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Cover photo. Aeolian Quaternary loess and Late Miocene–Pliocene Red Clay at Shilou section on the eastern Chinese Loess Plateau, North China. The climate and environment of the Shilou area are dominated by seasonal reversal of Asian winter monsoon (AWM) and Asian summer monsoon (ASM) circulations, with a mean annual temperature of $\sim 9^{\circ}\text{C}$ and mean annual precipitation of ~ 500 mm. The aeolian Shilou Red Clay provides an important archive of the tectonic- to orbital-timescale variability of the Asian monsoon during the Late Miocene–Pliocene. A substantial ASM precipitation increase across the Miocene–Pliocene transition was suggested by its mineral magnetic and lithological records. Photo: Yong Xu (See the article by Ao et al., pages 619–628, in this issue).