

In the first century B.C.E., Herod the Great built a fortified palace atop the mountain of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea. After Herod's death, Jewish rebels occupied Masada. According to the historian Flavius Josephus, Romans then besieged the mountain and the rebels committed mass suicide. This slide-illustrated lecture will survey the history and archaeology of Masada, including the results of excavations in the Roman siege works which Professor Magness co-directed in 1995. It will conclude by considering the current debates surrounding Josephus's mass suicide story.

## **JODI MAGNESS**

KEENAN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY JUDAISM. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL

## MASADA: FROM JEWISH REVOLT TO MODERN MYTH

FIFTH ANNUAL SIENKEWICZ LECTURE ON ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

## 7:30 PM NOV 18

MONMOUTH COLLEGE PATTEE AUDITORIUM CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND BUSINESS. ROOM 100

DR. JODI MAGNESS (www.JodiMagness.org) received her B.A. in archaeology and history from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1977), and her Ph.D. in classical archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania (1989). Her talk will be based on work she did for her most recent book: *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth* (Princeton: Princeton University, 2019), which was selected as a finalist for the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in the category of History, the Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award. She has written many other books, two of which have won awards, and doz-



ens of articles. She is also a great teacher: in 2008, Dr. Magness received the Archaeological Institute of America's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Further recognition of her teaching prowess is having produced a 36-lecture course on "The Holy Land Revealed" and a 24-lecture course on "Jesus and His Jewish Influences" with The Teaching Company's Great Courses.

## FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Thomas J. and Anne W. Sienkewicz Lecture on Roman Archaeology was established by an anonymous donor in 2017 to support the annual archaeological lecture series sponsored by the Monmouth College Department of Classics and the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Tom Sienkewicz was Minnie Billings Capron Chair of Classics at Monmouth College from 1985 until 2017. During his career he taught a wide range of classics courses, many with strong archaeological features, including Classical Mythology, the Ancient Family, and Africa in the Ancient World. In 1984 he founded the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, which, since its inception, has hosted hundreds of archaeological lectures at Monmouth. His wife, Anne, has been a loyal supporter of archaeology and over the years has hosted countless speakers.