

ADULT EDUCATION

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Adult education classes continued to be held entirely virtually over Zoom during the 2020–21 year. The following classes were offered: in summer 2020, “Old Babylonian: Introduction to Akkadian and Cuneiform,” with associate professor of Assyriology Susanne Paulus, “Introduction to Papyrological Greek,” with NELC PhD student Ella Karev, and “Jewish Scripts throughout History,” with NELC PhD student Joey Cross; in fall 2020, “Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs,” with head of the OI’s Research Archives, Foy Scalf, “Nubian Queens,” with university and continuing education program coordinator/research associate, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and “‘Put Me on a Good Path’: Travelers of Ancient Egypt,” with NELC PhD student Rebecca Wang; in winter 2021, “Introduction to Reading Coptic,” with NELC PhD student Ella Karev, “Continuing Egyptian Hieroglyphs,” with Foy Scalf, and “Nubian Queens” (held again for the St. Louis Art Museum docents) and “Understanding the Past: Looking at Museums,” with Tasha Vorderstrasse; and in spring 2021, “Caring for the Collection: Art Conservation at the Oriental Institute,” with conservator Alison Whyte, “Languages and Writing Systems of Anatolia,” with NELC PhD student Emily Smyth, and “Archaeology of Bactria,” with Tasha Vorderstrasse and Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) lab assistant/Afghan Heritage Mapping Project staff member Harrison Morin. “Telling Their Stories: Writing Workshop” was organized by Malayna Evans, PhD in Egyptology.

In the Sunday Seminar series over Zoom, OI postdoctoral student Delphine Poinot lectured on “Animals in Administration,” and NELC PhD student Joey Cross spoke on “Who Are the Samaritans?” Starting in fall 2020, responsibility for the gallery talks was transferred from adult education (which had run the program since developing it) to OI Museum curator Kiersten Neumann. The fact that the University of Chicago was now online limited the demand for virtual university tours, and the numbers fell sharply. Only one postcolonial tour was given—in the fall for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies MA program (ancient track). Other tours were “Queens and Princesses in the Ancient World” tour for the Blind Service Association, “Medicine at the Oriental Institute” for the 2021 AGME annual conference in February 2021, “Media and Aesthetics: Aspects of Writing in Ancient Egypt” for Media Aesthetics UChicago Core sequence in Winter 2021, and Ancient Inscriptions: Aspects of Writing at the Oriental Institute for St Louis Art Museum docents. Additionally, in the fall occurred an OI student book club on *Of One Blood*, by Pauline Hopkins.

OI TEACHER WORKSHOPS

In the fall quarter of 2020, the OI began a series of teacher workshops. The workshops were organized in a series of three one-hour sessions on different themes. In the fall the theme was Teaching Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom. Free lesson plans from Project Archaeology were presented to the teachers and other interested members of the public by Calgary Haines-Trautman. Each lesson plan was accompanied by a short lecture by Tasha Vorderstrasse on how to apply the methodology to different topics in the ancient Near East and North Africa. The “Investigating Shelter” lesson plan was accompanied by a discussion of caring for animals in the Neolithic community; the “Investigat-

ing Nutrition” lesson plan was accompanied by a discussion on the changing climate and on the origins of agriculture in prehistoric Egypt and Nubia; and “Investigating Rock Art” looked at the depiction of cattle in rock art in Nubia and compared it to the Ennedi in Chad.

In winter 2021 the teacher workshops began to look not only at topics within the field of ancient Near Eastern and North African studies but also at *why* we study the past in the way we do (and how scholars’ attitudes of the past have influenced us in the present) and at *how* we study the past. Three workshops in the series Teaching Art History and Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom considered these issues. “Women in Antiquity: Nubian Royal Women” included a lecture by NELC PhD student Catie Witt; “19th-Century Photography: Documenting the Middle East and North Africa” included a lecture by Tasha Vorderstrasse on the Egyptian-Armenian photographer Gabriel Lekegian; and “Coinage and Money in Antiquity” included a lecture by Harrison Morin on coins and GIS.

In spring 2021 the focus on the past and how it is studied continued with the series Teaching Art History and Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom. “Documenting Empire: Egypt” compared the Egyptian Middle Kingdom occupation of Nubia with New Kingdom occupation of Levant. A lecture on the Levant was presented by NELC PhD student Avigail Ben-Gad. Another workshop was “Afrofuturism, Artistic Visions, and Nubia,” which looked at the work of three early twentieth-century Black female scholars, intellectuals, and artists—Pauline Hopkins, Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, and Drusilla Dunjee Houston—and how they understood and presented Nubia. The lecture also looked at why their visions of Nubia did not become part of the established scholarly canon. A comparison with the nineteenth-century Black-Indigenous sculptress Edmonia Lewis looked at how this artist created her own identity to market her art, including works depicting Egyptian subjects, to a primarily White and Abolitionist clientele. “Meaning and Movement of Motifs” looked at the movement and production of monumental statuary in Nubia by focusing on how the Nubians themselves understood Egyptian statuary created for Nubia, brought Egyptian statuary to Nubia, and created their own statuary. It also looked at how Nubian statue caches have been understood and distributed to museums outside Sudan and issues of cultural heritage. Samantha Suppes, also a NELC PhD student, gave a talk on motifs in the Levant as a comparison.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Youth and Family program saw personnel changes in the 2020–21 academic year. Calgary Haines-Trautman, who ran the program, left at the end of December 2020 to pursue a master’s degree at the Rhode Island School of Design. Charlie Kolodziej, the facilitator lead, and Kirsten Forsberg, facilitator, both ran the program from January through June 2021. The program continued Calgary’s model of virtual field trips and family programs, while the teacher workshops were run by the adult education program (see above).

The Highlights of the Collection tours, which are led by OI docents, did not operate this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main offerings were virtual field trips operated by OI graduate and undergraduate student facilitators in fall 2020 through spring 2021. The three field trips included “Artifact Analysis,” “Myths and Magic,” and “Secret of the Mummies.” The virtual nature of the program meant that for the first time it was possible to serve schools from places as far away as New York City.

In summer 2020 a series of interactive family activities was organized for children ages five through twelve and their families: “OI Explorers! Summer Family Workshop Series.” These workshops took place in July and August and focused on different themes from the ancient world, particularly Egypt and Mesopotamia. Other fall events included Malayna Evans’s talk about her middle-grade

book series in “Escape the Tomb!”; a collaborative family day with the Smart Museum titled “Cool Coins and Tools of the Trade”; and, of course, “Mummies’ Night,” which attracted nearly one hundred registrants to participate virtually. In winter 2021 the events included “All the Rage: Ancient Fashion!” which looked at fashion in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, “All Bones About It,” and the Persian New Year Festival, “Nowruz.” Spring 2021 events were “Secret of the Mummies,” “What’s Up, King Tut?” and “Ancient Game Day” for Alumni Weekend.
