HONORING ODED BOROWSKI

A DEDICATION TO 38 YEARS AT EMMORY

Through an academic career spanning more than forty years, including thirty-eight years at Emory, Oded Borowski has earned the respect and admiration of many students and colleagues. Widely recognized as one of the world’s experts on daily life in 8th century BCE Judah, his depth of knowledge and experience as a researcher, teacher, and administrator, his many publications, honors, and awards, his service to the profession, and his leadership of archaeological digs, particularly at Tell Halif in Israel, all speak to a highly productive scholarly career. To honor Dr. Borowski, and his many contributions to the field, the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, with support from the Judith London Evans Fund in TIJS, held a scholarly gathering entitled, “Eighth Century Judah and its Cultural Context: A Symposium Honoring Professor Oded Borowski,” on February 4, 2014. The goal of the symposium was to explore the material culture of 8th century BCE Judah, one of the main focuses of Borowski’s scholarship, as reflected in his archaeological digs and in his writings, looking at the relationships and influences that have been detected between the various groups occupying the region at the time. The papers presented at the symposium will eventually form the core of a planned festschrift honoring Borowski.

Borowski’s career at Emory closely reflects the evolution of its programs in Hebrew language, Middle Eastern studies, and Jewish studies. He inaugurated the Hebrew language program at Emory when he arrived in 1977 and for several years served as both director of that program and head of the Semitic Languages division. Appointed as an assistant professor in 1980, he achieved tenure in 1985 and full professorship in 2005. Along the way, he has directed the Near Eastern Studies program, chaired the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Languages and Literatures, and has directed the Mediterranean Archaeology program since its inception in 1997. He was one of the founding faculty of the Institute for Jewish Studies in 1999 and served as the first Judith London Evans Director of TIJS in 2011-12. He regularly teaches undergraduate courses on Biblical archaeology and daily life in ancient Israel and works with graduate students whose programs include archaeological elements. In addition, he has spent many summers directing the Emory archaeology study abroad program, providing in depth experience for many students at archaeological digs in Israel. Throughout his career, Borowski has been involved at all levels in a variety of digs, from survey and salvage excavations in the 1960s, through staff and supervisory positions at Tel Gezer, Tel Dan, Tel Beth Shemesh, and Ashkelon. Most notably, he has led the excavations at Tell Halif, the site of the Lahav Research Project, serving as director of Phase IV of that effort since 1999. His research has generated articles, book chapters, reviews, and conference presentations too numerous to list, including the books Lahav VIII: Tell Halif Excavations in Field III 1977-1987: Life in the Shephelah in the Bronze and Iron Ages. Dr. Borowski will also prepare for publication the results of the excavations he recently directed at Tell Halif and work towards completing his next book tentatively titled “I will give you the rain of your land in its due Season: Water in the Land of Israel in Biblical Times.”