

Monica Witczak has been selected as the OI's new Development Director. Her first day on-site was Monday, June 14th. She comes to us from the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Illinois where she was the Associate Director of Individual and Planned Gifts.

Maria Krasinski has been selected as the OI's new Membership Coordinator. She will begin on Monday, June 28th. Most if not all of you know Maria from her tenure as the program assistant for museum education.

Thanks to all of you who helped in the selection process. We are really excited about the potential that these individuals can bring to our programs. Please join us in welcoming Scott, Monica and Maria to their new positions.

Staffing Schedule Update

Some of you may have noticed new faces in the cubicle outside of the Director's office. As Nicole Torres shifted to part time status prior to her actual employment end date, we've taken the opportunity to test out a few administrative assistants from the University's temporary pool. We have one more temporary applicant we will be assessing prior to making a final decision on a replacement. We are selecting from a diverse pool of candidates that includes external and internal applicants as well as the temporary candidate pool. We hope to make a final decision on a candidate by the beginning of July.

Farewell Party for Nicole and Rebecca

Please join us for a farewell reception on Friday, June 25th at 3:00pm in the Director's Study to thank Rebecca Laharia (Membership Director) and Nicole Torres (Assistant to the Director) for their many contributions to the Oriental Institute, and to wish them well in their future pursuits. Hope you can attend.

Breasted Hall A/V

United Visual is scheduled to begin installation of the new AV/Sound system for Breasted Hall on July 5th, 2004. Breasted Hall will be unavailable for events for the period of July 5th through July 14th.

Capital Budget Request / OI Parking Lot

The bad news is now official. The Provost's office has turned down the OI's request to build additional parking spaces near the loading dock of the OI. However, they have approved a project to upgrade the existing loading dock area. The Provost provided other options for us to pursue regarding our parking problem, which, by the way, is felt by most institutions on campus. We will pursue these options over the course of the summer unless we can get the contractor to spill extra cement next to the loading dock area during the upgrade.

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UNITS
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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

With only ten more email accounts to move off the OI email server, we are on target for shutting down our old friend, babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu, during the first couple of days of July. I'll be happy to have this transition from one email system to another over and done with.

It is still too early to speculate on changes to the day-to-day operations of the Computer Lab next fall. But a new, faster Macintosh G5 computer, and perhaps a 4000 dpi slide scanner are two new hardware items at the top of my wish list right now. Printing, which has been functional, but limited of late, will be resolved in some fashion as well by next fall - just in time for the wackiness to start again!!!

Now that the OI web site is operating on the NSIT server, the statistics package which they run for us each week is worth looking at:
<http://webstats.uchicago.edu/orientalinstitute/>

Anyone wanting to know more about who is viewing any portion of the OI web site should take the time to investigate our new weekly numbers. We now can tell how many unique visitors we get each week, where they come from and how they get to us, and how long they stay at each page of our site. The most often used keywords to find items on our web site, etc. We will have discussions next fall regarding how best to interpret and make sense of these user statistics.

Have a great summer!

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MUSEUM EDUCATION / Wendy Ennes

Museum Education's Polk Bros. Foundation grant wrapped up at the end of March and with that emerged a new crop of family activity cards and computer activities for family visitors to the Deborah and Edgar Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Next time you visit the gallery's orientation area please take the time to check out the new computer interactives and colorful bilingual artifact cards on ancient Mesopotamia. There is also a detailed gallery card about the Human-headed Winged Bull that can be found at the other end of the gallery beside the sculpture. All of these educational products would not have been possible without the input and direction of our ten volunteer families from the North Kenwood-Oakland Charter School, principal Marv Hoffman, and evaluator Teresa Vazquez of the Wellington Consulting Group. Thanks also to Seth Richardson for his editorial advice and Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov for creating such imaginative computer interactives - our visitors love these!

E-learning is the wave of the future and Museum Education is riding that wave by focusing more and more on innovative ways the World Wide Web can promote our museum, teacher seminars, and e-learning offerings. I had the honor of designing the graphic for the first "e-learning in Illinois" conference and the pleasure of presenting our online offerings to educators at the same conference. This conference, hosted by the Chicago Historical Society, included a keynote address by Mr. Newton Minow of Digital Promise. Ongoing presentations throughout the morning by Chicago's cultural institutions highlighted the wealth of technologically rich educational materials that are available for use by educators. The conference was particularly well attended by Chicago Public

School policy makers and educators. Plans for next year's conference are already well underway. "E-learning in Illinois" promises to become a critical venue for dissemination of educational materials created by Chicago's world-renowned cultural institutions. You can access our conference website and participating institutions by clicking on the link;
<http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/0.asp?pageID=6000009&nSection=15&nLinkID=31>

