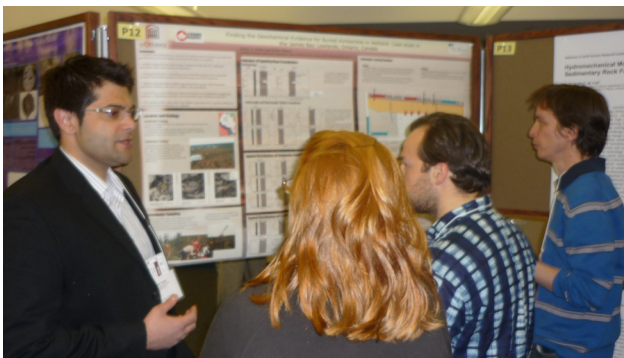


# 8th Annual Advances in Earth Science Research Conference (AESRC 2010)



This year's AESRC conference, "Geosciences: A World Beyond Textbooks", was held at the University of Ottawa, Ontario from March 26 – 28, 2010. The aim of the conference was to allow graduate students in the Earth Sciences to present their research to their peers and to foster inter-university communication and collaboration. This year the conference was organized by Lilian Navarro, Leena Davis, Matt Herod, Kristen Feige, Mohamed Hamad, Syakir Misha, Yves Moussallam, Kerstin Brauner, Maria Stefanescu, Carley Senkowski and Nicole Williamson and had a record attendance of 83 people, including 61 students, 12 faculty, 5 industry sponsors and 5 keynote speakers.



**Figure 1: Jamil Sader (far left) presenting his poster at the poster session and welcome reception.**

This bilingual, graduate student run conference is the only one of its kind in Central Canada and attracted students from eight universities across Ontario and Quebec. Participating universities included: University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Queen's University, University of Toronto, University of Montreal, Université du Québec à Montréal, University of Waterloo and McMaster University.

The conference began with a welcome reception and poster session, where 13 graduate and undergraduate posters were on display. Over the following two days, 31 oral presentations

were given by students, discussing their latest research findings which covered a variety of geoscience topics: (I) Igneous Petrology, Metamorphic Petrology and Tectonics, (II) Sedimentology, Stratigraphy and Paleontology, (III) Microbiology and Geochemistry, and (IV) Hydrogeology and Geoengineering. Each session began with a lecture by a prominent keynote speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Hedenquist, Dr. Bill Arnott, Dr. Alexandre Poulain, Dr. Liam Keiser and Dr. Ian Clark, respectively. Saturday night attendees enjoyed a conference dinner hosted by Jazzy Restaurant at the University of Ottawa. At the closing ceremony, several distinguished awards and prizes were announced: the AESRC 2010 – CSEG best undergraduate poster received by Jamie Cutts (Carleton University), the AESRC 2010 - CSPG award for best graduate poster went to Leena Davis (University of Ottawa), the AESRC 2010 - Imperial Oil award for best M.Sc talk honoured to Melanie Mercier (Carleton University) and the AESRC 2010 - CSPG award for best Ph.D oral presentation honoured to Deanne van Rooyen (Carleton University).

This conference would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors: Imperial Oil, APGO, CSPG, CSEG, Barrick Gold Corp, Isomass Scientific Inc., University of Ottawa Faculty of Science, University of Ottawa Department of Earth Science, Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Centre, Mineralogical Association of Canada, and Northern Shield Resources. Industry representatives from Imperial Oil, APGO, CSEG and CSPG set up exhibition booths during the conference.



**Figure 2: Erika Revesz accepting first runner up for Best Oral Presentation for PhD student from Becky Cook (CSEG representative).**