Ph.D. Assistantship in

Plant-Soil-Microbiome Interactions Related to Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration

at Virginia Tech

We are recruiting a Ph.D. student into an interdisciplinary research team to broadly focus on the fate of belowground carbon. We know that diverse carbon substrates are differently processed by an equally diverse microbiome in ways that fundamentally influence their fate and persistence in soils. Our goal is to use multiple modes of evidence (e.g., laboratory and field-based observations, modeling) to understand that variation and predict the fate of carbon in response to land-use or global environmental change.

The incoming student will be advised by Brian Strahm (brian.strahm@vt.edu) in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, but will be joining a team that includes existing faculty and graduate students working across the plant-soil-microbiome carbon continuum. In addition, the student may also be considered for the Virginia Tech campus-wide Interfaces of Global Change interdisciplinary graduate education program after their first year in residence.

Successful candidates will be located on the main campus in Blacksburg, VA and are expected to begin in summer/fall 2022. Assistantships include: an annual stipend of ~$25,000-27,000 (based on 20 hours/week); a tuition waiver (worth ~$14,000); and a subsidy (presently 88%) of the university’s student medical insurance plan.

Interested students should email me with a statement of interest, a CV, and contact information for three references.

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Brian D. Strahm
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