MUSEUM EDUCATION

Carole Krucoff

Collaboration was the watchword for Museum Education this past year. Partnership programs expanded our audiences and our horizons as we worked with old friends and new associates on campus and throughout the city to present a broad range of educational services for adults, youth, and families. These public programs attracted 6,726 participants, a 13% increase over last year, even during a troubled time when attendance was decreasing at cultural institutions nationwide. Continued support from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership also enabled us to enhance our professional development services for teachers and expand our program of in-depth museum learning experiences for Chicago-area schoolchildren and their families.

Cleopatra of Egypt: Collaboration with The Field Museum

Cleopatra of Egypt: From History to Myth, a major traveling exhibition on the life and times of Egypt’s legendary queen, arrived at The Field Museum in fall 2001 for its only showing on the North American continent. To complement this extraordinary exhibition, the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum joined forces to plan and present a whole host of educational programs at both institutions.

Educational opportunities for adults included “Cleopatra’s Egypt,” a six-session course taught by Egyptologist Frank Yurco at The Field Museum on Wednesday evenings and repeated on Saturday mornings at the Oriental Institute. This new, two-venue approach attracted a full house at each location. Special lectures were also held at each locale. The Oriental Institute hosted “Cleopatra: Myth and Reality,” a three-part series presented by Robert Ritner, Associate Professor of Egyptology, Oriental Institute, and Ian Moyer, Ph.D. candidate in Classics, University of Chicago. Ritner, who served as academic advisor to the Cleopatra of Egypt exhibition, offered two lectures, “Cleopatra in Context: A Princess Descended From So Many Royal Kings,” and “In Death Immortal,” which traced how Cleopatra has been represented in both fine art and popular culture. Moyer, who has a special interest in the interaction between Egypt and the Graeco-Roman world, spoke on “Portraits of the Queen: The Ancient Struggle Over Cleopatra’s Image,” which explored the propaganda battle Greece and Rome waged over Cleopatra’s image and persona. An entirely different perspective on Cleopatra was given by David Bevington, Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor in the...
Humanities, University of Chicago, when he came to the Oriental Institute to present “Honey, Where’s The Asp?” — an exploration of Cleopatra in the writings of Plutarch, Shakespeare, and Shaw. Bevington’s lecture was a first-time collaboration between the Oriental Institute, The Field Museum, and the Basic Program of Liberal Education in the University of Chicago’s Graham School of General Studies.

Other programs inspired by Cleopatra of Egypt included “From Papyrus to CD-Rom,” a one-day event featuring a guided tour of the Cleopatra exhibit led by Oriental Institute docents Rebecca Binkley and Stephen Ritzel, who had taken a Field Museum training course on the exhibition. Participants then traveled by bus to the Oriental Institute for a behind-the-scenes look at the Demotic Dictionary Project, which is concentrating on the Egyptian language of Cleopatra’s era. This part of the program was led by Janet H. Johnson, Professor of Egyptology, Oriental Institute, and Director of the Demotic Dictionary Project. Additional Field Museum/Oriental Institute programs included a documentary film series and “Cleopatra Goes Hollywood,” a seminar led by Egyptologist Michael Berger that concentrated on fact and fantasy about Cleopatra in popular films.

Teachers and students were not forgotten. For teachers, the Oriental Institute and Field Museum, as well as the Art Institute of Chicago, joined together to present “Ancient Egypt in Chicago,” a two-day seminar for K–12 educators throughout the metropolitan area. Emily Teeter, Research Associate/Curator of Egyptian and Nubian Antiquities, Oriental Institute, spoke at the Institute session and also at the Art Institute; there she was joined by Mary Greuel, Research Associate for Ancient Art, and Elizabeth Seaton, Art Institute Website Coordinator for Museum Education. Frank Yurco served as lecturer at The Field Museum. Each museum
introduced highlights from their own Egyptian collections as well as the curriculum materials each of us makes available to enhance the study of ancient Egypt in the classroom.

Grant-funded support from the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts partnership enabled Museum Education to introduce the life and times of Cleopatra to high school students in our own community as part of an ongoing partnership program with Kenwood Academy. Classes in anthropology, as well as those Kenwood students learning Greek and Latin, visited the Institute’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery for an introduction to the land of the pharaohs with Emily Teeter and François Gaudard, Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology, Oriental Institute. Then the students traveled to the Field Museum for the unprecedented opportunity to encounter Cleopatra as she was depicted in her own era.

