



Information about Mount Zion Archaeological Project

Is this project ongoing?

UNC Charlotte's excavations concluded in 2023, and no additional field work is planned. The only work that remains at the site consists of the cleaning of the site, conservation of ancient walls (to prevent collapse), and the removal of certain fills above Iron Age floors for wet sieving. This work will not involve UNC Charlotte students or volunteers, and there will only be a limited presence of staff in the field. Following that work, the project will focus on recording and researching the artifacts derived from the dig.

What was the goal of the Mt. Zion dig in Israel?

The goal of the work on Mount Zion was to conduct scientific archaeological excavations and historical research, to provide for a better understanding of the ancient Christian, Jewish, and Moslem past of Jerusalem.

Did the University pay for a license for the Mt. Zion project?

No, there was no money paid for a license. A license was required annually to conduct archaeological excavations in Israel, but there was no cost involved.

Where did the funding for the Mt. Zion project come from and how was the money used?

Funds for this project were raised from private donors; no state or University funds are being used. The donated funds were used to cover the logistical costs of managing the project in the field, undertaking scientific research on the artifacts, and preparing publications.

Are funds from student tuition and fees used to support this project? How were the students who traveled to the site funded?

No funds from tuition and fees are used to support this project. If students chose to travel there for study, they were responsible for those costs – in line with other study abroad opportunities.

Will any additional funding be raised to complete the research of the artifacts derived from the dig?

Additional private funds will be raised when necessary to complete the research and publication of the work, not for fieldwork.



Was there any outreach to the Palestinian community during the project?

Yes, the project maintained an outreach program with the local Palestinian community, and several Palestinians were employed as staff members over the course of the project.

Where did the dig take place?

The archaeological work in Jerusalem was conducted on “common” land that was set aside as a green park in the 1920s. It is important to note the University project was undertaken on the traditional Mount Zion, not the biblical Mount Zion. They are two different locations.

Are there artifacts from the Mt. Zion research project in Atkins Library?

There are items from Israel in Atkins Library that were gifted to the University in 2000 from a private collector. They are not from the Mt. Zion project.

Last Updated: 5/15/24