2014 Winter Meeting

March 8, 9:30 a.m.
Meet the Speaker buffet lunch, 12:30 p.m.

"Biblical Archaeology and the Digital Age: How new technologies, methodologies and paradigms influence an age-old discipline"

Matthew L. Vincent, PhD student
University of California, San Diego

Location: Tierrasanta SDA Church
11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, California
Church phone: 858-576-9990

Synopsis

Digital Cultural Heritage, Virtual Archaeology, Cyber-Archaeology...these are just a few of the current “buzz-words” that describe an emerging discipline, or better yet, a transdisciplinary science that blends many disciplines to achieve one common goal: investigate, preserve, and disseminate our past. Since 2011, Mr. Vincent has been studying and working at the Center for Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology at the Qualcomm Institute, at the University of California, San Diego branch of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. This center has been developing new methodologies for documenting and visualizing archaeological contexts, as well as partnering with many other departments to create a holistic, multidisciplinary approach for archaeology today. Matt will describe a few of these new methods, tools and approaches to archaeology and how they can help Biblical Archaeology be a more objective discipline in today's digital age.

The following topics will be explored and illustrated:

- New visualization techniques (LiDAR, Digital Photogrammetry, Structure from Motion, CAVEcams), and why we should care about them (i.e. preservation, dissemination, and analysis).
- Shifts in methodologies: Introduction of new technologies that increase the objectivity of field archaeology today.
- 3D Scanning of Objects and Artifacts: How digitizing artifacts allows archeologists to work on a much larger scale when comparing and analyzing and, more importantly, adds a new level of objectivity.
- Increased Precision: From "dumpy-levels" to RTK-GPS; challenges and benefits of the "data avalanche."
- How today's technology trends, specifically the "Maker" revolution, are contributing to the discipline.
- Data recording and dissemination: challenges for data recording and, more importantly, data sharing.
Matthew L. Vincent is originally from the Pacific Northwest and earned his BA in Theology and Biblical Languages at Walla Walla University. While at WWU Matthew spent considerable time volunteering in the pottery lab where his love for archaeology grew with each pottery piece he reconstructed. In 2004, he went on his first excavation to Tall al-’Umayri, thinking that it would be a once-off adventure. Ten years later, he is still digging in Jordan, not having missed a single season at ’Umayri since his first. Following graduation from Walla Walla, Matthew worked as a youth pastor in England for three years before returning to the US to continue his education. He is currently attending the University of California, San Diego where he is a PhD student in Anthropological Archaeology, focusing in "Cyberarchaeology," the use of technology to improve archaeology. As Matthew continues his studies, he is passionate about finding new ways to employ technology to aid archaeology, whether it is using new tools or developing new methods.

2014 membership and subscription renewals due. It’s difficult to imagine that 2014 is already nearly 10% gone but it’s not too late to renew your membership in SDAF. You will notice on the adjacent application that you now have a choice of membership levels; sustaining @ $100/125, supporting @ $75/100 and contributing @ $30/40. Please prayerfully consider how important SDAF is in your life and which membership level is best for you. Media subscriptions are also due. Although we welcome your payment check via regular mail, it’s easy and cost-effective to renew online via credit card on the website. For those who prefer to get their quarterly meeting recordings quicker and for half the cost of individually-ordered CDs, mp3 files of the meetings are available for downloading from the website, usually within a day or two of the meeting—the choice is yours!

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2014 Spring meeting. On May 10, Monique Vincent will present The Marvel and Mystery of Göbekli Tepe. She will describe and illustrate some of the fascinating findings at this dig site in Turkey. She will also explore why Göbekli Tepe has been designated “the first temple,” and why it is significant for Neolithic archaeology. She is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Chicago and is currently teaching at La Sierra University. Additional information will be available soon at www.sandiegoadventistforum.org.

Historic recordings available online. Over 300 SDAF meetings spanning 32 years (1981 – 2013) are now available for immediate downloading from the SDAF website. The entire online collection is searchable by speaker, title, date & category. The downloadable mp3 files sell for half the price of the CDs and audiocassettes that also may be ordered online.

Feedback requested. Your suggestions, comments, concerns and prayers are always welcome as we strive to bring you the best speakers on the most relevant topics in 2014. Your email input reaches us the quickest—sdaf.org@gmail.com—but snail mail to the address on the masthead is also welcomed!

2014 Adventist Forum Conference
“The Great Stories of Adventism”
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Save the date and watch for information, registration form & reading list at www.spectrummagazine.org

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