VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

2010–2011 Volunteer Program

This year the Volunteer Program celebrated a benchmark in its history, the forty-fifth anniversary of its founding. With age comes maturity and resilience, both of which have been clearly demonstrated by the program’s ability to evolve and change throughout the decades to meet the demands and opportunities of the twenty-first century.

The Oriental Institute Volunteer Program was created in 1966 by Robert McCormick Adams, the Institute’s director at that time. Although its mission has been modified over the years, it was Adams’ intention to create a program to provide guided tours that would make the museum’s scholarly gallery displays more accessible to schools and the general public. The program’s original mission, to provide training for a cadre of volunteers (known as museum docents) who would give tours to visitors of all ages, continues to be our guiding principle to this day. Serving as the first docent coordinator, Carolyn Livingood was instrumental in helping develop the educational component of the program as well as recruiting candidates for its first Docent Training class. Throughout the decades, the program has been able to retain its unique character by offering rich educational opportunities that challenged and inspired its members while upholding the highest standards. It is truly the volunteers’ intellectual curiosity coupled with a deep sense of camaraderie and loyalty that is at the core of what has defined, sustained, and paved the way for the program’s historic longevity.

Tour Program

_The museum is a gem, but Docents are needed to interpret the displays, especially to younger visitors. To be sure, the artifacts are well chosen and charmingly displayed, but it is the human voice, explaining and describing, which gives emphasis to what the eyes see._


Docents play a critical role in a visitor’s museum experience as the above insightful quote from the late Ida Depencier describes.

As the public face of the museum, docents help to interpret the collection while serving as goodwill ambassadors. Whether with school students, religious groups, community organizations, or senior citizens, the Oriental Institute Museum Docents are eager to share their knowledge and pride for the museum’s collection. During the fiscal year 2010–2011, we are pleased to announce that 5,198 visitors enjoyed the advantage of a docent-led tour, while 4,827 visitors chose the self-guided option. This gives us a total of 10,025 visitors.
Tracking Trends (It’s All in the Numbers)

Following the progress from last year’s efforts, we continued to refine our systems for tracking statistical information regarding museum tours and visitors. This year we have focused on collecting more detailed information on the different visiting groups, to ensure the accuracy of the data, and making periodic attendance reports readily available to our colleagues throughout the museum. After validating the accuracy of previously collected data, we began the process of transferring our multi-year data set into a new program with a user-friendly format and increased functionality. This process was a year-long endeavor that will allow us to efficiently generate summary statistics and graphical representations of emerging trends and patterns. Our efforts have already yielded useful information about the changing demographic characteristics of our visitors. We expect that our improved database system will continue to facilitate in-depth analyses of our tour programs in the coming months and years. It was through the tireless efforts of Rachel Kornfield, our Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) 2010–2011 intern, that this project reached its current level of sophistication and relevance. The process was time consuming and tedious, but the end result will help internal and external office communication run with a new level of efficiency. We want to thank Erica Griffin for her assistance during the early stages of this project, Sue Geshwender, who was instrumental in helping us conceptualize and implement all stages of this project, and Steve Camp for his guidance and support as we moved through each phase.

Visitor Trends Over Time

By focusing our attention on tour data, we were able to extract very significant information concerning visitor trends over time. Despite an uncertain economy, we were pleased that numbers for this fiscal year 2010–2011 revealed a 4% increase over last year in the total number of visitors participating in tours. This year we had 10,025 visitors who participated in 314 tours. This growth in part reflects a dramatic jump in the number of school and youth groups visiting the museum, a 9% increase since the 2008–2009 fiscal year. We have seen a

![Figure 1. Visitors by group type](oi.uchicago.edu)
particular increase in high school and elementary school group attendance.

In figure 1, our tour participants over the past three years are broken down into the following categories: adult, senior, and school/youth visitors. In the current fiscal year, 15% of visitors were adults, 4% were seniors, 80% were school/youth group members, and 1% were non-specified. Despite overall increases in our tour numbers this year, we have noted that adult tours have not increased at the same rate as our school/youth tours. To increase adult tour and senior group attendance, we are developing a more effective marketing strategy to attract these groups to our museum. We feel that through more detailed analysis, we will be able to reinvigorate this specific group’s attendance and find areas for improvement and possible expansion.

