

## MEMBERSHIP

### Kiran Webster

Oriental Institute membership remained strong in fiscal year 2017, with over 1,700 household memberships representing more than 3,500 members. The Oriental Institute is proud to have such a committed group of supporters, whose participation and generosity are integral to the Institute and who ensure the museum remains vibrant all year long. Members enjoyed discounts in the museum gift shop, on classes, programs, and special membership events. The Oriental Institute greatly appreciates all of its members for their support, advocacy, and commitment to the mission of the Institute.

### Special Interest Groups

Membership also includes two special interest groups, which have their own special events and programs.

#### *Young Professionals*

The Oriental Institute's Young Professionals (YP) group is a vibrant community of young people who support the overall mission and programs of the Oriental Institute. This special membership category is designed to give emerging civic leaders a meaningful way to engage with the Oriental Institute, one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions. YP membership is intended for anyone between the ages of twenty-two and forty-five who want to learn more about the ancient Middle East while participating in exclusive educational, social, and volunteer activities with some of the world's foremost academics.

YP members use their creativity, knowledge, innovation, and professional skills to advance the Oriental Institute and serve as ambassadors, increasing awareness of the Institute's work and engaging new audiences through outreach events. The group hosted several successful YP member events throughout the year, including:

- **Curator's Table with Themed Cocktails in the Courtyard:** A private tour of the Oriental Institute with Kiersten Neumann, curator of the Oriental Institute's special exhibit *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*, along with ancient Near Eastern themed cocktails in the courtyard of the Oriental Institute and dinner in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery (Tuesday, August 9, 2016)
- **Discover Hidden Messages:** Mesopotamian Inscriptions for Gods and Men. This gallery tour focused on hidden messages in ancient Mesopotamian inscriptions, led by Assistant Professor of Assyriology Susanne Paulus (Saturday, October 22, 2016)
- **Young Professionals Hittite Roundtable:** Dinner-discussion of the ancient Hittite language and culture with Theo van den Hout, Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages and Executive Editor of the Hittite Dictionary Project, and Petra Goedegebuure, Associate Professor of Hittitology and Senior Editor of the Hittite Dictionary Project (Wednesday, February 15, 2017)

### ***UChicago Arts Pass Student Membership***

As part of the University of Chicago's Art Pass program, the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May 2010. As of June 2017, the Institute had over 1,716 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Through partnerships with the UChicago Arts Pass associates, the Membership office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

- **Bulls 'n' Buns:** A tour of the Museum for new college students as part of O-Week activities (co-sponsored by Public Education, Museum, and Volunteer Program) (September 2016)
- **Study at the OI:** Late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries (December 2016, March 2017)
- **Screening of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*:** Exclusive film screening hosted in Breasted Hall (February 17, 2017)

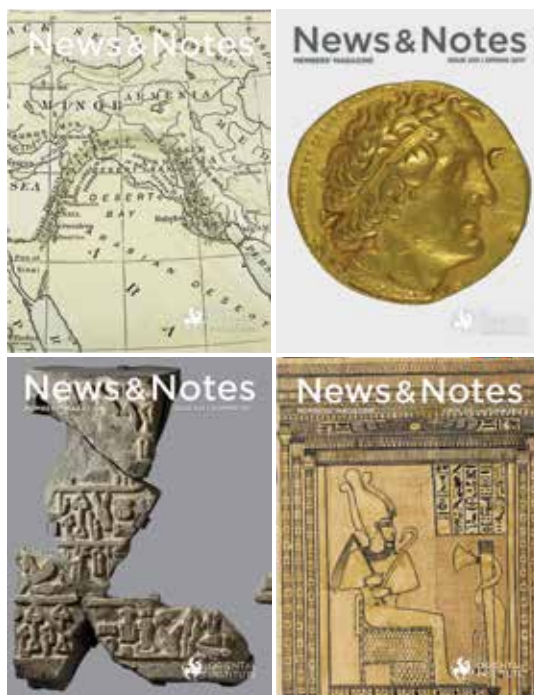
### **Member Publications**

With the assistance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continues to publish *News & Notes*, the quarterly Members' magazine. The Membership Office is greatly appreciative of the Publications Office for their hard work and guidance in producing *News & Notes*, as well as all of the authors and staff contributors who provide exciting and engaging articles and program notices each quarter for our Members.

