In January the School of Religion and Institute of Archaeology welcomed Martin G. Klingbeil, D.Litt., as a new faculty member and associate director of the Institute of Archaeology. Klingbeil brings a rich background in the integration of archaeology and biblical studies in a career that has spanned three continents over the past 16 years. He received his undergraduate education from Seminary Schloss Bogenhofen, Austria; and Helderberg College, South Africa, in theology and biblical Languages. He went on to pursue an M.A. (1992) and D.Litt. (1995) in ancient Near Eastern studies from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, under Professor Izak Cornelius. His M.A. thesis and doctoral dissertation focused on ancient Near Eastern seals, iconography, and their contribution to biblical studies.

His dissertation, Yahweh Fighting from Heaven: God as a Warrior and God of Heaven in the Hebrew Psalter and Ancient Near Eastern Iconography (OBO 169: Fribourg and Göttingen: University Press and Vandenhoeck & Ruprcht), was published in 1998. He has also published widely in peer-reviewed journals such as Andrews University Seminary Studies, Bulletin of Biblical Research, DavatLogos, Journal of Biblical Literature, Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages, Theologika, Welt des Orients, and dictionaries, including, Dictionary of the Old Testament (IVP), and New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis (Zondervan). Klingbeil has also edited or been a contributor to a number of books.

Before arriving at Southern, Klingbeil served as vice president for academic administration at Helderberg College in South Africa, a position he held for five years. Prior to that, he served as a professor at River Plate University in Argentina, as professor and dean of theology at Bolivian Adventist University, and as chair of the Department of Religion at Adventist University of Central Africa. He speaks German, Spanish, and English fluently, in addition to being educated in a number of ancient languages.

“We are delighted that Dr. Klingbeil has joined our archaeology program and the School of Religion,” commented Institute director Michael G. Hasel. “He brings a high level of scholarship and a wealth of international experience that will be a tremendous benefit to students and the research projects of the Institute of Archaeology.” His responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses for the School of Religion and archaeology programs. In addition, he will assist with the publications of the Institute of Archaeology, its excavation program, and the museum.

Students are already enthusiastic about Klingbeil’s classes. Ethan White, a sophomore archaeology major, said, “Dr. Klingbeil provides a depth of understanding in the language and history of the Old Testament that stimulates thinking and understanding. As his student you realize how much there is left to learn, and he motivates you to the task!”

Klingbeil is joined by his wife Thandi, the daughter of missionaries to South Africa who completed a Masters in International Development from Andrews University, and their three sons, Jonathan, Matthias, and David.
The addition of a new faculty member has enriched Southern Adventist University’s archaeology program in more than one way. This semester the School of Religion offered a new class dealing with one of the most important and hotly debated topics in biblical archaeology: Did the exodus happen, and what kind of archaeological evidence exists in support of the exodus tradition? The topics course “Themes in Exodus, Egyptian Warfare, and Archaeology” challenges students to grapple with these issues by examining primary source documents from the ancient Near East, the archaeological record, and the biblical account.

“The exodus event is a major theme throughout the Old Testament,” explains Michael Hasel, the instructor for the class. “The goal of the class is that students can reconstruct the history by looking at the biblical and Egyptian texts and archaeology.” As part of the requirements for the course, students have to produce a 20-25-page research paper on a related topic. The William G. Dever Research Library, a world-class resource specializing in Egyptian and Syro-Palestinian history and archaeology, has made this task much easier for the students.

Harald Fredheim, an archaeology major taking the class, is one student who is glad to have access to the Dever library. “The [Dever] library is great. I don’t know how else I would find all these [primary] sources. It’s almost like the library was made for the class!” Fredheim’s topic examines the evidence from Hazor, a biblical site in northern Israel, and how it relates to the conquest of Canaan as described in the Bible.

With the addition of a new faculty member, a number of new topics classes will be offered in the area of biblical studies and archaeology in the future.

We asked three students to share their experiences in discovering the world of the Bible. These are their stories.

The sun cast its penetrating rays upon the ancient city of Jerusalem. Resting in a shaded grove on the Mount of Olives, I surveyed the City of David. The Dome of the Rock, the place where Solomon’s Temple once stood, glittered in the light—it’s panels of vibrant blues and gold a testament to the artistic skill that crafted them. As Dr. Hasel preached on this Sabbath morning, my mind wandered to the time when Christ would have visited the Temple—a wonder of the world. Many a weary traveler often gazed in awe at its beauty.

