

Gene Gragg

The brunt of **Gene Gragg**'s research activity this year has been the continued development of a computational and theoretical framework for the cross-linguistic comparison (typological and genetic) of lexical and morphological systems (the Cushitic-Afroasiatic Index Project). In this context, various articles from recent conferences have either appeared: "Morphology and Root Structure: A Beja Perspective" (Proceedings of the Barcelona Symposium on Comparative Semitics, November 19–20, 2004; *Aula Orientalis* 23 [2005], 23–34); or are in proof: "What kind of Speech Community is Represented by the 'Cushitic' Node?: Introduction to the Lexical Evidence" (Proceedings of the Seventh International Semito-Semitic Congress, Berlin, September 13, 2004, edited by Rainer Voigt, forthcoming) and "The 'Weak' Verb: Akkadian and Beja" (Proceedings from The Akkadian Language in its Semitic Context, The Second Leiden Symposium, Leiden, December 10–11, 2004, edited by Guy Deutscher, forthcoming). This research direction has continued in this year's conference activity: a linguistics-oriented talk "Paradigm Redux" (Thirty-fourth North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics, held in March in conjunction with the 2006 American Oriental Society meeting in Seattle) and a talk on "Comparing Afroasiatic 'Templatic' Morphologies," given at the Simposio-IGCS held at the end of May in Sitges, Spain, and which will appear as an article in a forthcoming issue of *Aula Orientalis*.

A related, and continuing, research preoccupation is concerned with the design, publication, systematical exploration, and maintenance of a lexically and grammatically annotated corpus — specifically in the context of Matt Stolper's Persepolis Fortification Tablet archive project. Finally, Gragg contributed several articles to the *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Second Edition; Elsevier): "Babylonian Grammatical Texts," "Elamite," "Writing Systems: Mesopotamian Cuneiform Script," and "South Semitic Writing Systems."