**Geographic Distribution**

We were surprised to discover that a decrease in the number of out-of-state visitors over the past three years has been met by a 36% increase in our Chicago-area tour participants. The geographic breakdown of our tour participants for the 2010–2011 fiscal year is represented in figure 2. As you can see, 47% of our visitors were from Chicago, 34% were from the rest of Illinois, 15% were from out of state, and 4% were non-specified.

**Types of Tours**

In figure 3, our tour participants are broken down by tour type. Consistent with prior years, our tours for the 2010–2011 fiscal year were divided between guided and self-guided options. As you can see, 4,827 (48%) opted for self-guided tours, 790 (8%) participated in a Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC) program, and 4,408 (44%) participated in a stand-alone docent-led tour. We are pleased that the tour numbers this past fiscal year revealed our program’s continuing strength in delivering quality tours to local schools as well as to other community groups from within and outside Illinois.
Fall 2010 Mini-Series

Ancient Economies: The Consumer Report

Building on the success of the fall mini-series the past two years, we were proud to present another program to provide docents and volunteers the opportunity to examine a particular topic in greater depth. Over the course of five Saturdays, interesting lectures were given by Yorke Rowan, Gil Stein, Emanuel Mayer, Don Whitcomb, and Matt Stolper as part of our fall 2010 mini-series on Ancient Economies: The Consumer Report. All who attended were thrilled with the opportunity to participate in such an intellectually enriching program. These presentations and the discussions that followed helped us understand the connections between the economic realities of the ancient world and those of our own time. We thank our lecturers for sharing their wealth of knowledge and years of research with us.

The entire event was filmed by Chicago Media Initiatives Group. We look forward to including the DVD of this mini-series in our permanent library of training materials. We were pleased this year to have partnered with the University of Chicago Alumni Association who generously assisted with underwriting a portion of the costs associated with the production of the DVDs. We are proud that these taped lectures will be available to the University of Chicago Alumni as part of the Minds on Line series.

Revision of Training Materials

Persian Gallery

In September, we were pleased to announce the completion of the revised Persian Gallery Training Manual, which became available for distribution to the volunteers. We are certain that it will become an extremely valuable resource to help current and future docents understand and appreciate the history and culture of this fascinating region.

Our thanks and appreciation to Abbas Alizadeh and Don Whitcomb for their vision and determination in producing such an outstanding Docent Training Guide for the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery. We also want to express our appreciation to Suzan Bazargan for her meticulous editing of the manuscript, and to Alice Brown, our MAPSS (2009–2010) intern, for scanning, compiling, and reformatting the Persian section as well as the entire Docent Training Manual over the course of her internship.

We would also like to acknowledge the many contributions of the following individuals, who helped make this project possible: Tom James, Tom Urban, Karen L. Wilson, and Natalie Whiting.

The official unveiling of the new Persian Training Manual took place on Saturday, September 11. Abbas Alizadeh conducted a brilliant introductory session for the docents and volunteers about these materials. His PowerPoint presentation and discussion gave us a fresh perspective on how to utilize this information to enhance our understanding of the gallery and to integrate these ideas into our tours.

Mesopotamian Gallery

In January, focusing on the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, we began the second phase of the revision of the Volunteer Training Manual. Under the leadership and guidance of Kathryn Grossman, PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology, work began on the rewriting of the Mesopotamian materials. Kate, who has served as content specialist,
brought much enthusiasm to this project. Her efforts will introduce new and revised sections for the Volunteer Training Manual. We look forward to the project’s completion.

A Faculty Working Group is assisting Kate in the process of vetting and writing recommendations concerning the content and accuracy of the Mesopotamian section of the Training Manual. The Faculty Working Group was created by Gil Stein in June 2011 as part of an initiative to ensure that the materials produced by and distributed through the Public Education Department maintain the highest standards of academic accuracy while remaining interesting and engaging to the general public. We are honored to have our academic colleagues Fred Donner, Don Whitcomb, and Chris Woods be a part of this important process, and look forward to working with them.

Volunteer Recognition

December Volunteer Day

December Volunteer Day has become an annual tradition when docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers gather to enjoy a festive holiday celebration together. This popular event includes a guest speaker, the introduction of new volunteers, and the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The program concludes with a lovely holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. This year’s special event took place on Monday, December 6, in Breasted Hall.

The program officially began as Steve Camp, executive director of the Oriental Institute, gave the volunteers a museum update and afterward addressed some of their concerns.

