MUSEUM

Geoff Emberling

The Museum staff has been busy and productive in the past year. We have presented two special exhibits, each with outstanding symposia and public programs; implemented two training programs for conservators from Middle Eastern countries; and built and developed programs for a new simulated dig — the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center — that will begin offering tours this fall. And for the second year, Bruce Williams and I led an excavation team to Sudan to participate in the salvage project at the Fourth Cataract of the Nile.

It is a pleasure to welcome two new members of our staff. Anna Ressman, Head of Photography, began in September 2007, and Susan Allison, Assistant Registrar, began in March 2008. And, at the same time, I would like to thank Jean Grant for her thirty-four years as Oriental Institute Photographer. Jean has been a cheerful presence in the Museum, as well as a photographer of great knowledge and a careful eye, and we miss her.

One of the most important projects done in the Museum since I arrived four years ago has been our revision of the Museum’s mission statement and development of a strategic plan. As tedious as this might sound, the process itself turned out to be both interesting and rewarding, if difficult in some ways, and the result has been extremely useful for managing and planning.

Prompted by a need to have such a document for museum grant applications, by conversations with Oriental Institute Volunteer (and
Organizational Development consultant) Shel Newman, and by a sense that larger priorities were being overwhelmed by the urgent daily crises that we confront in the Museum, in 2006 I began a discussion about strategic planning with Head of Museum Education Carole Krucoff and Head of Conservation Laura D’Alessandro, both of whom have extensive experience in the museum world. We looked at mission statements and strategic plans from other museums, met with each section of the Museum to identify priorities, and thought ourselves about what the Museum’s goals might be and how we could reach them. The final document, though brief, was in fact quite challenging to write. I consulted with Gil Stein and Steve Camp about individual points and broader ideas at each step along the way, and the Voting Members approved the text in the fall of 2007.

It is beyond the scope of this report to include the entire plan, but the revised mission statement is worth reprinting here.

As a major unit of the Oriental Institute, the Oriental Institute Museum promotes interest in and understanding of ancient civilizations of the Middle East, and their connections to the modern world, for a broad and diverse audience.

In order to tell the story of the rise of civilizations, communicate the excitement of archaeological, linguistic, and historical discovery, enhance understanding and appreciation of cultural similarities and differences, show connections between the ancient and modern worlds, and highlight the research of the Oriental Institute:

- we preserve our collections and information about them
- we facilitate and conduct research related to the collections
- we educate our general and scholarly audiences through informative and engaging exhibits, programs, and publications

The resulting strategic plan focused on three areas that we saw as our most urgent priorities.

The first of these is to increase public and scholarly access to the collections and research of the Oriental Institute. In 2007–2008 we inaugurated a program of posters on Oriental Institute research projects in the Star Chamber of the Museum, coordinated by Emily Teeter and designed by Hanau-Strain Associates. The first four posters present work of the CAMEL lab, Chicago House, the Hittite Dictionary, and the Zincirli project. We anticipate that other Institute research will be highlighted in this space in years to come. A number of other projects related to this goal are nearly completed, including the development of audiotours for the Museum, revising links and pages in the Museum portion of the Oriental Institute Web site for simpler access and navigation, and publishing books on highlights of our collections — Mesopotamia (by Karen Wilson) and Megiddo (by Gabrielle Novacek). Over the longer term, we will continue working toward this goal by publishing additional books of “highlights” from our collection and by contributing to the development of an integrated database that will ultimately display information about and photographs of our objects and archival collections.

The Museum’s second urgent priority is to continue to improve all aspects of our special exhibits program, from selection of topics that have broad interest (whether scholarly or public) through planning, fundraising, curation, and installation. The two special exhibits we installed this year — European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos; and Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past — were each outstanding in their own way.
We now have a regular planning process for special exhibits. Faculty, research staff, and graduate students can make proposals to a Special Exhibits committee, which makes recommendations to the Oriental Institute Director. Thanks to the work of the committee — Peter Dorman, Carole Krucoff, Emily Teeter, Don Whitcomb, and Chris Woods — we now have plans for exhibits over the next three years. While this may seem to be a long planning horizon, it is in fact a minimum to allow for fundraising, curation, catalog-writing, and exhibit design. We now plan the following exhibits over the next three years (titles and dates subject to change!):

- **Winter 2009**: The Life of Meresamun: Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt (curated by Emily Teeter)
- **Fall 2009**: The 1919/1920 Oriental Institute Expedition to the Near East (curated by John Larson)
- **Spring 2010**: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East (curated by Chris Woods)
- **Fall 2010**: Earliest Egypt (curated by Emily Teeter)
- **Spring 2011**: New Light on Earliest Kush (curated by Geoff Emberling and Bruce Williams)
- **Fall 2011**: The Lost Kingdom of Urartu (curated by Professor of Anthropology Adam Smith)

We have also begun a regular process of evaluation of special exhibits, with evaluations being designed by Carole Krucoff and implemented by very bright and energetic interns Brennan Jorgenson and Kate Flinner (with help from Sofia Fenner). These evaluations have given us a great deal of very useful information about what has worked well and what can be improved in future exhibits.

The third of our three urgent strategic priorities is to improve aspects of museum storage. The most pressing of these problems is our ongoing project, supported by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, to rehouse our object collections in state-of-the-art cabinets. We have been very fortunate to have received funding for this project over the past ten years, and although important parts of the collection remain to be rehoused, we can hope to be able to continue this project through to completion within the next few years.
Another extremely urgent collections-management problem is the state of the Archives, which are simply overflowing, making access to these records increasingly difficult. We have begun a triage of the collection by making the first shelf list of the records since they have arrived in this new storage area, and preparing to send some less-frequently used records to an off-site storage location for now. We will ultimately need to use the storage space in the Archives as efficiently as possible, which may involve constructing a mezzanine and installing compact rolling shelving.

At the same time as these larger strategic priorities are being addressed, the Museum staff has been efficiently working on the ongoing cataloging of the object collection, active scanning of groups of archival records and photographs, and preparation of a database of archives photographs.

An ongoing internship program with the Master of Arts Program in Social Studies, coordinated by Professor Morris Fred, had an extremely successful second year. We had nine interns this year working on projects in Education, Archives, the Prep Shop, Photography, and in Special Exhibits. They have allowed us to expand our activities greatly, and we thank them for their energy and enthusiasm.

The year to come promises to be extremely busy. To mention just a few highlights: We will be opening an exhibit on Meresamun, temple singer of Amun. We will be significantly improving signage in the lobby. We are hoping to begin giving more sustained attention to marketing across the Institute to increase attendance in the Museum and at events (thereby reaching both our educational and fundraising goals). We will soon begin a project to catalog the unregistered Assyrian reliefs in our basement storage, currently estimated at about 500 large and small fragments. We hope to publish books on the highlights of our Mesopotamian and Megiddo collections.

The quality of work being done in the Museum is emphasized by the range of support we have received from government grants, corporate sponsors, private foundations, and individual donors, and I would like to thank all of our supporters (too numerous to list here, but named in the back of this report).

I would also like to thank Gil Stein and Steve Camp for guidance and generous support both for Museum programs and for efforts to integrate Museum activities into the Institute more broadly. I thank each member of the Museum staff for consistently cooperative and efficient work — having such colleagues is a rare and good fortune. Our special-exhibit teams worked extremely well — in particular, I would like to mention Special Exhibit Coordinator Emily Teeter; curators Ian Manners, McGuire Gibson, and Katharyn Hanson; Jim Sopranos; Designer Dianne Hanau-Strain; Preparator Erik Lindahl; Curatorial Assistant Tom James; Photographer Anna Ressman; intern Sofia Fenner; and (last and certainly not least) Head of Education Carole Krucoff.

Finally, thanks to Peter Dorman as he leaves the Oriental Institute for the American University of Beirut — for his friendship, support of a wide range of museum programs, and many great meals and laughs along the way.
SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Emily Teeter

It is amazing how quickly a year flashes by and to realize that the time period covered by this report encompasses three special exhibits. The first, Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy, curated by Tanya Treptow and Associate Professor (Research Associate) Donald Whitcomb (see Annual Report 2006–2007, pp. 154–55) closed on October 14, 2007.

The exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos, opened November 2 and ran through March 16, 2008 (fig. 1). The show was made up primarily of maps from the collection of O. J. (Jim) Sopranos, the chair of our Visiting Committee. The concept for the exhibit originated from a conversation with Jim as I was admiring his collection. However, there is a lot of planning (about three and a half years in this case) that bridges the gap between the concept of a show and producing a meaningful exhibition. Of primary importance was finding a knowledgeable curator who could shape the materials into an understandable narrative. We were extremely lucky to find Ian Manners, Professor of Geography and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. Professor Manners was able to conceptualize the chronological perimeters of the exhibit and also to recommend what other materials had to be added to Jim’s collection to really tell the story of the mapping of the Ottoman empire and the exchange of cartographic information between east and west.

The exhibit led us into new curatorial waters, primarily with loans from the Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago’s Joseph Regenstein Library, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. We can say that we now have a much better understanding of the complexity associated with loans. We thank Alice Schreier, Director of the Special Collections Research Center and her staff Patty Gibbons, Preservation Manager, and Kerri Sancomb, Exhibition Specialist (who also made the complicated book cradles) for their assistance. At the Newberry Library, Robert W. Karrow, Jr., Curator of Maps, was a great advocate for the success of our exhibit, as were Program Assistant Lauren Reno and Director of Conservation Giselle Simon.

The exhibit opened with a discussion of the tradition of Ptolemy, then followed chronological innovations in cartography, features such as Mapping the City, and the importance and impact of travelers’ accounts to the development of new maps.

We again called upon Hanau-Strain Associates of Chicago to shape the physical appearance of the exhibit. The fragile works on paper and vellum posed a special problem for the design of the exhibit, because several of the maps could not be exposed to more than 3 foot-candles of light. Tom James and Erik Lindahl experimented with lighting and ultimately blocked the windows in the gallery. Although we posted signs alerting visitors that the light levels were extremely low out of consideration for the maps, we had a number of critical comments in the visitor’s book.
To compensate for the dimness of the gallery and the amount of information on the labels, Hanau-Strain Associations prepared a handsome binder of large-print labels.

The catalog, like the exhibit itself, put us in new depths of complexity. The text, written by Manners and M. Pınar Emiralioğlu, called upon our organizational talents to coordinate new photography of the maps with the securing of images of the loans and additional illustrations. Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer of our Publications Office did a remarkable job with the catalog, our first to include a series of foldouts. The publication would not have been possible without the generosity of the Dellenback Family Foundation, headed by Robert and Geraldine Dellenback who, with their love of travel, geography, and maps, generously supported the publication. We were honored that they were able to travel to Chicago to attend the opening of the exhibit.

On April 10, 2008, we opened Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past. The exhibit was curated by Professor McGuire Gibson and graduate student Katharyn Hanson with the assistance of Clemens Reichel. The exhibit preview was timed to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the looting of the National Museum in Baghdad. The opening included a candlelight vigil and comments by Donny George, former director of the National Museum in Baghdad.

As seems to be the rule in special exhibits, this one posed its own set of challenges. One was the tone of the exhibit; we were dedicated to keeping as neutral a political tone as possible while discussing a highly politicized series of events. Second, as pointed out by Carole Krucoff in the earliest stages of exhibit planning, was the need to have an element of resolution such as suggestions of what visitors could do to support the protection of cultural heritage. In response, Katharyn Hanson did a wonderful job creating interactive sections of the exhibit “What Has Been Done?” and “What Can be Done?” that include summaries of international and national legislation pertaining to cultural heritage, a brochure with a list of Web sites for further information, and postcards addressed to senators urging them to support legislation to protect archaeological heritage.

