

ADULT EDUCATION

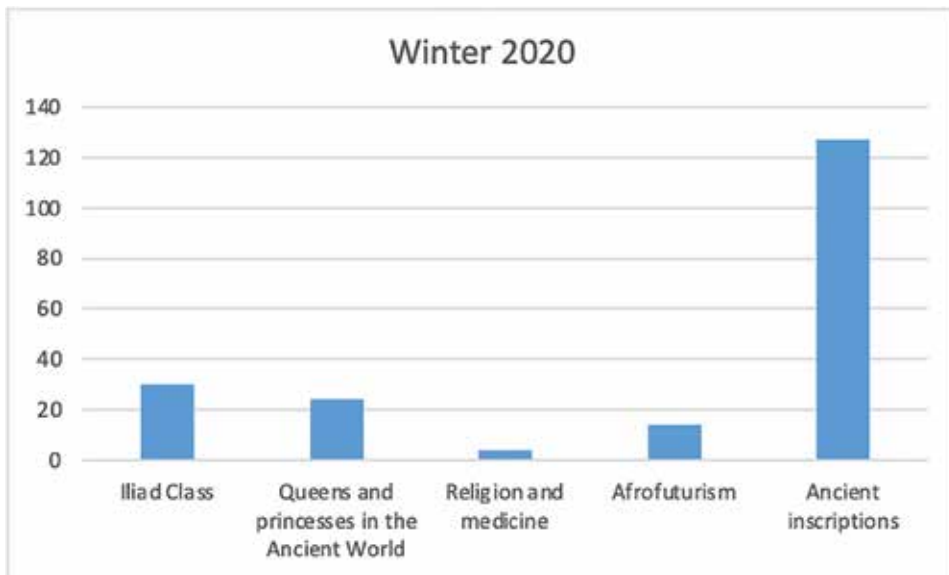
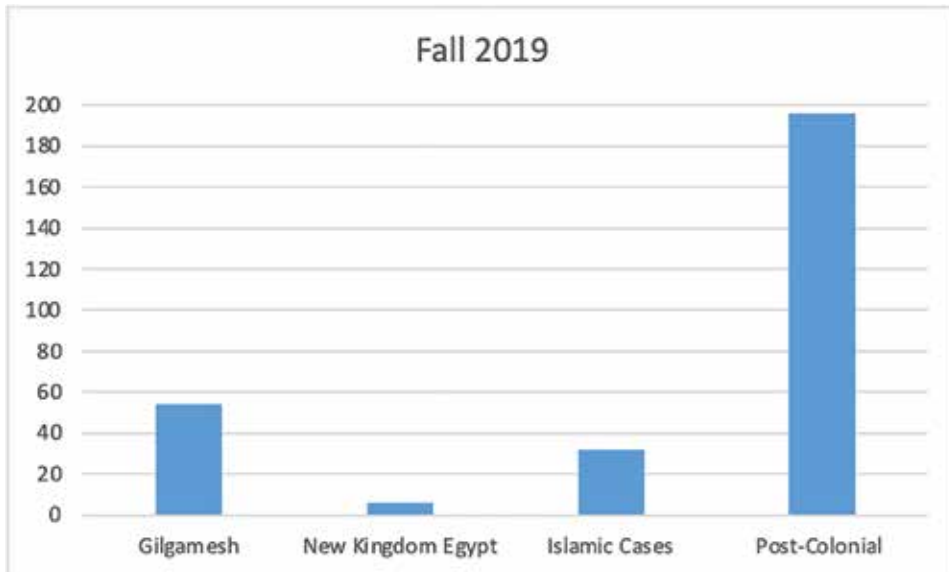
TASHA VORDERSTRASSE

