

We are delighted to announce that Torbjörn Törnqvist, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has been appointed Deputy Director for Research in the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research (CBR), effective September 1. In this role, he will provide leadership for environmental research across Tulane's campuses by fostering collaborative approaches, identifying disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research opportunities in this broad area, and supporting junior faculty and others that are new to this rapidly growing field. As a member of the CBR senior leadership team, Torbjörn will play a key role in furthering CBR's research programs including its Long-Term Estuary Assessment Group (LEAG) and Urban Ecosystems (UrbanEco).

Torbjörn E. Törnqvist received his degrees in physical geography from Utrecht University (MS, 1988; hD, 1993), followed by a series of postdoctoral research appointments based in Utrecht and at Louisiana State University. In 1999, he joined the faculty in earth and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he served until joining the Tulane faculty as associate professor in 2005. Since 2006, he has served as the Director of the National Institute for Climatic Change Research Coastal Center, a funding agency that resides under the US Department of Energy and supports basic research that aims to reduce the uncertainty about the future of coastal ecosystems nationwide due to climate and sea-level change.

Torbjörn's current research activities, primarily supported by the National Science Foundation, revolve around the evolution of rivers, deltas, and shallow oceans in response to climate and sea-level change. His work has appeared in prominent journals such as *Science* and *Nature Geoscience* and he is an author or co-author of six papers in "Geology," a leading journal in the field. He has also co-authored a review paper on river responses to climate and sea-level change, which is currently one of the most frequently cited papers in the area of sedimentary geology. Torbjörn's current fieldwork activities are focused on the Mississippi Delta and the adjacent US Gulf Coast. The primary objective of these efforts is to obtain detailed sea-level reconstructions for the past millennia in order to assess potential future threats for low-lying coastal environments. His most recent studies have drawn attention to connections between climate change and global sea-level change during the past 8,000 years. This includes climate episodes during the past millennium, such as the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age, plus an abrupt cooling that affected much of the Northern Hemisphere approximately 8,200 years ago. These subjects currently receive great interest from the International Panel on Climate Change, in view of their relevance to predicting future climate and sea-level changes worldwide. Torbjörn's work also infers rates of coastal subsidence and its mechanisms, which constitutes an enormous challenge for coastal Louisiana, as well as other low-lying coastal regions around the globe.

Please join us in congratulating Torbjörn on his new leadership appointment and in wishing him every success in his new duties.

Michael A. Bernstein
Professor of History and Economics
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Laura Levy
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
Associate Senior Vice President for Research