

ADULT EDUCATION

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In 2018–19, the adult education program continued to offer continuing education classes with the livestreaming element. In the summer of 2018 the classes taught were, “Pottery and Society in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean,” by Natasha Ayers, PhD, “Science and Technology in the Medieval Islamic World,” by Tasha Vorderstrasse, PhD, and “Art and Archaeology of Ancient Turkey,” by Shannon Martino, PhD. In the fall of 2018 the two classes were a one-day class: “The Art and Architecture of Greco-Roman Egypt,” by Megaera Lorenz, PhD, and “Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs,” by Foy Scalf, PhD. In the winter of 2018 the classes were “Watercraft in Ancient Egypt,” by Doug Inglis, PhD candidate, and “Languages of Ancient and Medieval Nubia: Adaptation and Innovation,” by Brian Muhs, associate professor of Egyptology, and Tasha Vorderstrasse. In spring 2019, there were a variety of different types of classes offered, including an online-only class, “Forensic Archaeology,” which was offered by Sasha Rohret, PhD candidate and two on-site-only classes: “Drinking in Antiquity,” by Lucas Livingston of the Art Institute, and “Discover Cuneiform with Objects from the Oriental Institute’s Tablet Collection,” offered the students an opportunity to look at OI artifacts. There was also a class offered both on-site and online (with live streaming): “Connecting the Medieval Mediterranean and Beyond: Jacques de Vitry and the Formation of a Treasury of Byzantine, Islamic, Crusader, and European Art,” by Tasha Vorderstrasse. Technological support continued to be provided throughout by Knut Boehmer, IT manager at the Oriental Institute.

The gallery talks included discussion on a variety of objects such as “Food and Diet in Ancient Egypt,” “Egyptian Boats—on the Nile and in the Afterlife,” “Ancient Egyptian Statues Abroad,” “Power and Pottery in Early Mesopotamia,” and “The Monuments of Tell Tayinat.” There were also two talks on Nubia: “Enclaves, Military Outposts, and Colonial Settlements: Autonomy and Cultural Encounter in Nubia,” and “From a Different Angle: Nubians Living in Egypt.” In several cases, it was possible to bring out objects from the OI collections, such as in the talk “Pottery from Archaeological Excavations in the Near East,” which allowed attendees an opportunity to handle pottery from the OI education department collection, and “Hadrian’s Autobiography?” where the only known fragment of Hadrian’s autobiography was brought out for attendees to see, since the papyrus is not on display. This lecture was in honor of Pride Month, and is the first time that it has been celebrated at the OI. There was also an interactive art gallery talk, “Drawing from the Oriental Institute Museum Collection,” which allowed attendees to create art based on museum collection.

In addition, Community Scholars lectures continued with a variety of events including a set of three lectures at the Barrington White House. Other activities included specialist tours given by Tasha Vorderstrasse to UChicago Core classes, which were tours focusing on a postcolonial approach to the OI, as well as free tours open to the public: “Demon Trapping 101,” which looked at demons in the OI museum galleries, and a “Sepulchral Ground Tour: Exploring Egyptian and Classical Monuments at Graceland Cemetery,” by Foy Scalf and Tasha Vorderstrasse. This year, UChicago’s first year orientation event, “Bulls and Buns,” became “Demons and Donuts,” and was done in conjunction with Membership.