

## Israeli archaeologist to speak at UCSD

**November 11, 1985**

Dr. Yigal Shiloh, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and leader of the recent excavation of the biblical City of David, will speak at the University of California, San Diego Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. in Conference Room 111-A, Administrative Complex on Warren campus.

"Dr. Shiloh is the director of the most important excavation in the world. He is an extraordinary speaker and has slides, in his possession alone, that show the gradual cutting away of the ancient city, year by year," said Richard E. Friedman, coordinator of UCSD's Judaic Studies Program, which is sponsoring the lecture.

In his talk, entitled, "The Story of the City of David from 3000 to 586 B.C.," Shiloh will give an account of the vestigial civilizations that he, his colleagues and a host of volunteers unearthed during eight seasons of excavation.

The Israeli archaeologist, who received his Ph.D. from the institute he now heads, began the dig in 1978 on the spot where the City of David had once flourished, in hopes of gaining entry to "the nucleus of ancient Jerusalem."

Not only did he and his team of volunteers dig to the city of King David, which dates back to approximately 1000 B.C., but they dug past King David's city to a Canaanite city which probably dates back another 2,000 years.

Under his direction, student volunteers last summer unexpectedly discovered a house Shiloh believes is nearly 5,000 years old and possibly the oldest house ever to be found in Jerusalem. There was speculation that the tiny house from the Early Bronze Age was occupied by a Canaanite family.

The excavation hit bedrock last summer and is now the site of an archaeological park, featuring the restored and preserved remains of the ancient city.

Shiloh was a visiting professor at UCSD in the fall quarter of 1980. At that time, he arranged to have Friedman bring 10 to 15 students to Jerusalem to participate in the dig each summer.

Shiloh, who also directed a dig in Capo di Ponte, Italy, is an expert on the history of ancient architecture and urbanization of the ancient Near East, specializing in the Bronze and Iron Age periods. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University and a guest lecturer at universities all over the world. He has written two books, one entitled "Excavations in the City of David 1978-1982" (Vol. I), and more than 40 papers.

(November 11, 1985) For more information contact: Susan Pollock, 452-3120