The core of the exhibit is a selection of very strong photographs documenting damage to the museum and to archaeological sites. Dealing with images from a wide variety of sources created an unforeseen difficulty. Some of them were taken with early digital equipment that lacked the resolution necessary to enlarge the images as required. Oriental Institute Photographer Anna Ressman skillfully managed to interpolate the images. We also thank Mike Lavoie of M&G Graphics who assisted with other key images.

The curatorial team felt that the addition of objects would make the exhibit more visually compelling. However, we recognized that we had to be extremely careful in their presentation to avoid giving the casual visitor the impression that the objects were looted from the Iraq National Museum. Under Katharyn’s direction, and with valuable input from Clemens Reichel, a selection of objects from the Oriental Institute’s own collection was used to illustrate the importance of archaeological context, and what sort of information is lost when an object is looted.
The exhibit included our first use of a video component. Thanks to Curatorial Assistant Tom James, intern Sofia Fenner, and the Chicago Media Initiative Group on campus, we were able to produce an eight-minute video loop of interviews and scenes of the museum and archaeological sites. The video succeeded in giving more immediacy and personality to the exhibit.

Early in the planning we realized how powerful the show was going to be and how important it is that it be shown elsewhere. Initially working with archaeologist Peter Stone, we produced a version of the exhibit that was shown at the Hatton Gallery in Newcastle and in Dublin during the Sixth World Archaeological Congress. Building on that experience, we have produced a traveling version of the exhibit supplied as digital files that can be printed by the host venue. We hope to have the exhibit shown in additional venues in the coming year. We welcome inquiries from museums, cultural centers, and archaeological societies.

In addition to the temporary exhibits in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery, a case of fake Egyptian antiquities was installed in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. This was presented in November in conjunction with a program on frauds co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute, the Chicago History Museum, and the Newberry Library. The small show presented objects and explained why each was judged to be a forgery, in some cases showing the model from which the fake was copied.

Publicity for special exhibits in the last year came from three main sources: the hard work of William Harms of the University’s News Office who spearheads publicity for the Institute’s academic work; feature stories about Museum activities; and collaboration with city-sponsored programs.

The Rayy exhibit received a 5-star (out of 6!) review in Time Out Chicago. It was also featured in the Hyde Park Herald as: “Medieval Persian City of Rayy Shines in Exhibit.”

A boon to our publicity efforts was the city-wide Festival of Maps that began in November 2007. This was backed by a professionally run, high-budget integrated marketing and publicity campaign to promote the group of institutions who were exhibiting cartographic related materials.
To be honest, it was a lucky coincidence that we participated in the Festival of Maps. For several years before the announcement of the Festival, we had been planning a map exhibit and we were able to adjust our opening date to match the Festival’s schedule.

Participation in the Festival of Maps brought us exposure that we could not have possibly organized or financed. We were included in a major kick-off press conference at the Field Museum with Mayor Daley. In preparation, Tom James and I prepared a very handsome digital press kit. The Festival’s ad campaign was built around the graphic of a large red dot (as in “you are here” on a map). Two versions of a print ad were produced, each featuring three museums, and we were one of the selected institutions. The ad ran in publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *Architectural Digest*, *The New Yorker*, *Chicago Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Where Chicago*, *Time Out Chicago*, and full pages in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun Times*. It also appeared on bus shelters throughout the city. One of the most valuable aspects of the collaboration was meeting and establishing relationships with many other city institutions. Other publicity specifically for our map show included two special features in *Saudi Aramco World* and a story in the *University of Chicago Magazine*.

As with our other special exhibits, we announced the show by means of banners on each side of the front door, and a gigantic red “you are here” Festival of Maps dot marked the entry of the exhibit.

The opening of the Catastrophe! exhibit on April 10 was scheduled to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the looting of the National Museum in Baghdad. The show has so far been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, *New City*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Life*, *Archaeology Magazine*, and the *Bloomberg News*.

In the last year, aided by intern Madelynn Baeyer, we experimented with a direct-mail campaign highlighting the Museum as a fun and stimulating destination for clubs, retirement centers, and religious institutions. In spite of our efforts, there was surprisingly little response, but it was a good experiment in trying to attract new audiences.

We are greatly pleased by the success of the catalog program. The publications continue to sell briskly through the Suq and our distributor. Most of them are already out of print and plans are being made to initially reprint John Larson’s book on the Breasted Nubian expedition and the map catalog. We are still experimenting with print runs. We printed 500 copies of *Daily Life Ornamented*, 740 for *European Cartographers*, and 1,000 for the *Catastrophe!* catalog. The greater number of the last was in anticipation of the exhibit having multiple venues.

REGISTRATION

**Helen McDonald and Susan Allison**

The most significant event of the year for Museum registration was the job search for a new Assistant Registrar and the appointment of Susan Allison, who joined us in March 2008. Susan received her M.A. in Egyptian Art and Archaeology from the University of Memphis and has worked at both the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She came to us from the Museum of Northern Arizona in
Flagstaff, where she had been organizing a major inventory project for their collection. Susan has plunged into the various tasks of registration with enthusiasm.

Following the success of another Institute of Museum and Library Services cabinet grant application by Laura D’Alessandro, we received another twenty cabinets in January of this year. Once Susan joined the staff we were able to begin the next stage of rehousing. Our current task is to unpack and rehouse ceramics from the site of Serra, one of the Aswan high dam salvage sites. Some of the material is unregistered, so we have had the additional task of registration. Susan is also taking digital photographs of a selection of the material as it is unpacked. Museum Preparator Erik Lindahl has been engaged in a project to rationalize the storage of our large stone items and heavier objects. This has been extremely helpful in making pieces more accessible and using space more effectively in storage.

This year we had two events that involved turning the Registration/Archives office area into a temporary display space. The first of these was a visit by the International Congress of Papyrologists on Sunday, August 5. Special Collections of the University of Chicago Regenstein Library lent us a selection of Greek papyri for this event. David Martinez of the Divinity School curated, and Erik Lindahl installed, an extra case in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery to display these papyri. In the Registration area we displayed a selection of Arabic and Demotic papyri for the papyrologists to peruse.

The second event was a visit by the International Bibliophiles group on October 2. The Oriental Institute was one of several institutions on their itinerary, the Newberry Library and Special Collections of the Regenstein, as well as a few private libraries being the others. We displayed several of our more attractive books and manuscripts, as well as a selection of our Islamic book bindings that had been part of a previous Oriental Institute Museum exhibit and catalog curated by John Carswell. Both these events were well attended and appreciated by the participants.

The Museum responded to an inquiry about dubious or faked items in our collection from the Chicago History Museum. They were planning a bus tour to a variety of Chicago’s museums on this theme. Emily Teeter curated, and Erik Lindahl installed, an extra case in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery displaying some of our more doubtful Egyptian items in time for the bus tour on November 10.

The Registration department has moved over 68,000 objects this year (a 20% increase on the previous year). Over 31,000 of these objects were the subject of research of all kinds and nearly 2,500 were used in teaching. Over 12,000 were newly registered, nearly 20,000 were inventoried, and almost 2,000 rehoused. The Museum database now has around 200,000 object numbers.

It has been a busy year for visiting researchers. The Amuq publication project has continued to be a main focus of activity, as three researchers, Lynn Swartz Dodd (Tell Judaidah), Marina Pucci (Chatal Höyük), and Heather Snow (Tell Tayinat), continued to work on final publications of the later levels at those sites. We have hosted visits from all the Amuq researchers this year and we continue to register both sherds and objects from Amuq sites. Marina Pucci left in March after a year and a half in Chicago, but is expected back for a visit in late July. Heather Snow and James Osborne (Tayinat, Iron I pottery) were with us for the month of January and James returned for a fortnight in May. Brian Janeway (Tayinat, Iron II pottery) came for a week in June and Lynn Swartz Dodd came for visits in January and March. Both Marina and Lynn have recruited NELC students to assist with digital imaging and database work (Courtney Jacobson, Dan Mahoney, Natasha Ayers, and Virginia Rimmer for Judaidah and Tamara Leviton for Chatal Höyük). So the Amuq office in the Archaeology Labs has also been a hive of activity.

Eliot Braun came for two weeks in October to work on the material from the Megiddo early stages. This period at the site had been identified by the excavators as Chalcolithic, but it is now...
understood to be Early Bronze Age in date. Eliot is preparing a systematic publication of this material.

Eric McCann visited for three weeks in December 2007 to study a series of tomb groups from the Nubian sites of Qustul and Ballana dating to the late Meroitic, post-Meroitic, and early X Group periods. This study is part of his Ph.D.

Tasha Vorderstrasse was here for a few days in December to look at our Islamic glazed Minai ware from the site of Rayy (Iran) as part of a larger study of Minai ware.

Lisa Kealhofer and Peter Grave of the Anatolian Iron Age project came for ten days in April of this year. They had applied for permission to sample Alishar pot sherds for neutron activation analysis. The project has already sampled sherds from Kerkenes Dağ and Cadir Höyük among other sites and has collected a variety of clay sources around Alishar. Due to time constraints, the Registrars needed to register the sherds to be sampled immediately before the samples were taken. We registered some 300 sherds during their visit. Sampling was carried out under the watchful eye of head conservator Laura D’Alessandro. The samples have been sent to a lab in Australia for processing and then to the reactor and it is hoped that results will be available later this year.

The collections continue to be used for teaching and research by Oriental Institute staff, NELC faculty, and students.

Donald Whitcomb used Islamic sherds from Samarra and Fustat for a class held in the winter quarter.

Jan Johnson used papyrus OIM 19422 for a class in February.

McGuire Gibson used a quantity of sherds from the Nippur and from the Adams Akkad and Warka surveys for a class on Mesopotamian pottery in the winter quarter. He borrowed some of the same material again in order to discuss the ceramics of southern Mesopotamia with visiting researchers.

Robert Ritner used the largest Demotic marriage contract, OIM 17481, for a class in the spring quarter.

Hratch Papazian once again used two hieratic ostraca for a class in the autumn quarter.

Abbas Alizadeh used Chogha Mish sherds for a course on the earlier pottery of Susiana in the spring quarter. This gave us the opportunity to keep his selection of sherds together as a teaching collection for the Early, Archaic, Middle, and Late Susiana periods.

Nadine Moeller used a selection of Egyptian pottery for a class on the material culture of the Old Kingdom in the spring term.

Karen Wilson completed her work on material from Bismaya and has been working on a guide to the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamia Gallery. She is now also working on a publication of the pottery from the Inanna temple sounding at Nippur with McGuire Gibson and others. These sherds came to the Oriental Institute from the Institute of Fine Arts in New York, after the sad passing of Donald Hansen who had been working on the material.

Angela Altenhofen has continued to draw seal impressions for the Diyala project. She has also been drawing votive bed fragments for a forthcoming volume on material from Medinet Habu by Emily Teeter. The Coptic lintel on display in the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery was drawn by her for Robert Ritner’s article in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

Benjamin Studevant-Hickman studied Bismaya tablets.

Mike Fisher studied a selection of Diyala sealings for a class paper.

Erika Morey studied Egyptian miniature ceramic vessels for a paper for Nadine Moeller’s Old Kingdom material culture class. Courtney Jacobson did the same for a selection of Egyptian stone vessels.

Elise MacArthur studied Pre- and Early Dynastic Egyptian objects.
Tynan Kelly has been working on two of our Druze manuscripts for his undergraduate dissertation.