### **Member Events**

Oriental Institute members supported a comprehensive lecture series during the year with topics ranging from Gertrude Bell's Archaeological Discoveries and Research in Mesopotamia, to Akkadian and Sumerian love incantations and popular music.

- Lisa Cooper, "Encounters with Ancient Splendors: Gertrude Bell's Archaeological Discoveries and Research in Mesopotamia, 1909–1914" (October 5, 2016)
- James Osborne, "The Syro-Anatolian City-States: A Neglected Iron Age Culture" (November 2, 2016)
- Irene Winter, "The Stela and the State: Monuments and Politics in Ancient Mesopotamia" (November 30, 2016)



- Nadine Moeller, “The Origins of Two Provincial Capitals in Upper Egypt: The Two Sister-Sites of Tell Edfu and Dendara” (January 4, 2017)
- Michael Jursa, “Economic Growth and Growing Inequality in Times of Empire: The Babylonian Economy in the Sixth Century BCE” (February 1, 2017)
- Ali Mousavi, “Persepolis Through Images: The Impact of Visual Documents on the Study of Achaemenid Ruins” (March 1, 2017)
- Andrew George, “Be My Baby in Babylonia: Girl Meets Boy and Vice Versa” (April 5, 2017)
- W. Ray Johnson, “The Epigraphic Survey at 93: Changing the Face of Archaeology with New Digital Technologies at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt” (June 7, 2017)

A very special thank you is in order for all our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating in the 2016–2017 Oriental Institute Lecture Series. The series aims to bring a varied selection of the most recent work and scholarship on the ancient Middle East to our members and the local community. We look forward to an exciting and dynamic lecture line-up for the 2017–2018 series, which begins in October 2017. If you missed a lecture from the last season, please visit the Oriental Institute channel at [youtube.com/jameshenrybreasted](https://youtube.com/jameshenrybreasted) to view our lectures online.

Members’ events would not be possible without the hard work of many dedicated Oriental Institute staff members and volunteers, and the membership office is thankful for all of their assistance with a very successful 2016–2017 events season.

## Member Travel

A group of twenty-six participants joined the Oriental Institute on the Ancient Land of Persia tour, led by OI Director (2002–2017) Gil Stein, and accompanied by Curator and Research Associate Kiersten Neumann, in October 2016. This exciting two-week journey included: exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the famous “Gold Room” in the National Archaeological Museum in Tehran; visits to the ruins of the Palace of Darius in Ahwaz, one of the oldest settlements in the world, the UNESCO-listed site of Persepolis, a wonder of the ancient world, the famous Zoroastrian Fire Temple in Yazd, and the magical city of Isfahan.

The Institute offered the Wonders of Ancient Egypt tour in March 2017, led by Lanny Bell (Associate Professor Emeritus of Egyptology, AB’63). The group enjoyed: an exclusive two-week adventure through the history, archaeology, and culture of Egypt, including a private “after-hours” tour of the Egyptian Museum; an evening at the Oriental Institute’s Chicago House; a visit to the Valley of Kings; a leisurely cruise along the Nile while touring Luxor, Edfu, and Aswan; and access to the tombs of Ramesses II and his wife Nefertari at the temples of Abu Simbel. A total of fourteen members and patrons participated in the tour.

Oriental Institute travel programs are unique in that our passengers experience exclusive site visits and on-site learning privileges not enjoyed by other institutions or travel groups. Our members learn directly from some of the most eminent scholars in the world, at sites the Oriental Institute has been working on and researching for almost a century. For more information on Oriental Institute travel programs, contact the Membership Office at [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) or visit our website at [oi.uchicago.edu/travel](http://oi.uchicago.edu/travel) or visit our OI Members Travel page at [facebook.com/OIMemberTravel](https://facebook.com/OIMemberTravel).