# DEVELOPMENT WALLY VERDOOREN, MATTHEW WELTON, POLINA KASIAN, AND ALI MALLETT

The Oriental Institute's development program oversees and manages all activities related to philanthropic support, membership programming, and special events. These three inter-related and collaborative areas of activities work together to build and integrate a more strategic and effective approach to attracting, sustaining, expanding, and strengthening a base of partners and supporters committed to advancing the OI's mission and goals.

The OI development team comprises:

- Wally Verdooren, director of development
- Matthew Welton, membership program and marketing manager
- Polina Kasian, assistant director of development and events
- Ali Mallett, development associate, who joined the team in January of 2019

The OI development team works across the organization with senior administrative leaders, faculty, researchers, program staff, Advisory Council members and other volunteers, and colleagues in the University of Chicago's Alumni Relations and Development Office to advance the important philan-thropic, membership, and community-engagement efforts of the OI.

# PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

In the previous 2018–19 program year, the OI's many members and partners have generously supported our mission to heighten the scholarly understanding of the ancient Middle East through research initiatives, cultural-preservation efforts, educational programming, and the museum and collections. 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 scholarship on the ancient Middle East. Significant philanthropic achievements during the previously completed program year include the following:

- The OI had a \$38 million goal as part of "The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry & Impact." This university-wide and multi-year fundraising drive is scheduled to be completed at the end of the 2019 calendar, and the OI surpassed its \$38 million goal in June 2019 and six months before the official campaign end date.
- While surpassing its University of Chicago campaign goal is noteworthy, the OI's fundraising work remains a top priority and continues to move forward at an accelerated pace. At the start of the 2018–19 program year, the OI's leadership decided to extend its campaign period through the end of calendar year 2020, embarking on a special Centennial Campaign that has a goal of securing at least \$10 million in new gifts, pledges, and documented estate commitments from July 2018 through December 2020. This enhanced fundraising effort aims to leverage the momentum and the heightened activities and visibility of the OI's centennial

year being commemorated and celebrated throughout the 2019–20 academic year. In the first year of the Centennial Campaign, the OI is pleased to report that a total of \$4,919,675 in new gifts, pledges, and estate commitments were secured toward the \$10 million goal. For anyone interested in learning more about the OI Centennial Campaign and its giving priorities and opportunities, please contact oi-development@uchicago.edu or 773-702-5062.

• The chart below provides a comparison summary of fundraising results in key giving categories over the last two fiscal years, and all the categories of philanthropic revenue represented in these figures are making the OI's important work possible.

Fundraising Giving Categories	FY 2017-18 \$ Amounts	FY 2018-19 \$ Amounts
Expendable Cash	\$1,280,203	\$2,272,000
Realized Bequests	\$387,271	\$406,685
Payments on Multi-Year Pledges	\$45,119	\$1,348,838
New Pledge Commitments	\$225,000	\$1,839,160
New Deferred Gifts and Documented Bequests	\$100,000	\$1,600,000

All these philanthropic achievements during the 2018–19 program year provided the OI with essential resources for continued scholarly and programmatic growth, and this growth is only possible through the ongoing commitment and support of the OI's many members and partners.

# MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMING

Thanks to our dedicated member base and successful continuing efforts at new member acquisition, Oriental Institute membership has exceeded financial goals for the 2018–19 fiscal year. Member retention remains strong at over 80 percent, with new member acquisition activities resulting in a 19 percent increase over the previous year. The OI is excited to welcome our new members into a community of dedicated individuals and inquisitive supporters intent on furthering our mission to advance and communicate the research and discoveries of the ancient Middle East. Membership support enables the OI to continue to provide both free daily museum admission and free monthly lectures presented by world-renowned scholarly luminaries that are open to the community at large.

In the 2019–20 academic year, which will commemorate and celebrate the OI's centennial, a members' film series will be introduced to supplement our monthly lectures. This inaugural film series seeks to reach a wider audience by screening popular classic and world cinema titles as well as more recent documentaries. Supplemental programming during our film screenings will include question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers, introductions and talks by OI faculty, and moderated panels on themes presented in the films.

