

DEVELOPMENT

WALLY VERDOOREN, MATTHEW WELTON, and POLINA KASIAN

The Oriental Institute's development program underwent a considerable amount of change during the 2017–18 academic year. To begin with, this was the first full year in which the development program operated within a single departmental unit overseeing philanthropic support, membership programming, and special events. This organizational restructuring brought together these three already inter-related and collaborative areas of activity, with the intent to build and integrate a more strategic approach to attracting, sustaining, expanding, and strengthening a base of partners and supporters committed to advancing the OI's mission and goals.

There also was a significant change in staff over the past year — Brittany Mullins left her position as director of Development and Kiran Webster left her position as assistant director of Development and Special Events, with both staff departures taking place near the middle of the academic year. Jennie Myers also left her position as Membership Program and Marketing manager in April of 2017, although her replacement would not be hired until later in the fall of 2017. The OI Development Department is now fully staffed with a very new team — Wally Verdooren joined the OI as director of Development in March 2018, Polina Kasian became assistant director of Development and Events in January 2018, and Matt Welton started as Membership Program and Marketing manager in November 2017.

In addition, what was known as the Visiting Committee ever since it was launched at the OI in 1951 has been renamed and repurposed as the Advisory Council. This key leadership group is now focusing its role even more on serving as ambassadors, connectors, and partners in the important philanthropic and community engagement efforts of the OI. John Rowe continues to serve as Council chair, and Council members are continuing and expanding their involvement in a number of OI program and research activities, including service on various committees organizing activities and events for the upcoming OI Centennial Celebration during the 2019–20 academic year.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

In the previous year, the OI's many partners have generously supported our mission to heighten understanding of the ancient Middle East through:

- ongoing and emerging research initiatives,
- cultural preservation efforts on campus and in several other countries,
- educational programming for scholars and community members,
- a wide range of museum resources,
- the conservation and documentation of our extensive artifact and archive collections.

Despite the many changes and staffing gaps that took place over the 2017–18 fiscal year, philanthropic support remained strong. Contributions from the Advisory Council, annual Members, and other donors continue to maintain and strengthen the OI's standing as the world's leading center for research and scholarship on the ancient Middle East. Table 1 provides a summary of fundraising results over

Table 1

Fiscal Year 2017–18 Fundraising Results by Giving Categories	\$ Amount
Expendable Cash:	\$1,280,203
Realized Bequests:	\$387,271
Payments on Multi-Year Pledges:	\$45,119
New Pledge Commitments:	\$225,000
New Deferred Gifts:	\$100,000

the past year, and all the categories of philanthropic revenue represented in these figures make the OI's important work possible.

In addition to securing essential fundraising support for budgeted annual programs and operations, a comprehensive fundraising plan and strategy were developed in the 2017–18 program year to achieve increased levels of annual support in the years ahead. Another key component of this enhanced fundraising plan is the launch of a major new campaign to commemorate and leverage the OI's Centennial Celebration which will take place during the 2019–20 academic year. During this past year, the OI's leadership set a number of strategic and ambitious goals to achieve through this Centennial Campaign. As we move into a new century of leadership in ancient Middle Eastern studies, the OI must:

- Acquire new endowments and increased sponsorships to support emerging and ongoing archaeological, philological, historical, and cultural research and discovery activities.
- Continue to expand the Museum's Gallery Enhancement Project which is currently replacing all free-standing cases and updating exhibits and displays.
- Create a far more welcoming, accessible, and functional entryway and lobby to attract additional visitors and enhance their experience.
- Expand and strengthen the facilities and programming at Chicago House, the OI's research center and Epigraphic Survey headquarters in Luxor, Egypt.
- Renovate Breasted Hall into a more comfortable and technologically equipped lecture, presentation, and learning facility.
- Make the OI's inner garden courtyard, designed by the renowned landscape architect Beatrix Farrand, into a more integrated feature of the Museum and more accessible to the campus community and the general public.
- Enhance the resources of the OI's community education program, which offers classes and learning activities on the ancient Near East to school children, teachers, college students, and other interested adults.

