TOWN & GOWN TOPIC: DIGGING UP DAILY LIFE AT TIME OF JESUS

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BILLINGS -- Dr. Elizabeth McNamer, who teaches Philosophy and Religious Thought at Rocky Mountain College, will be the guest speaker at Town & Gown, Wednesday, Oct.3, 2012. Her topic will be “Digging Up Life in Bethsaida at the Time of Jesus,” which will focus on a major archaeological dig in Israel.

Town & Gown will be held in the Great Room, Prescott Hall, on the RMC campus. The evening begins with a social and reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m., and the presentation at 7:45 p.m. The cost is $20. Reservations should be made by contacting Thompson Law Firm, PLLC, (406) 294-4230 / tina@thompsonlawfirm-mt.com.

Dr. McNamer is a director of the Bethsaida Archaeological Excavation in Galilee and, since 1993, has been taking volunteers to dig at this important site. The town of Bethsaida is frequently mentioned in the gospels in association with the ministry of Jesus. It was destroyed in the late first century and never rebuilt. For nineteen hundred years it was lost. In 1988 it was re-discovered. Rocky Mountain College is one of the consortium of colleges that support this excavation.

“The purpose of archaeology is to attempt to recreate how people lived in antiquity by examining what they left to tell their story. In the 20 years we have been doing this at Bethsaida, we have found buildings, fishing equipment, medical equipment, wine jars, cooking pots, oil lamps, ovens, coins, linen spores, limestone vessels, loom weights, incense, shovels, remains of a temple, statues of gods, jewels, gold, animal bones, and much more. These artifacts harmonize with the words of the gospels. We can resurrect the people who inhabited our town in the first century B.C.,” Dr. McNamer said.

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