

MEMBERSHIP

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Publications

With the assistance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continues to publish *News & Notes*, the quarterly Members' magazine. The fall 2011 issue (#211) featured a report on the excavations at Hamoukar, Syria, from 2005 to 2010. The winter 2011 issue (#212) treated Members to a recap of the third season of excavations at the Chalcolithic site of Marj Rabba and preview of the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. The lead article in the spring 2012 issue (#213) was "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigation at the Last Provincial Step Pyramid." The issue also included an insider look at the Museum collection with "A Stitch in Time: Textiles from Meroitic Nubia at the Oriental Institute." Finally, in summer 2012 (#214), in full color production, Members were reacquainted with the Nubian Salvage Campaign with "Fulfilling the Rescue" and had a sneak preview of fall special exhibit with "Bird Mummies of the Oriental Institute Museum Get a Checkup." Additionally, *News & Notes* honored the following members, donors, and volunteers for their support of the Oriental Institute:

- Winter 2011: George Sundell
- Spring 2012: Carole Yoshida and the 2011 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients (for a full listing of recipients, please see the *Volunteer Program* section of this annual report)
- Summer 2012: Margaret Foorman

The Membership Office is greatly appreciative of the Publications Office for their hard work and guidance in producing *News & Notes*, as well as to all of the authors and staff contributors who provide exciting and engaging articles and program notices each quarter for our Members.

Student Memberships

As part of the University of Chicago's Art Pass program the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May 2010. As of June 2012, the Institute had over 800 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Kim Peitso, graduate student, was brought on to manage this program. Through partnerships with the Office of Publication and the Museum, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

- Treasures of the Oriental Institute (September 2011) — a tour of the Museum for new college students as part of O Week activities (co-sponsored by Public Education, Museum, and Volunteer Program)
- Study at the OI (December 2011 and March & June 2012) — quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries

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- The Scorpion King Movie Night (April 2012)

In total, we hosted over 1,000 university students at the Institute during the academic year through these special events and programs. The student membership program aims to increase student awareness of the Oriental Institute, make the Oriental Institute an integral part of the student and campus experience at the University, and become active participant in student events.

Events

Members enjoyed a wide variety of events in 2011–2012:

- James Henry Breasted Society Event — Journey to the Orient (September 14, 2011)
- Associate Members' Event — Introducing Jack Green Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum (November 20, 2011)
- Members' Preview — Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East (February 6, 2012)

For in-depth information on the above mentioned events, please see the *Special Events* section of this annual report.

In addition to Members' Events, Oriental Institute Members enjoyed a comprehensive Members' Lecture Series in 2011–2012 with topics ranging from Islam's origins to a recap of Chicago House's past couple of seasons of work in Luxor, Egypt:

- Excavations at Tell Tayinat, Turkey — Tim Harrison (October 5, 2011)
- Symbol and Meaning in the Art of Predynastic Egypt — Stan Hendrickx (November 2, 2011)
- Of Temples, Towers, and Altars: New Visual Evidence for Achaemenid Ritual in Persepolitan Glyptic Art — Mark Garrison (December 7, 2011)
- How Islam Began — Fred Donner (January 11, 2012)
- The Neolithic Jordan — Alan Simmons (February 8, 2012); co-sponsored by the AIA
- Seventy-five Years of Excavation at Tell Hariri-Mari, Syria — Pascal Butterlin (March 7, 2012)
- Women's Rights in Ancient Egypt — Janet Johnson (April 4, 2012)
- America Digs Iran — Ali Mousavi (May 2, 2012)
- A Year in Transition — W. Raymond Johnson (June 6, 2012)

A very special thank-you is in order for all our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2011–2012 Members' Lecture Series. The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture Series aims to bring a varied selection of the most recent work and scholarship on the ancient Middle East to our Members and the local community. We look forward to an exciting and dynamic lecture line up for the 2012–2013 series, which begins in November 2012.

Members' Events would not be possible without the hard work of many dedicated Oriental Institute staff members and volunteers and the Membership Office is thankful for all of their assistance with a very successful 2011–2012 events season.

Travel

The Oriental Institute offered two international travel programs to the Middle East and one domestic tour in 2011–12. In November 2011, a handful of Oriental Institute Members participated in the Voyage through the Red Sea: Jordan, Egypt & Sudan, led by Oriental Institute Research Associate Emily Teeter along with other expert lecturers, explored an astounding array of archaeological sites along the Red Sea. Braving the cold twenty-nine Oriental Institute Members joined Dr. Robert Ritner at the Milwaukee Public Museum on January 21, 2012, for a lecture and tour of Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt. Our sold out Wonders of Ancient Egypt tour departed in March 2012 led by Dr. Lanny Bell and Dr. Brett McClain. Seventeen pack days of travel from Cairo to Abu Simbel and back gave the twenty-one participants a wide breadth and scope of ancient Egypt. We currently have two additional tours scheduled in 2012. Persian Splendor: Journey to Ancient Iran, from September 13 to September 28, 2012, will be led by Dr. Abbas Alizadeh, and Legendary Empires: Giza, Baalbek, Byblos, Petra, Luxor, from October 15 to November 3, 2012, will be led by Emily Teeter and other expert lecturers. In March 2013, join Dr. Lanny Bell for Wonders of Ancient Egypt. The tour is scheduled to depart on March 9, 2013, and registration for this program is currently ongoing.

Oriental Institute travel programs are a unique in that our travelers 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 <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member/travel.html> or visit our Facebook Oriental Institute Members Travel page at www.facebook.com/OIMemberTravel.

Administrative Notes and Benefits

This year, there were staffing changes for the Membership Office. In July 2011, Maeve Reed, Membership Coordinator, left the Oriental Institute to start a new job at the Adler Planetarium. In September 2011, Amy Weber joined the Oriental Institute as Membership Program Manager. In June 2012, Emma Harper, Membership Programs Assistant, and Kim Peitso, UChicago Arts Pass Coordinator, graduated. The Membership Department is grateful for all their contributions and wishes them well in their future endeavors. Megan Anderluh joined the office in April 2012 as the new Membership Programs Assistant and has been doing an excellent job managing the membership database, hosting events, and responding to Members' questions and inquiries.