The program continued with our guest speaker David Schloen, who gave an outstanding presentation on “Highlights from the Recent Excavations at Zincirli.” His fascinating lecture brought to life this large-scale Iron Age city in southeastern Turkey and the many discoveries that are helping to reshape our knowledge of the history of this region.

Following David’s talk, the program continued with an introduction of the individuals who joined the Volunteer Program in 2010:

Volunteers of 2010–2011

Tim Agra  Erica Griffin  Katharine Marsden
Rebecca Bailey  Ruth Guth  Sarah Means
Eugenia Briceno  Abigail Harms  Jean Nye
Paul Burton  Mary Louise Jackowitz  Elizabeth Penny-O’Brien
Clark Godinez  Paul Johnson  Roberta Schaffner

MAPSS 2010–2011 Intern

Rachel Kornfield

2010 Recognition Award Recipients

This year seventeen people were recognized for their years of volunteer service to the Oriental Institute.

Award recipients were divided into two categories: active volunteers, those who participate on a routine basis, and emeritus volunteers, those who have not been as active in recent years, but who still remain involved and a part of the Oriental Institute community.
Active Volunteers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>10 Years</th>
<th>15 Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Baldwin</td>
<td>Joe Diamond</td>
<td>Pat McLaughlin</td>
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<td>Gaby Cohen</td>
<td>Dario Giacomoni</td>
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<td>Andrea Dudek</td>
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<td>Margaret Manteufel</td>
<td>Semra Prescott</td>
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<td>Joy Schochet</td>
<td>George Sundell</td>
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<tr>
<th>20 Years</th>
<th>25 Years</th>
<th>35 Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Baum</td>
<td>Christel Betz</td>
<td>Teresa Hintzke</td>
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Emeritus Volunteers

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<th>30 Years</th>
<th>35 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Aliber</td>
<td>Maria “Ria” Ahlstrom (deceased)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pat Hume</td>
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<td>JoAnn Putz</td>
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Docent Library

Through the Docent Library, volunteers have access to an extensive lending library of books and materials on all topics relating to the ancient Near East. Head Librarian Margaret Foorman meticulously oversees the collection, managing acquisitions and circulation. The Docent Library eagerly accepts donations from faculty, staff, and volunteers; Margaret highlights these new additions to the library regularly in The Volunteer Voice. New materials are also purchased directly for the program with funds raised at the annual book sale, held in conjunction with December Volunteer Day. This year, our annual book sale raised over $100 for the Docent Library. Many thanks to Margaret for her hard work and resourcefulness.

The Docent Library also serves as a volunteer lounge. The room bustles every day as staff and volunteers use the space to socialize, look over training materials, and get caught up on Oriental Institute news. We thank all the generous donors who have consistently replenished the sweets and treats that so many of us enjoy regularly.

Volunteer Days

The Volunteer Program is committed to providing meaningful, ongoing educational opportunities for docents and volunteers. These events and programs provide a stimulating learning environment for volunteers to explore personal scholarly interests while also developing informative and up-to-date tours. The 2010–2011 season featured many successful programs. We wish to thank Abbas Alizadeh, W. Ray Johnson, Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, and Chris Woods for contributing their time and expertise to these educationally enriching programs.
Volunteer Training and Management

Docent Captain System

The Docent Captain System is a key component to the success of the Tour Program and provides the critical synergy between the Public Education’s administrative staff and museum docents. Each captain is responsible for scheduling docent staffing on a specific day of the week as well as supervising their team of docents, with whom they communicate via weekly e-mail reminders. Captains also mentor and guide new docents in training, giving them the support they need to become successful and confident museum guides.

Throughout the year, several docent captains encouraged their groups to organize informal study sessions that focused on the development of special-interest tour topics. These sessions helped docents enhance their own knowledge of specific areas of the collection while sharing creative approaches for engaging audiences with interactive touring methods.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the following captains and co-captains for their hard work and dedication throughout this past year: Doug Baldwin, Noel Brusman, Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele DaSilva, Dennis Kelley, Stuart Kleven, Larry Lissak, Lo Luong Lo, Demetria Nanos, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Hilda Schlatter, and Carole Yoshida. Their attention to detail and organizational skills allows the Docent Program to run smoothly and efficiently.

This year the Volunteer Program was saddened to announce the retirement of two long-time captains, Sunday Co-Captain Teresa Hintzke and Saturday afternoon Co-Captain Lo Luong Lo. We thank them for their leadership and support throughout the years.

