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*Cover photo.* Lake Yindeertu in China's Badain Jaran Desert containing some of the tallest dunes in the world and a large number of permanent inter-dune lakes. The source of recharge for these lakes and formation of the megadunes challenge multidisciplinary research efforts. The small dunes in the foreground and the outer margin of vegetation mark the mid-Holocene high lake stands. Photo by Xiaoping Yang. (See the article by Yang et al., pages 10–19, in this issue.).