Meet Egypt’s legendary queen in this three-part film festival and seminar series

Sundays
February 17, 24 and March 3
1:30-4:30pm
At the Oriental Institute
Please call 773.702.9507 for more information

Flyer publicizing “Cleopatra Goes Hollywood,” an Oriental Institute/Field Museum film seminar series that introduced ancient Egypt’s legendary queen as a Hollywood star. Flyer designed by Maria Krasinski
Collaborations on Campus

While Museum Education has long been involved in joint projects with sister institutions on campus, collaborations this year helped us reach out to several new University audiences. For the first time, the Oriental Institute joined with the College Programming Office to present “Experience Chicago Day,” an event that invited newly enrolled students to select and spend an entire day at an on-campus cultural institution during Orientation Week in September. Forty students, the maximum we could host, registered for the Oriental Institute session. Thanks to the involvement of many staff members and volunteers, the students were provided with a fascinating introduction to the Institute’s work. Behind-the-scenes visits were led by Karen Wilson, Museum Director; John Larson, Museum Archivist; Vanessa Muros and Vicki Parry of the Conservation Laboratory; Chuck Jones, Oriental Institute Archivist; Brett McClain, Chicago House Epigrapher; Linda McLarman and Tim Collins of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary; and Maria Krasinski from Museum Education. Museum docents led tours of the Egyptian and Persian Galleries, students enjoyed a Middle Eastern-style lunch, and Claire Thomas, a University of Chicago student who has been an Oriental Institute intern for two years, described work-study, internships, and other student opportunities that are available at the Institute.

“Museum Night,” another fall program co-sponsored with the College Programming Office, was a more informal, drop-by event designed to introduce large numbers of new and returning students to the Oriental Institute. The evening featured docent-led gallery tours, films, refreshments, and two special presentations — an introduction to the Institute’s archaeological work by Justine V. Way, Ph.D. candidate in Egyptian Archaeology, Oriental Institute, and a behind-the-scenes visit with Laura D’Alessandro, Head Conservator, to view the reinstalled Khorsabad reliefs that will be a star attraction of the new Mesopotamian Gallery.

Museum docents led the way during the University’s annual Humanities Open House and Parents Weekend held in October. Alumni, community residents, and parents all enjoyed the special thematic tours of the Egyptian and Persian Galleries that weekend docents Dorothy Blindt, Lucie Sandel, and Carole Yoshida created especially for this event.

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies became our partner in November when we joined forces to present a Breasted Hall concert of Middle Eastern music by the Taqaseem Ensemble. Using traditional string, wind, and percussion instruments, this group brought down the house with their passionate renditions of classical Arabic and Turkish music.
Our most extensive collaboration with University partners — *The Hyde Park/University of Chicago Arts Fest* — took place in June, when we joined in this new, community-wide celebration of the arts during the weekend of the 57th Street Art Fair. Sponsored by the University of Chicago, the Fest featured programming by twenty campus and community cultural institutions, all connected by a free trolley system linking each location. The Oriental Institute offered free gallery tours, documentary film showings, and a free festival of activities for families, including a full day of ancient tales and stories presented by the Chicago Storytelling Guild. These events brought us hundreds of visitors, many of whom had never before been to the Oriental Institute.

**Adult Education**

Along with the adult education programs presented in conjunction with the *Cleopatra of Egypt* exhibition, Museum Education offered a variety of additional adult education opportunities this past year. These included multi-session courses held at the Oriental Institute; classes at the Gleacher Center, the University’s downtown center, which is the most convenient locale for many who live outside Hyde Park; and a growing selection of distance learning courses that meet the needs and interests of people from across the nation and around the world.

Our co-sponsor for adult education courses held at the Oriental Institute is the University of Chicago’s Graham School of General Studies, which joins us in taking registrations for courses and developing advertising for each class. This year’s courses included “Ancient Egypt: Land of Plenty” and “Pharaoh’s People: Ancient Egyptian Society” taught by Frank Yurco; “Ancient Myth and the Bible” by Seth Sanders; “Meet the Hittites: The People of a Thousand Gods” by Hripsime Haroutunian; “Archaeology and the Bible” by Aaron A. Burke; and “They Wrote on Clay” by Fumi Karahashi.