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MUSEUM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM / Terry Friedman and Catherine Duenas

We would like to remind faculty and staff that in July, President Randel and Mrs. Randel will be hosting a summer tea for the docents, faculty, staff and volunteers again this year. This event will take place on Tuesday, July 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan Johnson, Martha Roth and Theo van den Hout will present the "Power of the Word," highlighting the work of the various dictionary projects at the Oriental Institute. Join us for this very interesting panel discussion and a pleasant afternoon tea with our next door neighbors, the Randels. If you plan to join us, please R.S.V.P. by Friday, July 9th to the Volunteer Office at 702-1845. Thank you.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

CDD G was posted on the Institute's website. The Demotic Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Letter G. Janet H. Johnson, editor. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2004. Pp. 1-82. Available exclusively at: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/CDD/CDD.html> The publication of CDD G brings the number of files available on-line to sixteen, including a prologue, a problematic entries file, and fourteen letter files (3 [aleph], ' [ayin], Y, B, F, R, L, H, H4, Q, K, G, Tj, and Dj). A total of 1,161 pages are available, of which 1,041 pages comprise the letter files. CDD N, with its more than 150 pages, is ready to go as well, which will bring the total number of letter pages to more than 1,200. As soon as CDD N is posted, we will update the Prologue and Problematic Entries files.

Soon we will add Prof. Janet Johnson's Demotic Verbal System (SAOC 38) to our online Demotic publications. As you remember, Irv Diamond and a number of other volunteers scanned in and proofread the text several years ago. We finally have an opportunity to proofread it once for ourselves and are doing so.

Nine volumes of the CAD (A/2, D, E, I/J, M/1-2, S (tsade), and Sh/1-2) were sent to the printer to be reprinted.

Tony Wilkinson's Tabqa Survey volume (OIP 124) was completed and will be sent to press after July 1. We created a special index for the volume. In addition to indexing the geographical names by page numbers, we also included the maps (= figures) on which the sites occur. We hope you find the index useful.

Brian Muhs's volume on Demotic Texts in the Oriental Institute Museum (OIP 126) was completed up to the point of final author's page proofs, which he asked us to delay sending until after July 4. Also, along with his proofs, he asked that

This 136 page bibliography is a work in progress and is available in three formats, .pdf, .doc, .rtf

From the introduction:

"...In order to make this bibliography more "user friendly," I have presented it in the order of topics found in a grammar. The order here is largely traditional (with the customary division of phonology, morphology and syntax), although since the 1960s linguists have paid a great deal of attention to the interface between these levels of grammar. In section 15, the organization for syntax gives precedence of text linguistics before the syntax of clauses and their subunits, reflecting the current view that the sentence does not constitute the largest unit of grammatical analysis. One might go further and present syntax as theoretically prior to, and the context for, situating morphology, and, by extension, phonology as well; however, the traditional order of grammars is retained here for the sense of familiarity that it affords readers. I have included bibliography for the alphabet (under section 2), although properly speaking the alphabet is not a grammatical topic but a matter of the graphic representation of languages. However, the alphabet's historical importance for the study of West Semitic languages dictates its inclusion here. I have included some entries for Hebrew phonology or morphology with little or no mention of Ugaritic, in part to be more inclusive in these areas and in part to promote such work in the study of Ugaritic. Also included are entries for the syntax of particles (under 9.2) and for the verb (under 10.2.1) as well as some select individual verbal roots (under 14.11 and following). The bibliography in section 16 includes both basic and illustrative entries in the areas of lexicography, loanwards and semantics as well as personal names, but listings for dictionaries and lexica for Biblical Hebrew have not been included... Standard abbreviations have been used (see the list in the final section of this introduction); these are found also in Ugarit-Forschungen and Journal of Biblical Literature)."

The Research Archives is actively soliciting comprehensive bibliographies on aspects of the study of the ancient Near East which might be suitable for freely-accessible on-line publication.

Two additional volumes from the Research Archives are being scanned for the ETANA Core Texts collection

Layard, Austen Henry, Monuments of Nineveh. From Drawings Made on the Spot by Austen Henry Layard, Esq. C.D.L. First Series: Illustrated in One Hundred Plates. London, 1853, and, A Second Series of The Monuments of Nineveh; Including Bas-Reliefs from the Palace of Sennacherib and Bronzes from the Ruins of Nimroud from Drawings Made on the Spot, During a Second Expedition to Assyria by Austen Henry Layard, M.P., Author of "Nineveh and Its Remains," " Discoveries at Nineveh and Babylon". London, 1853

They will be available presently at: <http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>

