The Biogeochemistry Environmental Research Initiative (BERI) is pleased to announce the Biogeochemistry Student Fellowship Program

The Biogeochemistry Environmental Research Initiative (BERI) is a program developed to foster, coordinate and enhance research activities in all aspects of biogeochemistry. We are pleased to offer financial support to both undergraduate and graduate students in the form of fellowships to provide assistance in biogeochemical research activities or as travel assistance to present such activities at national or international research conferences. Awards are available in the following categories:

1. Graduate and Undergraduate Conference Fellowships - Support for graduate and undergraduate student participation to attend and present at research conferences: $200-$500/award expected.

2. Graduate Research Fellowship - Support for graduate student research activities in any aspect of biogeochemistry: $300-$2000/award expected. Undergraduate students conducting independent research projects may also be considered for this award.

Requirements:
A. Applications will only be accepted from students who are enrolled as participants in BERI and whose advisors are also enrolled. Requests to become a participant in BERI can be sent to David Rothstein (rothste2@msu.edu).

B. Graduate or undergraduate students applying for a BERI Graduate or Undergraduate Conference Fellowship must submit the following:

(1) Students presenting results will be given priority for conference travel funds and should submit an abstract of the research findings that has been or will be submitted to the conference coordinators (about 350 words). Students planning on attending a research conference but are not able to present research findings at this time should submit a statement (1 page maximum, double spaced in size 12 font) of the importance of the research conference in facilitating their research goals.

(2) Both graduate and undergraduate students must submit a brief explanation of the costs of attending the meeting and any additional funds that are currently or potentially available to help supplement travel costs. Priority will be given to students that can leverage BERI student travel funds with other sources such as funds provided by their Department, the EEBB program, and/or Graduate School.

(3) Faculty mentors need to submit a letter indicating their support of the student and the importance of the activity in enhancing the student’s career.
(4) All applicants must submit a curriculum vita.

C. Graduate students applying for a BERI Graduate Research Fellowship must submit the following:

(1) A research proposal no longer than 3 pages (double spaced, size 12 font) that addresses the following:

- Overall research problem or question
- Statement of research hypothesis(es) to be addressed
- Methods
- Expected Results/Significance
- Detailed budget outlining how the fellowship money will be spent
- Description of other funding sources that are being utilized or are being sought to support the proposed research activities.

(2) Faculty mentors need to submit a letter indicating their support of the student, and the importance of the proposed research activity in enhancing the student’s career. This letter must also clarify the relationship between the student’s proposed research activities and ongoing research in the faculty’s lab.

(3) All applicants must submit a curriculum vita.

**Deadline and Evaluation Criteria:**

Applications for the BERI Research and Conference Fellowships should be sent electronically to David Rothstein (rothste2@msu.edu) by 5 p.m. on April 25th.

Priority for Graduate and Undergraduate Conference Fellowships will be given to students that are able to present research findings. Conference Fellowship applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the abstract or synopsis, prestige/prominence of the conference and degree of financial need. Graduate Research Fellowships will be evaluated based on the originality of research ideas, scientific rigor, probability of success, relevance to biogeochemistry, and degree of financial need required to support the research activities. Undergraduate students who wish to apply for a Research Fellowship should contact David Rothstein with a description of their research prior to application.

**Students who did not receive funding in Fall 2007 will be given priority for funding.**

All students funded by the Biogeochemistry Research Initiative must agree to (1) submit a one-page report upon completion of the conference travel or research activities for posting on the BERI website. Reports should include any/all publications, including abstracts presented at conferences, (2) acknowledge the Biogeochemistry Research Initiative in all publications that result from work supported or partially supported with BERI resources such as: “This material is based upon work supported in part by the Biogeochemistry Research Initiative at Michigan State University.”, and (3) participate in BERI activities, such as occasional brown bag seminars, and faculty/student social events.