MS Position in Stink Bug Biocontrol

My laboratory seeks applicants for an MS position on the biological control of brown marmorated stink bug, focusing primarily on the adventive egg parasitoid, *Trissolcus japonicus*, with Drs. Chris Bergh (VT) and Tracy Leskey (USDA) as co-advisors. I wish to employ the successful applicant as a summer research assistant beginning in May, 2019 or earlier, depending upon availability, until the beginning of the academic year in late August, 2019. This strategy has worked well for previous MS students by enabling a head-start on their thesis research.

We are in an enviable position with respect to research on *Trissolcus japonicus*, given that it is very well-established in the Winchester, VA area. The research we envision would extend upon that being completed by one of our PhD students and offers numerous opportunities to address exciting and highly relevant questions about the foraging ecology, distribution, host-finding behavior, and/or impact of *T. japonicus* on brown marmorated stink bug.

The Entomology Department at Virginia Tech has a long-standing tradition of excellence and has been enhanced significantly by the hiring of six new faculty members in the last three years, meaning a broader array of entomology course offerings and expertise than at any time in the recent past.

For information about this opportunity, please contact Dr. Chris Bergh at cbergh@vt.edu, 540-232-6046 (office), or 540-931-8602 (cell).