

UCSD to hold international symposium on archaeology in the Holy Land from January 28-31

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An international symposium, "Archaeology in the Holy Land: New Approaches to the Past, the 1990s and Beyond," will be held at the University of California, San Diego from Jan. 28-31. The symposium marks a clear departure from previous archaeology conferences in that it will include discussions among some of the world's foremost scholars in the field on the direction of archaeological research in Israel and Jordan in the 21st century.

According to UCSD Anthropology Professor Thomas Levy, the symposium will also explore the material culture of every period of human history in the Holy Land from the earliest prehistoric Hominids (ca. 1.5 million years ago), through the biblical and historical periods, and up to the early 20th century.

"With this symposium, we have decided to embark on something which has not been done before -- bring together many of the leading scholars working in Israel and the neighboring lands whose research focuses on every period of human occupation in this ancient land bridge that connects Africa and Asia," said Levy. "One of the central goals of the symposium will be to look at the long-term trends of culture change in the Holy Land."

More than 30 archaeologists from Israel, Europe and the United States will participate in the conference. Participants will include many of the leading scholars in the field, each of whom has conducted major interdisciplinary archaeological research projects in Israel and Jordan.

Key participants include: Lawrence Stager, Doro Professor of the Archaeology of Israel at Harvard University and director of the Harvard Semitic Museum; Israel Finkelstein, professor of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University in Israel; Naama Goren Inbar, professor of Prehistory at the Institute of Archaeology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem; William G. Dever, professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson; Ephraim Stern, Lauterman Professor of Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew University; and Donald Whitcomb, a research associate and professor of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

Discussion panels will address the following topics: New approaches to the past; Stone age adaptation, evolution and survival; Rise of the first complex societies; Formation of the biblical world; Local kingdoms and world empires; Rise of Christianity and Islam, and; The impact of modern technology on societies in this region.

The conference is being organized by: Levy, an archaeologist in UCSD's Department of Anthropology and Judaic Studies Program; David Noel Freedman and William Propp, Department of History; Richard Elliott Friedman, Department of Literature; Guillermo Algaze, Melford Spiro and Donald Tuzin, Department of Anthropology; and Laurel Mannen, conference coordinator with the Judaic Studies Program. UCSD faculty members Freedman, Friedman and Propp are also affiliated with the Judaic Studies Program.

The symposium is being sponsored by UCSD's Judaic Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology. Additional funding for the symposium has been provided by the UCSD Judaic Studies Endowment, the Bruner

Foundation, the C. Paul Johnson Family Charitable Foundation, the Joseph and Beverly Glickman Foundation, as well as the Chancellor's Office, the Dean of Arts and Humanities, and the Dean of Social Sciences at UCSD.

All conference sessions are free and open to the public. Most of the sessions will be held at Peterson Hall, Room 108, on UCSD's main campus. Parking permits are required at UCSD, and may be purchased for a nominal fee at the information pavilions at the Gilman Drive and Northview Drive entrances to the campus. For more information on the program, please call Laurel Mannen at (619) 534-4551.

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