

PH.D. GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP IN SOIL CARBON DYNAMICS

A Graduate Research Assistantship in biogeochemistry and soil ecology is available at Texas A&M University to participate in a multi-disciplinary, collaborative project funded by the NSF Biogeosciences Program. The successful applicant will investigate physical, chemical, and biological controls over soil organic matter storage and dynamics using innovative molecular, isotopic, and microbiological methods. A successional chronosequence of C3 woody plant invasion into a subtropical C4 grassland will be utilized as a model system to examine how these controls interact in response to this vegetation change. An M.S. in ecology, soil science, organic geochemistry, or closely related field is required. Experience with stable isotope analyses (C-13 and N-15), physical and/or chemical characterization of soil organic matter, and techniques for characterizing soil microbial community composition and function are desirable, but not required. Prior experience with ecological field work, experimental design, data management, and statistics would also be advantageous. Applicants must be available to begin a degree program between January-August of 2006. The successful applicant will receive an annual stipend of \$18,500, a full tuition waiver, and health insurance. Students with exceptional academic credentials may be eligible to apply for more lucrative fellowships from Texas A&M during their first year of study. Contact Dr. Thomas W. Boutton for more information or to apply (e-mail: boutton@neo.tamu.edu; phone 979-845-8027).