Connecting a Community of Volunteers

Volunteer Voice

The monthly newsletter, The Volunteer Voice, is an important communication tool that connects the many volunteers, faculty and staff working at the Oriental Institute. The newsletter publicizes upcoming educational events and volunteer opportunities, chronicles important happenings from the past month, and disseminates important new information. The Volunteer Voice is sent out to all docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers by e-mail, or via the United States Postal Service.

Volunteer Directory

Continuing her hard work updating the volunteer databases that she began last year, museum docent and faculty assistant Sue Geshwender still contributes many hours, helping the office become more sophisticated with its use of technology. We were pleased that this past December, the second edition of the Volunteer directory was ready for widespread distribution. Thank you, Sue, for your continued support and help with this ongoing project. Your efforts help us stay connected.

Volunteer Fairs

In October we were invited to attend a Volunteer Fair sponsored by the Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly. It was a wonderful chance to promote volunteer opportunities at the Oriental Institute and to find out about volunteering options at other nonprofit organizations throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.
Interns

We were fortunate to work with an outstanding group of interns this past year. Rachel Kornfield was our 2010–2011 MAPSS intern throughout the entire academic year and for a portion of the summer. During the winter quarter Moriah Grooms-Garcia moved from her role as museum docent to that of intern. These young women were responsible for numerous administrative tasks, special projects, and the implementation and maintenance of statistical database systems. Their many contributions helped to support and enrich the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operations and new initiatives.

We were also delighted to have intern Susan Jones from Wheaton College join us for the 2011 summer. She has helped us on a number of challenging projects over the summer months.

We want to express our sincere thanks to all three interns who have assisted in the production of this year’s annual report. Their valuable contributions to its content and its editing process have been deeply appreciated.

Public Education Staff

We would also like to thank our Public Education Department colleagues for their ongoing support and astute advice throughout this past year: Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Associate; Wendy Ennes, associate head of Public Education, Educational Technology and Innovation; and Carole Krucoff, head of Public Education. In our shared office space, filled with activity and many projects, their sense of humor and collaborative spirit foster a collegial and productive working environment.

A special note of thanks to Education Programs Associate Jessica Caracci, whose outstanding organization and communication skills are at the very core of the tour program’s success. Her patience and friendly demeanor are truly appreciated by everyone with whom she works. Sadly, Jessica left her position at the end of March to pursue her life-long dream of becoming a pastry chef. We wish her every success in her new career. In June, Kathryn Silverstein joined the Public Education staff to serve as the new Education Programs Associate. We look forward to working with her and welcome her aboard!

In Memoriam

This year the Volunteer Program and Oriental Institute lost two devoted friends and supporters, Maria Ahlstrom and Bernadine Basile. These individuals epitomized the essence of a volunteer, sharing their unique talents and skills in order to further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We are so thankful for their many years of service and dedication and will miss them greatly.

Reflections

The forty-fifth year of the Volunteer Program has witnessed the continued efforts of a lively team of volunteers and interns who are dedicated to making the history and culture of the ancient Near East alive and engaging to museum visitors of all ages. It has been a year of milestones and new initiatives. While many technological advances have taken the program to new levels of efficiency and accessibility, it is the volunteers themselves who continue to hold on to many of the traditions that make this program unique. Although each person’s
motivation to join the volunteer corps may be different, the common denominator that unites them is their love of learning and their eagerness to contribute their time and talents to help enrich the Institute’s mission and goals.

It is hard to imagine that the Volunteer Program has reached such a significant milestone in its history. Forty-five years, in terms of archaeological time, is very brief, yet for the Volunteer Program it is a landmark event, one that we reflect upon with great pride and a deep sense of accomplishment.

We are so fortunate to have three members from the first training class in 1966 who are still actively involved with the Institute and the Volunteer Program: Cissy Haas, Carlotta Maher, and O. J. Sopranos. Their years of service truly exemplify a long-standing tradition of commitment and dedication — a legacy that holds true to this day.

We thank all volunteers past, present, and future for their enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and loyalty throughout these past forty-five years. 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 and historic longevity.

We are pleased to announce that volunteers donated 9,168 hours of their time to the Oriental Institute and the museum this past fiscal year. Kudos for a job well done!

