



American Geophysical Union

AGU Biogeosciences Section Newsletter: Autumn 2013



2013 Sulzman Award

This year our section will be making the first presentation of the Sulzman Award for Excellence in Education and Mentoring to Dr. Heidi Steltzer, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colo., at the Biogeosciences Section Luncheon, held at the 2013 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Steltzer's outstanding creativity in teaching and her devotion to students are deserving of this honor. In a congratulatory letter, past president Jennifer Harden wrote to Steltzer:

"While designed to benefit students directly, your methods and attitudes have also inspired administrators, peers, and colleagues. The nimble way in which you structured courses to engage a diverse pool of students, your establishment of a program to engage undergraduates in research projects, and your tireless effort to find ways to connect students to science are amazing, important, and inspirational. Your excellence in the research of biogeochemistry and phenology are equally deserving of recognition. Your work regarding dust deposition on snow is influencing the science community in conceptual and methodological ways. Your work on climate, plant function, and biogeochemistry are contributing insights and a way forward in understanding complex earth systems. On a personal note, your successes really do reflect the qualities that we treasure in our friend Elizabeth Sulzman and I want to say simply, with respect and awe, thank you."

2013 Union Fellows

Congratulations to our 2013 Fellows with primary affiliation in Biogeosciences: **Gordon Bonan** (NCAR), **Natalie Mahowold** (Cornell University), and **Russell Monson** (University of Arizona).

Bonan has been instrumental in developing CLM models, in particular to understand the significant impact of boreal forests on carbon cycling and the climate system. Mahowold, a young scientist, who has become a mover and a shaker in Biogeosciences, is known for her work on dust impacts on global biogeochemistry. Monson has been a pioneer in using trace gas emissions to study vegetation, particularly C₄ plant evolution at high elevation forest systems. He has been a major player in applying atmospheric-biosphere interactions to climate change.

We also congratulate Fellows having a secondary affiliation with our section: **Katherine Freeman** (Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology; Pennsylvania State University); **Allan Devol** (Ocean Sciences; University of Washington); **Lisa Levin** (Ocean Sciences; Scripps Institution of Oceanography); **Peter Liss** (Ocean Sciences; University of East Anglia), **Nancy Rabalais** (Ocean Sciences; LUMCON); and **Christopher Sabine** (Ocean Sciences; PEML).

Please attend our section luncheon at the 2013 AGU Fall Meeting to help honor and congratulate the Sulzman awardee, our new Fellows, and last year's Student awardees.

The Biogeosciences Section Luncheon will be held on Tuesday afternoon, 10 December, 12:30pm—1:30pm at the Canton Seafood and Dim Sum Restaurant, 655 Folsom Street, San Francisco.

2013 AGU Fall Meeting

Please remember these dates:

14 October: [AGU member dues must be paid by this date](#) in order to register for the Fall Meeting at discounted member rates

8 November: [Early registration deadline](#) for 2013 AGU Fall Meeting

8 November: [Housing reservation deadline](#) for 2013 AGU Fall Meeting

Thanks to the efforts of several B-section members, [“Global Soils” will be one of five “SWIRLS” offered at the Fall Meeting this year.](#) It promises to be an excellent meeting again this year.

2013 Biogeosciences Social Events

Last year, our B-section Luncheon tickets sold out. We have a larger venue this year, but it would still be wise to register early and purchase a luncheon ticket. The B-section Luncheon will be held on Tuesday afternoon, 10 December, 12:30pm—1:30pm at the Canton Seafood and Dim Sum Restaurant, 655 Folsom Street, San Francisco. [Tickets are on sale now!](#) The luncheon will be held at the Canton House on Tuesday, December 10, from 12:30pm – 1:30pm.

There will also be a B-section Reception/Mixer that is open to B-section registrants on Tuesday evening, 10 December, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, held at the InterContinental San Francisco, InterContinental Ballroom.

Matching Donation Challenge

In order to fully fund the Sulzman Award so that it can meet AGU’s \$25k threshold for an endowed award, we need to raise an additional \$10,000. The current and past presidents of the B-section have issued a challenge to the membership. This group will match your donations, up to \$5,000. Therefore, if the membership donations total \$5k, the leadership’s matching pledge will bring the total up to our goal, and the award will be guaranteed to continue in perpetuity. There are many ways to make your gifts, including on line via the [AGU website](#):

- Under the drop-down menu labeled “Special Initiatives,” select “Elizabeth Sulzman Award”
- Of course we also value and need general section operation funds, which can be donated to “Biogeosciences” under the “Sections” drop-down menu option.

Volunteers Needed

[Melanie Harrison](#) is taking a leadership role as a coordinator for the Outstanding Student Paper Award judging at the AGU Fall Meeting and serving as our AGU student and early career scientist Council member. Melanie is looking for volunteers to help with judging and she is also looking for more student and early career scientists who would like to get involved in AGU and B section activities. Please contact [Melanie Harrison](#).

As always, please feel free to contact any of the section leadership:

[Eric Davidson](#), AGU Section President, Biogeosciences

[Marilyn Fogel](#), AGU President-elect, Biogeosciences

[Durelle Scott](#), AGU Secretary, Biogeosciences

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