DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP
Overleaf: Ornamental peg with inscription of Darius I (522–486 BC), the founder of Persepolis: “Knobbed peg of precious stone (or lapis lazuli) made in the house of Darius the King.” The upper line is in Old Persian, in Old Persian writing; the lower line has the Babylonian and Elamite versions, in two variants of Mesopotamian cuneiform writing. OIM A29808b. Blue frit. Iran, Persepolis, Southeast Palace. Achaemenid period, reign of Darius I, 522–486 BC. 7.9 x 12.4 cm. After Matthew W. Stolper, “61. Ornamental Peg with Trilingual Text,” in Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond, edited by Christopher Woods, no. 61, p. 96 (Oriental Institute Museum Publications 32; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010). Photo by Anna Ressman
Oriental Institute supporters have once again helped us move forward on a number of key projects during a tough economic period. As the chart below shows, we received $2,329,446 in gifts to the Institute during the past fiscal year. This was an 11.4% increase from the previous period. As a result, we were able to offer continued support for unique special exhibits, seven nationally recognized and ongoing excavation projects across the Middle East, and the record of tablets belonging to the Persepolis Fortification Archive. We were also able to fund the launch of the first ever joint Palestinian-American archaeological excavation, located at Jericho in the Palestinian territories. We were also very fortunate to receive multiple research grants throughout the year, including continued support from the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago, multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the PARSA Community Foundation, the Exelon Foundation, and the Wenner Gren Foundation. Our development staffing also changed during the year as we replace Rebecca Silverman, who transitioned into a new position at the University’s Court Theatre in June.

Once again, our success could not have been achieved without the loyal support of all our Members and Donors. On behalf of all of us at the Oriental Institute, thank you for joining as partners in discovery.