

Memorial to Geoffrey Owen Seltzer (1959–2005)

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The Quaternary science community lost one of its most influential participants with the passing of Geoffrey Owen Seltzer on January 15, 2005. Geoff, 45, at the prime of his career, died after an 18-month battle with cancer. Geoff touched the lives and careers of numerous students and colleagues through his powerful intellect and insight and his genuine kindness.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1959, Geoff earned his B.A. at Carleton College (1982) and his M.S. (1987) and Ph.D. (1991) at the University of Minnesota. He was a postdoctoral fellow and senior research associate at the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University, and he had served on the faculty of the Earth Sciences Department at Syracuse University since 1994. Geoff was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2004. Geoff's major contributions to the field of Quaternary science include 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 use surface exposure dating methods to develop a glacial chronology for the tropical Andes of Peru and Bolivia. Results of Geoff's research are published in more than 42 papers in journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *Geology*, *Quaternary Research*, and *GSA Bulletin*.

Geoff was blessed with a combination of keen intellectual insight into many of the key questions that face the Quaternary sciences and an ideal personality to foster collaborative research efforts with diverse scientists. In 1998, he was named project leader of the International Geosphere Biosphere Project PEP 1, which focused on compiling climate records along a north-south transect through the Americas. In January 2000, Geoff co-convoked a workshop, "Paleoclimates of the Central Andes," held at the University of Arizona. The workshop resulted in a special issue of the journal *Palaeoгеography, Palaeoclimatology, and Palaeoecology*, which he edited (with Don Rodbell and Herb Wright). Geoff organized an American Geophysical



Union Chapman Conference, “Tropical-Extratropical Climatic Teleconnections—A Long-Term Perspective,” which was held (after his death) February 8–11, 2005, at the International Pacific Research Center of the University of Hawaii.

One of Geoff’s lasting legacies to Quaternary research was his interpersonal care and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students. He was an excellent advisor and a generous colleague. He loved to participate in communal discovery, but expected and encouraged his students to work independently. His graduate students have gone on to refine research in tropical snowlines (three were in attendance at the Glasgow Snowline Workshop), water resources, and paleoclimate reconstruction in South America and Central America. Geoff was a true gentleman. His style was never overbearing, and he had a terrific sense of humor. It is with genuine sorrow we say farewell to our colleague, friend, and mentor. Geoff deeply valued his community, and perhaps his greatest legacy to us is the priority he placed on how and with whom he worked. Geoff is survived by his wife, Katie Reed; father, George Seltzer of Minneapolis; brothers Jonathan and Matthew of Minneapolis and Ethan of Portland, Oregon, and their families. Contributions can be made in Geoff’s memory to: Geoffrey Seltzer Fund, YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, 2125 East Hennepin Avenue, Suite 150, Minneapolis, MN 55413, USA.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GEOFFREY OWEN SELTZER

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