 2)
Health. While the Madaba Plains region is not hot (mornings are cool, and the hottest part of the day is in the mid-80's F), Jordan is an arid country with a lot of sunshine. Participants therefore need to be in good health. No inoculations ("shots") are required to enter the country from the US or Canada; Jordan is a modern country with excellent healthcare facilities and hospitals. However, if you have any concerns, you should talk with your private physician. We will have a trained nurse on staff to take care of the usual minor problems that arise.

Costs. The dig fee for the full (six-week) season is $1550 for non-consortium member volunteers, or $1400 for consortium member volunteers. This includes overseas room/board, and a mid-season trip to Aqaba, but does not include airfare. You can enroll for academic credit through one of the consortium member institutions, and if you do, you then qualify for the lower "consortium member" dig fee rate. (For most Andrews students, tuition fee will actually cover total airfare, room/board, and summer tuition -- this is a good deal)! The half season dig fee is $900 for non-consortium, or $800 for consortium, members (neither including air fare).

Remember, applications cannot be processed without the application deposit of $300 for full season and $200 for half season. (Except for $50, the deposit fee is returnable in case of cancellation).

Travel. Royal Jordanian Airline is a modern, comfortable airline with excellent service. RJA has provided excellent rates in the past which we anticipate will be available this summer as well. No entrance or exit visa is needed ahead of time, but your passport must be up-to-date. Be sure to apply for a new passport if your old one will expire before July 28, 1992.

Accomodations. The Amman Baptist School facilities include dig headquarters and camp. You will live dormitory-style in classrooms with facilities which include communal toilets and sun-heated showers, along with kitchen and dining rooms. (A few rooms are available to accommodate families). We will be bringing our own cooks from the US. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals will be provided.

Security Form Deadline

Jordanian law requires a list of all dig participants be provided months in advance of the actual excavation season. March 15, 1992 is the deadline by which such a list must be prepared. We realize this is only two months away, and that many have not made final plans by that date. Fortunately, the list can also include those who have not yet finalized their summer plans. But, if your name is not on the list, you may not be allowed to participate in the excavation! The safe thing is to go ahead and submit the Security Form, even if you are undecided about your plans. Your name will be included on the list, but this does not obligate you. You will then be prepared no matter what your final decision is.

In order to get your name on the list, you must:

1) Request an application packet.
2) Return the Security Form, along with "passport"-type photographs before the March 15, 1992 deadline.
3) Then you can make your final plans, knowing that this list will be no obstacle.


Tour. Of course, you'll want to see as much of the country as possible. A tour is planned for Aqaba, the great diving spot on the Red Sea where Lawrence of Arabia became famous! It is easy to get around Jordan. Interesting sites include Petra (the capital of the ancient Nabataeans where the final scenes of "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" were filmed), Jerash, the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley and King's Highway, Tell Hesban (site of Andrew University's previous excavations), Mt. Nebo, Amman, along with museums ... and much more! A post-dig Middle East Tour (Jordan, West Bank and Egypt) is also available.

Make your plans. As you can tell, we're excited about this coming summer. It proves to be a summer of wholesome work, sun and discovery. We'd like for you to come with us! Turn to pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for more information about the upcoming season. You can also call (616) 471-3273 during business hours (EST) and request the material be sent to you even more quickly. See you in Jordan! (Randall W. Younker and Øystein S. LaBianca)
Calendar

Jan 27  Keith Schoville
      The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Recent Controversies, 8pm evening lecture.

Mar 5  Elizabeth Platt
      A Morning in Abraham's Town, 8pm evening lecture.

Mar 15  Deadline to return dig security form.

Apr 6  James Hoffmaier
      The Route of the Exodus, 8pm evening lecture.

Apr 15  Deadline to return application and deposit.

May 4  Bert DeVries
      Archaeology in Jordan after the Gulf War, 8pm evening lecture.

May 15  Deadline to apply for Middle East Tour.

Jun 16  Dig Season Begins (for both full season and first half participants).

Jul 1  Second Half of Dig Season Begins.

Jul 5  First Half of Dig Season Ends.

Jul 28  Dig Season Ends.

Jul 29 - Aug 9  Middle East Tour Begins (Jordan, West Bank, Egypt).

Aug 9-16  Middle East Tour Extension (Turkey and Greece).

Lectures

The HAM Lecture series continued November 4th with The Worlds of Abraham by Alfred Hoerth, director of the archaeological program at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. The well-attended evening presentation brought insights into the life and times of the biblical patriarch.

Institute director Randall W. Younker updated listeners with his December 2nd lecture: The Madaba Plains Project: Retrospects and Prospects. Included was a brief report on the 1991 season at Tell Jawa (one of several MPP sites), and an introduction to Tell Jalul (a new dig to be initiated in 1992). (Ralph E. Hendrix)

Meeting Highlights

Research reports and planning for upcoming fieldwork highlighted institute participation in the yearly gathering of scholars held in Kansas City, MO. The late-November meetings included the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), and the Near Eastern Archaeological Society (NEAS), as well as scores of other religious associations and societies.