Katharyn Hanson and Clemens Reichel examined and selected Diyala seals and tablets for the Catastrophe! exhibit.

John Dechant came in to look at some of our more decorated Arabic and Persian manuscripts with a view to selecting illustrations for Michael Sells’ module on Writing and Literature to appear on the Oriental Institute Web site.

It has also been a busy year for loans. Earlier this year we lent an incantation bowl to the Institute of Humanities of the University of Michigan for an exhibit called Spirit into Script to mark the opening of their new building. At the end of March the Smart Museum of the University of Chicago borrowed several Diyala worshipper statues, a couple of Syro-Palestinian metal figurines of deities, and a tablet whose text relates to divine statues. At the time of writing, there is an exhibit called Idol Anxiety that explores representations of the divine in a variety of ancient and more recent societies at the Smart Museum. In February we lent the four-faced bronze god statuette from Ischali (Diyala) and one of our Bardin oil paintings of Babylon to an exhibit held in the Louvre (Paris) entitled Babylone. This traveling exhibition has now moved on to the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The painting is already back here and the bronze god will return in October. The loan of the bronze god was a particular challenge for the Museum loan committee. It was decided that in case of loss or damage, it would be best if a three dimensional scan could be made before it went out on loan. Laura D’Alessandro investigated the various alternatives and in February the company Direct Dimension came in with some very high-tech equipment to do the scanning. At the end of June we will be lending a papyrus relating to the Emperor Hadrian to the British Museum (London) for an exhibit entitled Hadrian: Empire and Conflict.

As to incoming loans, the exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos was almost all loaned material. The largest part of the exhibit consisted of maps lent from the collection of O. J. (Jim) Sopranos. There were also loans from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and Special Collections of the Regenstein.

We have answered queries on subjects as diverse as Egyptian royal figured ostraca, statues of the goddess Sekhmet, Nubian human remains, the fittings of Egyptian portable shrines, and provided detailed measurements of some of the Megiddo gold jewelry.

These accomplishments have been made possible by the capable and efficient efforts of our Museum Assistant Courtney Jacobson, with the assistance of a wonderful group of volunteers, including Joan Barghusen, Gretel Braidwood, Joe Diamond, Alison Hade, Janet Helman, Barbara Levin, Daila Shefner, Toni Smith, Jim Sopranos, and Raymond Tindel. This summer we have also been joined by intern Lara Weiss, an Egyptology student from the University of Leiden. She has been assisting with the rehousing and registration of the Serra material. The volunteers have altogether contributed well over a thousand hours of their time to Museum Registration and we are grateful for all their help.
As of December 2007, John Larson has served as Museum Archivist for twenty-seven years.

Photographic Services
Margaret Schroeder, Assistant Archivist, is responsible for preparing the paperwork and handling all the other details that are involved in processing the requests we receive for Oriental Institute proprietary images and reproduction permissions. Between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, Margaret logged 262 requests. This represents an increase of 12 percent over the total for the previous fiscal year. Income for 2007–2008 totaled $11,537.00, a decline of 14 percent from last year’s figure. The income from photographic image sales and reproduction fees enables us to purchase archival supplies and equipment for the Archives and for Photography.

Margaret has also scanned several thousand of the black-and-white negatives in the Archives and entered the metadata for the images into our photo image database.

Archives
Visiting scholars during fiscal year 2007–2008 included Jeffrey Abt, Gwenda Blair, Frederick Bohrer, Eliot Braun, Lynn Schwarz Dodd, Eric McCann, Ali Mousavi, James Osborne, Marina Pucci, and Heather Snow. From within our own Oriental Institute community, Vanessa Davies, Robert Ritner, Emily Teeter, and Karen L. Wilson have conducted research using Archives materials. On January 24, 2008, John Larson conducted a behind-the-scenes tour and set up a small Archives exhibit for a group of representatives from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois — the Alma Mater of our founder, James Henry Breasted. We would also like to thank Thomas James for his many contributions to the operation of the Archives.

Recent Acquisitions
A generous gift from Barbara Breasted Whitesides has enabled us to purchase a third digital scanning work station for the Archives, including a large-format scanner that can accommodate originals measuring up to 11 × 14". A gift from Patrick Regnery and the Coleman Foundation supports the ongoing project of Carole Yoshida in the Oriental Institute’s slide library. We would like to thank Barbara and Patrick for their thoughtful and generous contributions to the work of the Oriental Institute Archives. We would also like to thank Prof. Emer. Robert D. Biggs and Prof. Emer. John A. Brinkman for their contributions of Oriental Institute-related ephemera to the Archives during the past year.

Volunteers and Student Assistants
The following people have contributed their time during fiscal year 2007–2008 and have made it possible for us to begin, continue, and complete a number of projects in the Oriental Institute Archives that would not have been possible without their generosity and dedication: Hazel Cramer, Peggy Grant, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Roberta Kovitz, Lillian Schwartz, Robert Wagner, and Carole Yoshida. We are very grateful for the services of these volunteers, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge them here for their efforts on behalf of the Archives.
Throughout the summer of 2007, Jessica Henderson worked on new shelf lists for the Archives Storage Room and other tasks, under the supervision of John Larson. During the academic year, John was assisted by Bryan Moles and by two graduate students from the MAPSS program, Eliza Chiasson and Shir Lerman. Elizabeth Wolfson began working as a summer intern in the Archives on June 9, 2008.

CONSERVATION
Laura D’Alessandro

Over the past twelve months the conservation laboratory has been filled to capacity as the Oriental Institute hosted two back-to-back conservation training programs for conservators from the Middle East. When Gil Stein announced last year that the Institute had received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund two six-month training programs, we never envisioned that the programs would run consecutively. But the timing of the programs was dependent on the participants’ success in obtaining visas, and, as they were approved, the programs’ timetables were set.

Between providing lectures, workshops, and hands-on practical training, the conservation staff was kept busy. Alison Whyte, Assistant Conservator, and Monica Hudak, Contract Conservator, had active roles in the training programs and were key to their success. Many people within the Institute helped with all the administrative and logistical issues that arose and we thank all of them. Despite a very full schedule, the visiting conservators also found time to take in some of the cultural sights of Chicago; took back many photographs; and, hopefully, many wonderful memories of their time here.

The eagerly anticipated laser-cleaning system, funded by a generous grant by the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago, is soon to become a reality. The training programs delayed the arrival of the laser but it has finally been ordered and should be here by summer’s end. The conservation staff will be receiving basic training on the equipment this summer, but in the late fall will attend a specialized course in Liverpool, England. Unique among training programs, this course focuses on the science involved in using lasers on art objects.

Despite the heavy demands of the training programs, Alison still found time to take part in the myriad activities associated with the Museum’s special exhibits and loans. In addition, in the spring, Alison attended the annual meeting of the American Institute of Conservation held in Denver, Colorado, where she presented a poster of her work on the analysis and conservation of an interesting salt-crystal growth on several objects in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery.

Monica was kept busy with duties associated with the training program, but her primary focus the past six months has been her continued work as contract conservator for the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project. She has been ably assisted by Jeanne Mandel, a part-time contract conservator, who has been working with Monica on the conservation of these important artifacts.

As we look back on the past year, we realize that, despite the hard work and general craziness that was part and parcel of the training programs, we can see that the opportunity afforded by
these programs — to spend time with our Middle Eastern colleagues in a peaceful environment and share common experiences — was truly priceless. All our colleagues have returned home and rejoined their families and co-workers. With all of the uncertainties that they deal with on a daily basis, we can only send our thoughts and wishes for their continued well-being.

PREP SHOP

Erik Lindahl

The Prep Shop would like to say thank you to everyone who has kept us busy with a wide range of challenges this year. Together we have designed, built, moved, and removed many things. New programs were created, exhibit materials were gathered from near and far, and space was made for future projects. This year was a year of growth. The majority of the last year was spent working on two exhibits and the construction of the new Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. The balance of our time was spent maintaining the Museum with the help of intern Allison Hade, making space in the basement for both new storage cabinets and work related to the eventual publication of the Assyrian relief fragments in the collection, and building a retail display case for the Suq.

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos was an exciting and polished exhibit that was executed seemingly flawlessly as a result of positive attitudes, much cooperation, skill, and many deadlines met in a timely manner by all those involved. These maps from the collection of Jim Sopranos, the Newberry Library, Special Collections of the Regenstein Library, and the Walters Art Museum were displayed beautifully in cases, some of which were fabricated here at the Oriental Institute with the help of Andrew Furse. The framing of the wall-hung pieces was also done in house. Kerri Sancomb, Exhibition Specialist from Regenstein Special Collections, was able to spare some time to help us both construct cradles for the books and install the exhibit. David Marine was on hand as Assistant Preparator. The challenges of this exhibit were the low and varied light level restrictions, coordinating with lending institutions to meet their needs, and maintaining a good work flow.

The Catastrophe! exhibit was a departure from the sort of exhibit we usually put together at the Oriental Institute. It was invigorating to try some new things and satisfying to work on such a timely subject. McGuire Gibson’s knowledge, connections, and drive coupled with Katharyn Hanson’s excitement and diligence created a wonderful curatorial dynamic. The consensus among the design team was that we wanted a more open feel for this show, with a hint of modern Middle Eastern museum aesthetic. This was accomplished through choice of wall color, high-contrast lighting, and the use of smaller display cases on which we applied a cement veneer. The Chicago Media Initiatives Group’s Ben Holtz helped out with the video installation, and Rob Soller was on hand as Assistant Preparator. John Larson was kind enough to supply us with archive materials to enrich the display. The only real problem we encountered during the production was related to the use photos of less-than-ideal quality, and this was handled deftly by Anna Ressman.

The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center is coming together very smoothly, especially considering its scope and accelerated production schedule. This project has demonstrated
the ability of many different departments within the Oriental Institute to come together as a team to achieve a complicated goal in short period of time; faculty, administrative staff, Museum Education, students, Museum staff, Development, and the Director’s Office have all worked together on this project. Here in the Prep Shop we had Brian Zimerle, Mat Federico, Rob Soller, and intern Allison Hade on hand for all the various stages of the construction of our now almost-complete collapsible tel.

Many things have been moved around the basement in the last year. In an effort to make space for new cabinets and the eventual publication of the Assyrian reliefs we have been assisting Registration in the rearrangement of basement storage. The positive added benefit of this space-management project will be that all the Assyrian relief fragments will be in one room.

The final stage of the Museum reinstallation project, the lobby redesign, is under way. As a part of this, the Suq has been receiving a gradual face-lift and the Prep Shop has been helping. With the consultation of Denise Browning we constructed a new display case for books and other items.

This last year has been an exciting one. With the official opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center and the Meresamun special exhibit on the horizon, the next looks as if it shall be as well.

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SUQ

Denise Browning

The Suq was thrilled to welcome three new volunteers this year! Ray Broms, Erika Coleman, and Judy Bell-Qualls. They have been a wonderful addition to the Suq.

In June the Suq participated for the first time in the Arabesque Festival downtown at Daley Plaza. The festival celebrated Arabic culture, cuisine, and music. We decorated our booth as a Middle Eastern suq and filled it with the many items we carry in our shop. We handed out over 500 brochures promoting the Oriental Institute to people who had never heard about us. Hopefully, this will translate into many new visitors and donors.

We had two major improvements to the infrastructure of the Suq. First, Erik Lindahl, Museum Preparator, built for the Suq three beautiful cases, one with lights, to upgrade our presence in the lobby. Second, we upgraded our computer and POS system, which keeps track of all our sales and inventory. Now we are able to produce very up-to-date sales analyses of our operations.

