Richard H. Beal

Richard H. Beal spent his time updating, reference-checking, and copy editing articles for the third fascicle of the Š volume and the beginning of the T volume of the Hittite Dictionary. After a concentrated period of reading and rereading the final manuscript and page proofs, he collected and collated the corrections made by all the Hittite Dictionary staff and, under the supervision of Leslie Schramer of Oriental Institute Publications, he inputted these into the publications’ computer files. Then the third fascicle of the Š volume (words beginning with ši-) was finally sent to the printer. Outside of office time he completed a review for the Journal of the American Oriental Society of the book Rêves hittites (Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 28. Leiden: Brill, 2007) by Alice Mouton, who had been a guest of the Oriental Institute and the Hittite Dictionary for one year and subsequently became a professor at the Université de Strasbourg and a member of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). He also completed a review for our own Journal of Near Eastern Studies of Jan de Roos, Hittite Votive Texts (Uitgaven van het Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten te Leiden [PIHANS] 109; Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2007). Eating up much time was copy editing and creating an index for Creation and Chaos: A Reconsideration of Hermann Gunkel’s Chaos Kampf Hypothesis (Eisenbraun’s), which he is editing with his wife, Oriental Institute alumna JoAnn Scurlock. He also participated in the reference checking of Scurlock’s Sourcebook for Ancient Mesopotamian Medicine, to be published in the series Writings from the Ancient World by the Society for Biblical Literature, which will contain transliterations and translations of all types of Mesopotamian diagnostic and therapeutic texts. He and his wife went on a tour and picture-taking spree of Iran. Seeing our first ziggurat in person was probably the high point of many high points. During the tour, our fellow tourists repeatedly remarked on the incredible warmth shown to Americans by the Iranian people we met. While in Iran, Beal gave a lecture on Hittite language, history and culture to a large audience (boys on the right, girls on the left) at the University of Tehran.