



DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP



Above and overleaf: Winged sphinx from the Palace of Darius, Persepolis. Schmidt Expedition, 1935 (D. 13316)

DEVELOPMENT

Brittany F. Mullins

Through the support of our generous friends and contributors, the Oriental Institute was able to continue our mission to understand the development of the ancient civilizations of the Near East through innovative research methods and make possible the exciting new discoveries found in these pages. Consistent donor support totaled more than \$2.8 million, allowing us to continue archaeological excavations in Egypt, Israel, Turkey, and the Palestinian Territories, and to begin a new project in Iran, in addition to allowing us to sustain long-term research projects such as the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. We recently received an anonymous gift to begin enhancements to the Museum, including the installation of new cases to house our collections, lighting to better highlight each piece, and updates to the object cards, graphics, and case descriptions. This gift will truly improve the visitor experience, as well as our ability to care for the collections with easier access to objects for conservation and the ability to enclose conservation materials in each case.

Through the creation of an innovative research fund by yet another anonymous friend, we are able to provide support for our projects in Egypt. Projects supported by this fund include a new excavation at the site of Dendara, the continued work of Nadine Moeller and her team at Tell Edfu, as well as the meticulous documentation and conservation work of the Epigraphic Survey team in Luxor. We are especially thankful for the support of our government and foundation partners, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the United States Embassy in Kabul, the Roshan Cultural Heritage Foundation, and one of our newest supporters, the Whole Kids Foundation, among others, for their continued investment in the Oriental Institute.

Diverse sources of funding provide the Oriental Institute with the flexibility to respond to pressing institutional needs, sustain long-term projects, such as our dictionary projects, and take advantage of new research opportunities as they arise. This past year, we received over \$1.6 million in pledged commitments and planned gifts. We are honored by our dear friends who have decided to remember the Oriental Institute in their estate plans, including Sharukin and Elizabeth Yelda and the Yelda family, Alwin Clemens Carus, William A. Hoffman, Neil C. Miller, and Chester D. Tripp. These gifts create a foundation of support, ensuring the future of the Oriental Institute.

Current Income

	2016	2015	2014
Outright Gifts	\$780,451	\$839,310	\$635,753
Realized Bequests	\$267,629	\$1,595,689	\$686,753
Payments on Multi-Year Pledges	\$1,819,112	\$4,221,727	\$671,430
Totals	\$2,867,192	\$6,656,726	\$1,993,936

Future Commitments

	2016	2015	2014
Pledged Commitments	\$763,400	\$2,004,400	\$2,002,500
Planned and Deferred Gifts	\$887,500	\$125,000	\$4,112,120
Totals	\$1,650,900	\$2,129,400	\$6,114,620

Figures above do not include foundation and federal/non-federal grants

Each gift made is an investment in the future of the Oriental Institute and our understanding of the cultures of the ancient Middle East. On behalf of our faculty and staff, thank you for becoming partners in our discoveries, and for your continued support of the Oriental Institute.

VISITING COMMITTEE

The Oriental Institute Visiting Committee 2015–2016

— Harvey Plotnick, Chairman —

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**Denotes Life Member*