But by the time the Savior entered its courtyard, the services held within the Temple, designed to capture the hearts of Jews and Gentiles alike, had become no more than manmade tradition and an avenue for profit. All that remains of that great Temple today is a wall that once supported the western wall of the temple platform, better known as the Wailing Wall. As Jesus predicted, “Not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” After spending three weekends in that ancient city, I came to the conclusion that little has changed since the time of Christ, and I began to reevaluate my relationship with my Redeemer.

Journeying to Israel with Southern Adventist University is one of the best things that I have ever done. The archaeological dig itself is an experience that I will never forget. Nothing compares to removing pound upon pound of ancient soil with the knowledge that something from biblical times is lingering below. My first find was perhaps the most exciting to me, but my last was certainly my favorite—a juglet from the Iron Age, the time of David.

The most meaningful part of the trip, for me, was touring the country. Walking through the cities and swimming in the seas of the Bible provided me with three realizations: a more solidified faith in the Word of God, a better understanding of the love of Christ, and insights which I could not have gained any other way. If the opportunity arises for you to journey to the land of the Bible, take it!
My summer at Khirbet Qeiyafa was an awesome experience for me. I was so excited to have the opportunity to go to Israel and learn about archaeology in the field. I will always remember the long walks up to the top of the Tell in the early morning. The wind was usually chilly and the sun barely beginning to shine. But once you reached the top, the view was amazing. The Judean hill country was a beautiful sight to behold as the sun crested over what seemed like an endless array of hills and valleys.

Qeiyafa was a great workout, as well as a nice morning lookout. Carrying buckets and hand tools up and down the hill every day, coupled with the hard labor of excavation, put me in great shape. Each day was a new challenge swinging buckets, tearing down walls, and rolling away boulders. We were all exhausted at the end of the day, but it was always a fresh excitement that kept us going for the next day, ever curious as to what we might find.

I was able to excavate the inside of a casemate wall, which was unfortunately more labor intensive than the treasure trove I had hoped it would be, but it gave me a good sense of the difficulty the ancient people must have gone through to build such massive walls with large stones and place them on bedrock to make them stable.

After having excavated with modern tools and earthmoving equipment, I am truly taken aback by the resolve of those people who built the fortress.

I remember the first thing I found was a grinding stone inside the casemate wall and I was so excited! It was documented and given its own ID number, and I got my picture taken with it. I did a lot of muscle man poses with it, and one of the girls working with us happened to be a journalism major so she wrote a hilarious entry in the notes about it. We really had a great time at Qeiyafa! Sure it was hard work, there was blood, sweat, and even some tears, but in the end it was a time that I will remember for the rest of my life.

The trip brought with it wonderful adventures. At the dig site I handled pottery from ancient times and helped to uncover a city that had been buried for centuries. In Jerusalem I wandered through the Old City nearly every weekend, in love with the sights and smells I encountered there. In Jordan I hiked through the magnificent ruins of Petra and made more than a few “Indiana Jones” references. In Eilat I snorkeled in the Red Sea and relaxed on its beautiful beaches. In the Judean desert I floated in the healing waters of the Dead Sea.

What was most amazing about the trip, in my opinion, was that I was literally walking on the same ground on which Christ walked. I was overwhelmed by the thought that in this place, my Savior lived and died for me. Through this trip I experienced the Bible in a way that I didn’t think was possible.

Six weeks later I rolled out of bed at 4 a.m. for the last time. Things had changed drastically since that first day of work. My boots were now worn and dirty, my clothes were ripped, and my once sturdy gloves were falling apart. Like everyone else, I was just plain exhausted. On the outside I appeared worn and weary, but on the inside I was happier than I had ever been. I had just taken the trip of a lifetime! That first day at the dig site I knew that the trip would be an experience I would never forget, but it turned out to be so much more than unforgettable—it was life-changing!
Excavations in the ancient Near East often produce amazing discoveries that directly and indirectly impact our understanding of the world of the Bible. However, one of the greatest challenges that the archaeology of this region faces is the long delay or lack of final scientific reports of many excavations. This is a great tragedy since it is the final results that provide the most important synthesis of data. Some reasons for a delay in publication include: (1) lack of planning, (2) accumulation of too much data, (3) the continuity of staff that move on to other projects, (4) directors who move from one site to the next or pass away before fully publishing results, and (5) lack of funding for the processing of finds.

