

ADULT EDUCATION

TASHA VORDERSTRASSE

Tasha Vorderstrasse, who was already a research associate at the Oriental Institute, stepped into the role of university and continuing education program coordinator in September 2017. The report here covers the time since she began this position. Carol Ng-He left her position in May of 2017.

The adult education program continued to offer continuing education classes. In fall 2017, there were two classes: “Art in Antiquity: An Introduction to Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology,” taught by Kiersten Neumann, PhD, curator of the Oriental Institute; and “Hieroglyphica: The History of Egyptology,” taught by Foy Scalf, PhD, head of the Research Archives. The two classes were offered both on-site as well as online. In addition, there was an offsite cooking class, “Ancient Cooking with Assyrian Kitchen” that was led by Atorina Zomaya. In the winter of 2018, the classes were offered for the first time with online streaming capabilities, meaning that the online students could live chat and take part in the discussions. The three classes in the winter were: “Ancient Egyptian Crimes, Lawsuits, and Trials,” taught by Brian Muhs, professor of Egyptology; “Intensive Sahidic Coptic,” taught by Foy Scalf; and “East meets West: Arts of the Silk Road in Central Asia,” taught by Tasha Vorderstrasse. Four further classes were taught in spring 2018: “Ancient Egyptian Art and Architecture” by Megaera Lorenz, PhD; “The World of the Hebrew Bible,” by Joey Cross, PhD candidate; “Readings in Sahidic Coptic Texts,” by Foy Scalf; and “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Vision for Greater Baghdad,” by Tasha Vorderstrasse. Technological support has been provided throughout by Knut Boehmer, IT manager at the Oriental Institute.

The gallery talks also provided a range of subject matters for the audience, with focuses on Mesopotamia (“Land, Water, Gods, and the King,” “Stone Ducks: Weights and Measures in Mesopotamia,” “Mesopotamian Temple Statues and Sacred Gifts”), Egypt (“Communicating with the Beyond in Ancient Egypt,” “Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead,” “Sleep like an Egyptian: Egyptian Headrests in Context,” “Late Antique Egyptian Textiles in the Oriental Institute Museum,” and “Shabtis: Servants and Substitutes”), as well as Anatolia (“A Thousand Gods, a Thousand Festivals”). These were



Gallery talks with Theo van den Hout (LEFT) and Tasha Vorderstrasse (RIGHT).



ABOVE: Gallery talk by Sasha Rohret.

South Side libraries. The grant was entitled: “Oriental Institute Community Scholars: Bringing the Past to the South Side of Chicago.” This project is backed by the Vice Provost for Academic Leadership, Advancement and Diversity.

presented by various members of the Oriental Institute faculty and staff, as well as a CMES MA student.

In addition to these activities, there were also a number of public tours given by Foy Scalf as part of the Oriental Institute Museum special exhibition *The Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*. This was the first time that tours of the special exhibition were made available for the general public. We had a good response to these tours even though they were usually held in the middle of the day and during the week rather than on weekends. Several specialist tours on different subject matters were also given by Tasha Vorderstrasse to University of Chicago undergraduate Core classes.

The Community Scholars program was revived this year and started again in April, when Kiersten Neumann gave a talk “From Persepolis to Chicago: Achaemenid Art and Architecture and the Oriental Institute.” These talks will continue throughout the summer of 2018. Tasha Vorderstrasse also received a Campus-Wide Inclusive Climate RFP grant to bring community scholars to