The European Cartographers exhibit allowed us to carry many wonderful new items. We developed

*The Suq’s booth at the Arabesque Festival, held at the Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago. This year, the Suq won second place for best booth design. This festival of Arab and Middle Eastern culture is held in Chicago every year*
three note cards and two posters for the exhibit, which continue to sell quite well.

In these economically challenged times the Suq was still able to achieve a 2 percent increase over last year’s sales. None of this would have been possible without the help of our volunteers and staff. We continue to rely on our long-time loyal volunteers Peggy Grant and Norma van der Meulen (pictured), along with our three new volunteers. Their energy and enthusiasm attract many customers to the Suq. Norma also designs and creates such beautiful and unique jewelry for the shop!

Jennifer Westerfeld continues as our book buyer and marketing designer. Florence Ovadia continues to develop new and exciting displays. Plus, our student staff keeps us stocked and ready to go.

Many thanks to Amanda Finney, Alycia Hesse, Ashley Stanton, Jessica Moore, Nicole Lasky, and Megaera Lorenz.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Anna R. Ressman

It has been a year of change for the Photography Department since I began working as the new Photographer for the Museum in September 2007. In the fall we were very lucky to hire an excellent intern and Photography Assistant, Kevin Bryce Lowry, an archaeologist and graduate student in the MAPSS program. Much of what has been accomplished this year could not have been done as well or as quickly without his help and hard work.

Due to advances in photographic technology and the rapidly declining availability of professional film and papers, the department is in the process of transitioning to a digital-based photographic studio. This transition requires a complete overhaul of equipment and working spaces. I spent many months researching which equipment will be most useful for the photographic needs of the Museum and am now in the process of writing a proposal for the funds needed to complete the modernization of the Photography Department.

Since the fall we have been cleaning out of the studio obsolete (and very hot) lights, backgrounds, and various accessories to make space for three customized lighting set ups I have designed for different types of object photography. A studio table with a large and durable surface for multiple small objects requiring precise macro-photography from above is currently under construction. Also being built is a flexible and efficient setup for photographing large objects with the same precision as the small-object photography. The lighting table originally purchased this October for small- and medium-object photography is being re-purposed as a dedicated setup for head-on photography of medium-sized objects. The other big change I hope to make in the studio
is the installation of tracks in the ceiling to replace tripods and light stands. This will increase the overall efficiency of the studio by decreasing set-up time and maximizing floor space to allow for simultaneous shoots. The ceiling tracks will also protect artifacts from accidental damage by decreasing the amount of equipment that must be navigated as artifacts are moved to and from lighting tables.

The Photography Department darkrooms have been cleared of film and paper developing chemicals. The various tools needed for film-based print making, including enlargers, lenses, and filters, are being consolidated and prepared for safe storage, as much of this equipment will be retained for occasional development of the most arcane formats in the Museum’s archives. We hope to be able to purchase a laptop and additional computers in the upcoming year. The laptop will increase the quality of in situ photo shoots in the galleries and storage spaces, while the additional workstations will decrease processing and printing time. A workstation in the studio will provide the capability for live-view shoots, which means the camera will be controlled remotely through the computer while the monitor displays, in great detail, the scene that will be captured once the shutter is triggered. The live-view function will decrease the amount of time the objects are under the lights and will reduce the number of times an object is handled during a shoot.

The Department only owns one digital camera, which is now a few years old and was not designed for the demands of high-quality studio photography. The rest of the cameras are film based, including all the medium- and large-format equipment. In the coming year we hope to begin the modernization of our camera and lens stock with the purchase of professional-grade digital cameras and lenses. It is a large undertaking to replace an entire photography studio’s inventory of equipment that was amassed over many decades. However, it will be worth it to bring all of the Museum’s new photography in line with current requirements for digital printing and publishing.

In the midst of all of this transition, the Photography Department has been working on many interesting and exciting projects. The bulk of the new photography for the highlights book of the Mesopotamia collection has been completed and work is rapidly progressing for the highlights book of the Megiddo collection. In the process of completing these projects, new photographs
have been taken of some of the Museum’s most important artifacts, including OIM A7119, a bronze four-faced god from Mesopotamia, and OIM A22212, an ivory plaque carved with a griffin from Megiddo. Other projects have included images for inclusion in an upcoming catalog from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as objects being loaned to various museums for exhibition, including the Louvre and the British Museum.

Another major project this past year was the processing of the photographs used in the special exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past. These were images by other photographers and archaeologists that came in as many formats as there were photographers. All the image files needed to be prepared for the large-format printing process used to create the panel displays of the exhibit. Many of the images were taken on early digital camera models that were made to produce standard enlargements no bigger than $8 \times 10”$, not the large sizes that the exhibit required — some were over five feet wide!

Recently, photography was begun for the upcoming special exhibit on the mummy Meresamun. She was removed from her case in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery and transported to the University of Chicago Hospital for a CT scan. Photography was taken of the entire process, including her trip in a moving van and the actual CT scan. Other projects have included the installation record of the special exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos. A record was also made for the Catastrophe! exhibit, as well as of the opening night reception and the corresponding symposium, Looting the Cradle of Civilization: The Loss of History in Iraq. Event photography was taken for many of the excellent programs held in the Museum this past year, including a speech given by Ali Babacan, Turkey’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, and a retrospective of the photographic work of Jean Grant, my predecessor and the Museum’s Photographer for over thirty years.

I would like to thank everyone at the Institute for their willingness to help me in my first year as the Museum’s Photographer. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with so many people who are very accomplished and extremely friendly. Those in the Registration and Conservation departments with whom I work most regularly on photo shoots are always willing to answer my questions. I also need to acknowledge a few individuals for their time and hard work. Thomas James, the Museum’s Curatorial Assistant, graciously offered his help whenever it was needed. Both he and Erik Lindahl, the Museum’s Preparator, worked very hard during the re-organization of the Department’s workspaces. Meggie Shortle became a Photography Assistant volunteer this spring and has been helping me during shoots once a week. Volunteer Carole Yoshida was instrumental in making sure that all of Jean Grant’s personal belongings made it safely to her home.
MUSEUM EDUCATION

Carole Krucoff

Educational activities for adults, youth, and families served 17,956 participants this past year, an increase of 19.6 percent from the previous year. This increase is largely due to the family activities Museum Education is providing for children and their parents, and to a broad range of collaborations with long-time and new partners on campus, throughout the community, and even across the nation. Collaborations ranging from adult education to media campaigns to grant funded projects are visible throughout this report.

Support from the Polk Bros. Foundation and Chicago Public Schools is helping us provide in-depth museum learning experiences for families, teachers, and students. The Geographic Society of Chicago, the Replogle Foundation, and the University of Chicago’s Center for International Studies have helped us offer professional development programming for K–12 teachers. And a major award from the National Endowment for the Humanities is supporting a ground-breaking initiative to provide high-school educators with online resources to help build student understanding of the ancient and contemporary Middle East.

Major Initiatives for Teachers and Students

Empowering teachers to enrich student learning through meaningful classroom and museum study of ancient civilizations is a mandate for Museum Education. A vital way for us to reach this goal is to draw upon the scholarly expertise, renowned collections, and online capabilities of the Oriental Institute. This past year three very different initiatives helped us meet this mandate in ways that will benefit teachers and students today and well into the future.

Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators

In 2007 the Oriental Institute and two on-campus partners — the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and the e-CUIP Digital Library Project of the Chicago Public Schools/University of Chicago Internet Project — received a major award from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators. The goal of this two-year project is to provide high-school world-history teachers across the nation with an extensive online resource that draws upon the best in humanities scholarship to help build student understanding of the ancient and contemporary Middle East (fig. 1). At present, such material is in short supply or, in many cases, does not even exist. Teaching the Middle East will provide an online learning library that enables educators nationwide to focus on key issues and events, shape meaningful lesson plans on the Middle East, and help their students examine the stereotypes that abound in today’s society.

**Figure 1. Web site for Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators features the University of Chicago scholars contributing to this National Endowment for the Humanities project**

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The academic essays in Teaching the Middle East’s online learning library are being created by thirteen University of Chicago scholars:

- Orit Bashkin, Assistant Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History
- Fred M. Donner, Professor of Near Eastern History
- Geoff Emberling, Museum Director of the Oriental Institute
- Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology
- Wadad Kadi, The Avalon Foundation Distinguished Service Professor of Islamic Studies
- Michael Sells, John Henry Barrows Professor of Islamic History and Literature in the Divinity School
- A. Holly Shissler, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Assistant Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish History
- Gil J. Stein, Professor of Archaeology and Director of the Oriental Institute
- Martin Stokes, Professor of Music and Ethnomusicology at the University of Oxford and former Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago
- Matthew W. Stolper, Professor of Assyriology and the John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies
- Christopher Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerology
- John E. Woods, Professor of Iranian and Central Asian History, and of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Martha Roth, Professor of Assyriology, was also an original contributor. When she recently became Dean of the Humanities, Professor Roth asked if Jennie Myers, Research Associate and Assyriologist, might take her place. Dr. Myers graciously agreed and joined us this summer.

Seventeen graduate research assistants from CMES are helping the project’s scholars. Eight high-school educators have become our Teacher Advisory Board. These educators, whose feedback and ideas have been invaluable, include: Farhat Khan, Manager of the Multicultural Resource Center of the Office of Language and Cultural Education for Chicago Public Schools; Maryhelen Matijevic, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Mount Carmel High School; Blake Noel, Social Studies teacher, Bronzeville Scholastic Institute; Lisa Perez, Area Library Coordinator, Department of Libraries and Information Services for Chicago Public Schools; Peter Scheidler, Social Studies teacher, and Mike Shea, World Studies teacher, both of Kenwood Academy High School; Laura Wangerin, History teacher, Latin School of Chicago; and Howard Wright, World Studies/History teacher, Hinsdale South High School.

Wendy Ennes, Oriental Institute Museum Education’s Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator, is the manager and driving force of this wide-ranging project. She supervises the work of the CMES students; creates and manages the timetable for the entire project; plans and facilitates meetings with faculty, student assistants, and teacher advisors; provides photography for imagery used in the project; and handles all budgetary concerns. Rasheed Hosein, former Director of Outreach for CMES, was her initial management collaborator. Alex Barna, CMES’s new Outreach Coordinator, is now the CMES liaison. Christie Thomas and Steven Lane of e-CUIP are designing the Teaching the Middle East Web site, and Julia Borst Brazas is the project’s professional evaluator. This unique and extraordinary partnership, which combines the expertise of scholars,
teachers, museum educators, and technology professionals, holds great promise to enrich teaching and learning about the Middle East for many years to come.

**The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center**

This year, the Oriental Institute became the home of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, a simulated archaeological dig that recreates an ancient Near Eastern excavation site. Located in the LaSalle Banks Room, this exciting hands-on learning environment is designed to involve teachers, students, and other participants in experiencing the joys and challenges of archaeological discovery.

Each year, thousands of schoolchildren visit the Oriental Institute to explore our renowned ancient Near Eastern collection as part of their state-mandated curriculum on the ancient world. The Kipper Center allows us to enrich the educational value of these museum visits by inviting students to investigate ancient civilizations with the methods archaeologists use to unearth the past. In the Kipper Center, school groups use real tools to excavate trenches where they discover authentically designed artifact reproductions, including cuneiform tablets, oil lamps, jewelry, pottery sherds, human and animal figurines, and much more. They are then encouraged to think like scientists as they record and analyze their findings. After learning these processes, the groups take docent-led tours to discover how artifacts excavated by the Oriental Institute have gone “from ground to gallery,” bringing the ancient world to life.

