Richard H. Beal spent his time updating, reference checking, and copyediting articles for the third fascicle of the Å volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Outside of office time, he wrote the article “Hittite Anatolia: Political History” for the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia*. Articles in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* on “Ships and Boats” and “Plague” are now in print. The article “Soldat (Hittite)” (Soldiers among the Hittites) is undergoing editing. An article has now been submitted for the same work on the Hittite port city of Ura, which is to be located somewhere on the Cilician coast. Although the Hittites were supposedly uncomfortable at sea or as merchants, it is only our lack of documentation in these areas that leads to this common opinion. However, a document from the Syrian port city of Ugarit finds the king of Ugarit complaining to the Hittite king that Hittite merchants from Ura were buying up all the real estate in Ugarit; in other words, Hittite merchants were not only engaged in, but also getting rich in, the sea trade with the Levant. In addition, the year has seen the appearance of the book he edited, along with Steven Holloway and JoAnn Scurlock, entitled *In the Wake of Tikva Frymer-Kensky*. This collects essays given at the 2007 Society of Biblical Literature meetings in honor of the late Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Assyriologist and Professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Chicago.

Robert D. Biggs continued his work on the cuneiform inscriptions from the middle of the third millennium BC from the great temple of the goddess Inanna at Nippur, excavated by the Oriental Institute and other institutions some fifty years ago. Its final publication is being prepared by McGuire Gibson and his team. In his retirement he continues to study Babylonian liver and other omens, based on a diviner’s inspection of other organs of the sheep, which is to further his research conducted during two weeks at the British Museum in 2009.

Scott Branting continues to serve as the director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) and co-director of the Kerkenes Dağ archaeological project in central Turkey. Reports for both of these endeavors appear in separate sections of the *Annual Report*. He also remains involved in the publication phase of the MASS project, is co-director of the SHULGI project with Argonne National Laboratory, and continues to oversee the acquisition of the Integrated Database for the Oriental Institute. During this year, in partnership with Wendy Ennes of the Education Department, he developed the Science of Archaeology Outreach Program for the sixth-grade class of Claremont Academy in Chicago. He also served as a committee member...
member for the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and as a delegate to the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT).

During the year, papers were presented at the seventh International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), Northwestern’s Institute on Complex Systems (NICO), and the South Suburban Archaeological Society. Grants were received from the Chicago Public Schools Museum Connections Program and the U.S. Department of Education, in addition to a University of Chicago capital request awarded to the Institute to fund the purchase of the KEMu software that will run the Integrated Database. Two works appeared in publication: “Simulating Movement, Communication and Flows of Knowledge at Kerkenes Dağ” in *The Knowledge Economy and Technological Capabilities*, and “Kerkenes 2008” in *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı*. Several others are in the process of publication, including “Seven Solutions for Seven Problems with Least Cost Pathways” in *Archaeological Approaches to Least Cost Analysis*. Additionally, an article written by Eti Bonn-Muller entitled “Layers of the Past” that showcases the work of CAMEL appeared in the May/June issue of *Archaeology*. 