Achieving these goals will provide the Oriental Institute with essential scholarly and facility resources to equip us for continued growth in the next 100 years and beyond. While the plan and donor engagement strategy for this Centennial Campaign have been outlined and initiated during the past year, the active fundraising period will span the next two years and culminate at the conclusion of the Centennial Celebration year in 2019–20. The OI greatly values and appreciates the continued philanthropic support of its many Members and contributors and welcomes any inquiries and offers related to additional support to the annual giving program and/or the Centennial Campaign.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMING

Oriental Institute Membership rebounded to exceed financial goals for the 2017–18 fiscal year. Member retention remains high, with a 15 percent increase in new memberships during the past year. The Oriental Institute is proud to have a committed group of supporters, intent on furthering our mission to advance OI research and communicate our discoveries to both the scholarly community and the general public. Thanks to Member support, the Oriental Institute is able to provide free daily admission to the OI Museum and to host free monthly lectures that are open to all Members and the community at large.

This past year, Members enjoyed special access to *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*, a very popular special exhibit of the Museum during the 2017–18 academic year. Members also took advantage of discounts in the museum gift shop, and on participation fees for classes, programs, and special events. The Oriental Institute is grateful to have such a dedicated and inquisitive group of Members, and we are thankful for their support, advocacy, and commitment to new discoveries of the ancient Middle East.

Members' Lectures

The Oriental Institute Members' Lectures saw increased attendance in 2018. Member support is directly responsible for lecturer honorariums, travel costs, reception budgets, and other logistical expenses. Without Member support, we would not be able to continue to provide free lectures to the general public. We thank each of our Members for their ongoing generosity. Our OI Members' Lectures for the 2017–18 academic year included:

- Jodi Magness, “The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls” (October 4, 2017)
- Chris Thornton, “Reflections on 10 Years at the Bronze Age Site of Bat in the Sultanate of Oman” (December 6, 2017)
- Yorke Rowan, “Kites, Tombs, and Houses in the ‘Land of Conjecture’: New Discoveries in the Black Desert, Jordan” (January 10, 2018)
- David P. Silverman, “The Other Book of the Dead” (February 7, 2018)
- Susanne Paulus, “Debts, Crime, and Prison: Daily Life in Babylonia ca. 1200 BC” (March 7, 2018)
- Peter Pfalzner, “On the Fringe of Mesopotamia: Investigating Urbanization and Cultural Interaction During the Bronze Age in an Unexplored Part of Iraqi Kurdistan” (June 6, 2018)

In addition to these offerings, Members were also invited to attend a number of named lectures that took place at the OI during the past program year, and these special lecture programs are described in the Special Events section of this annual report. We would like to extend a very special thank you to all of our lecturers over the past year. The OI Members' Lecture series aims to bring a varied selection of the most recent and pioneering work and scholarship on the ancient Middle East to our Members and our community. We look forward to an exciting and dynamic lecture season in 2018–19, which will begin on the first Wednesday of October in 2018.

All of our OI lectures are uploaded and can be accessed for free from anywhere by visiting the Oriental Institute YouTube channel: youtube.com/jameshenrybreasted.

Young Professionals

The Oriental Institute's Young Professional (YP) group is a vibrant community of young adults who support the overall mission and programs of the Oriental Institute. This special membership category is designed to give emerging business and civic leaders a meaningful way to engage with the Oriental

RIGHT: 2017-18 *News & Notes* Members' magazine, issues 236-239.



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 in their fields.

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. This past year Young Professionals enjoyed OI Architecture tours, exclusive Book of the Dead seminars and receptions, and access to the Field Museum's Mummies special exhibit. At the end of the 2017-18 academic year, the Young Professional group began a phase of restructuring, with programming resuming in the 2018-19 academic year.

