Bridging the Geology – Climate Science Divide: 
Paleoclimate examples from Western North America

Geologic and atmospheric sciences share significant commonalities. Both are natural sciences for which synoptic data are always insufficient. Describing and modeling fluid motion is critical for both sciences. The atmosphere leaves an indelible imprint on the geologic record and the makeup of continents has a profound impact on the behavior of the atmosphere.

Paleoclimate research has traditionally been a fruitful avenue of collaboration between the geologic and atmospheric sciences. This seminar will focus on two geologic time periods of North America for which understanding the role of the atmosphere is critical for understanding geologic features. Late Pleistocene Lake Bonneville was a prominent feature of the Last Glacial Maximum and has been a focus of research at the University of Utah for at least 70 years. The Cretaceous Interior Seaway of North America which reached its maximum extent approximately 100 million years ago also represents a number of paleo-atmosphere paradoxes that today remain poorly resolved but for which application of basic atmospheric science principles holds great promise.

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Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 3:15pm
110 INSCC
Refreshments and Meet the Speaker at 3:00pm