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**cover:** Vicki Ann Funk (1947–2019) was one of the founding members and the first female president of the International Biogeography Society, and an inspiration for many students and young researchers throughout the years. In a profile paper in this issue of *Frontiers of Biogeography*, [Gillespie and Whittaker](#) provide a memoir of her long career and energising enthusiasm that can be seen in this fieldwork picture. Photo credit: Mauricio Diazgranados.