

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 10 JANUARY 2010

# Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

Trinity Southwest University,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

in a Joint Scientific Project with the

Department of Antiquities,  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

## TeHEP UPDATE

10 January 2010

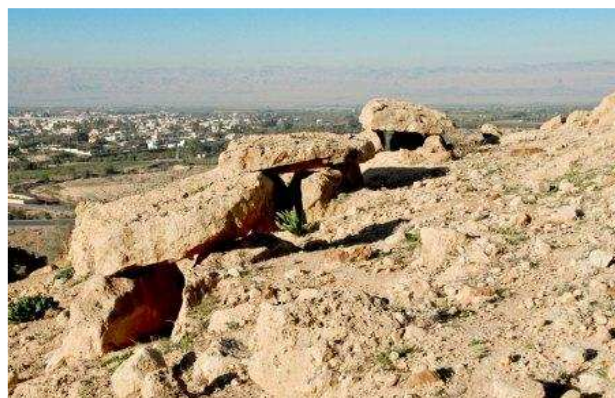
*An Exclusive Report for TeHEP Alumni, Financial Supporters, and Friends*

### IGLOSSARY OF CHRONOLOGICAL TERMS FREQUENTLY USED IN TeHEP UPDATES:

Chalcolithic Period = Copper/Stone Age, 4400-3300 BCE; EBA = Early Bronze Age, 3300-2350 BCE; IBA = Intermediate Bronze Age, 2350-2000 BCE; MBA = Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1550 BCE; LBA = Late Bronze Age, 1550-1200 BCE; IA1 = Iron Age 1, 1200-1000 BCE; IA2 = Iron Age 2, 1000-586 BCE; IA3 = Iron Age 3/Persian Period, 586-332 BCE; HP = Hellenistic/Greek Period, 332-63 BCE; ERP = Early Roman Period, 63 BCE-168 CE]

Hello All:

I know you're probably sick of hearing about dolmens, but we've invested a lot of time this season getting our surrounding dolmen field recorded and photographed. Today we registered about a hundred more. In one or two more days, we'll have it all done, and we'll then have the largest concentration of dolmens in a contiguous dolmen field in all of the southern Levant. This is a big deal, and will make some headlines in the archaeological community for Tall el-Hammam. And that can't hurt!



THREE DOLMENS WITH LOWER HAMMAM IN BACKGROUND



DOLMEN LIFTING

Things also continued to heat up on the lower tall as the temperature today

rose to near 90 degrees (F) and the finds were coming fast and furious. The pottery we're getting this season is pretty amazing. At the levels we're presently working most of it is EB3, IBA, and MBA. This pretty much covers the Sodom gamut from Gen 10 through 19.



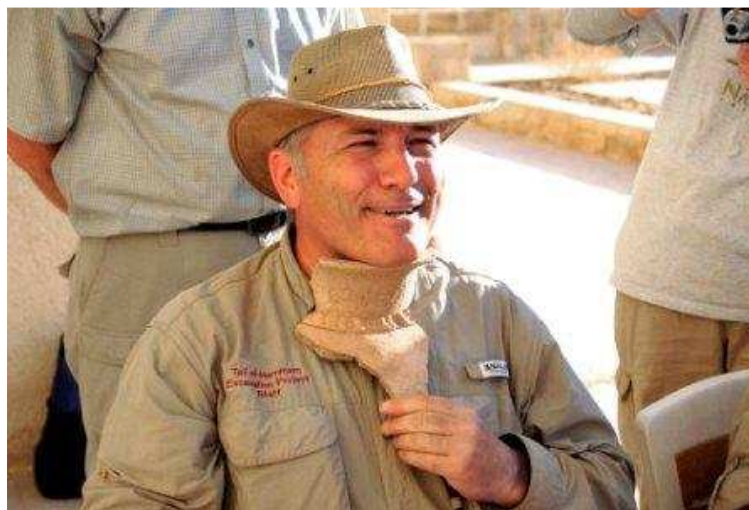
**TeHEP POTTERY READING TEAM**



**LARGE EBA STORAGE JAR UNDER RUBBLE**



**KAREN WITH 4000-YR-OLE PILFORM  
JUGLET SHE EXCAVATED**



**KEN WITH EBA STORAGE JAR NECK AND RIM, OR NECK BRACE**

We've now opened up another major trench just to the W of our big LA.28 trench, and we're getting another look at Hammam's fortification systems. We've also opened another square on the "banana palace" terrace (an administrative area, perhaps with temples and palaces) and another one about 500m NW of our big southern trench (LA.28). We're extending into these far reaches of the lower tell in order to sample the stratigraphy. These new probes will also give us a good idea as to how we'll want to proceed in the future, depending on what we find in these locations.

As you can see in our most recent team photo (taken this morning), we've got a good number of folks working now, and we'll get a lot accomplished this week. We also continue to get a stream of volunteers coming down from Amman as they hear about what we're doing and want to get involved.





TeHEP FIELD TEAM PART TWO - 2010

Hopefully, tomorrow will be a little cooler. At least that's what the weather report says. But we've got no complaints, especially seeing all the cold weather across the USA and also in Europe.

Thanks for your prayers. And we still need your financial support in a big way.

Digging the Bible,

Steven Collins, TeHEP Director  
Dean, College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University

P.S. Please forward this to whomever you like!

**You can make donations to TeHEP at the TSU shopping website: [www.shop.tsu.edu.us](http://www.shop.tsu.edu.us).**

**Donations can be mailed to: [TSU; 5600 Eubank NE, Suite 130; Albuquerque, NM USA 87111](#).**

**For detailed information about the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, visit the official TeHEP website: [www.tallelhammam.com](http://www.tallelhammam.com).**