



NEH Summer Institute for Schoolteachers
Daily Life in Ancient Times
Archaeology of Israel and Jordan
Rhonda Root and Gloria London
Directors

February 4, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry about the NEH Summer Institute for Schoolteachers: "Daily Life in Ancient Times: Archaeology of Israel and Jordan." This letter will provide the details of our program and please contact us if you have any questions. Our 4-week program is designed for 30 teachers, grades 1 – 12, which especially focuses history or social studies teachers, but is not limited to them. From July 1-24, 2009, our Institute will be Andrews University campus in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The 1600-acre campus is located in the fruit belt of southwestern Michigan and is 12 miles from the beautiful beaches and resort towns hugging Lake Michigan.

The selected participants will enjoy a combination of lectures and labs presented by Co-Directors, Rhonda Root and Gloria London. Professor Root teaches architectural history at Andrews University and is the Director of Art and Architecture for excavations at Tell el-`Umayri in Jordan. Her drawings illustrate how ancient people lived their lives. Dr. Gloria London, an archaeologist with 30 years of field experience in Israel and Jordan, is committed to bringing recent archaeological research to the general public and especially to teachers who reach so many young people. In addition we will introduce you to leading experts, both archaeologists and Master Teachers, all with field experience at `Umayri (oo-may-ree) and other archaeological sites.

Our purpose with this Institute is to put excavation finds into your hands; to this end we have access to artifacts in the Andrews University Horn Archaeological Museum (HAM). You will handle stone and clay artifacts over 5000 years old as we examine the origins of Western law codes written in the clay. You will be in the labs with archaeologists and will have the chance to hold the artifacts that tell the story of the ancient past. The unique collection of 8,500 artifacts in the HAM storerooms brings early civilizations to life, including those from the area known as the Holy Land, located in between the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

To investigate daily life in antiquity, we use our site, Tell el-`Umayri, a small archaeological site near the Jordanian capital, Amman. The Madaba Plains Project (MPP) has sponsored the excavations in Jordan since 1967 and at `Umayri beginning in 1984. We have a wealth of information to study. You will learn about well-preserved buildings, complete with jars filled with carbonized barley. A unique shrine, dating about 1600 B.C.E., even includes figurines of people and animals. MPP web site, mpp.wallawalla.edu, provides additional data about the most recent field season in 2008.

Program – Teachers will learn the fundamentals of how we know what we know about the past. Teachers experience the archaeological process by learning excavation technique and by doing lab projects. We will handle the artifacts archaeologists use to make inferences about how people lived in antiquity. We investigate changes in the ancient regional social, environmental, and economic history

1

covering 5000 years. Our goal is to envisage the past in as many different ways as possible, using a full array of artifacts to reconstruct daily life in antiquity. Finally, you will work in groups and individually to create classroom ready materials based on our lectures and lab work.

Faculty – Your instructors are people with considerable field expertise in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Cyprus, and who have extensive teaching experience. They have a masterful ability to translate cutting-edge scholarship into popular terms you will be able to use in your classrooms.

In addition to us, your co-Directors, we have arranged for Dr. Larry Herr (Professor, Canadian University College, Alberta, BC), Field Director of excavations at Umayri for 20 years to join our Institute. His lively presentations have an uncanny way of making sense of the layers we excavate. He is extremely accessible and will spend one week with us.

Dr. Ellen Bedell (Chairperson, History Dept. The Ellis School, Pittsburgh) is an Egyptologist with field experience in Israel and Jordan. She created a fantastic web site, <http://sara.theellisschool.org/ironage/index.htm>, that is all about a "Four Room House" that was discovered at Umayri. The website has complete data on building contents, plus lesson plans, photographs, and research topics. Feel free to check it out now to get an idea of what you will be able to achieve by the end of the Institute. We'll use her web site to create grade appropriate lesson plans during our month long Institute.

Tonya Largy, a floral and faunal expert, will help us to understand how and what we can learn from plants and animal bones. Have you ever seen a poppy seed under a microscope? You will sort and describe seeds that help teach us about past climate, diet, and health. This is a fun and unique lab you can recreate with your own students.

Our HAM archaeologists, who teach at Andrews University, will present findings from their excavations in Jordan and share their knowledge about their specialties: paleobotany, cuneiform, Assyriology, animal bones, and pottery.

Stefanie Elkins (AU Professor of Art History), an artist and Master Teacher, presents curricula development, lesson planning, and mock digs. She will demonstrate how to create an inexpensive excavation for your classroom.

Accommodations – Andrews University dormitories offer mostly private rooms (under \$1000) which is a suite that shares a bathroom. Sheets and towels are provided weekly. Laundries are located in the dorms. The Horn Archaeological Museum is on campus, within walking distance of the dormitory. Bring good walking shoes, our campus, which is an arboretum, is spread out and a great place to stretch your legs on the way to our meetings. Some venues are one mile from the dorms. The newly remodeled cafeteria, where we eat most of our meals, is right next to the dorms and serves vegan and vegetarian menus. We will provide tea and coffee each day during our meetings. There are two supermarkets in town and several restaurants, both fast food and ethnic, which are plentiful off campus. You should be aware that residential living at Andrews University requires no drinking or smoking on campus. We have health clubs and an Olympic size swimming pool on campus which is available for a nominal fee. As much as possible, accommodations are available for those with disabilities, so if you qualify let us know your needs in advance.