For example, the Tel Aviv excavations at Beer Sheva and Arad, two very important sites for the history of Judah, are not completely published. The excavations of Kathleen Kenyon and Yigael Shiloh are not yet fully published and remain the responsibility of their students. Sometimes these reports are not produced until decades after the excavations have been completed. The final Chicago report of the Megiddo excavations pertaining to the crucial period of Solomon has only now been published after 70 years, and the interpretation of the data is very important for the current debate over the historicity of Solomon’s kingdom.

Often the lack of evidence cited for certain periods rests in the fact that final publications with the full data are not at hand. For example, the idea that Jerusalem was wholly unoccupied, or at best an impoverished village, ignores the fact that all the major excavators of Jerusalem–Kenyon, Shiloh, and now Eilat Mazar–concluded otherwise, but the final results are not yet fully available, causing some to question their claims.

The timely publication of sites involves careful planning in assembling experts to handle the multidisciplinary specialty areas needing analysis. These include faunal, ceramic, and pottery analysis. Reconstruction and drawing of vessels, architectural plans, and the processing of thousands of pieces of data are time-consuming tasks. It is estimated that for every year spent in excavation, one year is needed to devote to analysis and reporting. Some excavations plan for a study season when no excavation takes place to accomplish this task. The Madaba Plains Project often excavates every other season in order to accomplish timely publications, and they have been exemplary in producing final reports over the 40-year period they have worked in Jordan.

Other directors prefer to keep the momentum going and accomplish excavation goals before synthesizing data, but this has resulted in the problems described above. Excavations need to raise funds for fieldwork, and often it can be more exciting to donors to give to projects that are still in the field, because the thrill of discovery is tantamount. After excavations are completed, it is often more difficult to raise funds when this incentive is gone.

At Khirbet Qeiyafa we are committed to producing timely final publications. The 2007-2008 seasons have already been published as *Khirbet Qeiyafa, Volume 1: Report of the 2007-2008 Seasons* (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society/Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2009). Plans are currently underway to publish the second report of the 2009-2011 seasons by 2012. Preliminary reports are also coming out at a steady pace. But with 50 people working in the field in 2009 and around 100 people in 2010 and 2011, the accumulation of data has been considerable. Artists, architects, specialists (zoarchaeologists, conservators, ceramicists, numismatists, etc.), and the survey team need to be able to work. Some of our team will need to fly back to Israel because the artifacts remain there. For this reason Southern Adventist University plans to focus during the academic year 2011-12 and the summer of 2012 on final publications, so that this goal can be accomplished.

We need your help in reaching this important goal. We estimate that Southern Adventist University will need $50,000 to fulfill its publication obligations for this important project. We believe that Khirbet Qeiyafa is a key site in understanding the early history of Judah. Thank you for partnering with the Institute of Archaeology to make a major contribution to the archaeology of Israel and the early history of Judah.
As part of our commitment to the scholarship of the ancient Near East, the Institute of Archaeology staff has worked on a number of publications in the past couple of years. Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Institute director, is a renowned expert in ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern warfare and has published several articles and books on the subject. In 2009 his expertise was welcomed by the editors of The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, who approached him to write two entries, “Spoils of War” and “Weapons of War, Methods, and Tactics.” Hasel’s involvement with Khirbet Qeiyafa (biblical Sha’arayim) and Khirbet Shuweikah (biblical Socoh), both located in the Elah valley, made him a natural choice to write the dictionary’s entry on “Socoh.”

Also in 2009, Hasel published an article for the Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections (1) dealing with the identification of the toponym Canaan in New Kingdom Egypt. He also helped prepare a preliminary report on the 2009 season at Khirbet Qeiyafa, which was published in the Israel Exploration Journal (59) that same year. As associate director of the project, Hasel is in charge of publishing the material found in Area D, the field excavated by the Southern Adventist University team. More recently, in 2010, Hasel co-authored an article titled “The Contribution of Khirbet Qeiyafa to Our Understanding of the Iron Age Period,” published in Strata: Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (28). The article “evaluates the contribution of the site to the study of surveys and reconstructing settlement patterns, chronology and the transition from Iron I to Iron IIA, social organization of Iron IIA in Judah, city planning, pottery repertoire of the 10th century BCE, preparation and consumption of food, household archaeology and writing.”

