

Scott Branting

Scott Branting continued to direct the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) and to co-direct the Kerkenes Dağ archaeological project in central Turkey. He also continues to participate in the MASS project. Information on the progress of all three of these projects can be found in their separate reports. In addition, he received a Joint Theory Institute grant along with Mark Altaweel of Argonne National Laboratory to start and co-direct the SHULGI project. This

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project is developing open-source agent-based computer simulation software to provide researchers with a tool by which they can model ancient and modern pedestrian based transportation systems. It is named after a king in the Third Dynasty of Ur who was known for his road building efforts and the speed with which he was purported to ambulate. The first test case for the SHULGI software, however, will be the extension and testing of the computer simulations of ancient pedestrians along the city streets at Kerkenes Dağ some 1,500 years after the reign of Shulgi.

During the year, Branting presented papers on the work at Kerkenes Dağ at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and in a public lecture at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. He also presented a lecture on “The Geography and Economics of Urban Transportation” in the *Economics of Urban Policies* class taught in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. This was in addition to the *Ancient Landscapes I* and *II* classes he taught and a lecture he presented on “Survey and Geospatial Technologies” for the *Method and Theory in Near Eastern Archaeology* class. Within the Institute he continued to serve as chair of the Integrated Database Committee.

Branting also had a number of publications completed during the year. *Kerkenes News 9*, co-authored with Geoffrey and Françoise Summers, was published by METU Press. An article on “Technology and the Oriental Institute” appeared as well in volume 193 of the *Oriental Institute News & Notes*. In addition, two articles were accepted for publication but have yet to appear: “Using an Urban Street Network to Analyze Ancient Activities” will appear in the forthcoming volume *Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology 2006*, to be published by Archeopress. While “Geospatial Data and Theory in Archaeology: A View from CAMEL,” co-authored with Joshua Trampier, will appear in the edited volume *Space — The Final Frontier? An Intercontinental Approach*, to be published by Cambridge University Press.