Recreational and cultural resources – Our University coaches will take us on field trips during our Institute. There is a train that regularly transports people from St. Joseph Train Station or the Nile Train Station (Amtrak) or the South Bend Airport (South Shore) to downtown Chicago in about 2 hours. Berrien Springs is one hour ahead

of Chicago; as a result, a trip to the city means we gain an hour. In Chicago there are world class museums, White Sox and Cubs baseball, zoos, Six Flags Theme Park and a host of things to do. South Bend, Indiana Regional Airport is 25 minutes away. There are wineries, museums, art centers, log cabins, fruit harvests and music festivals, several area 4th of July celebrations (one of which includes a cherry pit spitting contest), antique shops, Amish communities, dune buggy rides and lake resort towns with beaches and lighthouses that dot the shores of four Great Lakes. Three hours to the east in Sandusky, Ohio, is Cedar Point Amusement Park.

Academic resources – Each of you will receive reading materials about archaeology. Afternoons and evenings without labs are designated for research in one of several AU libraries. You will enjoy borrowing privileges weekdays 8:00am – 10:30pm, with reduced hours Friday and Sunday. Libraries are closed Saturday. Near your dorm rooms there are common areas where you can gather and work together.

Our resident scholars and Institute Directors are available for individual appointments to discuss research topics. Each dormitory room has Ethernet computer access to the Internet. Wireless is available in most areas on campus. We will have a computer lab available where people without laptops can use the equipment. We will also provide an IT specialist who can assist with your computer needs. While at Andrews University, you will be provided guest status with free Internet access.

Stipend and fees – Each participant receives \$3,200.00 for room and board, transportation, and other expenses. It is paid in two installments. We provide the core books, additional reading materials, and laboratory supplies you will need.

Selection Criteria – Preference will be given to teachers who can translate firsthand experiences into classroom activities. The program is designed primarily for requirements of the secondary curriculum, but it is adaptable to the elementary level, so feel free to apply if you teach pre-middle or high school students. We incorporate a cross-interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of social studies and history. Geographical location, personal, professional diversity (public and private schools), and prior experience presenting in-service workshops are important criteria for choosing participants.

Expectations – We expect participants to become integral members of the group and to participate in brainstorming activities to develop classroom ready lessons. Given the length of the Institute and dormitory-style living conditions, a pleasant, congenial attitude on the part of participants is helpful.

Readings include publications designed with teachers and their students in mind. We use U.S. Bureau of Land Management lesson plans applicable for teaching archaeology worldwide. Also, Journal articles about animal bones, seed survival, house construction etc. will be used and you each receive a DVD about traditional pottery manufacture in Cyprus. You will also receive a copy of "Daily Life in Biblical Times" by O. Borowski. It explains the geographic limitations and daily responsibilities of people living between the sea and the desert.

We will expect that teachers develop plans for updating and enhancing existing curricula and create lesson plans to reflect the scholarship presented at the institute. Everyone will select a topic of interest and develop a lesson plan based on research guided by a resident scholar and/or Institute Directors who will be available for individual appointments.

As part of the follow-up, we hope that teachers will keep in touch via our web site and list-serv. Finally we encourage you to present in-services and workshops on our

Institute content at regional, state, and/or national levels when you finish our program. We feel it is important to share archaeology and its knowledge gathering techniques with as many people as possible.

Academic credit – Graduate credit at Andrews University in 2009 will cost around \$765.00 per semester credit and requires an examination in addition to completing the lesson plan. Those interested in graduate credit are responsible for the costs and registration fees. CEUs or in-service credit are offered at no fee.

Application procedure – We invite you to submit your application form and essay electronically to Professor Root <root@andrews.edu>. Application information will be included with this letter if you request it. The information is available at our web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~galondon//NEH2009/>. Your completed application, postmarked no later than March 2, 2009, should be sent to:

Professor R. Root
School of Architecture,
8435 E. Campus Circle Drive,
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0450

[For questions, please
e-mail or call:
Dr. Gloria London
(206) 522 6426 Seattle, WA
glondon@earthlink.net]

Note - Perhaps most important is the essay that must be submitted as part of the complete application. Your essay should include any relevant personal and academic information; reasons for applying to our project; your interest, both intellectual and personal, in archaeology; qualifications to do the work of the project and contribute to it; what you hope to accomplish by participating, including any individual research and writing projects; and the relation of the study to your teaching. Please also describe a successful lesson plan and another that did not meet your expectations.

Notification -- Successful applicants will be notified by **April 1 and will have until April 15 to decline or accept the offer**. Applicants not at home during that time period can provide an address where we can reach you.

Thank you for your interest. If you have questions, please contact us. We look forward to introducing you to some of the most knowledgeable and prominent archaeologists working in the Middle East. Together we will present the current results of on-going fieldwork, including details of our recent field seasons. We have a spectacular site to learn about building, cooking, eating, farming, herding, feasting, and praying in antiquity. In 2002, a teacher from our first NEH Summer Institute uncovered a unique Late Bronze Age temple, with figurines, a goblet, and chalice. This find alone allows us to rewrite the story of daily life. Please consider joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures (if requested)