

## 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**Magnus Widell** continued to make progress on his edition of the unpublished Ur III tablets kept at the University of Notre Dame (*The Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the University of Notre Dame Theodore M. Hesburgh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 and submitted one scholarly article and two book reviews this year. The article, “Schiff, sumerisch,” is currently being reviewed for publication in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*.

The past year has seen the appearance of three articles, two of them, “Urbanization within a Dynamic Environment: Modeling Bronze Age Communities in Upper Mesopotamia” and “Modeling Settlement Systems in a Dynamic Environment: Case Studies from Mesopotamia” were co-authored with members of the Modeling Ancient Settlement Systems’ project. The third article, “Historical Evidence for Climate Instability and Environmental Catastrophes in Northern Syria and the Jazira: The Chronicle of Michael the Syrian,” appeared earlier this year in *Environment and History* 13/1, pages 47–70.

Widell gave two talks this year. In March, he presented a paper on the Sumerian expression *igi-kar*<sub>2</sub> at the 217th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, which was held in San Antonio. In May, he was invited by the Department of Oriental Studies at Peking University to present a talk on cuneiform texts and administrative procedures in the late third millennium.

Earlier this summer, Widell accepted a position in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool. After four and a half years at the Oriental Institute, it was a difficult decision to leave Chicago. He will start teaching at Liverpool in September 2007.

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