

(GIS and Archaeology). In addition, Douglas Clark and James Flanagan presented a workshop on Integrating Technology with Archaeology. *ASOR* president Lawrence Geraty chaired the Presidential Forum, at which the well-known reporter Rami Khouri of the Daily Star Newspaper in Beirut was the keynote speaker focusing on the theme: The Future of American Archaeology in the Post-Saddam Middle East. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



## Daviau at AU

P. M. Michèle Daviau, Professor of Archaeology and Classical Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and the Director of the Wadi ath-Thamad Project in Jordan, visited Andrews University. Dr. Daviau has excavated at Tell Hesi, Tall al-'Umayri, Tall Jawa (south), and Kirbat al-Mudayna on the Wadi ath-Thamad. While at Andrews, Dr. Daviau and her colleague Dr. Ellen Kirby examined the Tall Jalul pottery and looked for potter's marks. On Nov. 6, 2004, Dr. Daviau presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series entitled: *Temples and Towns in Moab*, in which she described her excavations at Kirbat al-Mudayna.

Kirbat-al Mudayna is a dual site that includes an Iron Age site and a Nabataean settlement. Dr. Daviau has been excavating there since 1996. Early surveys found an Iron Age II (900-550 B.C.) fortified town with a moat. The city walls were well-preserved and the walls of some buildings were ca. 2 m high. Excavations in the northern section revealed three major buildings: a gate building, gate shrine and temple with an industrial building. The heavily fortified six-chamber gate has three rooms on each side, a central roadway, front bastions and a tower that resembles similar gates in Cisjordan. Unlike other gates, small walls blocked the entrances to the chambers from the road, restricting access to the small doorways in the walls. The rooms



P. M. Michèle Daviau.

contained storage vessels.

The gate area showed signs of a major conflagration. The gate was heavily burned and fell into the street. The upper story debris included a miniature altar, large limestone basins and loom weights. This may have been an industrial center. The fortification included a casemate wall that curves from the bastion around the tell and a small tower. The bastion had a small plaza, a bench and two standing stones of a gate shrine.

The temple area contained a courtyard with over 1200 animal bones and poorly-constructed temple walls which were hastily made in a secondary phase. In front of the walls were plastered benches. A single bench divided the room into two sections: a principal room and an annex. A podium stone and several altars were found in the destruction layers of the temple. Many artifacts were found among the debris including figurines, jewelry and lamps. In the annex a limestone mortar bowl and a gaming board were found. In addition, a candelabra-shaped altar with a small soot-stained bowl on its top was also found. Used for burning incense, this altar had an inscription on the side in what may be a previously unrecorded Moabite dialect. According to Dr. P. Dion it says, "this is the incense altar which Elišama' made for Yassap the daughter of 'Ewat." All of these items are consistent with an effort by the inhabitants of the city to consult

their gods while under siege.

Recently, Dr. Daviau has begun excavating a site from the Mudayna survey. On the main road heading south from Madaba are the heavily fortified ruins of Rumeil. On a hillside south of Rumeil, Dr. Daviau began excavating a small mound surrounded by a perimeter wall which was built on the bedrock. This site is called Wadi Thamad Site 13. Initial excavations on the eastern side exposed a row of ovens that were reused over time as well as many animal bones. Dr. Daviau believes that this may have been a place where cultic meals were shared by local residents. Later, the site probably developed into a wayside shrine.

Excavation on the western sector revealed many figurines of various styles. Some of the figurine heads had natural or local hairstyles while others had the Egyptian blunt shoulder-cut style. Many of the female figurines had extra clay added around their body so they could be affixed to a flat surface. Usually, this type of figurine is attached to a clay model of a temple. Though many fragments of these temple models were found, there do not seem to be any attached figurines associated with them. Several ceramic statues were found. They were made on a potter's wheel and shaped like jugs. Some had decorative features including painted clothing. There were also model furniture, miniature ceramic vessels and model buildings that may have been small shrines. In addition, a bluish-colored amulet of the Egyptian god "Horus as a child" was also found.

Dr. Daviau concluded that Site 13 was a wayside shrine with two periods of use. Initially, the local people used the shrine. They had animal sacrifices and communal meals at the site. They cooked food in the ovens, but did not process the food at the site. Later, travelers came and brought high-status gifts including jewelry, which were left at the shrine. They had statues made of themselves to remind the god or goddess to protect them on their journey. (Robert D. Bates)