The Kipper Center builds upon the acclaimed work of the Rosenbaum ARTifact Center, a simulated dig in operation at Chicago’s Spertus Museum for more than fifteen years. In 2006, the Center closed as part of the museum’s move to a new facility. Realizing how central the study of archaeology can be to school curricula, Spertus staff invited the Oriental Institute to purchase the resources of the ARTifact Center, which relate so well to the scope of the Oriental Institute’s collection and the excavations that have brought that collection to light. Susan Bass Marcus, Educator Emerita at the Spertus Museum and former Curator of the ARTifact Center, became our consultant as we reshaped and expanded the Spertus program in ways that illuminate the collections, excavations, and research mission of the Oriental Institute.

Constructing our own simulated excavation, modeling it as a “tel” in ancient Israel to connect with the museum’s exhibit on Oriental Institute excavations at Megiddo, and then developing the educational programming for our tel, was a year-long process that involved a whole team of Institute and Museum staff and docents. Aiding the team was a corps of student interns from the University of Chicago’s Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), who were introduced to us by Morris Fred, MAPSS Program Instructor and former Director of the Spertus Museum. Graduate student interns from other universities with an interest in the project also joined us.

During our development phase, Gil Stein, Oriental Institute Director, and Geoff Emberling, Museum Director, served as advisors on historical content and archaeological processes. Susan Marcus provided invaluable advice on the shaping of the tel’s educational program as a whole. Erik Lindahl, Head Preparator, planned and executed a brilliant tel design that opens and closes like stadium bleachers to retain the LaSalle Room’s flexibility as a multi-purpose space. Wendy Ennes, joined by MAPSS intern Lauren Vander Pluym and intern Katie Pawlicki from the University of Oklahoma, created the content and innovative “comic book” design of a pre-visit guide that teachers can use to prepare students for their dig experience (fig. 2). Wendy and Education Programs Assistant Jessica Caracci developed the educational materials for student use during the dig experience. Jessica also assumed overall responsibility for keeping us on schedule and
supervising all the interns involved in the project. Along with Lauren and Katie, these included Anneliese Bruegel from Albion College and Anna Cohen and Julie Shackelford from the MAPSS program. They conducted research for the time periods of our tel, and then determined, obtained, and sometimes even created new artifact reproductions for the tel’s trenches. Eudora Struble, University of Chicago Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, supported the interns in their research.

Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman advised on all aspects of the tel’s development but focused their attention on the museum tour portion of the program. They were joined by docents Joe Diamond, Larry Lissak, and Roy Miller. Together they worked on new guided tour approaches to help students integrate and expand upon the themes and artifacts encountered during the dig.

To test the effectiveness of our efforts, we ended the development phase by piloting the program and obtaining feedback from teachers and students. Three sixth grade classes, each from
a different school, came to experience the entire dig and tour program, which was led for them by our interns and docents (figs. 3–4). When asked to evaluate the educational impact of the program all of the teachers ranked it as excellent. Even the students ranked the program highly. When they filled out forms asking what should be changed or improved, their most common answer was “Don’t change anything. It was great!”

Full operation of the Kipper Center is set to begin in fall 2008 with an emphasis on serving teachers and students in metropolitan-area schools. As the program continues we envision the Center becoming a springboard for a wide variety of programs and services that will serve families, youth, and special-needs audiences throughout Chicago and beyond.

**Interactive Learning and the Middle East: Serving Schools and the Latino Community**

Over the past several years, the generosity of the Polk Bros. Foundation has enabled us to reach underserved school and family audiences in engaging and meaningful ways. Most recently, this partnership has focused on producing Family Activity Cards in both English and Spanish for all our galleries and interactive computer activities that are now available on computer kiosks throughout the Museum.

This winter, the Polk Bros. Foundation awarded us a major new grant for Interactive Learning and the Middle East: Serving Schools and the Latino Community. This new project is allowing us to develop a Spanish-language version for our computer kiosks, which will transform our Museum into a truly welcoming environment for parents and children from Chicago’s growing Latino community. However, this new award also addresses another vital audience — underserved teachers and students in the Chicago Public Schools.

Since the installation of Family Activity Cards and computer kiosks into our galleries, teachers and administrators visiting the Museum have told us these resources would significantly enrich state-mandated curriculum for subject matter and technology instruction if they were available for classroom use. The Interactive Learning project is helping us do exactly that! This spring an advisory panel of sixth-grade teachers representing a broad cross section of schools and student needs joined us to help transform the Family Activity Cards and computer interactives into curriculum-related DVDs in both English and Spanish. Our advisors include: Ninfa Flores from Nightingale School, where the student population is almost entirely Latino; Joanne Groshek from Bell School, whose classes include hearing-impaired and other special-needs students; Jeff Sadoff from Jackson Language Academy, which has a large gifted student population; Stephanie Davis from Fiske School, where the student population is almost entirely African-American; and Mary Cobb from Ray School in the Hyde Park community that surrounds the University of Chicago. Partnering with these teachers is key to the solid educational outcomes we believe will emerge from this project.

Along with our advisors, the Museum staff and consultants involved in the Interactive Learning project have all the expertise needed to ensure its success. Maria Teresa Chagnon, who holds a degree in Romance Languages from the University of Chicago, is translating into Spanish all the written and spoken information that accompanies each computer kiosk activity. Ninfa Flores, a member of our teacher advisory panel, is also serving as the project’s Spanish-language editor, a crucial role since her expertise as a bilingual education teacher makes her aware of student language needs. Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Dueñas, who is fluent in Spanish, is consulting on ways Spanish-speaking visitors can best be introduced to the Museum collection.
Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, who holds a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Chicago, served as computer programmer and multimedia architect for all our computer kiosk interactives. He has returned for this new project, bringing all the technological skills needed to transform our activities into a bilingual format for the kiosks and to develop a bilingual DVD that provides educationally sound teaching and learning resources. Wendy Ennes is serving as the project’s Art Director, the role she played in the development of our Family Activity Cards and kiosks (fig. 5). Wendy is supervising the scheduling for the Spanish translation process. She will also supervise the redesign of computer formats for the new Spanish-language version and will develop the format and design for the new DVDs. In addition, Wendy is facilitating the teacher advisory panel meetings and their creation of supplemental materials and lesson plans for the DVDs. Once the DVDs are produced, Jessica Caracci will design and implement a marketing campaign for them, so that information about these unique educational resources is available to teachers locally, regionally, and nationally, as well as to educators in Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Other Teacher Services

We are always seeking avenues to familiarize elementary and high school teachers with the many ways Oriental Institute resources can help enrich study of the ancient world for students. While outreach through mailings and the Internet is vital, face-to-face interaction is also an important vehicle for reaching the community’s educators. This fall we took part in the Chicago Cultural Center’s Spotlight on Chicago, a resource fair for teachers and administrators sponsored by the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs. At this event, Jessica Caracci and Kathleen Mineck, docent and Oriental Institute Ph.D. candidate and Chicago Hittite Dictionary Research Professional, highlighted our guided gallery tours, award-winning curriculum guides, and the rich array of teaching and learning resources we make available in our online Teacher Resource Center (fig. 6). They also collected names and e-mail addresses of all the educators from throughout the metropolitan area who stopped by the Oriental Institute booth. Taking part in outreach events like this is invaluable in helping us share information about our current and new educational programming.
Adult Education

As with teacher services, collaboration was the watchword for this past year’s adult education programs. These ranged from on-campus courses, correspondence classes, and a course offered on the Internet to a broad range of special events and free drop-by programs available throughout the year.

Courses

Many of our adult education courses and programs are offered in partnership with the University of Chicago’s Graham School of General Studies. This year we offered a wide variety of topics and experimented with two new formats. Our multi-session on-campus courses included Nubia: Kingdoms and Cultures of Ancient Africa, taught by Debora Heard; Houses of Mystery: Temples of the Ancient Near East, taught by David Calabro; Herodotus: Father of History, Father of Lies, taught by Dennis Campbell, and You Say Watar, I Say Water: In Search of Indo-Europeans, taught by Ilya Yakubovich.

A special two-part seminar, Spying on the Ancients: Archaeology From Above in the Middle East, took place in a University of Chicago computer laboratory. There, Joshua Trampier provided a hands-on introduction to ways the Oriental Institute’s CAMEL Laboratory uses satellite imagery, geographical information systems, and NASA space shuttle mapping to locate and “reconstruct” ancient cities. And we broke new ground by presenting Iran Past and Present, a course taught entirely online by Toby Hartnell, who presented slide lectures, moderated online group discussions, and took students on virtual tours to Iranian archeological and contemporary sites.

Correspondence courses were another approach to distance learning. Hieroglyphs by Mail, taught by Andrew Baumann and Mary Szbady, and Cuneiform by Mail, taught by Dennis Campbell and Monica Crews, attracted more than 100 students from across the nation and around the world, including locations that ranged from Canada to Belgium to South Africa.

Special Events and Drop-by Programs

The Oriental Institute Museum’s special exhibits inspired several events that were program highlights this past year. In summer we collaborated with the Chicago Architecture Foundation to develop a bus tour of Chicago-area buildings that feature Islamic-style design. Offered in conjunction with the special exhibit Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy, this tour included a stop at the Oriental Institute for a docent-led visit to the Rayy exhibit and permanent galleries. Most of the visitors were awed by a collection they had never known existed in Chicago. Offered twice, this bus tour sold out each time.

In fall, we presented Mapping the World: From Ancient Babylon to the Ottoman Empire, a one-day symposium in conjunction with the special exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos. Presentations by Oriental Institute scholars and guest lecturers M. Pınar Emiralioglu, guest speaker from the University of Pittsburgh, presents a slide lecture for Oriental Institute members and friends at the symposium Mapping the World: From Ancient Babylon to the Ottoman Empire. Photo by Wendy Ennes
ers explored ways that maps from ancient, classical, and Ottoman times chronicled the rise of geographic awareness and scientific knowledge, and the brilliant artistry and imagination of early mapmakers. Symposium presenters included: Clifford Ando, Professor of Classics, University of Chicago; Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director; M. Pınar Emiralioğlu, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh; Robert W. Karrow, Jr., Curator of Special Collections and Curator of Maps, The Newberry Library; and Donald Whitcomb, Associate Professor and Research Associate, Islamic and Medieval Archaeology, Oriental Institute (fig. 7). Offered in collaboration with the Graham School, Mapping the World was supported in part by the Replogle Foundation. The Geographic Society of Chicago provided support for Chicago-area K–12 educators to attend the symposium, obtain the exhibit catalog, and receive Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) from the State of Illinois.

Like the symposium, other events for the European Cartographers exhibit were presented in partnership with Festival of Maps Chicago, a city-wide celebration of discovery and way-finding from ancient to modern times. O. J. Sopranos, chair of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee and volunteer docent, led two free public tours of the European Cartographers exhibit, which featured many maps from his private collection. Emily Teeter, Coordinator of Special Exhibits, also led a free public tour. Each of these events attracted many visitors who had never been to the Oriental Institute.

A concert by the Newberry Consort with the Venere Lute Quartet was another program highlight presented in conjunction with European Cartographers. Performing amid the treasures of the Yelda Khorsabad Court, the musicians used exquisitely crafted versions of Renaissance lutes to present masterworks from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (fig. 8).

