

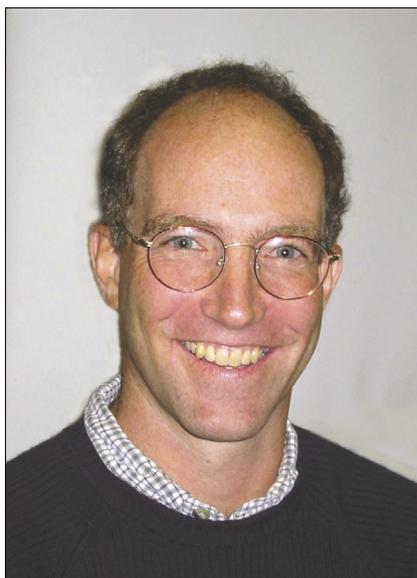
## In Memory of Dr. Geoffrey Owen Seltzer

The Quaternary science community lost one of its leaders and most influential and enthusiastic participants with the passing of Geoffrey Owen Seltzer on 15 January 2005. Geoff, 45, was at the prime of his career and died after a brave 18-month battle with cancer.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1959, Geoff earned his B.A. at Carlton College (1982), and his M.S. (1987) and Ph.D. (1991) at the University of Minnesota. Geoff was a post-doctoral fellow and senior research associate at the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University and had served on the faculty of the Earth Sciences Department at Syracuse University since 1994. His numerous awards included being named a fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2004.

Geoff's major contributions to the field of Quaternary science included his careful analysis of the climatic significance of paleosnowlines in the Andes, his novel use of stable isotopes from Lake Junin, Peru to develop a record of regional moisture balance, his leadership in compiling multiproxy evidence from Lake Titicaca sediments to substantiate early warming of tropical South America at the Last Glacial-Interglacial transition, and his galvanizing efforts to apply surface exposure dating methods to date moraines in Peru and Bolivia. Results of Geoff's research were published in more than 42 papers in journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *Geology*, *Quaternary Research*, and *GSA Bulletin*.

Geoff was blessed with a combination of a keen intellectual insight into many of the key questions that face the Quaternary sciences and an ideal personality for fostering collaborative research efforts with scientists from diverse areas of specialization. He was also very successful at organizing and coordinating large research programs and at obtaining consistent funding for these ventures. These and similar



*A photo of Geoff, healthy and full of life, taken by Steve Porter at the Snowline Conference in Scotland in Sept. 2002.*

efforts catapulted Geoff into the international limelight and likewise resulted in further collaborative leadership roles. In 1998, he was named leader of the PAGES PEP I Focus, working to compile climate records along a N-S transect through the Americas.

Geoff was very active within PAGES and made many scientific contributions to workshops and conferences, with a special emphasis on PEP I. Geoff recognized that future progress in paleoclimate research must involve a better understanding of atmospheric and oceanic circulation systems. Following on from a PAGES workshop on Hadley Cell dynamics in November 2002, Geoff took on a major leadership role authoring a successful proposal to hold an AGU Chapman conference on tropical-extratropical climatic teleconnections (see Workshop Reports p. 22).

Moreover, working with the PAGES Scientific Steering Committee in Banff in June of 2003, he helped craft the text for an initiative within PAGES on this very topic. The Chapman conference Geoff so carefully planned was held 8-11 February 2005 at the International Pacific Research Center of the University of Hawaii.

One of Geoff's lasting legacies to Quaternary research was his care and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students. His style was never too overbearing and he expected his students to work very independently. His encouragement was always sincere, as he was. One of the features most widely associated with Geoff was his broad smile. He was a true gentleman and loved to participate in the communal discovery. Geoff always made time for people and truly respected others. His graduate students have gone on to refine research in tropical snowlines, water resources, and paleoclimate reconstructions in South and Central America.

It is with genuine sorrow that we bid farewell to our colleague, friend and mentor. Responses from many others who knew Geoff over the years in various capacities echo our profound sense of loss. Geoff deeply valued his community, and perhaps his greatest legacy to us is the priority he placed on how and with whom he worked. We are reminded in Geoff that life is very short and that adhering to quality over quantity of work is important to success.

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