

### **Fred M. Donner**

**Fred M. Donner** continues to serve as chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, which along with his teaching absorbs most of his time. He has also continued to serve as editor of *Al-'Usur al-Wusta* ("The Middle Ages" in Arabic), the semiannual *Bulletin of Middle East Medievalists*.

Donner has worked in desultory fashion on researching the question of Qur'anic and early Islamic eschatology. He was awarded a grant to head a Summer Institute for the National Endowment for the Humanities on the subject of "Islamic Origins," which he taught in collaboration with Oriental Institute faculty members Walter E. Kaegi (Byzantine history) and Donald S. Whitcomb (Byzantine and Islamic archaeology). This program ran for five weeks in June and July 2000 and was attended by twenty-three college and university teachers from various parts

of the United States. Donner will be on leave in winter and spring quarters, 2001, when he will spend four months at the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan, drafting a general book on the origins of Islam.

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