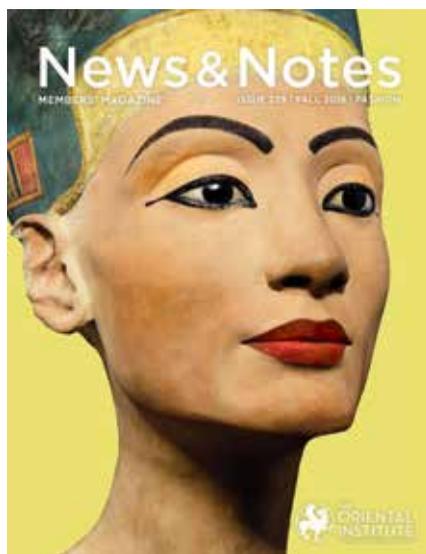
Members Publications

News & Notes, the OI Members' quarterly magazine, has begun several creative changes over this past year. In the spring, we introduced thematic content with an issue devoted to food traditions in the ancient Middle East. As we roll out future changes to the formatting of *News & Notes*, it is our intent to expand accessibility while retaining the scholarly tone of articles written by OI faculty and research associates.

News & Notes is published with the assistance of the Publications Office staff, and their dedication and hard work can be seen on each page. In addition to the Publications Office, we would like to thank each of the faculty and staff contributors who provided exciting and engaging articles for every issue.

Members Travel

During the 2017-18 program year, the Oriental Institute continued its tradition of providing once-in-a-lifetime informative and comprehensive travel opportunities by visiting Jordan and Central Asia. This past October, twenty-four travelers joined Yorke Rowan, senior research associate and director of the Galilee Prehistory Project, on a journey through the archaeological heritage of Jordan. Travel-



ers got close to the adventure and grandeur of such locations as Petra, the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum, and Umm ar-Rasas. In addition to visiting highlights of Jordan, the Oriental Institute was able to arrange exclusive events with scholars and archaeologists, providing access to ongoing excavations in the Black Desert.

In May of this year, seventeen travelers joined former OI director Gil Stein on an exploration of Central Asia. The excursion followed the Silk Road through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Participants explored ancient sites, traditional arts and crafts, and Soviet Era art and architecture. The tour visited the barren Aral Sea of Uzbekistan, walked in the footsteps of Tamerlane, and interacted with local artisans at markets and workshops.

Oriental Institute travel programs are unique in that our tour participants 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 or visit our website at oi.uchicago.edu/travel, or our OI Members Travel page at facebook.com/OIMemberTravel.



ABOVE: OI trip to Jordan.
Photo by Judith Baxter.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During the 2017–18 academic year, we hosted a variety of special events at the Oriental Institute for our Members, donors, and the general public. We celebrated the opening of the Book of Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt special exhibition, welcomed Breasted Society members for an architectural tour of the OI, and honored our former director Gil Stein. In addition, with the enormous help of faculty and staff, we organized a Research Fair during the annual University of Chicago Alumni Weekend, which saw thousands of alumni return to campus. We want to express a special thanks to our generous Members and other donors, whose support makes our exhibits, programming, research, and special events possible.

Members' Preview of Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt

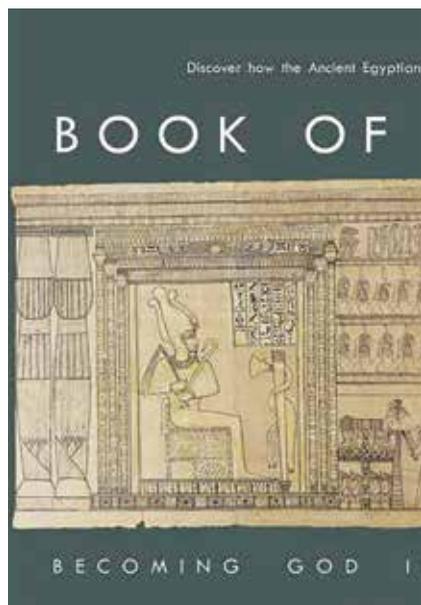
OI members were among the first visitors of the special exhibit, Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt, and on October 1, 2017, enjoyed a curator-led tour by Foy Scalf, research associate and head of the OI Research Archives. The unique exhibition included more than fifty objects, including two spectacular Books of the Dead — one was forty-one feet long — which were shown in their entirety for the first time in nearly a century. Additionally, the exhibit featured a re-creation of a burial with a rarely exhibited mummy surrounded by many objects inscribed with the Book of the Dead. Following the preview, guests gathered for a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Marija Gimbutas Memorial Lecture

