

Graduate assistantship at Northern Illinois University Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Please feel free to pass this information along to any interested students. Applicants can contact me directly at jdodd@niu.edu.

The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences at Northern Illinois University has an opening for a graduate research assistantship starting August 2014. This position is fully funded for 2 years.

The graduate student (MS or PhD) will be conducting research on silicon isotope variations in diatom frustules and other biogenic silica. Specific research projects include: 1) developing new techniques for conducting simultaneous silicon ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}$) and oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) isotope analyses of biogenic silica on an isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific MAT 253) using laser fluorination, 2) conducting laboratory experiments to constrain changes in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ values during growth and diagenesis in different types of biogenic silica, and 3) constructing a record of silicon isotope variations in biogenic silica from a previously collected Antarctic marine sediment core to examine the linkages between silicic acid utilization and silicon/carbon cycle relationships.

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