The upcoming academic year also will see the roll-out of online live streaming for all of our monthly OI Members' Lectures. Live streaming from Breasted Hall will allow our members who live a distance from Chicago to view and enjoy each lecture as it happens. In addition to live streaming, OI Membership will continue to sponsor a podcast featuring discussions with OI faculty and research associates. Live streaming and our OI podcast represent a part of our continuing effort to engage with and give value to our national and international members.

#### MEMBERS' LECTURES | DEVELOPMENT

The OI is grateful to and appreciative of each of our members. We are thankful for your continued advocacy and commitment to new discoveries of the ancient Middle East. Scholarly and programmatic activities during our centennial year and each of the one hundred years that proceeded it have been strengthened by the support of OI members. For the previous 2018–19 program year, some of the most significant member activities included the following:

# MEMBERS' LECTURES

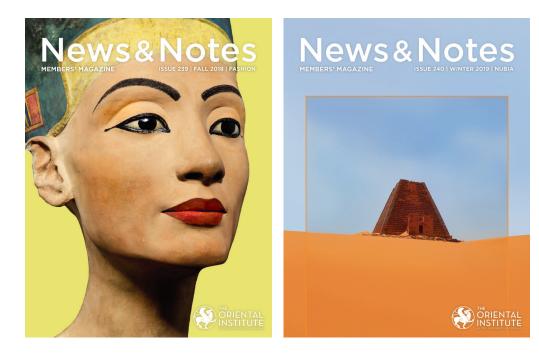
The 2018–19 academic year was an exciting time for OI Members' Lectures. Renovations in Breasted Hall resulted in the closing of the beloved venue for four months, during which time lectures were held off-site in the nearby Social Sciences building. Despite the change of venue, OI Members' Lectures saw a dramatic increase in attendance, resulting in a number of sold-out events. 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 provide free lectures to the general public, and now live streaming to the world at large. We thank each member for their ongoing generosity and commitment toward OI learning and education for our entire community of learners across the globe.

Our Members' Lectures for the 2018–19 academic year included:

- Stuart Tyson Smith, "Tangled Lives: Intercultural Interactions in the Nubian Borderlands" (October 7, 2018)
- Stephen Chrisomalis, "How to Choose a Number: Multimodal Variations in Ancient Written Numerals" (December 5, 2018)
- Brian Rose, "Troy and Gordion: The Historiography of Excavation at Two Legendary Sites in Anatollia" (February 6, 2019)
- Morag Kersel, "Pots from the City of Sin: The Consequences of Buying Holy Land Antiquities" (March 6, 2019)
- Karen Radner, "Assyrian Imperial Power and How to Oppose It" (May 1, 2019)



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. All of our OI Members' Lectures can be viewed on the OI's YouTube channel: youtube.com/jameshenrybreasted.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to each of our lecturers over this 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. The 2019–20 Members' Lectures will celebrate one hundred years of OI exploration with a series of speakers largely comprising OI faculty and senior researchers. The 2019–20 series will begin in October 18 with a lecture by Ayelet Gilboa on ancient Israel and will culminate with a lecture by W. Raymond Johnson on the OI's continuing work in Egypt with a focus on the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Oriental Institute's Young Professionals (YP) group continues to be a vibrant community of young adults engaged with the discovery and exploration of the ancient Middle East. YP members have proven to be valuable ambassadors who support the overall mission and programs of the OI. This special membership category is designed to give emerging business and civic leaders a meaningful way to engage with the OI. YP membership is intended for anyone between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five who would like 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.

This past year the Young Professionals took part in events that included a private dinner and salon-style talk with Chris Woods in the director's office, an exploration of ancient spices, a visit to the Newberry Library to view rare texts pertaining to the decipherment of hieroglyphs, and a downtown tour of ancient Middle Eastern motifs in Chicago's art deco architecture.



The YP group strives to find ways to illuminate the ancient Middle East throughout the greater Chicago area. In addition to continued educational and cultural programming, during the upcoming centennial year, YP members will sponsor the first ever pre-Halloween event, *Mummies and Martinis,* an evening that will be both educational and social and open to YP members from various institutions across the greater Chicago area.

# MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

*News & Notes*, the OI members' quarterly magazine, continues several creative changes, strengthening thematic material in each issue and fostering accessibility with creative formatting. The intention to retain a scholarly tone remains at the forefront of each new enhancement. This year also saw new thematic issues that explored the OI's continuing work in Sudan, the OI and ancient travel, manuscripts in the OI collections, and the OI's rebranding.

*News & Notes* is designed and produced by the OI Publications staff. Membership is grateful to the hard work, creativity, and dedication that Publications puts into each page. In addition to Publications, we would like to thank each of the faculty, staff, graduate students, and research associates who contributed to each article and thereby provided engaging and educational content for every issue.

# MEMBER TRAVEL

During the 2018–19 program year, the Oriental Institute continued its tradition of providing once-ina-lifetime informative travel opportunities with a sold-out comprehensive tour of Egypt. In November 2018, twenty-seven travelers joined OI research associate Emily Teeter on a journey through the ancient sites of Egypt. The travelers cruised the Nile, drove through the desert, and flew to distant destinations for special access and behind-the-scenes tours of current excavations and conservation efforts in operation from Cairo to Aswan. In the Grand Egyptian Museum's conservation center, the OI participants got face to face with magnificent gold-covered chariots and funerary offerings excavated from the tomb of King Tut. Travelers received once-in-a-lifetime access to closed-off areas in a special guided tour by the current director of excavations at the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, special access to the OI excavations at Tell Edfu, and special access and presentations of the OI conservation efforts at Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple. Our OI tour members bonded over their journeys and continue to meet regularly in Hyde Park and other local places for discussions on the ancient world over regular dinners.

In December 2018, several Egypt travelers joined tour leader Emily Teeter and a group of explorers farther down in Africa with an exciting and awe-inspiring trip to Sudan and ancient Nubia. OI travelers journeyed from Khartoum to camp at the base of the pyramid field at Meroe, cruise the confluence of the Blue and White Nile, and greet the day at Gebel Barkal.

A group of OI travelers went to New Haven CT for a visit to Yale University led by Professor Susanne Paulus. At Yale, OI travelers received a curator-led tour of the special exhibit, "Ancient Mesopotamia Speaks," and they received special access to the Yale Babylonian Collection and toured the Yale University Art Gallery. In-country travel offers the unique opportunity for OI members outside of Illinois to join the OI for special one-day events in their own local communities. The 2019–20 year will see more OI travel events planned within the United States as a way to bring the OI to our members who live across the country.

OI travel programs are unique in that our tour participants experience exclusive site visits and on-site learning privileges not available to other institutions or travel groups. Our members learn directly from some of the most eminent scholars in the world associated with the OI and visit sites the OI has been excavating and researching for decades (and sometimes for almost a century). During our centennial year, OI tours will include a return to Egypt for our most comprehensive tour ever led by Emily Teeter that will feature an exploration of middle Egypt and a special Thanksgiving dinner at Chicago House in Luxor. The OI also will offer an exploration of Turkey and Greece, which marks the OI's first tour to Crete and mainland Greece, led by the OI's Theo van den Hout and Seth Estrin, a faculty member of the University of Chicago's Art History Department. Our 2019–20 tours are currently sold out, but please visit the OI website for future additional travel opportunities. OI tours often sell out quickly—to be placed on our early tour notification list, please email oi-membership@ uchicago.edu.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

During the 2018–19 program year, the OI offered a variety of special events for members, donors, and the general public. We celebrated one hundred years since the founding date of the OI, brought our member community together with an indoor picnic, re-opened a completely renovated and updated Breasted Hall, and explored the museum as a learning collection. In addition, and with the generous assistance of OI faculty and staff, the OI organized a research fair, demon hunt, and exploration of ancient beer during the annual University of Chicago Alumni Weekend, which saw thousands of alumni return to campus. We would like to express special thanks to our generous members and donors, whose support makes the OI's museum exhibits, programming, research, and special events possible. Please do check our website, News & Notes, and various digital notices and printed mailings for an enhanced schedule of centennial special events in the upcoming year, which will feature explorations of archaeology, history, music, film, and contemporary art. The previous 2018–19 program year included the following notable OI special events:

# OI Members' Picnic

Even though rain filled the sky during our first-ever OI members' picnic at the start of the new program year on September 7, 2018, it did not stop us from moving inside and enjoying an exceptionally well-attended thank-you meal event for our members. Originally intended to be held under a tent with live music on the lawn outside of the OI building, our members moved into the galleries, lobby, and second-floor landing for tacos, burritos, enchiladas, music, and conversation.

