

DEVELOPMENT

Monica Witzczak

Overview

In a year of transition in our Development Office, friends of the Oriental Institute continued their generous support of our programs. For fiscal year 2004, the Oriental Institute raised \$1,398,667 in non-federal private gifts and grants. The annual fund appeal raised \$34,830. Among the notable gifts received were \$100,000 from the Salus Mundi Foundation for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary endowment, and \$75,000 of a \$200,000 pledge from University of Chicago Trustee Joseph Neubauer and his wife Jeanette to support Aslihan Yener's 2005–2006 excavation and study seasons at Tell Atchana/Alalakh, Turkey. Additionally, the following foundations and corporations continued to support our programs: LaSalle Bank, Exelon, the Polk Bros. Foundation, the Coleman Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Luther I. Replogle Foundation, and the University of Chicago's Women's Board. We thank all our generous supporters who made this financial success possible.

Visiting Committee

The Visiting Committee met twice this year. Aslihan Yener, Associate Professor of Archeology, spoke about her excavations in the Amuq Valley of Turkey at the May 11 meeting. Theo van den Hout, Executive Director of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, gave the Visiting Committee an update on the launch of the electronic version of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary during the November meeting.

A significant change in leadership of the Visiting Committee took place this year. Tom Heagy stepped down at the conclusion of his term as Chair of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee. Tom provided exemplary leadership and fund-raising support and will continue to play a key role on the executive committee. Janet Helman has graciously agreed to be the new Chair of the Visiting Committee. Janet has long-standing involvement with the Oriental Institute in many capacities, including as a volunteer, docent, and active Visiting Committee member. As you may know, Janet is recipient of the James Henry Breasted Medallion, the highest honor that the Oriental Institute can bestow in recognition of the efforts of a volunteer. We thank Janet for her willingness to take on this important leadership role.

Romancing the Past

On May 21, 2004, Peggy Grant was honored with the James Henry Breasted Medallion at the Oriental Institute's biennial gala, *Romancing the Past*. Held in the Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel, guests were treated to a preview of WTTW's documentary of the Oriental Institute, *Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute*, and both silent and live auctions. This gala evening raised \$67,194 to support the East Wing reinstallation project.

Development Director

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Monica Witzczak and I am the new Development Director for the Oriental Institute. I have eight years of fund-raising experience at both academic and non-profit institutions, most recently with the Alzheimer's Association. I am very happy to

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be part of the fund-raising efforts at the Oriental Institute and I look forward to building strong relationships with our Visiting Committee, members, and volunteers.

In the end, none of the Oriental Institute's work would be possible without the support of all our donors. I would like to thank all those who supported the Oriental Institute during fiscal year 2003/2004. It is only with your help that the Oriental Institute is able to continue to maintain its reputation for excellence in the study of the ancient Near East.
