

Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology - 2012-2013

(www.ngsba.org)

Dr. David Ilan, director

Following the retirement of archaeologist Rachel Ben-Dov, the NGSBA now consists of two full-time archaeologists (Dr. David Ilan and Dr. Yifat Thareani), one part-time researcher and administrator (Levana Zias) and one part-time illustrator (Noga Zeevi). Other functions are now farmed out on a contractual basis, when needed. Below is a brief summary of our activities for the past academic year.

- **Tel Dan publication.** This is, once again, the main focus of our work, occupying the majority of our time and energy. The *Dan IV* and *Dan V* volumes are on track for publication by the end of the current year. *Dan IV* (the Early Iron Age - David Ilan) will be the largest volume we have ever published. A \$115,000 publication grant was awarded to us this year by the Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation for the *Dan IV* and *Dan V* volumes. *Dan VII* (the Iron Age II domestic contexts) is currently in preparation (by Yifat Thareani, who published the Tel Aroer volume in 2011) with an anticipated publication date of 2015. A \$25,000 grant for *Dan VII* was awarded to us by the White-Levy Publication Program of Harvard University. Levana Zias is now preparing the Hellenistic and Roman levels for publication (Possibly as *Dan VIII*).
- **Conservation work at Tel Dan.** We received this year a grant of \$35,000 to expedite a small conservation project of an early Iron Age sanctuary and the recycling metallurgy installations at Tel Dan. This grant was made by the Friends of Heritage Conservation group in Los Angeles (www.fohp.org). Our partner in the project is the Israel National Parks Authority.
- **Tel Dan excavation.** Last summer we were in the field at Tel Dan for a small-scale excavation in three areas, mainly to answer questions raised in the process of preparing our publications. In all areas this work focused on Iron Age II levels, circa 1000-700 BCE. Staff included graduate students from the School of Graduate Studies of the Cincinnati campus. Participating institutions included Indiana Wesleyan University and Biola University of California.
- **Community excavation in Independence Park, Jerusalem** (co-sponsored by *Friends of the Earth* and *Emek Shaveh*, funded by *Friends of the Earth*). This small excavation of a tomb/cistern/storage cave was carried out by the Experimental High School of Jerusalem and directed by Gideon Sylemani and Yonatan Mizrahi with the aim of introducing high school kids to field archaeology and to the heritage of the Mamilla neighborhood, where their school is located.
- **Community excavation in Lod** (co-sponsored with *Karev Educational Initiatives*). Now in its 7th year, this project, directed by Yuval Gadot, Efrat Boser and Taufik Deadle, entails the excavation of a Mamluk and Ottoman-period caravanserai in the urban heart of Lod. The goals of this project are to encourage a sense of identification and pride with the town's rich history, despite the poverty of its modern aspect. Jewish and Arab schoolchildren all participate—12 schools and approximately 1200 children excavate every year. The Lod project won a site preservation grant from the Archaeological Institute of America in 2011 (<http://www.archaeological.org/projects/lodcommunityarchaeologyprogramisrael>).
- **Contract archaeology.** We continue to work with the archaeological contract firm Y.G. Archaeology to expedite small-scale excavations that keep us active in the excavation business and that bring in funds in the form of overhead/academic oversight fees.
- **Our new journal: NGSBA Archaeology.** Last summer we published our inaugural issue of *NGSBA Archaeology* – a journal for the publication of our research, community and contract excavations. Volume 2 is scheduled for publication in the coming months.
- **Scholarly publication.** In the past year two articles were published by David Ilan and one article by Yifat Thareani in scholarly publications. Several others were submitted for publication.

- **Conference participation.** David Ilan delivered papers at the annual conference of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Chicago and at the Ruth Amiran Symposium at Yad Ben Tzvi in Jerusalem. Yifat Thareani gave papers in conferences and symposia at the Sorbonne in Paris, in Leipzig and in Tel Aviv.
- **Public lectures abroad.** David Ilan was a scholar in residence and delivered two lectures at Congregation Adat Bnei Yisrael in Evansville, Indiana. He also lectured at UCLA and at the Skirball Center in Los Angeles.
- **Lecture series.** As usual, the *News in Antiquity* series presented a program of nine public lectures, on the last Tuesday of every month. Attendance averaged approximately 65 people per lecture.
- **Teaching.** David Ilan teaches the Introduction to Biblical History course in the Year in Israel Program. Yifat Thareani taught as an adjunct professor at Haifa University.
- **Skirball Archaeological Museum.** While the museum is no longer open to the public, groups are able to utilize the facility by appointment. Approximately 40 groups visited the museum this year (this includes only those groups registered by us). We believe there is potential for a much higher visitation rate if we advertize and make some format changes.
- **Fundraising.** In the past year we brought in \$175,000 from various sources for different targeted projects. Much of this was facilitated by the development department in Los Angeles.