Colin Renfrew, Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, senior fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, formerly Disney professor of Archaeology, and director of the McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge, gave the Marija Gimbutas Memorial Lecture on November 8, 2017, which was titled, “Marija Rediviva: DNA and Indo-European Origins.” Marija Gimbutas had a detailed knowledge of the archaeology of prehistoric Europe and of the cultures of “Old Europe” with their rich iconography of goddesses and gods, which she viewed as overwhelmed at the onset of the Bronze Age by the Kurgan invasion, an incursion of a new population from the East European steppe lands north of the Black Sea. This she saw as the key impetus which brought Old Europe to an end, and which introduced to Europe a new population speaking early Indo-European languages. The first Marija Gimbutas Memorial Lecture offered a critical review of the question of Indo-European language origins and highlighted the contribution of one of the leading prehistorians of the twentieth century.

TOP: Book of the Dead exhibit poster, highlighting a vignette of BD 125 from the famous Papyrus Milbank.

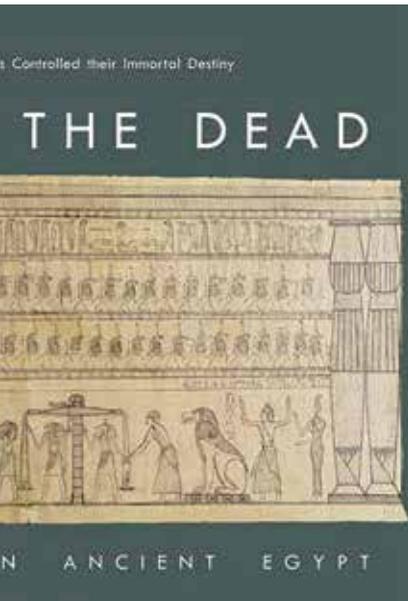
BOTTOM: Foy Scalf giving a tour for the Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt exhibit.



Emily Teeter Retires: Celebrating Twenty-Seven Years

On December 1, 2017, the Oriental Institute celebrated the twenty-seven-year career of Emily Teeter with a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. The event started with remarks made by OI director Christopher Woods, who recounted many of Emily's contributions to the OI, including her work curating the Joseph and Mary Glimshaw Egyptian Gallery and coordinating the special exhibits program. Woods also noted her work for publications and her efforts to raise the visibility of the OI in local, national, and international communities. Among others who spoke during the

reception was Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology and editor of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project, who cited Emily's contributions to the field of Egyptology, and volunteer Shirlee Hoffman, who thanked Emily for her generosity and time training and assisting docents.



James Henry Breasted Society Event: Architectural Tour of the Oriental Institute

On December 7, 2017, members of the Breasted Society came to the OI to view architectural elements of our building with: Tasha Vorderstrasse, University and Continuing Education program coordinator and research associate; Kiersten Neumann, museum curator and research associate; and Susan van der Meulen, OI volunteer and architect. The guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and discussed often overlooked design elements on the first two floors of the building, including the Museum galleries and lobby, Research Archives, and Director's Suite. The tour also included an in-depth look at architect Frank Lloyd Wright's plan for Greater Baghdad (1957), which was on display in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. This event was made possible by the members of the James Henry Breasted Society, who provide an annual and renewable source of support for priority research projects of the Oriental Institute.



Young Professionals Group Event

The OI's growing and dedicated Young Professionals group joined us on February 21, 2018, in the Persian Gallery for a cocktail reception and talk with Matthew Welton, Member Program and Marketing manager, about future development of the group and ways to attract new members. After a live harp musical performance by Tasha Vorderstrasse, University and Continuing Education program coordinator and research associate, the guests joined Foy Scalf, the special exhibit's curator and head of the Oriental Institute Research Archives, for a private tour of the special exhibition, *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*. We would like to express special thanks to Foy Scalf and Tasha Vorderstrasse for providing a unique experience to our guests.