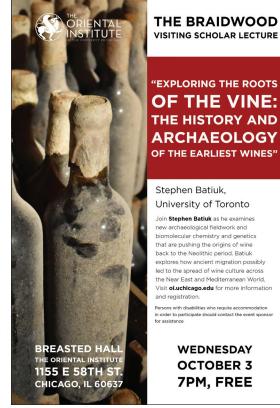
# The Braidwood Visiting Scholar Program and Lecture

Stephen Batiuk from the University of Toronto presented the Braidwood Memorial Lecture on October 3, 2018, which was titled "Exploring the Roots of the Vine: The History and Archaeology of the Earliest Wines." Stephen Batiuk's extremely well-attended lecture explored the origins of wine, the most commonly enjoyed beverage in much of the ancient and the modern world. Batiuk showed how new archaeological fieldwork, biomolecular chemistry, and genetics are helping unlock the story of wine's origins, and how one of our earliest examples of an ancient migration probably

led to the spread of wine culture across the ancient Middle East and the Mediterranean world. Batiuk also provided two graduate-student workshops on his current work in Georgia and recent developments in the field of ancient 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.

# Exploring Ancient and Contemporary Georgian Wines

As a supplement to the topic of the 2018 Braidwood Visiting Scholar Lecture, the OI held a wine-tasting event exploring Georgian wines on October 18, 2018. Tasha Vorderstrasse, the OI's university and continuing education program coordinator and research associate, started the evening with a brief presentation on ancient wines, which was followed by a guided tasting of several varietals from Georgia, the birthplace of wine. The success of this wine tasting and reception has led to the planning of a regular wine-tasting series, which will be offered during the OI's upcoming centennial year.



# Breasted Society and Young Professionals Spice House Event

On January 24, 2019, members of the OI's Breasted Society and the Young Professionals group met at the Spice House in the Old Town neighborhood of Chicago for an event that explored the history and uses of ancient spices. The staff at the Spice House brought ancient trade to life with history and an opportunity to experience the physical properties of spices used and grown in the ancient Middle East.



# Afrofuturism Seminar

On October 7, 2018, the OI hosted a seminar exploring the impact and history of Afro-Futurism and its connection to the reinterpretation of ancient Egyptian and Sudanese art and culture. This day-long event included a panel discussion led by OI researchers and scholars, a lecture about Afro-Futurism in pop art, a special showing of work by renowned Afro-Futurism artist John Jennings, and a reception in the museum galleries for all seminar participants.

## Young Professionals Newberry Library Event

On February 2, 2019, the Young Professionals group met Foy Scalf, the OI's head of the Research Archives, for an exploration of the rediscovery of ancient Egypt onsite at the Newberry Library. Newberry Library curators provided special access to a variety of rare volumes integral to the rediscovery of the ancient world and the decipherment of hieroglyphs. The manuscripts were set up with a questionnaire and a workshop program led by Scalf, which allowed attendees to search the volumes and research the history and ideology of pioneers in the field of Egyptology while uncovering key images and elements in these selected original resources. After the event, the YP group continued the discussion over lunch at a downtown eatery.

## Film Screening of Cleopatra

On March 24, 2019, the OI opened the newly renovated Breasted Hall with a members' screening of the classic Hollywood epic, *Cleopatra*, starring Elizabeth Taylor in the title role. This screening show-cased the new audio and visual capabilities of Breasted Hall and paved the way for the OI's inaugural centennial year film series during the upcoming 2019–20 academic year.

