

## 2014 Fellow, Geological Society of America



### Eric Kirby

R.S. Yeats Associate Professor,  
Earthquake Geology and Active Tectonics

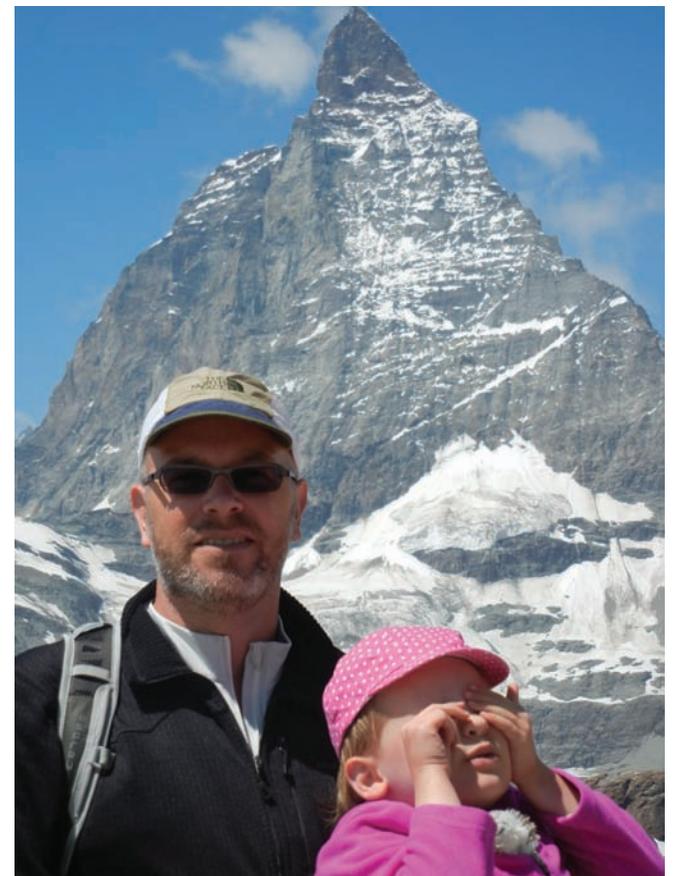
Kirby has been elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in 2014. GSA Fellows are recognized for their distinguished contributions to the geosciences through research, teaching, and enhancing the public awareness of geology.

Kirby' research blends the fields of tectonics and geomorphology, and his research into fault system evolution has taken him from California to Tibet to Japan. He was honored for "fundamental and substantial contributions to our understanding of the topographic evolution of orogens" and for the "dynamic interplay among active tectonics, landscape topography, and fluvial incision during growth and evolution of the Tibetan Plateau."

Topography on the Earth's surface is the manifestation of a rich set of interactions among deformation in the lithosphere and climatically modulated erosion. Tectonic geomorphology is the study of these interactions, and the field relies on integration of quantitative characterization of topography, isotopic dating of landform age and surface erosion rates, and numerical modeling of surface processes.

An Associate Professor in the Geology and Geophysics group, Kirby has published more than 50 refereed journal articles. He is the editor of *Lithosphere*, the associate editor of *Geologic Society of America Bulletin*, and served previously as an associate editor for *Tectonics*. He co-chairs an IRIS Grand Challenge Science Committee focused on interactions among climate, hydrology, surface processes, and tectonics. Kirby was an Alexander von Humboldt research Fellow at the University of Potsdam in Germany from 2010 – 2013. He currently holds an appointment as a guest professor at the Institute of Geology at the China Earthquake Administration in Beijing.

Before earning his Ph.D. in geology at MIT (2001), Kirby completed a B.A. in Geology from Hamilton College (1992, magna cum laude) and a M.S. from the University of New Mexico (1994). He was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 2001-2002. He served on the faculty of Penn State University as Assistant (2002-2008) and Associate Professor (2008-2013). He joined the CEOAS faculty as Associate Professor in 2013.



*Kirby hiking in the Swiss Alps with his favorite field assistant, Isabel.*

*"I'm honored to be considered among such a distinguished group of geologists, but I owe much to mentors, colleagues, and students with whom I have worked over the years. Their enthusiasm, insight, and joy of discovery have been a source of continual renewal and inspiration."*

*– Eric Kirby*