Gleacher Center courses are also co-sponsored by the Graham School. This year, these were “Cyprus, the Phoenicians, and the Bible” and “Archaeology and the Holy Land in Classical Times” by Aaron Burke; “Ancient Egyptian Literature” by Frank Yurco; and “Architecture in Ancient Egypt: Technique, Design, and Symbolism” by Emily Teeter.

Distance learning courses attracted close to 200 students from throughout the region, the nation, and from worldwide locations that ranged from Austria to Australia! Emily Teeter and Hratch Papazian, Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology at the Oriental Institute, taught “Hieroglyphs by Mail,” a course for beginning and intermediate students. Daniel Nevez taught “Cuneiform by Mail,” a sold-out course whose subject is beginning to attract almost as much interest as the course on hieroglyphs. Frank Yurco presented two courses on audio tape: “Egypt at the Dawn of History: The Predynastic Period,” and “Great Pyramids and Divine Kings: The Old Kingdom in Ancient Egypt.” These courses included full-color slides Yurco placed on the Oriental Institute’s website so that students using a special URL could view archaeological sites and artifacts on their own computers while listening to the audio.
taped lectures. Aaron Burke also used taped lectures accompanied by slides on the web for his “Archaeology and the Bible” course and he added the opportunity for students to communicate with him over the Internet.

In addition to formal courses, other adult education opportunities for the public were available during the year. In summer 2001 we joined with the Graham School of General Studies to co-sponsor “Egyptomania: Chicago-Style,” and “Egyptomania Goes West,” two day-long bus tours that introduced participants to superb examples of Egyptian-style architecture in the Chicago metropolitan area. Led by Michael Berger, an Egyptologist who is Head of the University of Chicago’s Language Faculty Resource Center, this bus tour format attracted so much interest that “Egyptomania: Chicago-Style” was offered again spring 2002. This time we partnered with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, which brought Oriental Institute programming to the attention of an entirely new audience.

Free, drop-by events featuring our exhibits took place throughout the year. During the summer we repeated “Noontime in Another Time,” our free program of half-hour gallery talks in the Egyptian and Persian Galleries. These talks, led by docents Joe Diamond, Gabriele Da Silva, Nina Longley, Kathy Mineck, Deloris Sanders, and Mari Terman, were designed to serve the University community and Hyde Park neighbors. Informal, docent-led tours took place after each of our free, Sunday afternoon film showings in Breasted Hall. This year we also hosted two documentary film premieres. In conjunction with African-American History Month in February we featured *Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush* by Emmy-award-winning producer, writer, and director Judith McCray, who appeared to introduce and discuss her new film. In April we presented the Chicago premiere of *Mount Nemrud: Throne of the Gods*, which was hosted by Jennifer Tobin, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Illinois–Chicago. Prof. Tobin’s area of expertise is Turkey in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, the era when the massive monuments on Mount Nemrud in eastern Turkey were constructed and became the eighth wonder of the ancient world.

**Youth and Family Programs**

Longtime favorites as well as special programs with new partners helped us provide a full schedule of activities for children and their families this year. “Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist,” our annual summer day camp in collaboration with the Lill Street Art Center, filled to capacity for the fifth year in a row. We also hosted summer day camp sessions for the Hyde Park Art Center. In fall, joined by volunteers Kathy, Kristin, and Carl Mineck, we made our sixteenth annual appearance at the 57th St. Children’s Book Fair, where we learned that the Oriental Institute is the only community organization that has not missed a year since the start of this Hyde Park event.
In October we hosted “Tales from Ancient Egypt,” a family event sponsored by the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership in conjunction with the city’s second annual Chicago Book Week. During the program, more than 250 children and their parents created ancient-Egyptian-style scrolls, wrote stories in hieroglyphs, and listened in fascination to tales of ancient Egyptian myth and magic as presented by master storyteller Judith Heineman. In November, Heineman appeared as an Oriental Institute presenter at the Chicago Children’s Humanities Festival, where she told stories from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia accompanied by melodies played on ancient-style instruments by musician Daniel Marcotte. This special program attracted an audience of more than 400 young people and their parents.