## William Sumner Memorial Lecture

On April 3, 2019, Melinda Zeder from the Smithsonian Institution presented the inaugural William Sumner Memorial Lecture. The William Sumner Memorial Lecture celebrates the life and legacy of



past OI director William Sumner and the OI's historic and continuing work and research in Iran. Melinda Zeder presented the lecture "What Braidwood Got Right: Rehabilitating Iran and the Eastern Fertile Crescent as a Center of Agricultural Origins." Zeder focused on the work and research of the OI's own Robert and Linda Braidwood as the starting point to a lecture that explored the shift in focus of archaeological studies of early agriculture in the western Fertile Crescent region. Zeder discussed how recent applications of new scientific methods to original collections from Robert and Linda Braidwood's OI excavations in the 1950s have changed the perception of the western Fertile Crescent region.

# OI Centennial Year Birthday Party Celebration

OI members, supporters, and volunteers gathered in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery to commemorate the OI's hundredth "birthday" and to participate in a celebratory kick-off of the OI's centennial year. The event took place on May 13, 2019, exactly one hundred years after the date on which the University of Chicago's Board of Trustees formally established the OI as the university's first interdisciplinary research center. This celebration included an impressive birthday cake in the shape of our beloved lamassu, remarks from Director Christopher Woods and several long-time OI volunteers and supporters, and a champagne toast to the history and the milestone centennial of the OI.

# David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series

On June 5, 2019, David Ilan, director of the Nelson Gluekck School of Biblical Archaeology in Israel and director at Tell Dan, presented the annual David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture. David Ilan's lecture, titled "The Iron Age and Origins of Israel," explored his recent archaeological work on Iron Age I and presented theories on how Israel began. This sold-out lecture had the highest-ever recorded members' lecture attendance, and Ilan offered a graduate-student workshop about the presence of ancient Egyptians in Israel on the next day.



## *Research Fair and Alumni Weekend Events 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 7, 2019. Faculty and research staff presented materials on their work to University alumni and interested members, discussing their current projects with visitors. Later that same day, a joint talk and beer tasting in the Alumni Weekend beer tent explored ancient Mesopotamian brewing and was led by OI professor Susanne Paulus and Patrick Conway, owner of Great Lakes Brewing Company. The OI held a "demon hunt" throughout the galleries for interested alumni on Saturday afternoon of June 8, 2019, as part of the celebratory weekend.

# Breasted Society Event: Learning in History

On June 13, 2019, members of the James Henry Breasted Society met at the OI for a program featuring several learning stations exploring the museum and research archives as Breasted's teaching collection. This event included:

- Jean Evans, the museum's chief curator, who led guided tours of the museum collection to explain the historical development of the galleries and exhibits;
- OI Egyptology Professor Brian Muhs, who presented a talk and exploration of two rarely seen Egyptian objects used by students in the ancient world;
- OI Assyriology Professor Susanne Paulus, who examined several tablets used as teaching aids for children in ancient Mesopotamia;
- Foy Scalf, research associate and head of the Research Archives, who displayed and described several influential historical research volumes still used by OI students exploring the development of ancient Middle Eastern languages, histories, and cultures.

This event concluded with a special private reception in the OI's Research Archives Reading Room.

# *Young Professionals Walking Tour of Chicago: The Ancient Influences in Art Deco*

The OI Young Professionals joined OI alumna Cynthia Bates on a guided walking tour of several iconic buildings in downtown Chicago on June 22, 2019. Tour participants explored the exteriors and lobbies of buildings, gaining weekend access and space to focus on locating and learning about ancient Middle Eastern motifs used by artists and architects during the twentieth-century Art Deco Period.

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Advisory Council at the Centennial birthday party. Photo: Charissa Johnson Photography.

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS AND MEMBERS

The Oriental Institute gratefully recognizes the many supporters who have furthered the mission and impact of the OI with a new gift, documented pledge, or documented estate commitment of \$100 or more during fiscal year 2018–19 (spanning July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). The following pages list the many members, partners, and contributors whose support helps to ensure and inspire excellence at the OI. We celebrate your commitment and are pleased to recognize publicly the impact of your generosity on the OI and our community. The OI's ongoing research and discovery would not be possible without your financial investment in our work.

# THANK YOU!

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Anonymous Ms. Mary Geneva Finn, Chicago, Illinois Mr. Julius Lewis, Chicago, Illinois Ms. Esther Arnold Smith, Saint Louis, Missouri

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