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‘NEW EXCAVATIONS AT TEL GEZER’
7TH ANNUAL LECTURE ON BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

HOUSTON (March 2, 2006) — Dr. Steven Ortiz, associate professor of Biblical Archaeology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will deliver the 7th Annual Lecture on Biblical Archaeology at the University of St. Thomas. Ortiz, also co-director and principal investigator of the current excavations at this site, will deliver a lecture titled, “New Excavations at Tel Gezer: Retrospect and Prospect,” at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 26, in the Jones Auditorium, 3910 Yoakum, on the University of St. Thomas campus.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For additional information, call Fr. Edward Bader, professor of Archaeology, at 713-525-2181.

A number of well-known archaeologists have worked this site since its discovery in 1871. Tel Gezer, midway between Jerusalem and Jaffa, is mentioned twice in the Old Testament. It is mentioned in connection with the conquest of the land under the leadership of Joshua (Joshua 10:33; 12:12), as the last point to which David pursued the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:25; Chronicles, 14:16), and in other historical records.

Tel Gezer boasts a number of intriguing finds, among them: 10 monumental megaliths comprising a Canaanite “high place;” inscribed boundary stones, making it the first positively identified biblical city; a city gate from the Bronze Age, and a six-chambered, possibly Solomonic, gate similar to those found at Hazar and Megiddo.
A reception for the speaker will follow the presentation. Friends of Archaeology co-sponsors the lecture as part of an outreach of the UST Archaeology program.

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