Dr. Martin Klingbeil, associate director of the Institute, is an expert in biblical literature and ancient Near Eastern iconography. In 2009 he wrote an article comparing the Heavenly Warrior metaphor in the Psalms and the Canaanite god Ba‘al in ancient Near Eastern iconography. The article was published in the journal Welt des Orients (39). Last year Klingbeil was asked to write two short articles for a new book, Interpreting Scripture: Bible Questions and Answers, edited and published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Biblical Research Institute. The book is a hermeneutical and exegetical guide to the Bible.

Also in 2010, Klingbeil contributed a chapter in Metaphors in the Psalms. The book “brings the study of metaphorical language back to the heart of Psalm scholarship. Three areas of investigation are given particular attention in this collection of nineteen contributions, written by leading scholars in the field: the elucidation of hitherto misunderstood or unrecognized metaphors; the study of conceptually interrelated clusters of metaphors; and the role metaphors play in poetic and argumentative development of the Psalms.” Klingbeil’s chapter deals with the Heavenly Warrior metaphor in Psalms 18 and 144.

Both Klingbeil and Hasel have other articles and books that are forthcoming, including the final report on the 2009-2011 season at Khirbet Qeiyafa (with Yosef Garfinkel and Saar Ganor).
LETTER FROM IRAQ: THE ZIGGURAT ENDURES (Archaeology)

The city of Ur, once the largest in the world and the crown jewel of one of humanity’s first civilizations, sits in a wasteland at the edge of a war zone . . . I went to Ur in May 2008 as neither archaeologist nor tourist, but as a platoon leader in an American infantry battalion, responsible for 30 soldiers and 10 gun trucks . . . Few Westerners have been privileged to see it. In 1999, Saddam Hussein even denied Pope John Paul II access to the site, the birthplace of Abraham.

RESTORING ANCIENT ARTIFACTS: WHAT DOES IT TAKE? (PBS)

As the dust settles on Egypt’s recent protests, one less-discussed outcome of the uprising is the damage done to some of the country’s ancient artifacts. After would-be looters broke into the famous Egyptian museum in Cairo in search of gold on Jan. 29, approximately 70 artifacts were damaged. Among the items were . . . a statue of King Tutankhamun . . . With some twenty-five artifacts now in line for restoration, we looked further into the science of conservation.

TOMB OF PROPHET ZECHARIAH FOUND? (Discovery News)

Israeli archaeologists unveiled on Wednesday the remnants of a newly discovered Byzantine-era church they suspect is concealing the tomb of the biblical prophet Zechariah. The church, with intricate and well-preserved mosaic floors, was discovered on the slopes of the Judaean hills at Horbat Midras . . . southwest of Jerusalem . . . Underneath is a second layer of mosaics dating from the Roman period, with a cave complex still further below which archaeologists think could be Zechariah’s tomb.

USING THE BIBLE AS HER GUIDE (The Trumpet)

Israeli archaeologist Eilat Mazar unabashedly uses the Bible as one of many tools in her kit. Famed for discovering King David’s palace in 2005, Dr. Eilat Mazar is a solid supporter of the Bible’s role in Israeli archaeology. “What is amazing about the Bible is that very often we see that it is very accurate and sometimes amazingly accurate,” she told theTrumpet.com. So accurate, in fact, that she actually used one specific verse to locate the massive but heretofore elusive palace of King David from over 3,000 years ago.
UPCOMING EVENTS

LYNN H. WOOD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

March 16, 2011, 7 p.m.
The Temple of Solomon: The Center of the Universe Then and Now, by John Monson
(Trinity Evangelical Divinity School)

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. All lectures are held in Lynn Wood Hall on the campus of Southern Adventist University. For driving directions and parking information, visit our website at http://www.southern.edu/archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND MIDDLE EAST STUDY TOUR

June 8-July 22, 2011
Khirbet Qeiyafa, Israel