In spring we presented Looting the Cradle of Civilization: The Loss of History in Iraq. This day-long symposium was offered in conjunction with the special exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past. All who attended had the rare opportunity to examine the archaeological tragedy taking place in Iraq with scholars who had experienced the situation at first hand. Presenters included: Donny George, former Director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad; Patty Gerstenblith, Professor, College of Law, DePaul University, Chicago, and Director of DePaul’s Program on Cultural Heritage Law; McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, Oriental Institute; Abdul-Amir Hamdani, Director of Antiquities, Nasiriya Province,
Southern Iraq; John Russell, Professor of Art, Massachusetts College, and former Deputy Advisor to the Iraqi Minister of Culture and the Coalition Provisional Authority; and Elizabeth Stone, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, SUNY Stonybrook University, New York (fig. 9). Thanks to support from the University of Chicago’s Center for International Studies, Chicago-area K–12 teachers were able to attend this important symposium free of charge and obtain CPDUs for their participation.

Katharyn Hanson, Oriental Institute graduate student and Co-Curator of the Catastrophe! exhibit, presented a free public tour of the exhibit soon after its opening. Like the public tours for European Cartographers, this program attracted many who had never before visited the Oriental Institute.

Joint programming with the Elderhostel organization in Boston was another major collaboration this past year, as part of the organization’s Day of Discovery events. These programs encourage seniors to become familiar with the cultural resources local universities provide for the public. Our event, which attracted 224 participants, focused on connections between ancient cultures and contemporary concerns. Geoff Emberling lectured on “Ancient Mesopotamia and Today’s Iraq,” which included a description of how he discusses this subject with American military units preparing for deployment. W. Raymond Johnson, Director of the Oriental Institute’s Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt, described how his team is working to preserve Egypt’s ancient sites amidst rapidly changing population and environmental pressures. All the participants also enjoyed docent-led tours of the galleries and a luncheon at the University’s Quadrangle Club. For many of the seniors, this was a first-time visit to the Oriental Institute and several became new members.

Other collaborative adult education events also brought us new audiences. Our series of Middle Eastern cuisine and cookery programs continued this year with three new dining experiences. At “A Taste of Israel,” held at Taboun Grill, manager Anat Trace introduced a multi-faceted cuisine with traditions that hark back to biblical times. At “Persian Delights,” held at Noon-O-Kabab Restaurant, Mir Javad Naghavi and his sister Parvin served a traditional menu of Persian dishes from the land that is now Iran. At “The Cuisine of Afghanistan” held at Kabul House, owner and master chef Abdul Qazi invited everyone to savor a delicious array of traditional dishes from his homeland. This series has become one of our most sought-after programs and has introduced many Chicagoans to the Oriental Institute.

In addition to continuing with successful programs, innovative collaborations with new friends and long-time partners expanded our audience this past year. In September we hosted a performance by Chicago’s acclaimed Muntu Dance Theatre as part of the first Hyde Park Jazz Festival. This community-wide event brought countless numbers of new visitors to our community and filled Breasted Hall to overflowing with dance enthusiasts who had never ventured to the southside.

In November we collaborated with the Chicago History Museum on a joint field trip called “Fakes, Phonies, and Frauds.” This trip featured a visit to the History Museum’s Is It Real? exhibit, an investigation of how curators and forensic scientists examine historic artifacts to separate fact from fiction. The trip also included a visit to a new exhibit at the Oriental Institute. Inspired by the Is It Real? exhibit, Emily Teeter curated and installed Fakes, Phonies, Frauds, an examination of how Oriental Institute experts determined fakes from authentic artifacts in our Egyptian collection. Emily’s discussion of the exhibit was a highlight of the field trip and this display is still intriguing visitors to the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery.

The City of Chicago’s Great Chicago Places and Spaces initiative, which celebrated the city’s heritage in architecture and design, inspired Emily Teeter to create another new public program. This spring she developed and led The Middle East on the Prairie, a free public tour highlight-
MUSEUM EDUCATION

Figure 10. Visitors gather around Emily Teeter at the front steps of the Oriental Institute as she points out Middle Eastern-style ornamentation at the building’s entrance. Called The Middle East on the Prairie, this program was co-sponsored by the city’s Great Chicago Places and Spaces initiative. Photo by Carole Krucoff

...ing the neo-Middle Eastern ornamentation on the Oriental Institute building’s exterior and interior (fig. 10). We are currently exploring the possibility of this tour becoming part of joint programming with Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House, the landmark building just down the block from the Oriental Institute.

Collaboration with partners on campus to serve the University of Chicago and the wider community remains important aspects of our programming. During Student Orientation Week in September the Wednesday docents led gallery tours that introduced nearly 100 incoming freshmen to the Oriental Institute. Our Saturday docents led guided tours for the University’s annual Humanities Day programming. In addition, we hosted a special reception and tour for the Civic Knowledge Project, the Division of Humanities branch that works with local collaborators to provide educational and humanities programming for underserved communities surrounding the University of Chicago.

This past year we also joined with the Smart Museum of Art to present Idols and Iconography, a cross-campus event that featured a tour of the Smart Museum’s new Idol Anxiety exhibit and an Oriental Institute Museum tour led by Kathleen Mineck that highlighted objects of worship throughout our collection. University of Chicago Presents, the major classical music presenter on campus, became our newest partner with After Reading Shakespeare. Held in the Yelda Khorsabad Court, this concert featured cellist Matt Haimovitz performing classical and newly composed works with literary themes.

Our free Sunday afternoon showings of documentary and feature films on the ancient and contemporary Middle East continue to draw wide-spread media and community interest. This year the film program also became the venue for a major on-campus and community collaboration when Museum Education and the Membership Office joined with the University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Iran House of Greater Chicago, and the city-wide Science Chicago 2007 initiative to present the United States premiere of Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization. This important documentary, which uses the latest technology to showcase the 7,000-year history of Iranian art and archaeology, brought more than 350 visitors to view the film, meet the director Farzin Rezaeian, and enjoy a sumptuous buffet featuring traditional Iranian cuisine.

Youth and Family Programs

Museum Education presented a rich array of programs for children and their families this past year. Some used off-site formats for outreach to new audiences. Others took place at the Oriental Institute to bring new visitors and old friends into the museum. Nearly all were in partnership with local, city-wide, or national initiatives.
Outreach Programs

For the tenth straight summer, we traveled to the Lill Street Art Center on the city’s northside for Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist, a day camp for children ages 8–12 that fills to capacity each time it is offered. Teaching artists Mary Tepper and Elizabeth Beggs took part in the two-week-long sessions of the camp; each included a day-long visit to the Oriental Institute, where Jessica Caracci led art-making sessions and arranged guided tours for the campers.

In fall we ventured out to the 57th Street Children’s Book Fair, where interns Clare Brody and Anneliese Bruegel and volunteer Mouna Abraham helped show children what it is like to “dig into history.” This tabletop simulation of an archaeology dig, which attracted more than 200 visitors, was one of the fair’s most popular events (fig. 11).

In winter the Archaeological Institute of America invited us to take part in Family Fair, a special event offered during the institute’s national conference, which was held in Chicago this year. Jessica Caracci invited visitors to have an up-close and personal visit with our reproduction mummy, intern Lauren Vander Pluym taught everyone how to make an origami pyramid, and both used the fair’s computer services to introduce our Web-based Kids Corner and the online Teacher Resource Center.

Jessica also led the way in planning and presenting activities at Mayor Daley’s Kids and Kites, an annual spring celebration held on the lawn of the Museum of Science and Industry. Our interns joined Jessica at the Oriental Institute booth to help children and their families create kites and kite tails decorated with ancient Egyptian designs. Every child received a colorful Oriental Institute bookmark inviting them to visit us.

At the Museum

The City of Chicago’s The Art of Play initiative this past summer inspired us to present Games Pharaoh Played, a free special event featuring board games played in the ancient Near East. City-wide publicity brought us families eager to see the ancient board games on view in the Museum, learn which ones King Tut (a.k.a. docent Stephen Ritzel) liked to play, and to try their hand at actually playing an ancient-style board game.

Mummies played a starring role in October during our annual Mummies Night pre-Halloween celebration in conjunction with Chicago Book Month. Staff, docents, and interns held hundreds of children and their parents

Figure 11. Intern Clare Brody shows a fascinated child how to “dig into history.” The hands-on activity took place at the Oriental Institute booth during the 57th Street Children’s Book Fair. Photo by Carole Krucoff

Figure 12. Intern Anneliese Bruegel helps families get “up-close and personal” with a reproduction mummy during Mummies Night, our annual pre-Halloween celebration. Photo by Wendy Ennes
spellbound with activities that included making origami bats and pyramids, donning Egyptian-style costumes, preparing our reproduction mummy for burial, and meeting the real mummies in our Egyptian Gallery (fig. 12). Kidworks Children’s Theater returned for their second annual Mummies Night presentation. Breasted Hall was filled to capacity as the performers brought ancient Egyptian tales and stories to life in a rousing interactive version of “The Pharaoh, the Sphinx, and the Mummy!”

The City of Chicago’s Holiday Adventures initiative in December inspired Holiday Adventures in Ancient Lands, a free afternoon of games, stories, treasure hunts, and children’s films. The city-wide promotion for this event also featured shopping opportunities at the Suq’s annual holiday sale.

In February we celebrated African-American Heritage Month with our second annual presentation of Awesome Ancient African Arts. This event attracted more than 500 children and their families for a free festival of hands-on activities, treasure hunts, films, craft projects, and more. Docents wearing “Ask Me” badges staffed the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian and Robert F. Picken Family Nubia galleries to answer countless questions from visitors, and ceramic artist Theaster Gates involved families in recreating ancient Egyptian- and Nubian-style pottery. Muntu Dance Theater, the star of our Hyde Park Jazz Festival event, returned to thrill a standing-room-only crowd in Breasted Hall as they invited everyone to join them in a spectacular celebration of African and African-American music and dance (fig. 13).

Figure 13. Muntu Dance Theater’s spectacular celebration of African dance thrilled a full house in Breasted Hall during the Awesome Ancient African Arts festival in February. Photo by Wendy Ennes

Many of the children and their families who took part in Awesome Ancient African Arts could join us due to support from Museum Connections: Beyond the Classroom Walls, a museum/schools outreach program funded by the Department of Mathematics and Science of the Chicago Public Schools. The Oriental Institute was invited to take part in this program in partnership with
Henry Elementary School, where the student population is largely Latino and where parents have never considered the Oriental Institute Museum as an informal learning venue. Shoesmith Elementary School in Hyde Park, our second partner, had also never taken advantage of our learning opportunities.

We used outreach sessions at both Henry and Shoesmith to involve students and their families in arts processes and techniques from ancient times and also to introduce ways archaeologists learn about the past through study of ancient animal bones, ceramics, and the scientific study of mummies (fig. 14). We then invited the families to come to the Oriental Institute for Awesome Ancient African Arts using bus transportation provided by Museum Connections. We were pleased to see more than 100 children and parents from these schools join us that day, with many taking advantage of the bilingual activities we now have available. Special thanks to all the people who made this program happen: Jessica Caracci, Katie Pawlicki, and Mary O’Shea from Museum Education; teaching artist Mary Tepper; and Belinda Monaghan, Oriental Institute Research Associate in Zooarchaeology. Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Dueñas translated Henry School materials into Spanish and docent Nancy Baum offered Spanish-language tours during Awesome Ancient African Arts.

