



# THE QUATERNARY TIMES

## Spring, 2016



AMQUA  
President's

### View from the Moraine

– Alison J. Smith [alisonjs at kent.edu](mailto:alisonjs at kent.edu)

AMQUA has had an amazing year with many changes, and we can definitely look forward to new achievements and goals in the coming years. Over the past year or so, you have received numerous emails from me and the executive committee (Colin Long and Christopher Hill), but we have not had a newsletter. We did not have a volunteer this year to handle the newsletter and website. So, we are making a short e-newsletter now and posting it as a simple pdf. *Note*-during the coming year, we *really need* to acquire an enthusiastic and web savvy volunteer to handle the e-newsletter and work on the website-is that *you*? Please think about doing this!

This past year has certainly had its share of good news and bad news. I will begin with the good news, which is that AMQUA is secure and well positioned for the coming years. Almost a year ago now we received a notice from the IRS informing us that we had to modernize – e.g.,

incorporate. This led to a very busy year for the Exec Committee. Here is the summary:

- ❖ The AMQUA Constitution has been updated (voter approved) to allow for email voting as needed.
- ❖ AMQUA is now an incorporated 501-C-3 non-profit association (voter approved) registered in the state of Idaho and with the IRS.
- ❖ AMQUA is now registered with grants.gov and therefore eligible to pursue federal funding as a non-profit association, should it wish to do so.

Most of these changes happened during the past summer, at the same time as we were engaged in a writing campaign with many other scientific societies to keep the Illinois State Museum open. This is definitely part of the tough news, because despite a very pronounced effort on the part of the scientific community, the museum closed. AMQUA moved the server location (to Kent State) and the archives (to U.Wisconsin-Oshkosh). AMQUA had long-standing connections to that museum (past

AMQUA President Eric Grimm and past AMQUA Secretary Bonnie Styles were employed there, and the official “home” of the association was the Illinois State Museum).

This past year also saw the loss of several major figures in Quaternary Studies, including **Herb Wright** (our first DCA awardee in 1996), **Dan Livingstone** and our 2013 DCA awardee **Paul Colinvaux**. I attended the Herb Wright Memorial on April 3rd in Minneapolis, and have written about it separately in this newsletter.

### What Next for AMQUA?

Elections are underway, followed by the **biennial meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico June 28-July 2nd!** If you haven't seen the program and registered for the meeting, let's get going with that! We want to see you there! Still sitting on the fence as to whether to go? You won't be when you see this [great program line-up](#) and [the venue](#) that **Julio Betancourt (USGS)** and **Felisa Smith (University of New Mexico)** have put together-find the links on the AMQUA website at [www.amqua.org](http://www.amqua.org)

AMQUA is ready to move forward in new ways. Please get involved, see how you can make a difference and keep this association vibrant and relevant in the coming years.

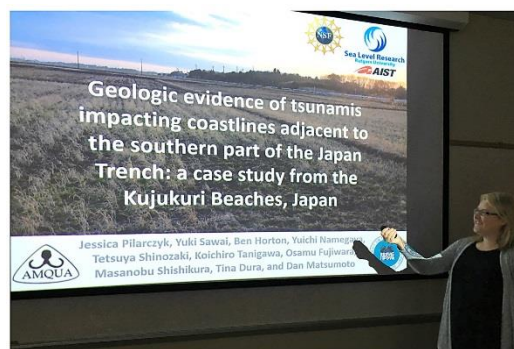
*See you in Santa Fe!*

Alison J. Smith



**AMQUA Early Career Travel Award** Recipient Jessica E. Pilarczyk presented her research at the **INQUA Congress in Nagoya, Japan** last summer. Jessica was a post-doc in the Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University at the time of the INQUA meeting. Shortly after that, she landed a tenure-track position, and is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Marine Science, University of Southern Mississippi.

Jessica was able to co-chair a session, present a talk and a poster. Her oral presentation was entitled *Geologic evidence of tsunamis impacting coastlines adjacent to the southern part of the Japan Trench: a case study from the Kujukuri Beaches, Japan.*



Jessica co-chaired a session with *Osamu Fujiwara* of the Geological Survey of Japan, entitled *Sedimentary archives of subduction zone earthquakes and tsunamis from coastlines of the Pacific Ocean.* This session brought together paleo-seismologists from over fifteen countries and explored recent developments in reconstructing global earthquake and tsunami histories from coastal geology.