In spring, we joined with the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust to host “Book in a Box,” a hands-on arts workshop led by Education Programs Assistant Maria Krasinski. Families were introduced to the geometric shapes, including pyramids, that Frank Lloyd Wright used in his world-famous designs, and then were invited to combine the shapes with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs to create their own storytelling device. This unique workshop served a sold-out crowd, with requests to repeat “Book in a Box” during the coming year.

“Families in the Museum” Project

In 1999, the Polk Bros. Foundation awarded the Oriental Institute a major grant to research and develop a comprehensive program of museum learning experiences that would attract and serve families who generally do not visit museums. The project, implemented in partnership with parents, students, and educators from the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School (NK/O), was completed this past year, and its outcomes have received both local and national accolades.

Focusing on exhibits in the Egyptian Gallery, “Families in the Museum” developed, tested, and then produced a wide range of self-guided museum learning activities that concentrate on ways parents and children can explore the ancient past together. The activities, designed to be available whenever families visit the museum, include:

- Rich array of full-color Family Activity cards that direct parents and children to search for and make discoveries about specific artifacts
- Gallery treasure hunts featuring learning experiences related to certain topics, such as ancient animals or mummification
- Brightly colored, family-friendly exhibit labeling for our statue of King Tut
- Computer kiosk where families can take part in “hands-on” interactive experiences such as reconstructing an ancient stele, selecting foods to serve at an ancient banquet, or send-
Museum visitors are giving these new learning experiences high praise. Parents say the activities keep them and their children in the Egyptian Gallery longer than they have ever stayed in a museum exhibit. Children can’t wait to tell us all the “cool things” they have learned. They, along with their parents, are asking when there will be similar activities for Persia and other galleries.

Creating an educationally sound and sustainable family program was the major goal of this project. Our success is due to the work of a team that had all the expertise needed to reach that goal. Anna Rochester, Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator at the Oriental Institute until October 2001, was the driving force behind “Families in the Museum.” A highly talented and experienced museum educator, Anna was skilled in working with parents and in developing and designing educational materials. Working with Anna was Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, Oriental Institute graduate student in biomolecular archaeology, whose expertise in computer programming and special interest in public education made him the ideal multimedia architect and program designer for computer activities.

The second crucial element of the team was its group of advisors. A panel of parents from the NK/O Charter School, who were unfamiliar with the Oriental Institute but eager to involve their families in meaningful learning experiences, worked with us for the full two years of the project. These family advisors included: Deborah Anderson and Jamilla (age 13); Ramona and Urie Clark and Erin (age 12) and Tyler Lewis (age 9); Janet and Samuel Gray and Melanie (age 8); Garcena and Bryant Hagood and Nioki (age 13); and Dennis and Brenda Noble and Bryce (age 8) and Brendan (age 12). Educational advisors were Marvin Hoffman and Barbara Williams, co-directors of NK/O, and Jane Dowling, professional museum programs evaluator from the highly regarded Wellington Consulting Group.

Many others lent their support to “Families in the Museum.” John Sanders, Head of the Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory, provided invaluable guidance. Joe Scott, Head Preparator, and Jim Barry and Elliott Weiss of the Preparation Department, created handsome displays to house the proj-
ect’s activities. Everyone benefited from the expertise of Oriental Institute faculty and staff, who ensured that project outcomes would reflect the most recent research on the ancient Near East. Finally, the vision and support of the Polk Bros. Foundation enabled us all to undertake this exciting and important venture.

The success of the “Families in the Museum” project gives us confidence that we now have templates for family activities which can be effective in all our galleries. The project is also becoming a model program for museums nationwide. This spring the American Association of Museums selected our Family Activity Cards for display at their annual meeting, where delegates from across the nation viewed them as examples of the very best in museum education materials for children and their families.

**Teacher Training Services**

Since 1998, generous support from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation has enabled Museum Education to present an annual program of in-service training seminars on the ancient Near East for teachers in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Over the past four years these seminars have provided in-depth training for 145 teachers who have reached more than 10,000 CPS students.

The Oriental Institute’s training seminars are presented in collaboration with the CPS Teachers Academy for Professional Development. The seminars are presented in a format that includes lectures by Oriental Institute faculty and staff, workshops that engage educators in hands-on involvement with the Institute’s curriculum guides on the ancient Near East, and gallery study sessions where teachers develop curriculum-related museum learning opportunities for their students.