Behind the Scenes

Collaboration with on-campus and community partners has been mentioned as vital to our success throughout this report. Taking stock of all that has been accomplished this past year, I’d like to say how much Museum Education appreciates our most important partners — the faculty, staff, and students of the Oriental Institute. We could not manage without their encouragement, involvement, and support. Special thanks go to Geoff Emberling, who guides us, cheers us on, and provides assistance at every turn. Heartfelt thanks also go to the Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers. None of our gallery-based programs could take place without the interest, time, and talents of these men, women, and young people (fig. 15). A record of all their names appears in the Volunteer Program section of this Annual Report.

The commitment, creativity, and vision of the Museum Education staff are what make everything happen. Wendy Ennes, Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator, is key...
to all of our major grant-funded initiatives for teachers and students. Her dedication and drive, along with her grant-writing skills, commitment to excellence, and her expertise in online education make her an invaluable asset to Museum Education and to the Oriental Institute as a whole. Along with the accomplishments listed in this report, Wendy has made many other significant contributions to the Institute this past year. As part of Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History, an online education project funded by the IMLS that Wendy has managed over the past several years, she has developed a Web-based teacher training course that provides educators nationwide with graduate credit from the University of Chicago. Her work on the Ancient Mesopotamia project was recognized nationally in an article published by IMLS this past year, and she was invited to speak about the project at this year’s Museum Computer Network Conference as an IMLS National Leadership Grant Award recipient. Always seeking innovative ways to bring the Institute’s work in online education to the forefront nationally and worldwide, Wendy also gave a presentation on the Ancient Mesopotamia project in Second Life, an online, three-dimensional virtual world that involves millions of participants from around the globe. Appearing as an avatar of herself, she presented “Ancient Mesopotamia: Engaging Online Resources from the Oriental Institute” at Second Life’s Virtual Worlds: Libraries, Education and Museums conference (fig. 16).

The many contributions of Jessica Caracci, Museum Education Programs Assistant, are visible throughout this report. Along with her leadership with the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center and Museum Connections programs, she has been central to the creation and implementation of all our public programs for youth and families this past year. Jessica also supervises the department’s interns, ensuring them a meaningful experience that combines valuable assistance to the Oriental Institute with an introduction to the role museum education can play at a major university museum (fig. 17). Thanks to Jessica’s guidance, interns Anneliese Bruegel, Anna Cohen, Lauren Vander Pluym, Katie Pawlicki, and Julie Shackelford aided us in countless ways on the Kipper Center project. They also assisted
with many of our public programs, joined by Clare Brody, our high-school intern from the University of Chicago’s Laboratory School. In addition, Jessica supervised Suzanne Brown, summer intern from Chicago State University, who assisted with office management and public programs, and Brennan Jorgenson from Whitman College in Washington state, whose major project focused on evaluation of visitors’ experiences in the special exhibit Daily Life Ornamented. Brennan’s work laid the foundation for an in-depth visitor experience study in the European Cartographers exhibit by MAPSS intern Kate Flinner.

Jessica also administers the department’s entire adult education program and handles registrations, confirmations, and record keeping for all gallery tours and public programs. She keeps detailed statistics on public programs participation and thanks to her efforts we are able provide a breakdown of our total 17,956 participants as follows:

- Adult education: 1,063
- Films: 1,142
- Family activities; programs: 1,904
- Family activities: self-guided services: 12,955
- Programs for the University of Chicago: 248
- Programs for teachers: 214

Jessica serves as public relations officer, graphic designer, and media specialist for both the Education and Volunteer Programs. The in-print and online publicity materials she produces have been key to this year’s increase in program participation and increased awareness of the Museum. For example, publicity she generated for the Mummies Night and Games Pharaoh Played programs appeared in more than 300,000 city-sponsored brochures. Along with all her other responsibilities, Jessica joined with Volunteer Coordinator Terry Friedman to serve as “command central” in a major Education Office clean-up that has made our work environment more comfortable and welcoming. Jessica handles all the challenges and demands of her multi-faceted position with true professionalism, poise, and grace, making it a pleasure for volunteers and staff to have her with us as our colleague.

Two important people require special mention here. In the Volunteer Program section of this Annual Report you will read about the achievements of the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program, which is supervised by Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman. Read on to see how these dedicated and talented women are continually inspired by the creativity and commitment of their extraordinary corps of volunteers, whose accomplishments at the Institute and for the community are described in the following pages.
Introduction

With the completion of its forty-first year of service to the Oriental Institute, the Volunteer Program has taken a step back to reflect upon its achievements and challenges over the past four decades. This time of contemplation has led the program to re-examine priorities in the face of an ever-changing audience. Since the program’s beginning in 1966, it has been steadfast in its dedication to bringing the history, art, and archaeology of the ancient Near East to a broad constituency of visitors. This past year was no exception as the Volunteer Program continued to be true to its mission while constantly striving to keep its volunteers engaged and involved through substantive and innovative programming.

In order to ensure ongoing progress and efficiency in the years to come, the program took on the daunting task of streamlining and reorganizing its records and physical office space. With the assistance of volunteer Haley Lodge and intern Lauren Vander Pluym, the department was able to track tour statistics and create charts and graphs to assess the distribution of visitors as they are grouped by age, geographic location, and tour size. This information will undoubtedly allow volunteers to better serve different demographic groups — a major program initiative this past year. Outreach to diverse community members continued to improve with the addition of even more translated materials developed to reach the Hispanic communities.

The year 2008 has been a particularly exciting one for the Volunteer Program with the development and first trial tours of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, a simulated archaeological tel designed for middle-school students and family visitors. Docents have taken an active role in shaping the tel experience with practical suggestions and insightful observations on how to make this unique educational opportunity come alive.

As you read through this report, you will see in great detail the numerous accomplishments that continue to make this program unique and exciting.

Docent Captain System

The Docent Captain System is a vital link between the administrative staff and Museum docents. Captains assume the responsibility for overseeing the staffing of Museum tours and supervising docents. They also mentor new docents by giving them the guidance and support needed to become successful Museum guides. Many captains communicate with their groups through weekly tour reminders sent out through e-mail. Our thanks and appreciation to these hard-working individuals whose vigilance helps the docent system run efficiently and without interruption. Docent Captains: Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele DaSilva, Joe Diamond, Teresa Hintzke, Dennis Kelley, Roy Miller, Donald Payne, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Pramerudee Townsend, Lauren Vander Pluym, Carole Yoshida, and the late Pierangelo Taschini.
Tour Program

Docent-led tours have always brought the Museum galleries to life in ways that excite and engage visitors of all ages. This past year has proven to be no exception. With the addition of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, a simulated archaeological tel, docents have been challenged to develop new and innovative ways to show how artifacts go from the “ground to gallery.”

Through the generosity of Saturday docent Patrick Regnery, Museum docents now have handsome maroon vests to wear in the galleries to help identify themselves to the public as Museum guides. The vests add an element of distinction as well as a welcoming touch to Museum visitors who might enjoy an informal tour of the galleries with a docent.

For this year’s Annual Report, the Volunteer Office has compiled tour statistics from the 2007–2008 fiscal year. Volunteer Haley Lodge and intern Lauren Vander Pluym tracked tours to give the Volunteer Office a detailed description of who constitutes our tour audience, how to interpret this raw data, and thus adjust to changing trends in visitor’s demographics. The charts below show the number of visitors per month from July 2007 to July 2008, what percentage of these tours were docent-led and self-guided, the number of visitors per guided and self-guided tours, the age range of visitors, the geographic location of visitors, and the number of religious groups.

This year, our total number of projected scheduled visitors came to 9,050. Figure 1 shows that our busiest months for tours are September and October, undoubtedly because this is when school curriculums cover the history of the ancient Near East. Teachers are eager to reinforce their teaching units with the experience of viewing our collection first-hand. In contrast, the summer months of June–August see a drop in tours due to summer vacation for most schools.

![Figure 1. Number of visitors per month](image-url)
Tour analysis reveals that of our 9,050 group visitors, 70 percent were led by docents (fig. 2). Overwhelmingly, our average tour group is comprised of 1–35 visitors for both docent-led and self-guided tours (figs. 3–4). The next category of 36–60 people represents a significant portion of the graph, while the smallest proportion of group size is sixty people or greater. The graph clearly confirms that Museum docents are accommodating a wide range of tour sizes.

In order to adapt museum tours for diverse groups, the Volunteer Office must know where their audience is coming from. Statistics show that the Museum nearly equally accommodates groups from suburbs or other places in Illinois (44%) and groups from within the city of Chicago (37%) (fig. 5). We were pleased to see that a significant number of visitors on tours (19%) are from out of state. It is gratifying to see that the Oriental Institute Museum continues to serve its base in Chicago and the metropolitan area, while simultaneously reaching beyond the boundaries of Illinois to other states.

Analyzing the age range of visitors has also helped the Volunteer Program to better adapt museum tours for age appropriateness. Without a doubt, our largest group of visitors comes from the Elementary (K–8) age range (fig. 6). Within this group, sixth grade seems to be the largest demographic. State standards mandate that sixth graders study ancient history; therefore, we accommodate many sixth grade groups that seek to reinforce their knowledge of the ancient world by visiting the museum. In addition, the Volunteer Program serves school groups of various ages, including high school and college. In 2007–2008, the docents also saw a large number of adult groups, including seniors.
The volunteer program also accommodates groups who wish to receive a religion-oriented tour. Approximately 10 percent of visitors come from religious groups seeking tours that cater to religious history and the Bible. In response, docents must be prepared to interpret the museum galleries in a number of ways, both from a secular as well as a biblical archaeology perspective.

Undoubtedly, these statistics will assist the Volunteer Program in planning for a diverse range of future audiences.

**Volunteer Days**

As part of an ongoing educational opportunity for all Oriental Institute docents and volunteers, the Volunteer Program continues to offer monthly educational seminars, Volunteer Days, that blend current research and discoveries with broader historical and cultural overviews of the ancient Near East. These informative lectures and gallery workshops have been at the heart of the program’s success and longevity. They have helped to sustain a high level of interest and participation among the volunteers and continue to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning and exploring new interpretations. As part of Volunteer Day programming this past year, two full-day seminars on Persia were integrated into the schedule. Abbas Alizadeh and Don Whitcomb presented these seminars. With plans underway to revise and update the Persian training materials, the lectures were a critical component in the revision process. June Volunteer Day was a special program in honor of retired Oriental Institute photographer Jean Grant. Faculty, staff, and volunteers gathered to hear John Larson’s illustrated lecture showing a range of Jean’s photography. John’s tribute to Jean beautifully illustrated her technical skills as well as her keen sense of time and place.
Our thanks and appreciation to the all individuals who added so much to the programs we offered this year: Abbas Alizadeh, Scott Branting, Geoff Emberling, Katharyn Hanson, W. Ray Johnson, John Larson, Hratch Papazian, Jim Sopranos, and Don Whitcomb.

Docents also continue to engage themselves in informal study sessions focused on special interest topics. Docents often independently research a special tour topic of interest and convey their knowledge to others in the study group. These special study sessions give docents a chance to focus on specific aspects of the Museum galleries and share their own expertise with peers. In addition, these sessions encourage docents to adopt unique approaches in their own tour techniques.

Field Trip

This year Oriental Institute staff and volunteers enjoyed a joint outing to the Field Museum to see The Ancient Americas exhibit. Our thanks to Bob Cantu and the volunteers at The Field Museum for making our trip such a memorable experience. Prior to entering the exhibit, Field Museum volunteer Jim Piekarczyk gave an outstanding overview of the collection, highlighting the numerous and diverse indigenous cultures that flourished in the Western Hemisphere from North to South America as well as Central America and the Caribbean. The exhibit itself traced more than 13,000 years of human development and creativity, bringing to life these civilizations for museum visitors of all ages.

