From: Quinn Thomas
Subject: Ph.D. assistantship in water quality forecasting at Virginia Tech

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Ph.D. assistantship in water quality forecasting at Virginia Tech

The Ecosystem Dynamics and Forecasting Lab led by Dr. Quinn Thomas in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech has funding for a new graduate student position to start Fall 2018. We are looking for an enthusiastic and highly self-motivated student at the Ph.D. level to develop and apply innovative new techniques to combine lake ecosystem modeling with a large array of sensors to forecast water quality in drinking water reservoirs. The Ph.D. student will help develop the forecasts to best inform drinking water management decisions.

This position is part of a recently-funded NSF project (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__smartreservoir.org&d=DwIF-g&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=e2OJ1azRFn8ihJzb2HxZT0AqoiqLvxfeeaTyN59ZLoI&m=EqF6cIdWR8yslCoKCVJq9Gfhgk5SNpJQ7qlKwS55TB8&s=L-RZhOO_-eq-xIlWleoGNZ-bjmpvtdJ9yaviPUxe3BQ&e=) that will develop a water quality forecasting system for a drinking water supply reservoir and Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) site. This highly interdisciplinary Ph.D. project will combine high-frequency sensor monitoring, modeling, ecosystem forecasting, and data-intensive analytical approaches from ecology, computer science, and social science. There will be opportunities for both computational and field-based research.

We seek a conscientious and energetic student with strong quantitative and computing skills who can work independently in a collaborative environment. To learn more about what we do, please visit our lab website: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__epics.frec.vt.edu&d=DwIF-g&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=e2OJ1azRFn8ihJzb2HxZT0AqoiqLvxfeeaTyN59ZLoI&m=EqF6cIdWR8yslCoKCVJq9Gfhgk5SNpJQ7qlKwS55TB8&s=xeu2tR8eN9KJd7TxiJtrWFGql0kcXtRSl1-20Q-lPdY&e= . The student will work closely with the Carey Lab at Virginia Tech (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__carey.biol.vt.edu&d=DwIF-g&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=e2OJ1azRFn8ihJzb2HxZT0AqoiqLvxfeeaTyN59ZLoI&m=EqF6cIdWR8yslCoKCVJq9Gfhgk5SNpJQ7qlKwS55TB8&s=NKzoqLliBiIvo4kpz_w07cDCk68VPfB3Plm9fc4YE1E&e=) on the project. Students are also encouraged to apply to be a fellow in Virginia Tech's Interfaces of Global Change graduate program (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__globalchange.vt.edu&d=DwIF-g&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=e2OJ1azRFn8ihJzb2HxZT0AqoiqLvxfeeaTyN59ZLoI&m=EqF6cIdWR8yslCoKCVJq9Gfhgk5SNpJQ7qlKwS55TB8&s=wH4_fYmsGlK1RtGZRDBIAXwg3loMvYwjXnSyLzrOzfs&e=) and interact with other students in the Virginia Water Research Center (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.vwrrc.vt.edu&d=DwIF-g&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=e2OJ1azRFn8ihJzb2HxZT0AqoiqLvxfeeaTyN59ZLoI&m=EqF6cIdWR8yslCoKCVJq9Gfhgk5SNpJQ7qlKwS55TB8&s=Q6iF8d06QHYEQTIiJMUz8-ubl_g6tZNDJ7lXflo3jro&e=) that is housed within our department. Virginia Tech, as Virginia's leading research and land grant institution, has a strong interdisciplinary focus on the environment and natural sciences and is located in scenic southwestern Virginia.

The student position will be funded on a combination of research and teaching assistantships, which include a competitive stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance benefits. Interested students should send an email letter of inquiry containing an overview of your research interests, your C.V., an unofficial transcript(s), a list of past research experiences and mentors, and GRE scores to rqthomas@vt.edu. Please feel free to contact me with questions about the application process, graduate school at Virginia Tech, or potential research ideas.