Advisors to the Volunteer Program
Carlotta Maher       Peggy Grant       Janet Helman

Interns

Rachel Kornfield      Moriah Grooms-Garcia  Susan Jones

We are proud to announce that twenty-two people joined the Volunteer Program this past fiscal year (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011)

Class of 2010–2011
Tim Agra  Abigail Harms  Elizabeth Penny-O’Brien
Melissa Bellah  Mary Louise Jackowitz  Noah Rapel
Mervyn Berenie  Alfi Lambert  Nancy Rose
Paul Burton  Debra Mack  Roberta Schaffner
Clark Godinez  Marilyn Murray  Dee Speich
Erica Griffin  Karina Meza  Robert Threatte
Ruth Guth  Srila Nayak  James Wolfgang

Docent Advisory Committee (Executive Board)
Joe Diamond  Dennis Kelley  Mary Shea

Museum Docents (Active)
John Aldrin  Erica Griffin  Mary O’Shea
Dennis Bailey  Moriah Grooms-Garcia  Nancy Patterson
Douglas Baldwin  Debby Halpern  Kitty Picken
Nancy Baum  Janet Helman  Stephen Ritzel
Museum Docents (Active) (cont.)

Suzan Bazargan Lee Herbst Nancy Rose
Christel Betz Teresa Hintze Gerladine Rowden
Rebecca Binkley-Albright Mark Hirsch Lucie Sandel
Noel Brusman Morton Jaffe Deloris Sanders
Myllcint Buchanan Paul Johnson Ljubica Sarenac
Roberta Buchanan Dennis Kelley Hilda Schlatter
Gabriella Cohen Stuart Kleven Joy Snochett
Susan Cossack Panagiotis (Pete) Koutsouris Anne Schumacher
Joan Curry Alfia Lambert Mary Shea
Gabriele DaSilva Larry Lissak Daila Shefner
John DeWerd Lo Luong Lo Mae Simon
Joe Diamond Debra Mack Toni Smith
Djanie Edwards Paul Mallory Dee Speich
Jean Fincher Margaret Manteufel Mari Terman
Mary Finn Sherry McGuire Karen Terras
Margaret Foorman Kathy Mineck Craig Tews
Barbara Freidell Marilyn Murray James Tillapaugh
Sue Geshwender Demetria Nanos Siwei Wang
Dario Giacomoni Jean Nye Ronald Wideman
Bill and Terry Gillespie Daniel O’Connell Inge Winer
Clark Godinez Mary O’Connell James Wolfgang
Anita Greenberg Elizabeth Penny-O’Brien Carole Yoshida
Ira Hardman Semra Prescott Agnes Zellner

Outreach Volunteers

Andy Buncis Bettie Dwinell Larry Lissak
Janet Calkins Bill and Terry Gillespie Margaret Manteufel
Joan Curry Ira Hardman Demetria Nanos
Joe Diamond Panagiotis (Pete) Koutsouris Carole Yoshida

Volunteers Emeritus

Debbie Aliber Joan Friedmann Masako Matsumoto
Maria Ahlstrom (deceased) Carol Green Robert McGiness
Muriel Brauer Cissy Haas Roy Miller
Charlotte Collier Alice James Muriel Nerad
Erl Dordal Mary Jo Khuri Patrick Regnery
Mary D’Ouville Betsy Kremers Janet Russell
Bettie Dwinell Nina Longley Elizabeth Spiegel

Affiliated Volunteers

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

Sylwia Aldrin David Giba Alice Mulberry
Bernadine Basile (deceased) Marda Gross Donald Payne
Andrew Buncis Janet Kessler Pramerudee Townsend
Davis Covill Henriette Klawans Arveal Turner
Daivis Covill Pat McLaughlin

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Camel Lab Volunteers
Alexander Elwyn Peter Fiske Larry Lissak Craig Tews

Conservation Lab Volunteers
Kristen Gillette Jen Johnson Amy Lukas Nicole Pizzini

Chicago House Volunteers
Andrea Dudek Joan Fortune

Diyala Project Volunteers
Larry Lissak George Sundell

Galilee Pre-History Project Volunteers
Robyn Dubicz Abigail Harms Roberta Schaffner

Hacinebi Project Volunteer
Irene Glasner

Nippur Project Volunteer
Karen Terras

Museum Volunteers
Abigail Abisimito Huiying Chen Siwei Wang Mariel Gruszko

Registration Work Study Volunteer
Courtney Jacobson, Museum Assistant

Volunteers
Janet Helman Daila Shefner Jim Sopranos
Ila Patlogan Toni Smith Leslie Warmus (MAPSS student)
Matthew Sawina

