

## Membership

### Amy Weber

Oriental Institute membership remained strong in fiscal year 2015, with over 1,500 membership households representing more than 2,600 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 Suq, 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 host their own events and programs.

#### *Young Professional Leaders*

The Oriental Institute's Young Professional Leaders (YPL) 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. Through fundraising, advocacy, and volunteering, the YPL actively strengthens the Oriental Institute's efforts to study and preserve the archaeological heritage of the Middle East. The YPL 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.

YPL members use their creativity, knowledge, innovation, and professional skills to advance the Oriental Institute. The YPL supports the Institute's programs through event-based fundraising activities. YPL members use part of the money they raise to award grants to Oriental Institute projects of their choosing. YPL members also serve as ambassadors for the Oriental Institute, increasing awareness of the Institute's work and engaging new audiences through outreach events.

On Thursday, October 16, 2014, the Young Professional Leaders sold out its second annual fundraiser; this year's theme was Beer & Wine through Ancient History: A Scavenger Hunt. We would like to thank all the sponsors, members, and patrons who attended and helped us raise over \$6,000 to



*Young Professional Leaders picking up clues at the October Scavenger Hunt, Beer & Wine through Ancient History*

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benefit the Oriental Institute Museum’s Feature Exhibits. Special thank you to all our sponsors:

**X Marks the Spot, \$1,000+**



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Shedd Aquarium

Adler Planetarium

White Sox

Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier

Driehaus Museum

Gino’s East of Chicago

Lyric Opera of Chicago

The Field Museum

Goodman Theatre

Nomobo Salon

The group hosted several other successful YPL member events throughout the year:

- Cocktails in the Courtyard (Monday, August 18, 2014)
- Hookah Holiday Party (Thursday, December 11, 2014)
- Dine Around with Scholars Yorke Rowan & Morag Kersel (Monday, May 11, 2015)

***UChicago Arts Pass Student Membership***

As part of the University of Chicago’s Art Pass program, the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May of 2010. As of June 2014, the Institute had over 1,600 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Through partnerships with the UChicago Art Pass associates, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

### Young Professional Leader Event Photos





## MEMBERSHIP

- Bulls and Buns (September 2014) – 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 Oriental Institute (December 2014, March & June 2015) – quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries

Special thank-you to all our sponsors:

Kind Bars



Red Bull

In total, we hosted over 850 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 encourage active participation in student events.



*UChicago students enjoy cinnamon buns in the lobby and ancient artifacts in the galleries at Bulls and Buns*



*Students get academic advice from some ancient study buddies at Study at the OI*

## Member Events

Members enjoyed a wide variety of events in 2014–2015:

- James Henry Breasted Society Event: Beyond the Galleries (December 11, 2014)
- Members' Preview — A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo (February 15, 2015)
- 2015 Oriental Institute Gala: Bringing the Past to Light (April 30, 2015)
- James Henry Breasted Society Event: TimeLine Theater's *Inana* (July 9, 2015)

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 supported a lecture series called Money Matters: The Development of Money through the Ancient World. This monthly series traced the development of economic system in the ancient world and explored how money as a financial instrument has evolved over the centuries.

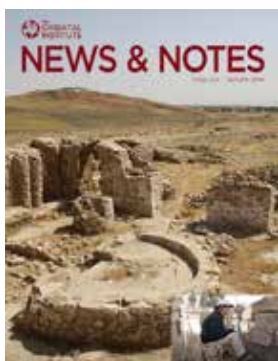
- Wednesday, October 1: "Coinage: The Greek Way of Handling Money," by Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor, Associate Member in the Department of History, University of Chicago
- Wednesday, November 5: "Monetary Networks in Graeco-Roman Antiquity," by Sitta von Reden, Department of Ancient History, University of Freiburg/Germany
- Wednesday, December 3: "Credit Markets and Economic Life in Ancient Rome," by Cameron Hawkins, Assistant Professor, History and the College, University of Chicago

A very special thank-you is in order for all of our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2014–2015 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 lineup for the 2015–2016 series, which will begin in September 2015. If you missed a lecture from last season, please go to the Oriental Institute YouTube channel at [youtube.com/James-HenryBreasted](http://youtube.com/James-HenryBreasted) 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 2014–2015 events season.

### 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 Travel

The Institute offered two tours to Georgia and Armenia in 2014–2015, led by Research Associate Tasha Vorderstrasse (AM'98, PhD'04). The tours explored the archaeology, landscape, and culture of Georgia and Armenia. A total of seventeen members, University of Chicago Alumni, and patrons participated in the tours. See the highlights from our latest travel program at [flickr.com/photos/uchicagotravel](https://www.flickr.com/photos/uchicagotravel/).

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](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) or visit our website at [oi.uchicago.edu/travel](http://oi.uchicago.edu/travel) or visit our OI Members' Travel page at [facebook.com/OIMemberTravel](https://www.facebook.com/OIMemberTravel).

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