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PROJECTS
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IRANIAN PREHISTORIC PROJECT / Abbas Alizadeh

In the spring of 2004 I was offered the opportunity to collect data on all the phases of Fars prehistoric sequence. In late February of 2004 Mr. Hasan Talebian suggested that I conduct some archaeological work in Marvdasht. Mr. Talebian is the Director of Parse-Pasargadae National Research Foundation and the Bam Citadel Reconstruction Project. I would like to thank Mr. Talebian for giving me this golden opportunity to address some fundamental questions in Marvdasht. I am also grateful to Mr. M. Beheshti, Director of the ICHO, Mr. J. Golshan, Research Deputy, and Dr. M. Azarnoush, Director of ICHO Archaeological Research Center, for their encouragement and assistance. With a team of entirely Iranian archaeologists and students, we started our work on March 28 and continued work until May 8, when I went back to Khuzestan with 3 expedition members to draw the contour maps of the two sites (KS-108 and KS-04) we will be excavating in August and September 2004.

The research was primarily designed to collect the much needed stratified faunal, floral, charcoal, and phytolith samples from the five major prehistoric sites in Marvdasht, i.e., Bakun A, Bakun B, Jari A, Jari B, and Mushki. These sites, the primary basis for prehistoric cultural interpretations of highland Fars, had been excavated by the Oriental Institute and Japanese expeditions in the 1930s and 1960s when archaeologists paid little attention to collecting such data. The few available radiocarbon dates were uncalibrated and thus unreliable. Moreover, the results of the OI excavations at Bakun B had been lost at sea and the Japanese had published only two very brief reports on their works at Jari A and Jari B. Equally important was the chronological and stratigraphic problem of the order of Jari and Mushki phases.

Marvdasht was settled by small groups of farmers and hunter-gatherers from early Neolithic times. The first systematic efforts to provide a chronological framework for Fars were undertaken by Louise Vanden Berghe in the early 1950s. Based on a series of trenches in a number of sites in the Marvdasht area, Vanden Berghe considered the occupation at Tall-e Jari B, characterized by a soft, straw-tempered decorated buff ware, as representing the earliest Neolithic cultural phase in Fars, followed by that of the neighboring site of Mushki, characterized by a red burnished decorated pottery. A decade later, based on large-scale excavations at Jari A, Jari B, and Mushki, the Tokyo University Iraq-Iran Archaeological Expedition, directed by Namio Egami, argued that Mushki is the earliest Neolithic phase in Marvdasht. The Japanese reports also proposed that the primitive coarse, heavily straw-tempered plain ware that was first discovered by the Oriental Institute at Tall-e Bakun B, followed the Jari phase and thus was considered as the third Neolithic cultural phase in Fars.

While the specific decorated potteries of Jari and Mushki are easily distinguished from one another and therefore sites can be assigned to either phase with certainty, attributing sites to the third Neolithic phase that is represented by the soft, straw-tempered plain ware of Bakun B1 is difficult and not as certain. This plain and primitive pottery is found associated with all these cultural phases, much the same as the Straw-tempered Smoothed Ware that continued along side the various painted styles of the entire Archaic Susiana period in lowland Susiana. In addition, some of the sherds of the early stages of the Jari phase are painted with simple and often fugitive designs that can readily fade, especially when exposed on the surface of mounds, and as such be taken as belonging to the third phase of the Neolithic period in Fars. Furthermore, unlike all other Neolithic regions in the Near East where there is a clear progression of crafts, especially pottery, towards artistically more sophisticated and technologically more advanced stages, the standard

Patrick Durusau visited earlier in May for three days of intensive talks and meetings at the OI and elsewhere around campus.

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CAROLE KRUCOFF

CAROLE KRUCOFF was in Washington D.C. in mid-May to serve on an Institute of Museum and Library Services review panel for applications to the National Leadership in Museums grant program. Last year the IMLS National Leadership Program awarded more than \$16 million in support for model projects that are designed to meet the needs of learners and that use partnerships to address issues of interest for communities nationwide. Museum Education's "This History, Our History: Ancient Mesopotamia Online" project was an IMLS National Leadership Award recipient in 2003.

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IN THE NEWS

Links to The Oriental Institute in the news are collected at:
http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/OI_WWW_New.html

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AS OTHERS SEE US

Vinci Hamp Architects Inc. includes the Oriental Institute in its on-line portfolio of museum renovations
<http://www.vinci-hamp.com/projects/museum.htm>

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50 YEARS AGO

In the Oriental Institute archaeological newsletter issued 50 years ago (June 2, 1954), John Wilson reported on Kamal al-Malakh's discovery in May 1954 of the boat near the Great Pyramid of Giza.