

Canadian Geophysical Union – Biogeosciences Section

Since the 2013 CMOS/CGU/CWRA Congress in Saskatoon, the BGS executive have been working on several endeavours:

(1) Membership Growth and Promoting our Section:

(a) 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. As such, discussions have been underway to encourage our membership to host special sessions at the 2014 (Banff, AB), CGU/CSSS joint meeting. In addition to reaching out to existing members, we are reaching out to other colleagues and promoting this opportunity for joint sessions to encourage the larger scientific community to participate. We have already had discussions with colleagues regarding joint sessions on topics such as agricultural runoff quality, greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural or wetland soils, biogeomorphology in streams and linkages with sedimentation events. We are targeting specific people to propose sessions of interest for the upcoming meeting in Banff that could be co-proposed with our partner organization.

(b) We will announce a logo competition. The successful logo will be copied on t-shirts for the executive committee, and, for the contest winner to further promote the BGS.

(c) Invite a BGS Plenary Speaker. We propose to the CGU that Ellen Wohl should be invited to the next meeting in Banff as a plenary speaker, representing the BGS. Ellen's work is of great interest to the growing field of bio-geomorphology and should attract a great deal of interest from our partner organization as well as from members of the Hydrology Section

(d) Various individuals be targeted as invited speakers for successful session proposals in order to increase the diversity of the group participating in the sessions, and to highlight the work of individuals that is particularly interesting from the point of view of BGS.

(e) Hold a section AGM at the next CGU meeting in Banff that includes a panel discussion of potential themes for the next meeting to be held jointly in Montreal with the AGU. Several members of the BGS community will present theme ideas for sessions that would attract attention (and new members) to the BGS at the Montreal meeting. Ideas from the floor will also be discussed.

(3) Enhancing Student Involvement:

(a) 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. We have discussed having a Mentorship Dinner and other social programs at future meetings. We will host a social event (“mixer”) for our members as well as those who are not primary members but may have secondary affiliations. This will be done for approximately 1-2 hours following our AGM. This provides our students with valuable contact time with possible

mentors, and facilitates overall mentorship, collaboration opportunities and networking. The BGS executive will seek to actively recruit mentors to this event from within the BGS community, and to promote the event to all students presenting papers or posters at the meeting.

(b) The 2014 meeting of the Eastern Student Conference will be held jointly (BGS/HS) at the University of Toronto (tentatively on the downtown campus). Our mixer and the 2014 Annual Meeting in Banff will be promoted heavily at this student conference.

(c) We will approach the CAG to investigate the potential for a collaborative student conference in western Canada to parallel the eastern student conference of CGU's HS and BGS.