Volunteer Recognition

December Volunteer Day and the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony have become an annual tradition for the program. This festive holiday gathering incorporates a Volunteer Day lecture, a recognition ceremony for years of service, and culminates at the Quadrangle Club with a lovely holiday luncheon. This year’s program took place on Monday, December 3. Our thanks and appreciation to this year’s guest speaker Museum Director Geoff Emberling for an informative double presen-
tation for the December Volunteer Day Program. Part one of his presentation was a “State of the Museum” report to the volunteers. His message highlighted the many accomplishments in the museum this past year, while also focusing attention on the future goals and projects underway for 2008. The second part of his program was a PowerPoint presentation of his 2007 excavation season in the Sudan. He shared with us his fascinating experiences and discoveries while working on salvage excavations at the Fourth Cataract. We look forward to hearing future updates about his groundbreaking work in this region.

Immediately following Geoff’s presentation, the program continued with the introduction of new volunteers and the Recognition Awards Ceremony. We were pleased to introduce ten new members to the Volunteer Corps. Welcome aboard to Susan Bazargan, Roberta Buchanan, Jennifer Douglass, David Giba, Larry Lissak, Haley Lodge, Timothy King, Hilda Schlatter, and Siwei Wang.

This year fifteen people were recognized for their distinguished service and loyal commitment to the Oriental Institute and to the Museum. Their combined years of service represents 340 YEARS IN TOTAL! We admire and respect all their contributions, past, present, and future. Congratulations to the 2007 Recognition Award Recipients:

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This year we honored two volunteers posthumously: Larry Scheff for twenty years and Lilian Cropsey for thirty years. Although they are no longer with us, their spirit of dedication lives on as an inspiration. The Oriental Institute was an integral part of their lives and their years of service truly exemplify a tradition of long-standing commitment and involvement. We are grateful for their many contributions and how their work enriched all our lives.

Outreach on the Move

The Outreach Program continued to delight audiences of all ages. Outreach has grown in popularity over the past twelve years as it continues to generate a loyal following of schools, as well as attracting new audiences who enjoy this interactive educational experience. Throughout metropolitan Chicago, Oriental Institute volunteers have been on the move taking the “show on the road.” We were pleased to make our annual visit to James Hart Millennium School in Homewood and to Springbrook Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois. Now in its twelfth year, students, educators, parents, and adults have continued to give the program rave reviews. This year, 350 participants enjoyed the advantage of an outreach visit.
Summer Cleanup and Reorganization

This past year we began an extensive cleanup and reorganization of the Education and Volunteer Offices. With the help of professional organizational and staging consultant Amy Karatz and our faithful interns, we began the initial steps to transform our office space into a well-organized, spacious environment. It was a time-consuming task, but the organization of the Volunteer Office has strengthened the efficiency and productivity of the program, as well as maintaining a more professional atmosphere.

Updating Training Materials

Our thanks to volunteer Alex Elwyn for carefully scanning and reassembling all the Persian Training materials onto a computer file so that we could begin revising this section of the Volunteer Training Manual. We look forward to having these materials ready for distribution sometime this fall.

In Memoriam

The Volunteer Program lost three loyal friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute this past year: Dorothy Blindt, Patty Dunkel, and Pierangelo Taschini. These individuals exemplified the spirit and essence of a volunteer. Each devoted decades of time sharing their unique talents and skills to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We will greatly miss these remarkable people and we are grateful that they chose to spend a portion of their lives with us.
Docent Library

Throughout the years, the Docent Library has continued to provide the volunteers with an outstanding educational resource. Under the stewardship of Head Librarian Margaret Foorman the collection has flourished and grown. She carefully culls the existing collection to make room for new additions, breathing new life and energy into this well-respected private library. Her quarterly updates in the Volunteer Voice highlight new additions to the library and offer suggested readings to enhance members’ knowledge and understanding of the ancient Near East. Through numerous donations from faculty, staff, and volunteers, along with many new purchases, the Docent Library’s collection continues to thrive both as an educational resource and a valuable research archive. Our thanks also to Sandra Jacobsohn for assisting Margaret with the library’s ongoing maintenance.

Docent Advisory Committee

The Docent Advisory Committee was formed three years ago to give the volunteers a greater voice in the decision-making process of the Volunteer Program and Education Office. This Committee continues to serve as an open forum where docents and the volunteers can express their concerns and offer productive solutions for problems. Under the leadership of its executive members, Joe Diamond, Dennis Kelley, and Mary Shea, many of the concerns expressed in the initial July 2005 report have been successfully resolved over the past year. The committee’s recommendations have been a catalyst for improvement and change.

We were very pleased to have the active involvement of Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director. His pragmatic and insightful observations helped direct the committee toward creative and innovative solutions to improve the Volunteer Program’s structure. Geoff submitted the committee’s final progress report, Docent Planning Committee Report, to Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein in July 2007. In it, he summarized the committee’s significant progress, addressing the initial issues and concerns expressed by the docents in the July 2005 report. He reviewed each area of concern and outlined how the issues had been resolved.

Interns

We were very fortunate this past fiscal year to have Jamie Hanson, Elizabeth Kisor, Haley Lodge, Alyssa Price, and Lauren Vander Pluym as interns in the Volunteer and Education Offices. From administrative tasks to assisting on special projects, all who worked with them appreciated their energetic spirit and excellent work. Their numerous contributions have helped to enhance and support many vital areas of the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operation.
We would also like to thank our colleagues in Museum Education for their steadfast support and sage advice throughout this past year: Jessica Caracci, Museum Education Programs Assistant; Carole Krucoff, Head of Public and Museum Education; and Wendy Ennes, Teachers Services and e-Learning Coordinator. In an environment bustling with activity and interruptions, their calm demeanor and sense of humor foster a congenial and productive atmosphere.

A special note of thanks to Jessica Caracci, whose outstanding organization and communication skills are at the very core of the tour program’s success. Her patience and attention to detail are appreciated by everyone with whom she works.

Reflections

The year 2007–2008 represented a historic benchmark for the Volunteer Program as it celebrated its forty-first anniversary. At this pivotal point in our history, we thank all volunteers past and present for their investment of time and energy; the volunteer corps continues to have a long-lasting impact on Museum visitors, and they are at the very heart and soul of the program’s longevity. They form a unique community of dedicated individuals whose passion for learning and pride in the Institute’s work and the Museum’s collection are the cornerstones of the program’s success. The volunteers are truly our good-will ambassadors.

What began in January 1966 with an eight-week training class has continued to develop into a dynamic and respected program over the past four decades. With the support and vision of four energetic and remarkable women, its founder, Carolyn Livingood, as well as the subsequent Docent Coordinators Carlotta Maher, Peggy Grant, and Janet Helman, we have all inherited a tradition of excellence. Their legacy of hard work and determination continue to be a source of inspiration and wisdom.

We are very proud of all the volunteers and how they have embraced each new challenge with their creative spirit, loyal commitment, and collective team efforts. Each person has helped to enrich the Institute’s stature and prominence worldwide. They are truly an exceptional group of individuals. Thank you for keeping history alive and well for future generations to understand and to appreciate. The successes of 2007–2008 are due to your enthusiasm and passion.

Volunteers: Class of 2007–2008

| Judy Bell-Qualls | Ray Broms | Erika Coleman |
| Jean Fincher     | Merle Foracker | David Giba |
| Larry Lissak     | Haley Lodge   | Paul Mallory |
| Harold Sanders   | Hilda Schlatter | Margaret Shortle |
| Siwei Wang       |               | Monica Wood |

Advisers to the Volunteer Program

| Peggy Grant | Janet Helman | Carlotta Maher |

Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein thanked the volunteers personally for their devoted work this past year during the annual Holiday Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. Photo by Wendy Ennes
**Docent Advisory Committee (Executive Board)**

| Joe Diamond | Dennis Kelley | Mary Shea |

**Volunteers Emeritus**

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<th>Debbie Aliber</th>
<th>Muriel Brauer</th>
<th>Charlotte Collier</th>
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**Museum Docents**

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<tr>
<th>John Aldrin</th>
<th>Douglas Baldwin</th>
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<td>Joan Friedman</td>
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<td>Anita Greenberg</td>
<td>Debby Halpern</td>
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<td>Janet Helman</td>
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<td>Ronald Wideman</td>
<td>Inge Winer</td>
<td>Carole Yoshida</td>
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**Affiliated Volunteers**

*(not active, but still part of the Oriental Institute community)*

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<tr>
<th>Sylwia Aldrin</th>
<th>Bernadine Basile</th>
<th>Dave Covill</th>
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<td>Marda Gross</td>
<td>Ruth Goldman</td>
<td>Henriette Klawan</td>
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<td>Alice Mulberry</td>
<td>Denise Paul</td>
<td>David Ray</td>
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**Volunteer Interns**

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<tr>
<th>Elizabeth Kizior (Summer 2007)</th>
<th>Jamie Hanson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Lodge</td>
<td>Alyssa Price (Summer 2007)</td>
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VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Work Study Intern
Lauren Vander Plyum

Archives Volunteers for 2007/2008
Hazel Cramer            Margaret (Peggy) Horton Grant    Patricia Hume
Sandra Jacobsohn        Roberta Kovitz                 Lillian Schwartz
Robert Wagner           Carole Yoshida

Archives Student Volunteers/Interns for 2007/2008
Eliza Chiasson          Jessica Henderson             Shir Lerman
Bryan Moles             Katie Pawlicki               Lara Weiss
                        Elizabeth Wolfson

Museum Registration
Joan Barghusen          Gretel Braidwood             Joe Diamond
Janet Helman            Barbara Levin                Daila Shefner
Toni Smith              Jim Sopranos                Ray Tindel
Lara Weiss (Summer intern)

Student Volunteer
Alison Hade

Workstudy
Courtney Jacobson

Tall i-Geser
Janet Helman

Suq
Judy Bell-Qualls        Roy Broms                    Erica Colemen
Peggy Grant             Norma van der Meulen

Persepolis Tablets
Irene Glasner           Louise Golland

CAMEL Lab
Marc Block              James Boves                   Gabriella Cohen
Alexander Elwyn         Larry Lissak                 Harold Sanders

Hacinebi Excavations
Irene Glasner

Demotic Dictionary
Joe Diamond             Ruth Goldman                 Larry Lissak
                        Janelle Pisarik

Diyala Project
George Sundell          Karen Terras
### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

#### Iranian Prehistoric Project
Janet Helman

#### Photography Lab
Margaret Shortle

#### Passport to the Middle East: Desserts in the Desert

**Gala Committee Volunteers**
- Kathleen Beavis
- Margaret Foorman
- Rita Picken

**Event Volunteers**
- Erin Baker
- Djanie Edwards
- Siwei Wang

#### Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Mouna Abraham</th>
<th>Rozenn Bailleul-LeSeur</th>
<th>Erin Baker</th>
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#### Junior Volunteers
- Clare Brody
- Cameron Kelley

#### Outreach Docents and Volunteers

| Rebecca Binkley | Myllicent Buchanan | Andrew Buncis |
| Janet Calkins   | Joe Diamond        | Bettie Dwinell |
| Bill and Terry Gillespie | Ira Hardman     | Larry Lissak |
| Robert McGuiness | Roy Miller         | Kathy Mineck |
| Mary O’Shea     | Stephen Ritzel     | Joy Schochet |
| Anne Schumacher | Carole Yoshida     | Agnes Zellner |

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