Professor Brinkman’s Volunteer
James Torpy

Demotic Dictionary Volunteer
Larry Lissak

Museum Archives Volunteers
Jean Fincher Sandra Jacobsohn Robert Wagner
Peggy Grant Carole Yoshida

Research Archives Volunteers
Ray Broms Andrea Dudek Stephanie Duran Roberta Schaffner
Suq Volunteers
Barbara Storms-Baird
John Baird
Judy Bell-Qualls
Ray Broms
Peggy Grant
Jane Melroy
Erin Mukwaya
Norma van der Meulen

NELC Graduate Students
Adrienne Frie
Jessica Henderson
Manuel Alex Moya
Stephanie O’Brien
Andrew Rutledge
Elizabeth Wolfson

MAPSS Graduate Students
Patrick Chew
Gerard Dougher
Derek Walker
Aram Sarkisian

Tall-e Geser Project Volunteer
Janet Helman

Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC) Volunteer
Erica Griffin

Strategic Planning Volunteer
Shel Newman

2011 Gala Volunteers
Rebecca Bailey
Karin Christiaens
D’Ann Condes
Gabriele Correa da Silva
Kristen Derby
Cathy Dueñas
Wendy Ennes
Terry Friedman
Bill Gillespie
Terry Gillespie
Emma Harper
Anna Hill
Tom James
Adam Lubin
Jean Nye
Mariana Perlinac
Maev Reed
Rebecca Silverman
Craig Tews
Meghan Winston

2011 Gala Committee
Andrea Dudek
Margaret Foorman
Sue Geshwender
Debby Halpern
Mari Terman

Family Events and Special Programs Volunteers
Abigail Abisinito
Rebecca Binkely-Albright
Doug Baldwin
Christel Betz
Noel Brusman
Huiying Chen
D’Ann Condes
Kristin Cooper
Gabriele DaSilva
John DeWerd
Jean Fincher
Dario Giacomoni
Moriah Grooms-Garcia
Sue Geshwender
Bill Gillespie
Terry Gillespie
Erica Griffin
Mariel Gruszko
Mark Hirsch
Lauren Horn
Dennis Kelley
Stuart Kleven
Panagiotis (Pete) Koutsouris
Katja Lehmann
Lo Luong Lo
Mary O’Connell
Kathy Mineck
Demetria Nanos
Jean Nye
Semra Prescott
Stephen Ritzel
Lucie Sandel
Deloris Sanders
Mary Shea
Hilda Schlatter
Mae Simon
Toni Smith
Craig Tews
John Whitcomb
Carole Yoshida
This year’s Volunteer Recognition ceremony took place on December 6th in Breasted Hall. Before leaving for lunch at the Quadrangle Club, the award recipients posed for a group picture. Top row left to right: Margaret Manteufel, Semra Prescott, JoAnn Putz, Doug Baldwin, George Sundell, Nancy Baum, Gaby Cohen, and Joy Schochet. Bottom row: Cathy Dueñas, Andrea Dudek, Teresa Hintzke, Christel Betz, Dario Giacomoni, Joe Diamond, and Terry Friedman. Photo by Craig Tews

Volunteers gathered on September 29th to hear an introductory lecture on the new special exhibit Visible Language: The Invention of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond. Christopher Woods, exhibition curator, gave an excellent overview of its content and the artifacts that would be on display. Photo by Terry Friedman
Our thanks to all five presenters who helped make the fall 2010 mini-series, Ancient Economies: The Consumer Report, a great success: Gil Stein (top left), Yorke Rowan (top right), Emanuel Mayer (bottom left), Don Whitcomb (bottom center), and Matt Stolper (bottom right).

Screen shots by Tom James, from video taken by Chicago Media Initiatives Group
In October we attended a city-wide Volunteer Fair at Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and to professionally network with other nonprofit organizations. Cathy Dueñas enjoyed telling many of the participants about the Oriental Institute. Photo by Terry Friedman

Our summer 2011 intern was Susan Jones from Wheaton College. She spent the summer working on evaluating and updating the KADC program as well as doing a phone survey of guided tour groups and other miscellaneous tasks. Photo by Terry Friedman

Rachel Kornfield was our MAPSS 2010–2011 intern. Rachel was instrumental in updating our database systems, developing information tables, and creating graphs. Her patience and expertise was greatly appreciated by all with whom she worked. Photo by Terry Friedman
This past January, Kate Grossman, PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology, began the rewriting of the Mesopotamian Training Materials. Kate’s dedication to this research project and serving as its content specialist will yield an outstanding new and revised section to the Volunteer Training Manual.

