

## **JENNIE EBELING: BRIEF BIO**

Jennie Ebeling is Associate Professor of Archaeology and Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Art History of the University of Evansville in Indiana. She earned the PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Arizona in 2001 and a BA in Anthropology and Religion from Rutgers University in 1994. Her research interests include ancient food and drink technology, women in Canaan and ancient Israel, and religion and cult in the Bronze and Iron Age Levant, and her publications include *Women's Lives in Biblical Times* (2010) and edited volumes on ground stone artifacts and household archaeology in the Levant. She has been awarded a number of fellowships to support research in Israel and Jordan, most recently a four-month NEH post-doctoral research fellowship at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan in fall 2012. Ebeling currently co-directs the Jezreel Expedition in Israel with Norma Franklin of the University of Haifa.

## **JENNIE EBELING: ABSTRACT**

### ***The View from Jezebel's Window: Recent Archaeological Excavations at Jezreel, Israel***

The Jezreel Expedition is a multinational archaeological project in Israel sponsored by the University of Evansville and the University of Haifa and directed by Jennie Ebeling and Norma Franklin. Strategically located on the edge of the fertile agricultural land of Israel's Jezreel Valley and along the ancient international highway the Via Maris, Tel Jezreel was excavated for seven seasons in the 1990s by a team from Tel Aviv University and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. The excavators unearthed the remains of a large fortified enclosure on the tel that they dated to the 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE (the reigns of Ahab and Jezebel), primarily on the basis of the biblical evidence. However, many questions remained about the history of occupation of Tel Jezreel and 'Ein Jezreel, the nearby spring. In 2012, a team of archaeology students from UE and staff members from the US, Israel and the UK conducted a landscape survey of approximately 2.5 square km of "greater Jezreel" and recorded more than 350 features; they include rock-cut tombs from various periods, modified caves, cisterns, grape and olive pressing installations, quarries, and more. The results of this survey, combined with the data from a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) scan of 7.5 square km of the area, led the current team to open excavation areas near the spring, on the edge of the tel, and in an agricultural area in between, in 2013. The team revealed several phases of Early Bronze Age occupation close to the spring, and the remains of an impressive rock-cut wine press that may date to the Iron Age (biblical period). The Jezreel Expedition will return to the field in 2014 for a four-week season and excavations will continue for at least three years beyond.