

MEMBERSHIP

Amy Weber

Publications

With the assistance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continues to publish *News & Notes*, the quarterly members' magazine. The Fall 2012 edition (no. 215) featured the Living Legacy of Donald Oster and volunteer Robert Wagener. Winter 2012 (no. 216) highlighted Visiting Committee members John and Jeanne Rowe and volunteer Norma Van Der Meulen. Spring 2013 (no. 217) introduced us to the Oriental Institute number-one traveler and active volunteer Andrea Dudek. Finally, Summer 2013 (no. 218) presented us with volunteer Deloris Sanders. The Membership Office is greatly appreciative of the Publications Office for their hard work and guidance in producing *News & Notes*, as well as to all of the authors and staff contributors who provide exciting and engaging articles and program notices each quarter for our members.

Student Memberships

As part of the University of Chicago's Art Pass program the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May 2010. As of June 2012, the Institute had over 1,000 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Megan Anderluh and graduate student Maya Festinger were brought on to manage this program. Through partnerships with the Office of Publication and the Museum, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

- Bulls and Buns (September 2012) — a tour of the Museum for new college students as part of O Week activities (co-sponsored by Public Education, the Oriental Institute Museum, and the Volunteer Program)
- Study at the OI (December 2012, March and June 2013) — quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries

In total, we hosted over 1,000 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 become active participant in student events.

Events

Members enjoyed a wide variety of events in 2012–2013:

- Members' Preview — Between Heaven & Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt Exhibition Preview (October 15, 2012)
- 2013 Oriental Institute Gala: An Evening of Discovery (May 11, 2013)

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- James Henry Breasted Society Event — Joel Oppenheimer Gallery (June 19, 2012)

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 enjoyed a comprehensive Members' Lecture Series in 2012–2013 with topics ranging from “Sex in Babylonia” to “A New Look at James Henry Breasted”:

- “James Henry Breasted: A New Appreciation,” by Emily Teeter (November 7, 2012)
- “Feasting on the High Road: The Median Palace at Godin Tepe,” by Hilary Gopnik (December 5, 2012)
- “The Origins and Development of Mosaic Art in the Ancient Middle East from Eighth Century BC to AD,” by Konstantinos D. Politis (January 9, 2013)
- “City and Hinterland in Ancient Mesopotamia: An Examination of Continuities and Developments in the Fabric of Urban and Rural Settlement from 5000 BC until the Time of Christ,” by Elizabeth Stone (February 6, 2013)
- “Canals, Kings, and Hydraulic Landscapes in the Ancient Near East: An Archaeological Perspective,” by Tony J. Wilkinson (March 6, 2013)
- “Death and Taxes in Ancient Egypt,” by Brian Muhs (April 3, 2013)
- “Everything You’ve Always Wanted to Know about Sex in Babylonia ...,” by Jerry Cooper (May 1, 2013)
- ““Awake in Peace!': Interpreting, Seeking, and Combating Dreams in Ancient Egypt,” by Robert Ritner (June 5, 2013)

A very special thank-you is in order for all of our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2012–2013 Members' Lecture Series. The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture 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 2013–2014 series, which will begin in September 2013.

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 2012–2013 events season.

Travel

The Oriental Institute offered four international travel programs to the Middle East in 2012–2013.

In September, seven Oriental Institute Members, led by Abbas Alizadeh, toured *Persian Splendor: Journey to Ancient Iran*. In October, a handful of Oriental Institute members participated in the tour of *Legendary Empires: Giza, Baalbek, Byblos, Petra, and Luxor*, led by Oriental Institute research associate Emily Teeter along with other expert lecturers, and explored an astounding array of archaeological sites along the Red Sea. Our sold-out *Wonders of Ancient Egypt* tour departed in March 2013, led by Lanny Bell. Seventeen packed days of travel from Cairo to Abu Simbel and back gave the twenty participants a wide breadth and scope of ancient Egypt. To wrap up the season in May 2013, Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute, led twelve members through the *Archaeological Treasures of Eastern Turkey*.

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. You can also visit our Facebook OI Members Travel page at www.facebook.com/OIMemberTravel.