Photo by Terry Friedman

Teresa Hintzke receiving her Recognition Award for thirty-five years of service at the Volunteer Recognition ceremony. Photo by Craig Tews

Moriah Grooms-Garcia moved from her role as a museum docent to serving as an intern during the winter and spring quarters. Photo by Terry Friedman
**CAMARADERIE AND CONVERSATION AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: A PHOTO GALLERY**

Members of the Thursday docent team paused for a moment to pose for a photograph during the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. From left to right: Noel Brusman, Hilda Schlatter, and Ira Hardman. Photo by Craig Tews.

Some of the Wednesday docents, as well as Registrar Helen McDonald, enjoyed the food and good time at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in December. From left to right: Gabriella Cohen, Deloris Sanders, Suzan Bazargan, and Oriental Institute Registrar Helen McDonald. Photo by Craig Tews.
Camaraderie and Conversation at the Annual Holiday Luncheon: A Photo Gallery

Docents socializing while enjoying the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in December. From left to right: Debby Halpern, Daila Schefner, and Ilia Patlogan. Photo by Craig Tews

Joe Diamond and three teachers from James Hart School sitting together and enjoying the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in December. From left to right: Shirley Watkins, Gail Huizinga, and Sue Johnson are seated with Joe Diamond. Photo by Craig Tews
2009–2010 Volunteer Program Photo Gallery

Due to technical difficulties, some of the photographs from the 2009–2010 Annual Report were inadvertently omitted from the printed and bound version distributed to all Oriental Institute Members. We apologize for this omission, but we are pleased to be able to include them in this year’s report.

Presenters for the fall 2009 mini-series Creation Myths gathered on November 5, 2009, to answer questions from the audience in a final panel discussion. Seated from left to right are Foy Scalf, Andrea Seri, Theo van den Hout, and Margaret Mitchell. Photo by Cathy Dueñas
Interns’ contributions are crucial for the enrichment of the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operations and initiatives. Alice Brown, 2009 MAPSS intern, works hard to update and edit the new digitized version of the volunteer training manual. Photo by Terry Friedman

Former MAPSS intern Karina Chavarria continues her work with the Volunteer Program, compiling and tracking past visitor statistics. Karina has also played an integral role in a new project that was launched this summer and is aimed at expanding our resources to Chicago’s Spanish-speaking communities. Photo by Terry Friedman

Museum docents enjoy giving tours to audiences of all ages. Here, Wednesday docent Suzan Bazargan leads a small student group through the Egyptian gallery, pointing out various aspects of daily life in ancient Egypt. Photo by Terry Friedman
A large project undertaken by the Volunteer Program this past year was to replace the current Persian chapter of the Volunteer Training Manual. Here, Suzan Bazargan and Senior Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh rewrite the old chapters in order to present this material in a more concise manner. Photo by Terry Friedman.

Mari Terman, another Wednesday docent, explains ancient Egyptian games to an interested group of young students from the LaSalle Academy. Photo by Terry Friedman.

MAPSS Intern Alice Brown also played an important role in the Persian chapter rewrite. She is working here with Abbas Alizadeh and Suzan Bazargan to further edit changes. Photo by Terry Friedman.
2009–2010 Volunteer Program Photo Gallery

Education Programs Associate Jessica Caracci and intern Melanna Kallionakis instruct a visiting group from the LaSalle Academy on proper excavation technique in the KADC. Photo by Terry Friedman

A group of students from the Millennium School in Homewood-Flossmoor got to be kings and queens for a day during one of the school outreach programs. Photo by Terry Friedman

Girls from the Millennium School were able to dress in ancient Egyptian-style attire during these highly interactive outreach programs. Photo by Terry Friedman
The boys at the Millennium School enjoyed trying on traditional pharaonic costumes as part of the outreach program. Photo by Terry Friedman

The volunteers that participated in the outreach program to the Millennium School in Homewood-Flossmoor sit down for a nice lunch with Volunteer Service Coordinators Terry Friedman (at head of table, top) and Catherine Dueñas (at head of table, left). Photos by Cathy Dueñas and Terry Friedman