In 2019–20, the Adult Education program maintained an offering of continuing education classes that were initially livestreamed and in person, and then in spring 2020 pivoted to being online-only after the outbreak of COVID-19. In the summer of 2019, the classes taught were *Caring for the Collection*, by Alison Whyte, OI conservator; *The Game of Power and Prestige: New Kingdom Egypt in the Ancient Near East International Arena*, by Rebecca Wang, NELC PhD candidate; and *Imagining Central Asia*, with Polina Kasian, associate director of development, and Tasha Vorderstrasse. In fall 2019 the classes were *Goddesses, Queens, Whores & Wives: Women in Ancient World*, by Malayna Evans, PhD; *Cleopatra's Egypt: Navigating the Greco-Roman Period*, by Ella Karev, PhD candidate; *Art and Archaeology of Ancient Persia, from Its Beginnings to the Present Day*, with Shannon Martino, PhD, and Tasha Vorderstrasse, and an onsite-only class; *Elementary Hittite*, with Theo van den Hout, professor of Hittitology. In the winter of 2019, the following classes and workshops were taught: *Epics at the Oriental Institute*, with Susanne Paulus, associate professor of Assyriology, and Tasha Vorderstrasse; *Dinosaurs and Other Fossils of Egypt*, by Brian Muhs, associate professor of Egyptology; and an interactive workshop—*Storytelling and Adaptation*, with Andrea Welton. There was also an interactive adult seals workshop with Delphine Poinot, PhD, post-doctoral fellow; Rhyne King, NELC PhD candidate; and Tasha Vorderstrasse. All three also participated in the Nowruz festival by giving tours on stamp seals and helping with a stamp seal exercise for children. In the spring, classes became entirely virtual, and the following classes were taught: *Continuing Hittite*, by Theo van den Hout; *Discovering Dura Europos: From Breasted to the Present Day*, by Tasha Vorderstrasse; and *The Megiddo Gallery: History through OI Objects*, by Joey Cross, NELC PhD candidate. Technological support continued to be provided throughout by Knut Boehmer, IT manager at the Oriental Institute.

The gallery talks included discussion on a variety of subjects such as “Exhibition Design and Production,” “Greco-Roman Egypt at the OI,” “Engaging Kids with the Past: Developing Nubia: Land of the Bow,” “Bastiani and Beyond: Restoration at the Oriental Institute 1930–1970,” “New Cases in the OI Museum Galleries: Islamic Objects on Display,” “A Scribe Excellent of His Fingers: Ancient Egyptian Scribal Education,” “The Social Imaginary of the an Assyrian Imperial City,” “Artifacts meets Fantasy: Writing Ancient Egypt into Middle Grade Fiction,” “The Cat, the Mouse, and the Boy: A Topsy-Turvy World?” A special gallery talk was given by Jodi Magness, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, entitled “Masada: Last Stronghold of the Jewish Revolt against Rome.” Prior to the talk, Tasha Vorderstrasse gave a short tour of the Megiddo Gallery. After the onset of COVID-19, the gallery talks became virtual and appeared on Facebook Live with “An Introduction to Hittite,” “Discovering Katamuwa: Recent Excavations in Zincirli, Turkey,” and “Do Not Look Down on Me: Mudbrick and Its Significance in Ancient Egypt.”

In addition, Community Scholars lectures continued with a variety of events, including two lectures at the Barrington White House with Brian Muhs and Susanne Paulus. Thanks to backing from the Office of the Provost, several Community Scholars talks were also given at the Blackstone Public Library, the first time that Community Scholars talks have taken place in the local community. Foy Scalf gave several talks at libraries, including “Mystery Cults in Ancient Egypt,” “Measuring Time:

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The Ancient Egyptian Invention of the Clock,” and “Brick by Brick: Building the Pyramids of Giza.” He also taught a Community Scholars class on Ancient Egypt for the Clare Chicago.

This year, tours for UChicago and other university groups became an important part of the OI Adult Education program. In the fall of 2019, a total of 288 students participated in OI tours, primarily given by Tasha Vorderstrasse, but Susanne Paulus also gave Gilgamesh tours. The majority of the tours were post-colonial tours for UChicago core classes. In the winter of 2020, a variety of tours were given, including a tour on ancient inscriptions, one of Afrofuturism, and a class on the Iliad. These were all given by Tasha Vorderstrasse. Additionally, a tour on the history of early American engagement with ancient Egypt and Nubia through the OI collection was given for the Chicago Humanities Festival.