

The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Jerusalem Campus**

Activities of the 2008/9 Academic Year

Dr. David Ilan, Director

PERSONNEL CHANGES AND BUDGET

- Dr. Yuval Gadot has been let go; he directed the Lod and Givat Sher Community Archaeology Projects.
- Dalia Pakman will retire in December 2009; she is currently the curator of the Skirball Museum.
- Gila Cook has been offered early retirement for December 2009; she was the staff draftsman, responsible for creating our architectural plans and drawings.

This will leave us with two full-time and two part-time employees. One of the full-time and one of the part-time employees are funded (one completely and one partially) by designated funds.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Tel Dan. We hope to have the third final report *Dan III, The Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Age Levels*, submitted for publication by year end. *Dan IV* (The Iron Age I levels = Israelite Settlement) should be submitted the year after that. Yifat Thareani is currently preparing three volumes for publication *Dan V-VII* (the Israelite High Place, the Iron Age Gate, the Domestic Quarters and material culture). All told, the Dan publication series should take approximately 8 years to complete.

Tel Aroer. A manuscript of the final report is finished and will be submitted for publication after the Pesach holiday.

FIELDWORK

- **Modiin Community Archaeology Project.** This project, begun in 2004, is on furlough.
- **Tel Dan.** In July 2008 we carried out small-scale excavations to solve problems that were discerned in the publication process. HUC Cincinnati grad students, led by Dr. Nili Fox and Dr. Jason Kalman, make up the core of our staff. Professor-led groups from Rhodes College, Tennessee and Wesleyan College, Indiana participated. We hosted a group of Jewish and Arab middle and high school students from the Galilee for a week, a week of learning how archaeology resonates in both our peoples' historical narrative. We are on the verge of achieving the goals we set but one final season would be required to do so. **There will be no excavation in 2009.**

- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** (see below in Outreach)
- **Contract Archaeology.** We have provided academic oversight for Y.G. Archaeology Ltd., an archaeological contractor. Excavations this year included: Yesodot, Eshtaol, Tel Arad, Beisamoun and Givat Eden. Once again, our commission for these small projects as netted us a total of approximately \$15,000 this year.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- **Fellner Lecture Series.** In this monthly Hebrew language series local scholars present new research and discoveries. This year we average 60-80 attendees. This series may be discontinued.
- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** This work is carried out with separate funding in conjunction with the Karev Educational Project. At this point we are only providing administrative support. Last year's community archaeology project at Khan el Hilu, an Ottoman caravanserai has been expanded to include more schools and more neighborhood factions.
- **Work with the Scouts of Shfar'am and students of the Kabul Regional High School.** These young people joined us for one week this season at Tel Dan (see above) in the third year of a program that examines competing historical narratives and emphasizes Jewish-Arab coexistence. The weakened dollar forced us to reduce the length of the program from two weeks to one. We will not be excavating at Tel Dan in 2009.
- **Skirball Museum.** The museum is no longer open to walk-in visitors—visitors must make an appointment and, with few exceptions, only groups are accepted.
- **HUC Graduate School Summer Program in Biblical Archaeology.** Organized by the NGSBA and Dr. Nili Fox and Dr. Jason Kalman of HUC Cincinnati, the 2008 summer session was our fifth. After the initial 3 week Jerusalem study session, we returned to Tel Dan, this time with many more outside students and volunteers (50 on average).

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Our major goal for the future is to complete publication commitments. All other activities are being wound down.