Held in the fall, our training seminars this year focused on ancient Egypt, with lectures on the Ptolemaic era by Robert Ritner and visits to the *Cleopatra of Egypt* exhibit at The Field Museum as special highlights. Other lecturers included John Larson, Hratch Papazian, Emily Teeter, and Justine V. Way. Workshop sessions were led by Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs. These seminars attracted teachers from schools throughout the city, and participants represented the gamut of CPS instruction — from kindergarten to high school and from special needs programs to services for the gifted.

As in the past, the success of the seminars could be seen in the projects produced by the teachers and their students. These projects, which were highlighted at a special CPS “Action Lab” hosted by the Oriental Institute, ranged from student recreations of the relief carvings that cover the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs all the way to a teacher’s research on the life of Cleopatra so that she could “become” the queen for her classes.

Along with its relationship to the Chicago Public Schools, our seminar program this past year became more closely associated with the Illinois State Board of Educa-
The Oriental Institute (ISBE). During the 2001/2002 school year, the ISBE established rigorous new requirements for professional development that all teachers must fulfill to qualify for state recertification. Our seminars, designed to meet educators’ needs for both academic content and teaching strategies, fulfilled and even exceeded these new guidelines, enabling our program to assume a leadership role for teacher training in Chicago and also throughout the state of Illinois.

Support from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation is also helping us assume a leadership role in the development of teacher training over the Internet. Anna Rochester, in her capacity as Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator, worked to transform our seminar participants’ classroom and museum lessons into electronic resources that would be accessible to all educators via a special Teacher Resource Center on the Oriental Institute website. Assisted by Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov and John Sanders, Anna brought this unique on-line center to a prototype stage, but her departure in fall 2001 to assume a management position at the Shedd Aquarium meant testing and refinement envisioned for the center was yet to come. This aspect of the project is now in the highly capable hands of Wendy Ennes, our new Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator, who joined Museum Education this winter.

Wendy Ennes holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in curatorial studies and photography from the Art Institute of Chicago. Experienced in many areas of museum work, she has done exhibit preparation, program development, and graphic design for several Chicago galleries and cultural institutions, including the Art Institute, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Block Museum of Art, and the Smart Museum of Art. She has also been a teacher of grades K–8 in the Oak Park Public Schools. A skilled web page designer, she has a special interest in developing web-based educational materials using museum resources. Wendy’s expertise is enabling her to expand and enhance the new on-line Teacher Resource Center in ways that will make it an invaluable educational resource for years to come.

Wendy’s experience also makes her especially well-suited to serve as our liaison to Chicago WebDocent, a collaboration for on-line curriculum development between the Chicago Public Schools/University of Chicago Internet Project and several Chicago cultural institutions. Along with the
Oriental Institute, these include the Adler Planetarium, the Chicago Historical Society, The Field Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry. In addition Wendy’s interest in the development of students’ reading and writing skills inspired her to become the Institute’s representative to the new Chicago Cultural Coalition for Literacy, part of the city’s major effort to link literacy initiatives in the public schools with the unique educational resources of Chicago’s museums and cultural institutions.

Other services for teachers this year included our participation in Spotlight on Chicago, a resource fair for educators and administrators that was sponsored by the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs. Museum Education staff also offered presentations on the Oriental Institute’s curriculum materials at CPS in-service workshops for teachers of such special programs as the Global Studies Initiative and the International Baccalaureate Program. These appearances led to major Board of Education purchases of the Oriental Institute’s award-winning curriculum guides, which were then presented to more than seventy Chicago Public Schools. This means that our Life in Ancient Egypt, Life in Ancient Mesopotamia, and Life in Ancient Nubia guides will now replace the outdated textbooks that at least 5,000 students previously used to learn about the ancient Near East.

Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership

Generous support from a local foundation is helping us further relationships with the public schools in our own Hyde Park/Kenwood community. This past year, the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership awarded a fourth year of support to the Oriental Institute — as well as the Hyde Park Art Center, the Smart Museum of Art, and the University’s Music Department — so that all of us can expand educational enrichment services for our neighborhood’s schools.

