

SIDNIE WHITE CRAWFORD  
Trinity Class of 1981  
*Doctor of Divinity*

You, Sidnie White Crawford, have distinguished yourself as a first-rate educator and an internationally recognized scholar. There are few around the world who possess your credentials in biblical studies and archaeology, and through your lifelong commitment to teaching, we have more clearly discovered our human history—equitably and passionately.

As a student at Trinity, you majored in religion and music, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with honors. Your pursuit of education continued, and in 1984, you completed a master of theological studies degree from Harvard Divinity School. Four years later, you received a Ph.D., with distinction, from Harvard University, where you studied under world-renowned biblical scholar Frank Moore Cross.

It is at Harvard that your career in higher education began, prior to teaching at St. Olaf College and then, from 1989 to 1997, at Albright College, where you served as an assistant and then associate professor of religious studies. In 1997, you joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where you remain the Willa Cather Professor of Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Judaism, Emerita. You also serve as a visiting scholar in the Department of Biblical Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Through your distinguished career, you have become a foremost authority in the specialized areas of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the history and literature of Second Temple Judaism, and textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, as well as the textual development of the Pentateuch, scribal traditions, and women in the biblical world. Your work has been groundbreaking in the interpretation of the Qumran texts, helping to inform how archaeology has affected the study and interpretation of the Bible.

As an author, your work has been published in the most well-respected journals of biblical literature. Among many other accomplishments, you have published critical editions of more than 10 Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts, as well as articles and books on the origins and identity of the Qumran community. You were a member of the international team responsible for the editio princeps of the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls manuscripts. This first-ever printed edition of the manuscripts is considered to be a keystone in the history of archaeology, with great historical, religious, and linguistic significance that altered the world's understanding of biblical text development.

It was in 2019 that you published the book *Scribes and Scrolls at Qumran*, combining the conclusions of the first generation of scrolls scholars that have withstood the test of time while creating a new synthesis of text and archaeology that yields a convincing history of and purpose for the Qumran settlement. For authoring this book and supporting public understanding of the history and cultures from the earliest of times, you were selected for two prestigious honors: The Frank Moore Cross Award from the American School of Overseas Research and the Biblical Archaeology Society's Best Popular Book on Archaeology distinction. Your latest book is *The Text of the Pentateuch: Textual Criticism and the Dead Sea Scrolls*, which was published in 2022.

Well-known for your personal commitment to your craft, to the students you teach, and to the history you care for, you routinely offer your time and talent to committees that call upon your expertise. You have served as chair of the Board of Trustees of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, the American headquarters for archaeological research in the Holy Land. You are a member of numerous editorial boards, including for Hermeneia, the updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition. And at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, you were the associate director of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies and a member of the Advisory Board for Women's and Gender Studies.

Since you last studied 'neath the elms, you have remained a well-connected supporter of Trinity. In recognition of your distinguished career in higher education and of devoting a lifetime of work to religious studies, I have the honor of presenting you, Sidnie White Crawford, for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.