

## Magnus Widell

**Magnus Widell** continued to make progress on his edition of the unpublished Ur III tablets kept at the University of Notre Dame (The Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the University of Notre Dame Theodore M. Hesburgh Library). He also completed a longer paper that is currently under peer-review for the journal *Environment and History* (“Historical Evidence for Climate Instability and Environmental Catastrophes in Northern Syria and the Jazira: The Chronicle of Michael the Syrian”) as well as a book review that will appear next year in *Journal of American Oriental Society*.

Widell gave several conference talks this year. In July, he presented a paper at the fifty-first Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale held at the University of Chicago (“The Oxen of Umma”); in January, at the Annual Meeting of the British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology held at the University of Edinburgh (“Fields and Irrigation: Developing a Model for Southern Mesopotamia,” co-authored with Carrie Hritz); in May, at the Fifth Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences (“Cultivated Plots and Administrative Fields in Ancient Babylonia”); and finally, in June, at the international conference Building a Harmonious and Sustainable Society, Message from the Ancient Near East held at Beijing University (“Calculating Economic Sustainability in the Ancient Near East”).

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