OBITUARY

Prof. Gautam Sen
(1952-2019)

Prof. Gautam Sen, Internationally known petrologist and a great teacher passed away in June 2019 in New York at the age of 67.

Gautam was an internationally renowned petrologist with keen interest in mantle xenoliths and the evolution of large igneous flood basalt provinces. His contributions to our understanding on the evolution of the Deccan volcanism is significant. He was a firm believer that there is lot to be done to understand this great flood basaltic igneous province. He spent a large part of his life travelling across the Deccan, conducting field work and inspiring young researchers in India and abroad.

After completing his Ph.D from the University of Texas, Gautam joined UCLA as a post-doctoral fellow before starting his career as an Assistant Professor at the Florida International University and became a full professor in 2009. Gautam spent most of his academic and research career building the Earth Science Department at FIU before he was appointed as a founding Vice Provost, Research & Graduate studies, American University of Sharjah, UAE between 2010 and 2014. He then joined as a Dean, School of Natural & Social Sciences, Lehman College, City University of New York and served this school till he breathed last.

Gautam's academic excellence is reflected in the awards he won. To mention a few: 2012 "Glory of Bengal" award from Non-resident Overseas Association of Bengal (NROAB), Dubai, Distinguished

Senior Scientist, National Institute of Geophysical Research, Hyderabad, India; 2005: University Award for Excellence in Service, FIU; 2002: University Award for Excellence in Research, FIU, 1998; Elected Life Fellow, Geological Society of India.

During his tenure at FIU, Gautam developed excellent analytical facilities to conduct high class research and opened these facilities to the international scientific community. Gautam's pet subject is large igneous provinces, especially the Deccan Traps of India, Columbia river basalts and Hawaiian volcanics. He was a teacher who cared for his students. He has produced several petrologists of international fame who have made a mark in the international scientific community.

Whenever he published a paper on the Deccan, Gautam introduced revolutionary idea that makes the researchers to think. His contributions to geology is immense. Gautam authored large number of papers and books. To me he was a friend and philosopher. I enjoyed working with this great visionary on the Deccan. His demise is a great personal loss to me.

Gautam is survived by his wife Sanjukta and two children, Smita and Gaurav.

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