Graduate Research Assistant / Biochar

The Barrett Biogeochemistry Lab at Virginia Tech is seeking applicants for the 2019 Fall Semester to join an interdisciplinary team investigating the influence of soil biochar amendments on microbial communities and carbon sequestration in forest and agricultural ecosystems. Biochar, the product of pyrolysed biomass such as grass and wood applied to soils, has attracted the interest of land managers seeking practical methods to promote agricultural sustainability. Biochar can increase soil fertility, water holding capacity, and agricultural production while reducing nutrient runoff and increasing carbon sequestration. While most studies have demonstrated positive effects of biochar on agroecosystems, production responses vary across different crops and soil types and the mechanisms underlying the effects of biochar on soils, especially on soil organic matter dynamics and nutrient cycling, are poorly understood.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to participate in multidisciplinary programs in the Dept. of Biological Sciences (https://www.biol.vt.edu/) and the Global Change Center (http://www.globalchange.vt.edu/affiliated-faculty/) at Virginia Tech. Previous research experience and the demonstrated ability to work independently in the field is required.

Please contact Dr. Jeb Barrett for further information.

Department of Biological Sciences
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
1010 Derring Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Email: jebarre@vt.edu