

## **Canadian Geophysical Union – Biogeosciences Section**

(submitted by Merrin Macrae and Brett Eaton)

The 2013 CMOS/CGU/CWRA Congress in Saskatoon was a successful meeting. The Biogeosciences Section (BGS) hosted four sessions for oral presentations and three sessions for poster presentations. Of the 32 presentations and 10 posters, 16 were lead by students. We also had a strong representation at the Eastern Student conference (held jointly with the Hydrology section) at Wilfrid Laurier University in February, 2013. We are looking forward to another great year next year!

Brett Eaton (President) and Merrin Macrae (Vice-President) will continue their service for another year, as will Members-at-Large, Mark Johnson and Tim Duval, Carl Mitchell (Secretary) and Altaf Arain (Treasurer). We are actively seeking new board members for 2014.

### **Priorities and Membership Growth:**

As noted in 2012, our goal over the next few years is to significantly increase both membership and attendance at CGU meetings. We plan to accomplish this by targeting key groups/topics each year, which will be tied to the focus of the annual meetings. In 2014 (Banff, AB), the CGU meeting will be held jointly with the CSSS. This will provide an opportunity to host some exciting joint sessions, particularly in the areas of agricultural runoff quality, and greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural or wetland soils. We are also seeking potential sessions to be held with other CGU sections such as HS in 2014 and at future meetings. As usual, the BGS session accepts all submissions related to the subject area of “Biogeosciences”. We invite members of the CGU community to provide suggestions for potential speakers to invite to this meeting, and please consider hosting a special session related to this general subject area. We are also seeking a Plenary speaker for the 2014 meeting. Please provide suggestions for potential speakers.

### **Student Involvement:**

Two awards were given to students in the BGS section this year. The award for best oral presentation, went to Colin McCarter of the University of Waterloo for his presentation titled: “The hydrology of the Bois-des-bel peatland restoration: Hydrological properties retarding restoration.” The award for best poster went to Kristine Haynes of the University of Toronto for her poster titled: “Precipitation input and antecedent soil moisture effects on mercury mobility in soil laboratory experiments with an enriched stable isotope tracer”. Every year, the BGS section provides student awards at CGU annual meetings for oral and poster presentations. Please encourage your students to apply for these awards!

Student membership in the BGS section has grown significantly over the past few years, with student presentations now constituting nearly half of all BS

presentations at the 2013 meeting. The BGS section will continue to recruit student members at meetings through a Mentorship Dinner and other social programs at future meetings. This provides our students with valuable contact time with possible mentors, and facilitates overall mentorship, collaboration opportunities and networking. We hope that our members will consider volunteering to have dinner with a student (or small group of students) at future CGU meetings. Please contact us if you are willing to be a part of this initiative. We will likely be contacting many of you!

The 2014 meeting of the Eastern Student Conference will be held jointly (BGS/HS) at the University of Toronto (tentatively on the downtown campus).