William Sumner continued his long-standing research on the archaeology of the Persepolis region, Fars Province, Iran. A paper on Anshan in the Kaftari Phase (ca. 2100-1600 B.C.) appeared in a festschrift honoring Louis Vanden Berghe. This paper presented an analysis of settlement patterns and land use to show that agricultural production was organized around three separate irrigation systems that provided sufficient productive capacity to provision the city of Anshan (Tal-e Malyan), which at the time had an estimated population of more than 20,000, mostly engaged in

administration, trade, and craft production. Two other papers appeared, both concerned with methodological issues in regional archaeological research. One of these papers addressed issues concerning the use of ethnographic analogy to establish the relationship between archaeological settlement area and population. The analysis demonstrated a close correlation between settlement area and population in contemporary Marv Dasht farming villages. Several factors, such as the age and life cycle of villages, dominant productive systems, and temporary economic contingencies, were shown to modify the relationship between population and settlement areas in predictable ways. A second paper, concerned with the relative merits of full coverage versus sampling survey methods in regional archaeological studies, demonstrated that many structural relationships among settlements in a region are difficult to discover using only sampling survey designs.

Sumner also contributed a paper on the arrival of the Persians in Fars to the Achaemenid History Workshop, and served as a commentator for several symposia at professional meetings. He is now engaged in completing a monograph on the Proto-Elamite buildings on Operation ABC at Malyan and a paper on settlement and land use during the first cycle of population expansion in Fars, ca. 6000-4000 B.C.