



Summer 2017

The College of Bible and Ministry of Harding University seeks to lead all students to know, live and share God's Word and to understand, love and serve God's world through and beyond their chosen vocation.

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Harding's Own Archaeology Museum Opens

A large crowd was in attendance for the Grand Opening of the Linda Byrd Smith Archaeological Museum on April 15, 2017. The museum is located on the first floor of the McInteer Center for Bible and World Missions. The museum has ten sections which showcase items such as storage jars, perfume bottles, coins, weapons, wine skins, and other artifacts from daily life in the ancient world. Other displays include excavation tools, explanations of ceramic typology and carbon dating, and a timeline from 2000 B.C. to 700 A.D.

"We live in a time when people assume the Bible is fairytales, but the truth is, the Bible is grounded in history, historical events and cultural context," said Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry. "We don't believe what we believe because archaeology has proven it, but there are so many times when skeptics question some biblical fact and then archaeology affirms it."

Dr. Dale Manor, museum coordinator, is the field director for the Tel Beth-Shemesh dig site in Israel. For more than 20 years, he has collected artifacts and replicas from Israel.

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Dr. Dale Manor and Mrs. Linda Smith cut the ribbon to open the Linda Byrd Smith Archaeological Museum.



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"I look for artifacts that enrich the understanding of the larger cultural setting," Manor said. "Clearly the Bible is a narrative focusing on a particular point, but it unfolds within the lives and culture of people, and in my opinion, the more we know about that culture and those lives, the more we recognize that we are more alike than we are different from the standpoint of our passions, frustrations, and trying to figure out what life is all about."

Linda Byrd Smith ('67) donated the initial funds to begin the museum. She teaches Bible classes for Arkansas jails and prisons, her home church, and other religious organizations. Smith has also produced videos for the Center for Christian Broadcasting about women in the Bible. Several weekends a year, she helps lead women's retreats and conferences.

"As I taught classes about Bible history, it was clear that an understanding of the culture of the time helped us to understand God's message," Smith said. "I've always been fascinated with history of our country and the world but even more fascinated with 'His-story' — God's story — and how it gives meaning to our stories."

Smith said she visited Manor one day to borrow some of his artifacts for upcoming presentations when she noticed the other artifacts and replicas that he kept in his office. She wished others could see them as well and mentioned the idea of displaying the pieces on campus. Smith said she mentioned the idea to Cox, President Bruce McLarty and architect Mike Steelman, and she started asking other professors if they would contribute their archaeological findings.

"Dr. Manor was so willing to help organize the effort, and now I'm excited it's happening," Smith said. "As he talks about his work in Beth-Shemesh— his research in archaeology — the Bible comes alive."

In addition to providing assistance for building plans by Steelman, who has designed several campus buildings on, Megan Valentine ('11), a curator and registrar at the Alexandria Museum of Art, is the curatorial consultant for the archeological museum. She has provided design and content advice.

With more than 100 artifacts displayed, the museum will be used as a resource for students to provide context and help them better understand their biblical studies.

"I think the museum is a nice add-on feature for when we are teaching something in the Old and New Testaments," Cox said. "I think it will be a living resource for teachers to take their classes through there."

According to Manor, dues from student archaeology club members were once taken in hopes for purchasing a display cabinet but now have been used for the new exhibit as well as an artifact from Barakat Antiquities in Jerusalem.

Junior Evan Pratt, an archaeology club member, is interested in ancient culture and said the archaeology museum will help students gain a better understanding.

"The museum is definitely an educational opportunity in that they can go and see the artifacts that were used by people from that time period could have affected their lives and way of thinking," Pratt said. "If we see what their world consisted of and the objects they interacted with, we get a better understanding of how the biblical story is true in normal life and normal people and how the objects we interact with, the artifacts we have around us change our perspective on the world, ourselves and everything else."

The Museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

-Adapted from an article contributed by Shelby Dias, Director of News Services, and Savanna DiStefano, Intern



DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY FOR CHURCH RELATIONS APPOINTED



Alexander Jamerison has been appointed Director of Diversity for Church Relations effective August 2017. According to Dr. Bruce McLarty, President of Harding University, “This new position is a move on our part to do a better job of connecting and networking with racially diverse groups of Christians with the goal of making Harding a more inclusive community.”

Jamerison graduated from Harding University in 2015 with a degree in Bible and preaching, and he is finishing his Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry. Alexander has traveled and preached widely on behalf of the university and through his ministry, Preaching the Distance. He will serve as a Keynote Speaker at this fall’s Harding Bible Lectureship.

Alexander is a native of St. Louis. He has held Preaching Internships at the Freeport Church of Christ in Freeport, Bahamas and the Midtown Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee.

Alexander is a sponsor of Harding’s Black Students Association, and serves on the Chapel, Diversity, and Lectureship Committees. He and his wife Mercedes live in Searcy, where they host a weekly Bible study in their home for students.

Dr. Dan Williams, Vice-President for Church Relations, “Alex is an outstanding young man and a capable preacher. We are delighted to have him working in our office. He will be an asset to all our activities, and will especially strengthen our service to minority churches.” To inquire about the possibility of having Jamerison speak at your congregation, contact the Office of Church Relations at 501-279-4449 or by email at ChurchRelations@harding.edu.

REGENERATE:

Healthy Practices for Thriving Churches

**A Church Growth Seminar sponsored by
Office of Church Relations at Harding University**

July 20, 2017

Is your congregation stuck in the doldrums? Or, are you growing but would like to know how to be more spiritually healthy? All church leaders who are interested in having more effective, Christ-honoring congregations are invited to this free program.

Program Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Session 1 - CELEBRATION: Building Momentum Through Strength (Dr. Carlus Gupton)
Renewed vision for established churches begins with the capacity to celebrate gifts and strengths.

10:00 a.m. Session 2 - CLARITY: Facing Reality With Humility and Hope (Dr. Carlus Gupton)
Vision forward requires clarity on the implications of the past and present.

11:00 a.m. Session 3 - COURAGE: Challenging Ourselves and Others With Decisive Action
(Dr. Carlus Gupton) Growth requires courage to chart a new course and stay with it.

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own. (Many dining options are on campus and nearby.)

1:30 p.m. Session 4 COMMUNITY: Harnessing The Dynamics of Small Groups (Dr. Dan Williams)
Learn how small groups can revitalize a ho-hum church.

2:30 p.m. Session 5 CHALLENGES: An Hour With H.K. Derryberry
Be inspired to overcome your own challenges by this young man's unique story.

3:30 p.m. Session 6 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT SMALL GROUPS (Dr. Dan Williams)
Learn the do's and don'ts of beginning a small group ministry in your church.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS: **Dr. Carlus Gupton** serves as Professor of Ministry and Co-Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at the Harding School of Theology in Memphis. He has consulted with over 100 churches and organizations.

H.K. Derryberry is an amazing young man whose inspiring story has been featured on NBC News.

Dr. Dan Williams is Vice-President for Church Relations at Harding University. His discussion guides for small groups have been used in over 2000 churches nationwide.

For more information contact Teresa
Castleman or Dan Williams at
501-279-4449 or by email at
churchrelations@harding.edu.



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