Geoff once again co-taught, with Seth Richardson, an undergraduate core class, “The Assyrian Empire” with the help of Teaching Assistant Alexandra Witsell. This continues to be an excellent collaboration.

Geoff has continued over the past year to work as time allows on constructing the final stratigraphic sequence of the third-millennium B.C. “Temple Oval” at Tell Brak in northeastern Syria, which he excavated with co-director Helen McDonald from 1998 to 2004. They have made significant progress in making stratigraphic connections over a very large excavation area, as well as the more mundane tasks of data entry and database organization. Geoff has also continued to develop his ideas about the rise of Tell Brak as a city in the fourth millennium B.C. in lectures in Chicago and Toronto.

Finally, Geoff has continued to present and develop ideas about museums in lectures in Milwaukee and Toronto. As the model of the Oriental Institute suggests, museums do not have to base their value on acquiring antiquities. Rather, research and new discoveries can be a basis for generating interest in our field and educating the public.

François Gaudard

François Gaudard continued his work as a Research Associate for the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (see separate report). He collaborated with Rodolphe Kasser, Marvin Meyer, and Gregor Wurst on the publication of the second edition of The Gospel of Judas (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2008). The new edition of this fascinating and much-debated Coptic Gnostic text presents a thoroughly updated translation that reflects the recent placement of additional fragments, as well as expanded footnotes providing further information on difficult or controversial passages.

In the course of the year, Gaudard also wrote articles and book reviews which, for the most part, are now in press. He is currently working on several text editions, such as the publication of mummy labels. In 2007 Gaudard was contacted by Sofía Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martín Hernández to join the Mummy Labels Database (MLD) project, hosted by the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid. This project is focused on making the approximately 2,500 known mummy labels already published in various series, journals, and monographs easily accessible to scholars as an online database. In addition, the project also aims to publish as many of the still-unpublished labels as possible, as well as republish all those that have been defectively or incompletely edited. A full description in six different sections will be given for each label. The mummy labels of the Oriental Institute’s collection will be included and published in the database. Gaudard is indebted to Gil Stein, Geoff Emberling, John Larson, Helen McDonald, and Susan Allison, and he would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their help and invaluable assistance.

McGuire Gibson

This past year, McGuire Gibson was guest curator of the Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum, wrote an introduction and an
essay for the catalog, and gave two talks at its openings. He also spoke, with Dr. Nada Shabout, about the destruction of Iraq’s cultural heritage at the Aurora Forum of Stanford University. He participated in a joint program on Iraq’s heritage with Dr. Donny George at the Hyde Park Art Center. He was one of two speakers on “Non-use of Experts in Iraq” for the Social Science Research Council in Washington, D.C. He spoke at a meeting on “Iraq and Its Neighbors” at the Hollings Center in Istanbul that was co-sponsored by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), of which he is president. He also spoke to University of Chicago Alumni groups in Milwaukee and Denver, and to general audiences in Chicago, New York, and London. At the National Press Club in Washington, he was a featured speaker at the launching of the book, Antiquities under Siege (ed. L. Rothfield), in which he authored a chapter. He took part in the 6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Rome. In May, he worked for three weeks in Amman with Iraqi archaeologists and a former student, Dr. Mark Altaweel, to ready for publication reports in English and Arabic on excavations conducted by the Iraqi colleagues. Mark and the Iraqis were actually in Istanbul because of visa difficulties for the Iraqis. Gibson kept in touch with the others by e-mail. One of the excavations being published is Iraqi work done at Tell Asmar (ancient Eshnunna) in 1999 and 2000. Tell Asmar was the focus of a major expedition by the Oriental Institute in the 1930s, so this new material is of special relevance to us. All of this work with the Iraqis is sponsored by TAARII with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The three years in which the project has been functioning have seen the appearance of four reports, with two others in press and at least three more to be sent to publishers. Gibson is the director of the project and the final editor of the English reports. During the current year, five other articles and a book review of his appeared in books and journals.

Besides serving as the president of TAARII, he still represents the University of Chicago on the board of directors of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. He is also on the board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

Petra M. Goedegebuure

Petra M. Goedegebuure continued publishing and writing on the linguistics of Hittite and related Anatolian languages, such as Hieroglyphic and Cuneiform Luwian, and Lycian. Her research interests cover four different, but sometimes interrelated, fields of linguistics: discourse cohesion, deixis, information structure, and typological language change in contact situations. Petra also participates half-time in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project as academic contributor (see Project Reports).

In the next academic year, Petra will conclude her studies on the deictic system in the Anatolian languages. While the Hittite demonstrative system will be described in a monograph (Reference, Deixis and Focus in Hittite: The Demonstratives ka- “this”, apa- “that” and asi “yon,” Studien zu den Boghazköy-Texten [Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz]), the Luwian demonstrative system is explored in a series of articles. The first one, in which she discovered the ablative forms of the Hieroglyphic Luwian demonstrative pronouns, was published this year (“The Hieroglyphic Luwian Demonstrative Ablative-instrumentals zin and apin,” in VI Congresso Internazionale di Ittitologia, Roma, 5–9 settembre 2005, Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici 49/1, edited by Alfonso Archi and Rita Francia, pp. 319–34 [Rome, 2007]). This discovery led to the re-analysis of a few forms which were until then considered as ablatives but now turn out to be datives. This oi.uchicago.edu