Position – PhD Position in Invasion Ecology at Virginia Tech, Barney lab

Position Summary:

We are looking for a highly-motivated PhD student to participate in an interdisciplinary project designed to understand both the ecological and evolutionary processes that have enabled Johnsongrass (Sorghum halepense) to rapidly colonize much of the United States. Johnsongrass is recognized as one of the world's worst weeds and presents a serious threat to biodiversity and food security worldwide, particularly in the Southeastern United States. The Barney lab is involved in multiple nationally funded collaborative research projects investigating the processes that have contributed to the success of Johnsongrass as an invasive species – we are using it as a model system.

The successful applicant will conduct a field-based study of the population demography of a wide range of Johnsongrass accessions collected from across North America. The student will also be expected to design and execute independent research projects in the subject area of their choosing that complements the overall project. Students with interest or skills in these areas, in addition to an interest in ecology or weed science, are highly encouraged to apply. The incumbent will be expected to submit manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, to present results at scientific meetings, and to mentor undergraduate students. Position includes a competitive salary and fringe benefits.

The student will apply to become a fellow of the Interfaces of Global Change. See http://globalchangephd.com/apply/ <http://globalchangephd.com/apply/> for more details regarding the program and application process.

Qualifications:

Candidates should have **a BS and/or MS degree in ecology, biology, or related field**. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. Experience with field research, statistics, and modeling are preferred. Interested candidates should contact **Dr. Barney (jnbarney@vt.edu <mailto:candidatesjnbarney@vt.edu>)** BEFORE applying to the graduate program or graduate school.

Review of applications will begin immediately. Desired start date is August 2015.