Reports by institute personnel included Madaba Plains Project: Excavations at Tell Jawa (South) by Randall W. Younker (ASOR, NEAS). In addition to reading his paper for the NEAS, Heshbon: The Lost City of the Bible, curator David Merling was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the society.

During largely concurrent meetings held in Chicago, Øystein S. Labianca presented Food Systems Research: An Overview and an Illustration to the members of the American Anthropological Association.

Other MPP personnel presenting papers to the ASOR membership included Larry G. Herr, P. M. Michèle Daviau, and Timothy P. Harrison. A paper by Gloria A. London was also scheduled.

Planning sessions included many informal encounters, and especially the ASOR Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation led by Douglas R. Clark. Lawrence T. Geraty presided over the ASOR Madaba Plains Project Reception.

For the first time, institute publications were offered in an AU Press sales booth located on the exhibit floor. Sales and orders exceeded expectations, much to the satisfaction of all involved. (Ralph E. Hendrix)
MADABA PLAINS PROJECT FIELD EXPEDITION

DATES

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ELIGIBILITY/ACCEPTANCE

Applicants should be in good health and positively motivated. Qualified applicants whose application and deposit fee are received, may be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Full acceptance is given only after receipt of the remainder of the participation fee.

Send dig fees and inquiries to:

Madaba Plains Project
Institute of Archaeology
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0990

Tel 616/471-3273
FAX 616/473-4472
madaba@andrews.edu

PARTICIPATION COSTS

- Fees do not include air fare, or Middle East Tour.

  - Dig Fee (full season): $1550 US (room/board)
  - $1400 US (consortium members)

  - Dig Fee (half season): $900 US (room/board)
  - $800 US (consortium members)

  - Dig Fee Deposit (due by April 15):
    - $300 (full season)
    - $200 (half season)

Ask to see if you qualify for field experience-based discounts.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Undergraduate and graduate credit is available through all of the consortium institutions. Enrolled students should make arrangements directly with their schools. Non-affiliated participants may seek credit from Andrews University.

Current offerings include:

General Education:
Undergraduates who participate for a full season may earn up to 8 credits toward general education requirements in religion, behavioral and social sciences, or fine arts. Applicable classes include: ANTH124 Intro to Archaeology (4); ARTH235 Prehistoric to Medieval Art (4); BHSC440 Topics: Arabic Language and Culture (4); RELT210 Biblical Backgrounds (4); RELG496 Special Topics: Islam.

Honors Courses: HONS290 Independent Study in Arabic Language and Culture (1-8); RELB380 Honors in Religion: The Ammonites (2).

Majors and Graduates (in archaeology or anthropology): ANTH496 Supervised Fieldwork (1-8); ANTH500 Topics in Anthropology (1-4); ANTH525 Topics in Archaeology (2-8); OTST630 Archaeological Fieldwork (1-12); OTST810 Near Eastern Archaeology (4); OTST690 Independent Study (1-4).

PARTICIPATING ANDREWS FACULTY

Oystein S. Labianca, Professor of Anthropology

David Merling, Assistant Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquities

Philip G. Samaan, Assistant Professor of Christian Ministry

S. Douglas Waterhouse, Professor of Religion

Randall W. Younker, Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Archaeology

MIDDLE EAST TOUR

July 29 - Aug 9, guided tour of Jordan, West Bank, and Egypt (registration deadline is May 15).

Cost: $2895 (including round trip airfare New York/Ammann); $2745 for dig participants; $1750 (land tour only). Extension to Turkey and Greece (Aug 9-16), cost: $895. To register, contact: Douglas R. Clark, Madaba Plains Project, Walla Walla College, College Place WA 99324 (509/527-2194).
The Institute of Archaeology Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established to underwrite some of the cost of graduate archaeological education. Money is always in demand, but some investments return enduring benefits... student sponsorship is one of these enduring investments. Call today for more information about this endowed scholarship fund.

Madaba Plains Project 1992 will soon be in the field. Request your application packet today. (Remember the March 15 Deadline for returning your security form and getting your name in the participant's list for entrance into Jordan). Don't delay; call today: 616/471-3273.

The famous mystery writer Agatha Christie spent many seasons excavating with her husband, Mesopotamian archaeologist Max Mallowan!

Central Jordanian Network is a newsletter dedicated specifically to archaeology in Transjordan. Printed quarterly, the newsletter serves as a clearing house to announce research, publications, and news items in order for network participants to keep abreast of what others are doing in this region of Jordan. Everyone is encouraged to submit items. Annual subscription for North American addresses is $3.00, and for overseas subscribers is $4.00 (or its equivalent in foreign currency). Please send all correspondence to Gerald L. Mattingly, 7900 Johnson Drive, Knoxville, TN 37998.

Digging the Ruins of King Solomon, an article co-authored by Randall W. Younker and Dave Merling, is the latest popular account of the institute's 1990 season at Tel Gezer. The article appeared in the August 29, 1991 issue of Adventist Review.

Mark S. Ziese, who served as photographer while completing doctoral classwork, has accepted a faculty post at Cincinnati Bible Seminary, Cincinnati OH. His wife, Vickie, who is a teacher and editor, is expecting their second child. Congrats on all accounts!

NEWSLETTER

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104-0990

Address Correction Requested