This year, Murray Language Academy and Shoesmith School joined the Oriental Institute’s previous neighborhood partners — Bret Harte School, the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School, Ray School, and Kenwood Academy. Working in collaboration with teachers and administrators, Museum Education was able to offer these schools a wide range of educational experiences. Each school was invited to take part in guided tours and special study sessions at the museum, as well as artists’ residencies focused on student recreation of ancient Egyptian arts processes. In addition, we were able to serve these schools in an even wider way. Fine Arts Partnership support allowed us to invite students and their families from all neighborhood schools to “Tales from Ancient Egypt,” the free ancient storytelling festival in conjunction with Chicago Book Week that is described in the Youth and Families section of this report. This event could never have taken place without the support of the Fine Arts Partnership.

Support from the partnership also allowed Museum Education to focus special attention on services for the community’s students put final touches on their outdoor mural inspired by ancient Egyptian art. This Oriental Institute project at Kenwood Academy was supported by the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership. Photograph by Wendy Ennes
high school students. The program on the Roman era in Egypt that has been presented over the past three years for students of Kenwood Academy Latin teacher Alice Mulberry was expanded this year. In addition to a classroom lecture on archaeology by Research Associate Clemens Reichel, a guided tour of the Institute’s Egyptian Gallery, and a pottery reconstruction session, the program included a visit to the Cleopatra of Egypt exhibition at The Field Museum. Other Kenwood students also visited the Cleopatra exhibition. Partnership support enabled Social Studies Chairperson Renna Alissandratos to provide this experience for all her students of Greek. And anthropology teacher Kurt Ham used the Cleopatra exhibition as the springboard for an in-depth student program on archaeology and philology.

In collaboration with Mr. Ham, the Kenwood program for anthropology students was organized by Carole Krucoff and Emily Teeter, with special assistance from Christopher Faraone, Professor in the University’s Departments of Classical Languages and Literature and New Testament and Early Christian Literature. Lectures and presentations by Oriental Institute scholars were the highlight of this program. Lectures at Kenwood included “Ancient Texts: What They Tell Us and How We Use Them,” by Janet H. Johnson; “Underwater Archaeology in the Harbor at Alexandria,” by Emily Teeter; and “Temples, Tombs, and Towns,” by Justine V. Way. Programs at the Institute included a behind-the-scenes presentation on the Khorsabad reliefs by Laura D’Alessandro as well as Egyptian Gallery tours led by Emily Teeter and François Gaudard. Finally, the students visited the Cleopatra of Egypt exhibition. One student spoke for many when she expressed her feeling that the entire program was “a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

The most extensive Regents Park Partnership program with Kenwood was an arts education and community service project developed and supervised by Wendy Ennes and Kenwood Academy social studies teacher Lavie Raven, with the assistance of Emily Teeter, François Gaudard, and Justine V. Way. Created as part of the “University of Hip Hop,” an after-school program, the goal of the project was the creation of an outdoor mural based on ancient Egyptian art and culture, as well as the production of several portable murals that Kenwood students would display and interpret for classes studying ancient Egypt at neighborhood elementary schools. To prepare students to create the murals, Teeter, Gaudard, and Way presented lectures, discussion sessions, and workshops on ancient Egypt’s natural and built environment, religious beliefs, art, and writing. Students were also provided with textbooks and study guides, as well as many of the materials needed to build and paint the murals. The outcome of this four-month residency project is a remarkable, multi-panel mural that is being mounted on the eastern wall of Kenwood Academy, where it will make an important contribution to the outdoor mural tradition so long in existence in Hyde Park. The students also created five portable murals, which will go “on tour” to neighborhood schools this fall.
Oriental Institute School Affiliates

Generous support and major grant funding has been crucial in enabling Museum Education to develop a wide-ranging program of highly successful educational materials and services for schools. In 1998, principals of several schools that had been collaborating with us on grant-funded projects joined together to help us create the Oriental Institute School Affiliates program, which allows schools to pay a modest annual fee for continued services as grant-funded support comes to an end. Teachers are especially interested in retaining such services as outreach visits by graduate students who explain ways the Oriental Institute learns about the ancient past, and visits by community artists who involve students in ancient arts processes. We were delighted when principals and local school councils voted to renew the Affiliates program for the fourth year in a row, reaffirming the value of the educational services we offer to teachers and students.