## Multigenerational Gathering of Quaternarists for Herb Wright Memorial on April 3, 2016

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in early April, more than a hundred Quaternarists from North America and Europe gathered to celebrate the life of Herb Wright (1917-2015). AMQUA members will note that Herb Wright was the first recipient of the AMQUA Distinguished Career Award, in 1996. With the sun streaming through the huge windows of the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota, colleague after colleague spoke, keeping everyone spellbound with stories of field adventures, personal travel stories, and moments in their lives when Professor H.E. Wright set them on their paths of Quaternary Studies.

We heard, among many other stories, the saga of the Newfoundland expedition as narrated by Dave Foster, Henry Lamb, and Dan Engstrom, complete with photos, and enjoyed the photos of field expeditions in Europe sent by Brigitta Ammann and Dirk Verschuren. Past AMQUA President **Eric Grimm** and AMQUA President-Elect **Sheri Fritz** both spoke about Herb's tremendous influence on their careers.

Some of Herb's first doctoral students attended, including Ed Cushing, also a mentor to many of us. Herb's graduate students representing just about every decade of the past 70 years were present as well. The Memorial was organized by Emi Ito and Sharon Kressler of the Department of Earth Sciences. The

session closed with a catered reception, and a group photo - we hope it will soon be available! Many photos used in the presentations are available through the e-book link to ***Sedimental Journeys-The Life and Legacy of Herb Wright*** <http://www.eecrg.uib.no/SedimentalJourneys.htm> .

This e-book also has the links to a wonderful collection of writings you will want to see. Herb Wright's impact on Quaternary Studies is complex and extensive, and he will be long remembered as a great scientist, mentor, and colleague.



Painting of Herb Wright, winter coring expedition. This is now hanging on the second floor of Pillsbury Hall, Univ. of Minnesota.



**OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST...**

**GSA**-The Annual Geological Society of America Meeting-Denver, CO September 25-29. Several Sessions of interest:

**T180. The Legacy of Herbert E. Wright, Jr.: Seminal contributions toward understanding interactions among Quaternary climate, landscape processes, vegetation, and human society.** Emi Ito, Dan Engstrom, Julie Stein and Cathy Whitlock are co-convenors. (Eito at umn.edu, dre @ smm.edu, jkstein at uw.edu)

**T122. A Celebration of Lakes— Past and Present** - Scott Starratt is the organizer, and he notes the following about this session: As the session was already submitted, GSA would not let us change the name to honor Dan Livingstone, but that is the underlying context. There will also be some form of recognition of both Herb Wright and Dan Livingstone at the Limnogeology Division business meeting. (sstarratt at usgs.gov)

**T2. Reconstructing environmental controls on societal change from prehistory to present day"** Susan Stolze is co-convenor (susann.stolze at colorado.edu)

The GSA abstracts submission form <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2016/sessions/topical.asp>. **The abstracts deadline is 11:59 p.m., Pacific Time, 12 July 2016.**

**2016 INQUA Loess Fest**

Eau Claire, WI, September 22-25. INQUA Loess Focus Group meeting with 2 days of posters/oral presentations and 2 days of fieldtrips! Organizers: Dr. [Randall Schaetzl](#), Michigan State University, is the conference organizer. Co-organizers include Doug Faulkner, Garry Running and Harry Jol (UWEC Geography), Kent Syverson (UWEC Geology), John Attig (Wisconsin Geological Survey), and Joe Mason and Kristy Gruley (UW-Madison Geography). Meeting Website: <http://www.loessfest2016.msu.edu/>

- **July 15, 2016: Registration Deadline** for the LoessFest at reduced rate. The registration web site is <https://uwec.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=90>
- **August 15, 2016: Abstract Deadline** -submit abstracts to [soils@msu.edu](mailto:soils@msu.edu) Abstract submission directions are given on website.

**International Biogeographical Society Mtg IBS- Jan 9-13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Tucson, AZ –one of the co-hosts of this meeting is [Steve Jackson](#), past President of AMQUA. <http://biogeography.org/html/Meeting/2017/index.html>

*And don't forget-long range planning!*

**INQUA Congress in 2019 in Dublin, Ireland!**

<http://www.inqua.org/inquaCongress.html>

