

## DEVELOPMENT

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### Overview

For fiscal year 2006, the Oriental Institute raised \$2,094,090 in non-federal private gifts and grants. Among the notable contributions received were a gift from Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Herbst in support of the annual Post-Doc Symposium, a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Persepolis Fortification Archive, a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute to fund a salvage excavation in Sudan, and a gift from the Neubauer Family Foundation to support the Institute's newest excavation at the site of Zincirli in Turkey. Additionally, the following foundations and corporations provided support for our programs: The Amsted Corporation, The Joyce Foundation, LaSalle Bank, The Luther I. Replogle Foundation, National Geographic, the William Blair & Company LLC Foundation, and the Women's Board of the University of Chicago. We thank all our generous supporters who made this financial success possible.

### The Research Endowment Campaign

One of the great strengths of the Oriental Institute is its ability to undertake large scale, long-term research projects focused on the major questions and issues in the study of ancient Near Eastern civilizations. These projects require significant financial resources and the need will only increase over time.

The Research Endowment Campaign, launched in the fall of 2006, is a five-year campaign to increase funding for the core research areas of the Oriental Institute providing a stable and predictable level of support for this work. To reach this goal, the Campaign will raise \$3 million between 2006 and 2011 to boost our research endowments from their current level of \$2.2 million to \$5.2 million.

The Research Endowment Campaign targets five crucial areas that require long-term financial resources:

- **Ancient Languages**

This endowment will support the writing of dictionaries such as the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. It will also support text-based research in Egyptology, Assyriology, Iranian languages, ancient Hebrew, and Northwest Semitic studies by funding:

1. Research travel costs
2. Programming support
3. Editing support

- **Archaeological Fieldwork**

This endowment will support current excavations in Egypt, Syria, and Turkey and provide resources for future fieldwork throughout the Middle East by funding:

1. Field project start-up costs
2. Building infrastructure and security to protect the excavation sites
3. Student travel costs
4. Laboratory work such as radiocarbon dating

- **Research Archives**

This endowment will support the Oriental Institute's research archives. Containing more than 45,000 volumes, it is the foremost library on the ancient Near East in the Western hemisphere. This endowment will fund:

1. The purchase of new collections;
2. The transition to digital holdings (in parallel to print holdings);
3. The construction of new stacks and other infrastructure to house collections and address growing space restrictions due to the natural growth of collections;
4. The completion of the online catalog to cover all acquisitions made prior to 1990.

- **Technology**

This endowment will support the technological needs of all areas of the Institute by funding:

1. Computers
2. Programming support
3. Satellite imagery
4. Remote sensing equipment

- **Museum Holdings and Special Collections**

The Oriental Institute's museum holds a position of extraordinary importance for researchers. Many of these collections form the primary or only stratigraphic record for key regions of the Fertile Crescent. The goal is to make these collections more accessible for study and publication by Institute scholars as well as scholars from other institutions. Museum exhibits are also a key part of the Oriental Institute's mission to communicate the results of its research to the public. We plan a regularized program of mounting two rotating special exhibits each year, to be displayed in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. This endowment will fund:

1. Grants to researchers
2. Curatorial fees
3. Exhibit installation
4. Loan fees
5. Special exhibit development

## **Visiting Committee**

The fall meeting of the Visiting Committee was held on December 13 in the Director's Office at the Oriental Institute. David Schloen, recently returned from the field, gave a presentation on his preliminary excavation at Zincirli, the Institute's newest archaeological dig in southeastern Turkey. Cocktails and dinner at the Quadrangle Club followed the meeting.

The spring Visiting Committee meeting was held on May 17 at the Fortnightly Club. Provost Tom Rosenbaum attended the meeting and addressed the committee members. The faculty presentation was given by Museum Director Geoff Emberling, who briefed the Committee on his recent salvage expedition of a Nubian site in Sudan, located near the fourth cataract of the Nile. An elegant dinner was served in the Club's ballroom following the meeting.

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It is with sadness that I report the passing of three members of the Visiting Committee during the course of this academic year: Joan Armstrong, Marion Cowan, and William J. O. Roberts. Together, they contributed a total of twenty-eight years of service on the Visiting Committee. They will be greatly missed.

### **Romancing the Past, The Oriental Institute's 2006 Gala**

Romancing the Past, the Oriental Institute's gala, was held on October 5, 2006, and raised over \$100,000 to benefit the Research Endowment Campaign. For the first time in more than twenty years, the gala was held in the museum itself, affording guests the unique opportunity to dine among the reliefs which once lined the courtyard of Sargon II's palace, at the feet of a monumental statue of King Tutankhamun, or under the watchful gaze of the Persepolis bull. Guests of honor at Romancing the Past included all those for whom the newly installed galleries and renovated courtyard garden are named: Robert and Deborah Aliber, Mary Grimshaw, Cissy Haas, the Herbolsheimer Family, Marshall and Doris Holleb, Edgar and Deborah Jannotta, Rita and Kitty Picken, Lois Schwartz, the Norman Solhkhah Family, Nicole Williams and Larry Becker, and the Sharukin Yelda Family. Silent and live auction items included a life-size reproduction of the Rosetta Stone, a customized children's birthday party in the museum, a week-long stay at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, and a private dinner in the museum with Elizabeth Peters, author of the Amelia Peabody mystery series. Guests were also treated to a living history portrayal of the Institute's founder, James Henry Breasted, who spoke convincingly and with fondness of his memories of the Institute's early days. Professor Breasted also proved himself to be an able and entertaining auctioneer.

This wonderful event would not have been possible without the tireless dedication and creativity of the Special Events Committee:

Debby Halpern, Chair  
 Gretel Braidwood  
 Denise Browning  
 Andrea Dudek  
 Margaret Foorman  
 Janet Helman  
 Kitty Picken  
 Rita Picken  
 Mary Shea  
 Emily Teeter  
 Mari Terman

May your names live forever!

### **Waterfowl Management**

Many of you may have noticed that the Institute entertained a number of long-term visitors this spring. They never set foot in the museum, did no research in the archives, and presented no lectures in Breasted Hall. These guests were drawn to the Oriental Institute for its luxe accommodations, including three swimming pools, daily housekeeping service, and predator-free environment — all of which are quite important if one is a duck in search of a secure place to nest and raise a family.

In mid-May, the alert went out — a mother duck and ten ducklings had taken up residence in the courtyard, newly replanted and restored to according to landscaper architect Beatrix Farrand's original design. The building's animal lovers (and a few amused accomplices) swung into ac-

tion — the above-mentioned wading pools were installed, complete with ramps for ease of access, and a daily feeding and cleaning schedule was put into place. A donation jar was set up to help support the care and feeding of the ducks. While many unknown donors contributed to this effort, the ducks and their caretakers especially wish to thank François Gaudard and Ruth O'Brien for their contributions.

Most of the ducklings have now left the courtyard in search of open water — as of this writing, three holdouts remain. We wish them a fond farewell and hope that when the nesting season comes around next year, they might consider the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, where a marble fountain and red carpet await them.

Many thanks to the Spring 2007 duckling nannies: Joey Apodaca, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Laura D'Alessandro, Monica Hudak, Tom James, Helen McDonald, Margaret Schröder, Allison Whyte, and Monica Witczak. Special thanks to Andrew Furse and to Erik Lindahl, duck wrangler and net-maker extraordinaire.

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