

MEMBERSHIP

Jennie Myers

Oriental Institute membership remained strong in fiscal year 2016, with over 1,800 Membership households representing more than 3,500 members. The Oriental Institute is proud to have such a committed group of supporters, whose participation and generosity are integral to the Institute and to ensure the Museum remains vibrant all year long. Members enjoyed discounts in the museum gift shop, on classes, programs and special membership events.

The Oriental Institute greatly appreciates all of its Members for their support, advocacy, and commitment to the mission of the Institute.

Special Interest Groups

Membership also includes two special interest groups which have their own special events and programs.

Young Professional Members

The Oriental Institute's Young Professional (YP) membership group is a vibrant community of young people who support the overall mission and programs of the Oriental Institute. This special membership category is designed to give emerging civic leaders a meaningful way to engage with the Oriental Institute, one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions. YP Membership is intended for anyone between the ages of 22 and 45 who wants to learn more about the ancient Middle East while participating in exclusive educational, social, and volunteer activities with some of the world's foremost academics.

YP members use their creativity, knowledge, innovation, and professional skills to advance the Oriental Institute and serve as ambassadors, increasing awareness of the institute's work and engaging new audiences through outreach events. The group hosted several successful YP Member events throughout the year, including:

- Private tour of the special exhibit "A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo," led by Tasha Vorderstrasse (Monday, July 13, 2015)
- Field Museum visit of Ancient Egypt, guided Emily Teeter with lunch at the Bistro Café (Saturday, September 19, 2015)
- Epic Wednesday: Afterlife Afterparty (Wednesday, October 28, 2015)
- Field trip to the Art Institute's Islamic art galleries, followed by drinks at Terzo Piano (Thursday, December 17, 2015)

UChicago Arts Pass Student Membership

As part of the University of Chicago's Arts Pass program, the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May 2010. As of June 2016, the Institute had over 1,900 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization.

Young Professional Members' Event Photos



Special Exhibit tour: YP members in the Yelda Khorsabad Court, guided by Oriental Institute Research Associate Tasha Vorderstrasse (right)



Special Exhibit tour: YP members visit the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery



Special Exhibit tour: YP members view the Sennacherib Prism in the Dr. Norman Solhkhah Family Assyrian Empire Gallery



YP members visit the Ancient Egypt exhibit at the Field Museum, guided by Research Associate, Emily Teeter (photo: ©Field Museum)

Through partnerships with the UChicago Arts Pass associates, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

- Bulls 'n' Buns (September 2015) — 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 2015, March and June 2016) — quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries
- Screening of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (February 24, 2016)



Member Publications

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

Member Events

Members enjoyed an exclusive preview of the special exhibit "Persepolis: Images of an Empire" on Monday October 5, 2015.

In addition, Oriental Institute members supported a comprehensive lecture series during the year with topics ranging from a debate between the Egyptians and the Hittites on the Battle of Kadesh to Luwian Hieroglyphs to the Sumerian account of the building of the Ark.

- Joseph W. Wegner, "Discovery of a Lost Pharaoh in Abydos" (September 2, 2015)
- Alexander Nagel, "Permanent Shades of Blue: New Research on the Palace Painters of Achaemenid Persepolis" (November 4, 2015)
- St. John Simpson, "Unlocking Stories from Objects: Some Ancient Near Eastern Case-studies Based on New Research at the British Museum" (December 2, 2015)
- Robert Ritner & Theo van den Hout, "Battle of Kadesh from the Perspectives of Egyptians and Hittites" (January 6, 2016)
- Petra Goedegebuure, "Luwian Hieroglyphs" (February 3, 2016)
- Carter Lupton, "The Long Winding Crossroads: The Evolution of an Exhibition Concept" (March 2, 2016)
- Gil Stein, "Sweet Honey in the Rocks: Honey, Bees, and Beekeeping in the Ancient Near East" (May 4, 2016)
- Irving Finkel, "The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood," and book signing (June 1, 2016)

A very special thank you is in order for all of our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2015–2016 Oriental Institute Lecture Series. The 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 2016–2017 series, which begins in October 2016. If you missed a lecture from last season, please go to the Oriental Institute channel at [YouTube.com/JamesHenryBreasted](https://www.youtube.com/JamesHenryBreasted) to view them online.

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 2015–2016 events season.

Member Travel

The Oriental Institute offered the Wonders of Ancient Egypt tour in March 2016, led by Lanny Bell (Associate Professor Emeritus of Egyptology, AB'63). Over two weeks participants experienced the Pyramids of Giza, Sakkara, a private night visit to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Abu Simbel, Luxor, Medinet Habu, a Nile cruise, a special visit to the Oriental Institute's Chicago House, and more. A total of twenty-one members and patrons participated in the tour.

Oriental Institute travel programs are unique in that our passengers 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 oi.uchicago.edu/travel or visit the OI Members Travel page at [facebook.com/OIMemberTravel](https://www.facebook.com/OIMemberTravel).
