



**M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship – Natural Resources Economics
Aquaculture/Fisheries Center – University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Aquaculture/Fisheries Center encompasses personnel and facilities of the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. The Center contains 12 Ph.D.-level faculty and researchers, and approximately 15 M.Sc. and Ph.D. graduate students. The primary mission of the Center includes research and extension services for the state of Arkansas, the Arkansas Delta region in particular. Primary research themes include pond aquaculture production, fish nutrition and health/diseases, aquaculture marketing and economics, and fisheries management and ecology. See <http://www.uapb.edu/aqfi> for more information about the program.

Project / Responsibilities: The Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Wetland Reserve Program, has been providing financial and technical assistance to conserve agricultural lands and wetlands, and to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. This project involves economic valuation of the ecological benefits of wetlands constructed through the agriculture conservation easement program/wetlands reserve program in the Lower Mississippi River Basin (LMRB). This student will work with another student at measuring economic values of stream habitat, water quality, and biological improvements in the LMRB region. Research findings will be used to recommend benefit transfer options to estimate the economic values and social impact of conservation practices at regional and sub-regional scales of interest. This particular student also will be involved in other fisheries projects during their first year of study.

Qualifications: B.S. degree in natural resources, fisheries, agriculture or a related field with an applied economics orientation. A minimum GPA during the junior and senior years of 3.0 is required. GRE score requirement: 291+ (verbal + quantitative). For international students, a minimum TOEFL (iBT) score of 79 or IELTS score of 6.5 also is required. A strong interest in environmental and natural resource economics, familiarity with modeling and econometric software packages (such as ArcView, STATA, SAS, R, GAMS), GIS, strong writing skills, excellent work ethic, and demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a research team are required. Demonstrated experience with management of large databases is desirable. Good writing, public speaking, and computer skills are expected. Must have a valid driver's license. Fisheries field experience is preferred, but not required for this position.

Salary: \$17,800 first year and \$18,800 second year, which includes money for graduate student tuition. Student is responsible only for fees each semester and during summers – these fees total about \$450 per term. Assistantships are guaranteed for 2.5 years.

Closing Date: November 30, 2017 – review of applications will begin but position is open until filled. UAPB is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Starting Date: January through May 2018 (but negotiable). Assistantship is guaranteed for 2.5 years. Closing date is when review of applications will begin, but position is open until filled.

To Apply:

To be fully considered, send application package that includes letter of inquiry, resume, three professional references, all transcripts (unofficial), GRE scores (unofficial), and a writing sample (e.g., senior project, class report, etc.) to:

Dr. Michael Eggleton
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