PhD opportunities in global change ecology at Rice University

The McCary lab in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Program within the Department of BioSciences at Rice University is looking to recruit 1-2 PhD students to start Fall 2021. My lab studies how environmental change affects the relationship between soil biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. I use an integrative approach, including field and lab experiments, ecological modeling, and molecular techniques. More details on my research program can be found at mattmccary.com.

The potential opportunities for PhD research include:

1. Implications of plant invasion on soil biodiversity and ecosystem function
2. Urbanization effects on terrestrial ecosystem and community dynamics
3. Understanding the role of ecosystem structure in determining food web responses to altered resource availability
4. Climate change impacts on the relationship between soil food webs and ecosystem processes

PhD students in my lab are expected to develop an independent research program within one of the areas described above. Previous research experience in food-web or ecosystem ecology will be ideal but is not necessary.

My lab is committed to supporting members from backgrounds that have historically been and continue to be marginalized. I am devoted to creating a working environment free of discrimination based on any aspects of individuals' identities, including race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and age. My approach to mentoring is student-focused, supportive, and flexible.

Applicants interested in joining the McCary Lab at Rice University should contact me directly via email (matt.mccary@gmail.com). The email should include the following: (1) a 1-page summary of your academic background, research interests, and motivation for earning a graduate degree and (2) your CV. Successful applicants will receive a tuition waiver, health care, and a competitive stipend from guaranteed fellowship support. Rice’s Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Program does not require GRE scores and there is no application fee.

Rice University is in Houston, Texas—the most diverse large city in the nation. Houston was ranked as the 11th best large city in America according to Best Cities 2020 ranking. Rice is also ranked 16th in the 2021 US News and Reports best national university rankings.