

Volume 6  
June 2009

# Society of Canadian Limnologists – Student Newsletter



François Guillemette, UQÀM  
[guillemette.francois@gmail.com](mailto:guillemette.francois@gmail.com)

Jesse Vermaire, McGill  
[jesse.vermaire@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:jesse.vermaire@mail.mcgill.ca)

#### Newsletter outlines:

1. Message from the president
2. 2009 Robert H. Peters award
3. News from the SCL/CCFFR 2009 meeting
4. Future agenda
5. Student prize and services

## 1. Message from the president

I am pleased to write this note to say "Hi!" to all SCL student members as the new president of SCL. I have been a member of SCL since 1993 and have enjoyed attending annual meetings ever since. In the beginning it was an opportunity to present my work. Following graduation, it was a great place to interact with profs and employers. Now it's a place to go to see friends and colleagues every year. I really enjoy SCL meetings because they feel small and personal and I get to get caught up on current limnological research. After 16 years (ack!) in SCL, I guess it's only natural I became involved in the executive. I look forward to learning more about SCL over the three years of my term as president. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about SCL.



François and Jesse, your student representatives on the SCL executive, will be finishing their term at this year's meeting. We will be running elections for new student reps in Winnipeg. Please consider running for one of the positions. We really want and value student input and ideas in the society.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Winnipeg next January!

Martha Guy

---

## 2. Award winner 2009

### The Robert H. Peters Award:

The Robert H. Peters Award was created in 2007 to recognize the best student lead-authored paper, within the last two years, dealing with a topic related to the aquatic sciences.

The 2009 Robert H. Peters Award was given to **Jason Venkiteswaran** from the University of Waterloo for his work using oxygen isotopes to quantify primary production and assess ecosystem health. The references for his two winning papers are below. Congratulations Jason.

**Venkiteswaran JJ**, Schiff SL, Wassenaar LI. 2008. Aquatic metabolism and ecosystem health assessment using dissolved O<sub>2</sub> stable isotope diel curves. *Ecological Applications* 18(4): 965–982. doi:10.1890/07-0491.1

**Venkiteswaran JJ**, Wassenaar LI, Schiff SL. 2007. Dynamics of dissolved oxygen isotopic ratios: a transient model to quantify primary production, community respiration, and air–water exchange in aquatic ecosystems. *Oecologia* 153(2): 385–398. doi:10.1007/s00442-007-0744-9

---

### 3. News from the SCL/CCFFR meeting, January 2009, Ottawa, ON.

The 2009 SCL/CCFFR meeting was held between January 9th – 11th at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario. The meeting was a great opportunity to meet with colleagues from around the country. The student executive of the SCL would particularly like to thank those who volunteered their time to be part of the panel at the student workshop. A special thank you to :

**Martha Guy**, Environnement Canada

**Roxanne Maranger**, Université de Montreal

**Jérôme Marty**, St. Lawrence River Institute / University of Waterloo

**John Post**, University of Calgary

**Thanks to everyone who participated in this event!**



*Photo : Jason Venkiteswaran at ELA lake 979.*

The changing rates of primary production and respiration in upland boreal reservoirs (FLUDEX) were the topic of Jason's MSc and PhD theses. All of this work using carbon isotopic ratios to calculate metabolic rates and all of this time at the ELA led him to the development of analytical and interpretive techniques for the stable isotopic ratios of dissolved oxygen. Combining this approach with the data collected by river managers, Jason is currently studying the cumulative effects of nutrient additions from sewage treatment plants and agriculture to rivers. He dreams about the day when isotope probes will be as easily deployed as

---

#### 4. Agenda for members 2009

**Date**

Nomination deadline for the Robert H. Peters award

Mid-October  
(To be confirmed)

---

#### 5. Student awards and services

**Peters Award**

To be given for best student lead-authored paper within the last two years dealing with a topic related to aquatic sciences. The paper must come from a Canadian institution (located in Canada) or a Canadian citizen (author) and includes non-Canadians studying in Canada and Canadians studying at home or overseas. To be considered in the competition, the student may apply for the award or may be nominated by the student's supervisor or colleague familiar with the work.

**Clemens-Rigler Travel Award**

Each year the Clemens-Rigler Travel Award helps students present their research at the CCFR/SCL meeting by covering a portion of their travel expenses. In the past awards have ranged from \$200 -\$500. Starting for the 2010 meeting in Winnipeg students applying for this award under the SCL must be registered as student members in the SCL.

**Discussion forum**

We are currently working on setting up an online discussion board to facilitate communication between SCL student members. Once this online forum is up and running we will send out instructions on how to sign up for this discussion forum.

**Next Issue: Fall 2009**