

RESEARCH

David Schloen

In July 1997 David Schloen participated in the annual field season of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, of which he is the associate director. He returned to Israel from September to December 1997 to continue his study of the large corpus of seventh century pottery excavated at Ashkelon over the past several seasons. This material, which includes many foreign imports from Greece, Cyprus, Phoenicia, and Egypt, provides important new information about the situation in Philistia on the eve of the Babylonian conquest of Ashkelon in 604 BC. Schloen's work in fall 1997 was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship administered through the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. While he was in Israel, he lectured at the Albright Institute on the subject of "Demography and Domestic Space in Ancient Israel"; at the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on the subject of "Computer Database Design and the Electronic Publication of Archaeological Information"; and at Tel Aviv University on the subject of "Houses and Households in Late Bronze Age Ugarit." The first two of these papers will be published as journal articles and the third forms part of Schloen's book on *The Patrimonial Household in Ugarit and the Bronze Age Near East*, which is currently in preparation. During winter 1998 Schloen continued his work on these manuscripts and on the archaeological excavation reports for Ashkelon and for Yaqush (the Early Bronze Age village site in the northern Jordan Valley of Israel where the Oriental Institute has conducted three seasons of excavation since 1990). In March 1998 he attended the twenty-sixth annual conference on Computer and Quantitative Applications in Archaeology in Barcelona, Spain, where he read a paper about archaeological data management and data dissemination, which will be published in the conference proceedings. Schloen has continued to develop the same theme of archaeological database design in his contribution to the Oriental Institute's proposal to the National Science Foundation for the establishment of a major Center for the Study of Ancient Technology and Environment, for which advanced data management techniques tailored to archaeological needs will be essential. In June 1998 Schloen returned to Ashkelon for the fourteenth annual field season of the Leon Levy Expedition, in the course of which important new discoveries were made during continued excavation of a nineteenth-fourteenth century BC Canaanite tomb complex dug into the bedrock in one area of the site and of early Philistine occupation levels found elsewhere that date to the twelfth and eleventh centuries BC.
