Brian Muhs

During the academic year 2012–2013, much of Brian Muhs’ research related to his book project, “The Ancient Egyptian Economy,” which explores how social and legal institutions shaped the development of modes of distribution in ancient Egypt. He gave two lectures relating to this research: on March 16, 2013, he participated in the conference Heracleion in Context: The Maritime Economy of the Egyptian Late Period, at The Queen’s College, Oxford, where he presented a paper on “Money Taxes and Maritime Trade in Late Period Egypt”; and on April 3, 2013, he gave an Oriental Institute Members’ Lecture, co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Chicago, on “Death and Taxes in Ancient Egypt.”

Muhs also conducted and fostered research involving Demotic sources for ancient Egyptian society and culture. He organized and secured funding for the seventh triennial Demotic Summer School, which was held at the Oriental Institute on August 27–28, 2012, as well as the Roundtable “Digital Demotic,” held at the Franke Institute of the University of Chicago on August 29, 2012. The Summer School allowed Demotists to present difficult texts and to discuss them with each other before they were published. Muhs presented two “Loan Accounts from the Archive of Panas Son of Espemdtis.” The Roundtable discussed the Chicago Demotic Dictionary with many of its users at the Summer School, to determine how it might better serve them in the future. On April 17, 2013, Muhs presented a Brown-bag Lecture at the Oriental Institute, together with Greg Marouard and Robert Ritner, on “Reconstructing Houses and Households of the Late Pharaonic Era (6th–1st Cent. B.C.): Possibilities and Limits,” in the Oriental Institute mini-series on Household Archaeology. He discussed how Demotic family archives from Ptolemaic Egypt illustrated household histories and lifecycles that illuminated contemporary archaeological evidence. On July 5, 2012, he gave a guest lec-