David Schloen

David Schloen spent the summer of 1994 with the Leon Levy Expedition in Ashkelon, Israel, where he studied and classified pottery and other finds from the 604 B.C. destruction of that city by the Neo-Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. He will return to Ashkelon in the summer of 1995 to finish processing the material, which is being measured in a way that permits sophisticated quantitative analyses that will give a more accurate picture of activity in the city at the time of its destruction. Schloen will eventually publish the "604" material in a volume of the series

currently in preparation by the Ashkelon excavation team headed by Lawrence Stager of Harvard University.

During the 1994/95 academic year Schloen prepared and taught a new two-quarter graduate-level course in "The Archaeology and History of the Ancient Levant," and he participated, together with other members of the archaeological faculty, in a two-quarter course on "Method and Theory in Near Eastern Archaeology." He also gave an Oriental Institute Members' Lecture in January describing recent discoveries at the site of Ashkelon. In the course of the year he also completed and successfully defended his Harvard Ph.D. dissertation, entitled "The Patrimonial Household in the Kingdom of Ugarit: A Weberian Analysis of Ancient Near Eastern Society," in which he discussed the family structure and political organization revealed in the archaeological and textual evidence from the Late Bronze Age city of Ugarit on the Syrian coast. He plans to revise the dissertation and submit it for publication in the autumn of 1995.

In the spring of 1995 he began work on the Yaqush project initiated by Douglas Esse—his predecessor in Syro-Palestinian archaeology at the Oriental Institute—studying the records and photographs from Esse's excavations of this Early Bronze Age village in the northern Jordan Valley, and making preparations for further excavation there by the Oriental Institute and for final publication of the finds.