

SPECIAL EVENTS

Brittany F. Mullins

During the 2012–2013 academic year, a variety of events were hosted at the Oriental Institute and offsite, including two new endowed lectureships, a members' preview of our special exhibit, the welcome reception for the American Schools of Oriental Research, our annual post-doctoral seminar, a service in memory of Deborah Aliber, an evening at the Joel Oppenheimer Gallery, and our biennial gala, among many others. Several of these events are described below. We would like to thank our generous donors and members, whose continued support makes these programs and events possible.

Between Heaven & Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt Exhibition Preview

On October 15, 2012, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Egyptology PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and curator of *Between Heaven & Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, introduced this special exhibit by presenting a lecture on the importance of birds in ancient Egyptian society as religious symbols, their use in hieroglyphic writing, the decorative arts, and as a food source. Rozenn became interested in the topic of birds in ancient Egypt not only through her work as an Egyptologist, but also as an ornithologist.

During her lecture, Rozenn shared her newest research developments in which she worked with the University of Chicago Medical Center to scan and better understand the bird mummies in the Oriental Institute collection. Following the lecture, Rozenn answered questions during a tour of the Birds exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery and during a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of Kitty Picken, Misty and Lewis Gruber, Joan Fortune, Carlotta and David Maher, Anna White, and our members and donors. A special thank-you goes to Emily Teeter, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Amy Weber, and Tracy Tajbl for organizing this preview and reception.

Braidwood Visiting Scholar Program

On March 4, 2013, former Oriental Institute professor and founder of the CAMEL lab Tony J. Wilkinson was invited to speak as the first Braidwood Visiting Scholar. Tony is currently a professor in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. He delivered a lecture titled "Canals, Kings, and Hydraulic Landscapes in the Ancient Near East," and two graduate workshops on geoarchaeology, archaeological survey and remote sensing, and on modelling methods for ancient Near Eastern communities. Professor Wilkinson's research interests include landscapes of dry lands (deserts) and wetlands. He has undertaken fieldwork on ancient landscapes in Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran as well as various places in the United Kingdom.

The Braidwood Visiting Scholar program was established with generous gifts from Mrs. Marjorie Webster and others in memory of Robert and Linda Braidwood. The Braidwood Visiting Scholar program aims to encourage and perpetuate the educational values of the

Braidwoods, particularly their commitment to the mentorship and training of graduate students specializing in the archaeology of the ancient Near East.

2013 Post-Doctoral Conference: Household Studies in Complex Societies

Postdoctoral Fellow Miriam Müller organized the ninth annual Oriental Institute Post-doctoral Seminar, which was held from March 14 to March 16, 2013, at the Oriental Institute. Fifteen international and domestic speakers convened to present their understanding of ancient societal structures advanced through the study of household archaeology. Household archaeology is the analysis of household architecture, artifact assemblages, the production and consumption of goods, and the interactions of individuals and families, which can be integrated with contemporaneous textual sources. Speakers cited evidence from ancient societies of Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Assyria, Greece and pre-Aztec Mexico.

Those who arrived on Thursday evening were treated to a special dinner in our Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery so they could meet with Oriental Institute faculty and staff participating in the conference as well as with their fellow speakers. This dinner, along with a reception hosted in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery the following evening, gave conference speakers the opportunity to learn more about their colleague's research on and approaches to household archaeology.

The post-doctoral seminar is supported by a gift from Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee Herbst. A publication of the conference is currently in production. A special thank-you to Mariana Perlinac and Brittany Mullins for their assistance in organizing the conference.

Deborah Aliber Memorial Service

This past December, the Oriental Institute lost one of our most beloved volunteers and supporters, Deborah Aliber. The Persian Gallery is named after Deborah and her husband Robert and was thus a fitting venue for the March 30, 2013, service in honor of Deborah's many gifts to our faculty, staff, students, visitors, and the Oriental Institute. Guests arrived as the Spektral Quartet, in residence at the University of Chicago, performed some of Debbie's favorite pieces of music. Several speakers reflected upon Debbie's role as a grandmother, faculty wife, an Oriental Institute docent and Visiting Committee member, and her years growing up in Hyde Park. Friend and colleague Emily Teeter highlighted Debbie's volunteer activities and shared stories of her time traveling with Debbie as part of the Oriental Institute travel program. Debbie will be greatly missed by those who had the opportunity to know and work with her.

Inaugural David Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series

On April 29, 2013, the Oriental Institute welcomed Dr. Oded Lipschits as the inaugural speaker for the David Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series. Dr. Lipschits delivered his lecture, titled "The Myth of the Empty Land and the Myth of the Mass Return: A New Look on the History of Judah under Babylonian and Persian Rule," to 162 members, donors, and public attendees. The following day, Dr. Lipschits met with graduate students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Divinity School, and the Department of Anthropology for lunch and to conduct a workshop on "The Royal Persian Garden and the Answer to the 'Riddle of Ramat Rahel.'"

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Dr. Lipschits is a professor of Jewish history at Tel Aviv University and his research focuses on the history and administration of Judah and Judeans under Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian rule. In addition, he has directed archaeological excavations at Ramat Rahel, the Ellah Valley Regional Project, and the Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition.



Jeanne Rowe and her husband John after receiving the 2013 Breasted Medallions (all Gala photos by Keri Wiginton)



Jay Heidel, left, greets 1997 Breasted Medallion recipient Carlotta Maher at the Oriental Institute Gala



Nan Ray, from left, Will Kellogg, and 1997 Breasted Medallion recipient Carlotta Maher are pictured at the 2013 Gala



The Kalyan Pathak Quartet perform during the cocktail hour in front of the Oriental Institute's Morton Tent



Michelle Trojan and Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy students Keonte Griggs and Marcellus Nichols attend the Gala to honor Jeanne and John Rowe



Nancy Bergner tries on jewelry while shopping at the Suq



Visiting Committee Chair Harvey Plotnick runs the live auction during the Oriental Institute Gala



Director Gil Stein and John Lawrence talk with guests following the live auction

The David Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series, which focuses on the history and archaeology of ancient Israel, was established through a gift from Barbara Kipper and the Kipper Family and includes an annual public lecture as well as a lecture or workshop for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate scholars at the Oriental Institute. The Kipper Family, longtime supporters of the Oriental Institute, also established the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center in 2008 to encourage children and families to learn about the archaeological method through simulated excavations.

2013 Oriental Institute Gala: An Evening of Discovery

This year for our biennial Gala, the Oriental Institute returned to the tradition of hosting offsite in order to accommodate our growing number of attendees. On May 11, 2013, the J. W. Marriott Hotel in downtown Chicago was transformed into a Middle Eastern Suq with Persian carpets covering the floor of the lobby as the Kalyan Pathak Quartet played traditional Egyptian music with the Oriental Institute's Morton Tent as the backdrop. Guests shopped for items selected especially for the Gala and not traditionally carried in the Oriental Institute's own Suq as the bust of Nefertiti gazed on from the entryway.

Following the cocktail hour, guests dined in the Burnham Ballroom, which was decorated with palm trees, lotus flowers, casts of Assyrian reliefs fresh from their crates, and photographs from the Oriental Institute's excavations, each representing the moment of discovery.

Prior to the presentation portion of the evening, a video of students from the Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy was shown, in which the students, together with Yorke Rowan, recounted their once-in-a-lifetime experience of excavating at Marj Rabba, Israel. Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein then presented Breasted Medallions to John and Jeanne Rowe for their many contributions to the Oriental Institute, philanthropy, and education in Chicago.

A special thanks goes to our corporate sponsors for this event: Exelon, Northern Trust, and Allstate.