

Karen L. Wilson

Karen L. Wilson resigned her position as Oriental Institute Museum Director as of December 1, 2003, in order to pursue other interests. As the dust from the incredibly successful Mesopotamian Gallery opening began to settle, she realized that she had been at the Institute for fifteen and one-half years and had accomplished those things that were important to her, both personally and professionally: obtaining climate control for the collection via the renovation and expansion project and designing and installing the three main museum galleries. She realized that it was time to turn her attentions toward something that would challenge her in new ways. In November, she delivered a paper on the history of the Oriental Institute Museum at a meeting of the Association for Museum History in Chicago. This spring, she was awarded a generous grant from the Shelby White-Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications for two years beginning in June 2004. This grant will enable her to prepare a final report on the University of Chicago's 1903–1905 excavations at Bismaya (ancient Adab), Iraq.
