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### Ralph Hendrix Dies

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Anthropocene), Douglas Clark (The 2016 Excavations at Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan), Amanda Hopkins (Viticulture on the Rocks: An Investigation of Wine Production and Distribution at Site 84), Stephanie Brown Eating Like Elites? Domestic Foodways at Busayra), Owen Chesnut (The Hellenistic Period at Tall Safut), Abelardo Rivas (Figurines of Jalul Field G: What is Left of Domestic Religion), Chang-Ho Ji (The Ataruz Inscription and Iron II Temple at Khirbat Ataruz: New Light on Stratigraphy, Chronology and Cultic Activities), David Graf (The Revision of a Nabataean Inscription from Ba’aja I near Baidha), Stefanie Elkins (The Khirbat ‘Ataruz Iron IIA Cult Stand), Moise Issac (Iconization in Neo-Assyrian Representation of Israelite and Judean Exiles), Kristina Reed (Aging Ancient Human Remains from the EB IB Doleman at Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan), and Helen Dixon (Perfuming the Dead: Evidence for the Use of Aromatic Oil and Resins in Phoenician Mortuary Practice).

Those who chaired sessions for the program this year include: Michael Hasel and Martin Klingbeil (The Fourth Expedition to Lachish, 2013-2016: A Report on the First Four Seasons, Sessions I and II), Elisabeth Lesnes and Randall Younker (Sicily and the Levant), Helen Dixon (Archaeology of Lebanon), and Lawrence Geraty, with Thomas Schneider, Thomas Levy and Brad Sparks (Israel’s Exodus in Transdisciplinary Perspective). In addition, Douglas Clark and Kent Bramlett presided over the Madaba Plains Project-‘Umayri Workshop, Douglas Clark over the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project, Bethany Walker over the Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan, and Lawrence Geraty over the Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation.

The poster session included entries by Vivian Laughlin (The Utilization of Serapis from 30 B.C.-A.D. 230 within Roman Elite Houses in Italy), Michael Orellana (The Legacy of Inanna), and Kristina Reed, with Karimah Kennedy and Sara-Hee Lee (Pathologies from

Human Remains of the Early Bronze Age IB Dolmen at Tall al-‘Umayri.

Concurrent Annual Meetings of the *Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)* and the *Near East Archaeological Society (NEAS)* were held from November 19-22 and 15-17, 2016 respectively. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



## Hendrix Dies

Ralph Edwin Hendrix, a former staff member of the Institute of Archaeology, passed away June 15, 2016, at age 58, from a stroke. He was born in Greer, South Carolina, and has lived in Walla Walla, Washington area the past twenty years.

Ralph joined the Airforce in 1976 after graduating from high school in Duncan, South Carolina. He became a Gas Analysis Technician at the McClellan Central Laboratory and earned the position of Grade E-4, Sargent. After an Honorable Discharge from the Airforce in 1982, he attended Pacific Union College, Angwin, California, earning a BA in Religion in 1985. He served as a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winnemucca, Nevada for a year, after which he married Carrie Hannum, and moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he earned an MA in Old Testament Studies from Andrews University in 1989, working part time at the Horn Museum as an student assistant to the curator, who at that time was David Merling. After graduating, Ralph worked for seven years (1990-1997), at the Institute of Archaeology, as the Publications Director. While there, he coauthored, with Philip Drey and J. Bjørnar Storfjell, the book *Ancient Pottery of Transjordan: An Introduction Utilizing Published Whole Forms—Late Neolithic through Late Islamic*, a field guide for identifying ancient pottery, published in 1996, a tool which is still used.

Ralph continued his career in publications upon moving to Washington,



Ralph Hendrix with Fenestrated Bowl.

working for the Union Bulletin, as an advertisement designer, for 16 years. Throughout his life he was a prolific writer on a variety of topics, including cowboy poetry and songs, a novel of the Civil War (from the Southern perspective), and short stories, exploring esoteric concepts. After retirement, he continued to study philosophy, history and comparative religions, concentrating on the origins of myths and legends that run through many cultures and religions. He also compiled a book on the medicinal properties of many Northwest native plants, many of which grew on their own property in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

Dr. Øystein LaBianca, of the Institute of Archaeology, remembers Ralph as having made a singularly important contribution to Levantine archaeology by serving as the editor of *Hesban 13 Faunal Remains*. “Until now it remains the only book-length volume dedicated to presenting findings of ethnoarchaeological, taphonomical and zooarchaeological research on animal bones from a single archaeological site, namely Tall Hisban.” Randall Younker, the Director of the Institute of Archaeology, remembers him as dedicated, innovative, motivated to make a difference and getting things done, but also fun to work with. “We had some good trips together, and I especially

remember him at the 1990 Gezer excavation, particularly our van being blown up near his window (where fortunately he was not!!!) as well as his work on the site. His book on pottery, with Phil Drey and Bjornar Storfjell, was an important contribution to the archaeology of Jordan." Paul Ray, current Director of Publications at the Institute of Archaeology, remembers Ralph while he was a student assistant, putting together a fenestrated bowl from Late Roman period Hesban, from pieces he found in a box in the museum, and later in terms of the excellent example he set as Publications Director. He will be missed!!! (Union-Bulletin obituary edited and expanded by Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



**Madaba Plains Project 50th Anniversary Celebration Events:**

- Sept. 28-30, 2017 Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan Alumni Weekend and MPP Reunion
- Nov. 15-19, 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston Massachusetts
- July 5-15, 2018 MPP@50 Tour of Israel and Jordan Celebration at Tall Hisban (Wed 7/11/2018)
- Nov. 10-11, 2018 MPP@50 Celebrations, La Sierra University Riverside, California
- 2019 TBA International Congress of History and Archaeology, Florence, Italy

<http://multi.madabaplains.org/madaba-plains-project-50th-anniversary/>

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