The team of graduate students who signed on for this year’s program of outreach visits to Affiliate Schools included Aaron Burke, Jesse Casana, Colleen Coyle, Carrie Hritz, Hratch Papazian, Justine Way, and Jason Ur. Artists included dramatist and storyteller Judith Heine-man, musician Daniel Marcotte, metalsmith Pam Robinson, ceramic artist Hardy Schlick, visual artist Naomi Strom-Avila, and papermaker Mary Tepper.

Behind the Scenes

Looking back on all that has taken place this past year, I would like to express my appreciation for the expertise and encouragement that Museum Education has received from the Oriental Institute’s faculty, staff, and students. Heartfelt thanks also go to all the volunteers who have lent their time and talents to the Education Office this year. The development and presentation of special gallery-based programming, including teacher training, thematic tours, family programs, and special events for the University community, could not have taken place without the support of Debbie Aliber, Rebecca Binkley, Dorothy Blindt, Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele Da Silva, Joe Diamond, Dario Giacomoni, Bud Haas, Mary Harter, Lee Herbst, Teresa Hintzke, Elizabeth Lassers, Nina Longley, Sherif Marcus, Masako Matsumoto, Roy Miller, Carl, Kathy, and Kristen Mineck, Semra Prescott, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Larry Scheff, Anne Schumacher, Bernadette Strnad, Mari Terman, Karen Terras, Claire Thomas, and Carole Yoshida.

All would come to a standstill without the dedication and extraordinary creativity of Museum Education staff. They are what make everything happen! Thanks go to Anna Rochester for her years of invaluable service. The talents and skills of Wendy

Richard Díaz, bilingual education teacher at Field School, displays student work inspired by Oriental Institute Affiliate School Program visits to the Egyptian Gallery. Field School is a founding member of the School Affiliate Program. Photograph by Wendy Ennes
Ennes are evident throughout this report, as are the contributions of Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov. Several additional people require special mention here.

Emily Napolitano, Assistant to the Director of the Epigraphic Survey, returned to Museum Education for three months this year. Previously our Education Programs Assistant when this was a half-time position, Emily was the ideal person to train Maria Krasinski, who joined us in August 2001 as the department’s new, full-time Programs Assistant. The much-needed change from part-time to full-time status for this position reflects the growth in educational services offered by Museum Education.

Maria Krasinski holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Chicago. A talented graphic designer, she has also taken extensive coursework in the fine arts. Along with two years of administrative work for Regenstein Library, Maria has experience in museum education, which she gained as a teaching assistant at the Museum of Science and Industry. She was also a teaching artist for the North Lawndale Learning Community program for children. Maria rapidly mastered the responsibilities of her position, which include implementing the registration, confirmation, and financial depositing processes for all reserved adult education, family, and guided tour programs and providing general information services for the public. She also serves as our public relations officer, writing and distributing our quarterly press packets and individual press releases, designing our marketing pieces for individual programs, and developing our display advertising for various community calendars and selected local and national media. It is a pleasure to have this capable and talented staff member with us!

It has also been a pleasure to retain the services of Judy Chavin Hedges, our former public relations and graphic design specialist, who has been working for Museum Education as a consultant this year. Judy continued to design our quarterly events brochure, and she created a highly effective new look for this year’s guided tour brochure. She also redesigned and edited new editions of the Life in Ancient Egypt, Life in Ancient Mesopotamia, and Life in Ancient Nubia curriculum guides, giving them a handsome and unified new format.

Two University of Chicago interns dedicated time to Museum Education this year. The contributions of Claire Thomas have already been mentioned, and you will learn more of Claire’s service in the Volunteer Program section. We also benefited from the valuable assistance of Lee Ann Middleton, who graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor of arts degree in history in June 2001 and then spent her summer with us developing curriculum materials based on art and artifacts displayed in the Egyptian Gallery. She also gained increased understanding of the museum profession, a career path she was eager to explore.

In the next section you will see the achievements of the Oriental Institute’s Volunteer Program, which is supervised by Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman. These dedicated and gifted women are continually inspired by the creativity and unwavering support of their...
outstanding corps of volunteers. Read on to see how the Institute and the community have benefited from the work of our volunteers, and all that Cathy and Terry have helped them to accomplish.

Once again let me express my respect and admiration for the Museum Education staff and the volunteers who work with us. I thank you all for your efforts to provide the very best in educational programming for Oriental Institute members, the University community, and the public audiences that we serve.