GRADUATE STUDENT POSITIONS: POPULATION GENETICS, PHYLOGENOMICS, AND COMPARATIVE GENOMICS OF LEGUMES AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Graduate student (Ph.D. or M.S.) positions are available in the laboratory of Dr. Ashley N. Egan in the Department of Biology, East Carolina University. We seek highly motivated colleagues to study evolutionary genetics and genomics of the plant tribe Phaseoleae (family Leguminosae/Fabaceae) that includes many species of economic importance (soybean, common bean, jicama, etc). Research interests in our lab include bioinformatics, computational biology, molecular systematics, evolutionary and population genetics, and evolutionary comparative genomics.

Research activities can involve fieldwork in the US and abroad, next-generation DNA sequencing, and phylogenetic, phylogenomic, and comparative genomic analyses. Opportunities exist for students to develop independent projects making use of considerable 454 transcriptome data collected from several species across phaseoloid legumes. For an outline of current projects and prospective projects in the lab, please go to http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/biology/egan_ashley.cfm.

Prospective students with a background in genomics, botany, phylogenetics, and/or population genetics are encouraged to apply. Evidence of robust quantitative/analytical skills, strong work ethic, passion for investigating scientific questions, ability to work in both field and laboratory conditions and collaborative skills will all be vital for the success of potential candidates. Students will be supported by a combination of research and teaching assistantships.

Applications should include: cover letter with statement of research interests, CV, transcripts, and GRE scores. The packet must be sent to Dr. Ashley Egan (egana@ecu.edu). In addition, please have three references send letters to the same e-mail address. Also follow the direction for applications to the Department of Biology (www.ecu.edu/biology) at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/biology/applyingforadmission.cfm and, for PhD’s, apply to the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Biological Sciences (www.ecu.edu/idpbs). Application review begins immediately for a start date of August 2011.