Fourteenth Annual Postdoctoral Seminar

Postdoctoral fellow Aleksandra Hallmann organized the fourteenth annual postdoctoral seminar, hosted at the Oriental Institute on March 1–2, 2018. This year’s conference, titled, *Outward Appearance vs. Inward Significance: Addressing Identities through Attire in the Ancient World*, brought together U.S. and international scholars to investigate multiple trajectories of the role of dress in the construction of various identities in the ancient world. Conference speakers took a curator-led tour of the Oriental Institute and attended a number of dinners, including one in the Persian Gallery. All presentations of this year’s postdoctoral seminar were free and open to OI Members and the public, thanks to the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee Herbst and the William J. Robarts Fund. A publication of the conference proceedings is currently in production.

Joint James Henry Breasted Society and Young Professionals Event at the Field Museum

The Anthropology Alliance of the Field Museum invited the OI’s Breasted Society and Young Professionals Group members to join a lecture in the Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall along with an additional opportunity to be among the first to view their special exhibition *Mummies* on March 17, 2018. This event was a part of a partnership between the OI and the Anthropology Alliance.



ABOVE: Photos from the 14th Oriental Institute Seminar; participants and responders; Aleksandra Hallmann, organizer. Photos by Charissa Johnson.

FAR RIGHT: Gil Stein, former Oriental Institute director, with OI director Chris Woods (right), and Robert Zimmer, president of the University of Chicago (left). Photo by Sue Geshwender.

The Braidwood Visiting Scholar Program and Lecture

On April 4, 2018, the Oriental Institute welcomed Arlene M. Rosen, professor of Anthropology and director of the Environmental Archaeology Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, as the Braidwood Visiting Scholar. As part of the Braidwood Visiting Scholar Program, Arlene delivered one public lecture titled, *Climate Change and the Origins of Agriculture in Western Asia: A Story of Risk, Resilience, and Sustainable Foraging during Cycles of Wet and Dry Conditions*, and two workshops intended for graduate students, faculty and research staff: *Geoarchaeology as a Technique for Addressing Social Questions in Archaeology*; and *Theory and Practice of Environmental Archaeology*. The Braidwood Visiting Scholar Program in Archaeology aims to encourage and perpetuate the educational values of Robert and Linda Braidwood, particularly their commitment to the mentorship and training of graduate students specializing in the archaeology of the ancient Middle East.

Celebrating Gil Stein: Fifteen Years of Leadership

On April 11, 2018, the OI celebrated Gil Stein's incredible fifteen-year run as director. A catered reception followed, featuring reflections on Gil's leadership from university president Robert Zimmer and current OI director Christopher Woods. Among Gil's highlighted accomplishments were the installation of new galleries in the museum, the initiation of the OI Special Exhibits programs, an increase of field projects, and more. In addition to his role as director, Gil conducted his own field projects in several Middle Eastern countries. He came to the OI in 2001, and his three terms as director are surpassed only by OI founder James Henry Breasted. Gil is currently a professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the OI and in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, as well as the senior advisor to the provost for Cultural Heritage.







LEFT: Research fair at the OI with Hervé Reculeau (above) and Tasha Vorderstrasse (below). Photos by Anne Ryan.

David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series

On May 2, 2018, Mordechai Aviam, senior lecturer in the Department of Land of Israel Studies at Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee and senior researcher in the Institute for Galilean Archaeology, gave a lecture in the annual David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series titled, *Y'odfat (Jotapata): The Life and Death of a Jewish Galilean Town: A Case Study for Jewish Life at the End of the Second Temple Period*, and led a workshop about new discoveries in the first and second centuries in Galilee for graduate students and faculty. During his workshop, Mordechai met with graduate students from the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department, the Divinity School, and the Anthropology Department, as well as faculty and staff from the Oriental Institute.

Research Fair at the Oriental Institute

As a part of the University of Chicago's annual Alumni Weekend Program, the OI organized a Research Fair in its galleries on June 1, 2018. Faculty and staff presented materials on their research to University alumni and discussed their current projects with visitors. This event attracted more than 150 alumni and family members with interests in the OI's mission, and we are looking forward to an even bigger OI presence during next year's Alumni Weekend.