

IN MEMORIAM

Rita Tallent Picken

This past year, we were greatly saddened by the death of Rita Tallent Picken, a true friend and generous supporter of the Oriental Institute. Rita's warm-hearted, generous, and intellectually curious presence was felt across the Institute's many programs and projects. She showed her love for the Oriental Institute not only through her involvement with the docent program for thirty years but also through her sponsorship of the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery and special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. This past spring at the Oriental Institute's 90th Anniversary Gala, the Institute honored Rita with the James Henry Breasted Medallion — the highest honor that we give our Members and supporters to recognize their commitment to our mission. Most importantly, Rita was a person whose sweetness, gentle wit, and sparkling eyes always brightened up the room. The Oriental Institute was like a second family for her and we all will miss her greatly. In a beautifully fitting commemoration of Rita's lifetime of service, her daughter, Kitty Picken has established the Rita T. Picken Professorship in Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Oriental Institute.

