Richard H. Beal spent much of the past year reference checking, copy editing, and entering corrections for the third fascicle of the Å volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. He also worked on a number of first drafts of dictionary articles. These included three commonly occurring and complicated words with partially overlapping forms:

- da- “to take,”
- dai- “to put, place,” and
- tiya- “to step, take a position.”

His article “Making, Preserving, and Breaking the Peace with the Hittite State” came out in the volume War and Peace in the Ancient World, edited by Kurt Raaflaub. In the summer he attended the 52nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Munich, whose topic, “Krieg und Frieden im Alten Vorderasien,” was in memory of the peace of Westphalia, signed in Munich in 1648, which ended the Thirty Years War. At the meeting he gave a lecture “Hittite Reluctance to Go to War,” which laid out the many examples of the Hittites trying to solve an international problem through diplomacy and only resorting to war when that failed.

After the meetings, he and his wife, alumna JoAnn Scurlock, went to London for several weeks to read mostly unpublished Akkadian cuneiform tablets related to her project to study ancient Mesopotamian medical treatments.

Robert D. Biggs devoted part of the summer of 2006 to continue reference checking for the final volume of the Assyrian Dictionary. He also continued work, with co-editors Jennie Myers and Martha Roth, on the papers from the 2005 Rencontre Assyriologique in Chicago. He continued the editorship of Journal of Near Eastern Studies until April 2007 when Wadad Kadi took over full responsibility. Having been appointed in 1971, he thus ended his editorship of more than thirty-six years. He expects shortly to resume his work on the Early Dynastic and Akkadian Period cuneiform inscriptions from the Inanna Temple at Nippur, updating his research principally in the Iraq Museum carried out over a number of years, starting in 1972. His publications include “The Human Body and Sexuality in the Babylonian Medical Texts,” in Médecine et médecins au Proche-Orient ancien, edited by L. Battini-Villard and P. Villard (Oxford, 2006), and an article on sexual potency enhancement in the Reallexikon der Assyriologie.

Scott Branting continued to direct the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) and to co-direct the Kerkenes Dağ archaeological project in central Turkey. He also continues to participate in the MASS project. Information on the progress of all three of these projects can be found in their separate reports. In addition, he received a Joint Theory Institute grant along with Mark Altaweel of Argonne National Laboratory to start and co-direct the SHULGI project. This

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project is developing open-source agent-based computer simulation software to provide researchers with a tool by which they can model ancient and modern pedestrian based transportation systems. It is named after a king in the Third Dynasty of Ur who was known for his road building efforts and the speed with which he was purported to ambulate. The first test case for the SHULGI software, however, will be the extension and testing of the computer simulations of ancient pedestrians along the city streets at Kerkenes Dağ some 1,500 years after the reign of Shulgi.

During the year, Branting presented papers on the work at Kerkenes Dağ at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and in a public lecture at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. He also presented a lecture on “The Geography and Economics of Urban Transportation” in the Economics of Urban Policies class taught in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. This was in addition to the Ancient Landscapes I and II classes he taught and a lecture he presented on “Survey and Geospatial Technologies” for the Method and Theory in Near Eastern Archaeology class. Within the Institute he continued to serve as chair of the Integrated Database Committee.

Branting also had a number of publications completed during the year. Kerkenes News 9, co-authored with Geoffrey and Françoise Summers, was published by METU Press. An article on “Technology and the Oriental Institute” appeared as well in volume 193 of the Oriental Institute News & Notes. In addition, two articles were accepted for publication but have yet to appear: “Using an Urban Street Network to Analyze Ancient Activities” will appear in the forthcoming volume Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology 2006, to be published by Archeaopress. While “Geospatial Data and Theory in Archaeology: A View from CAMEL,” co-authored with Joshua Trampier, will appear in the edited volume Space — The Final Frontier? An Intercontinental Approach, to be published by Cambridge University Press.