

## **Graduate Research Opportunity in Forest Ecology**

One Ph.D. graduate student is sought to conduct research in forest ecology within a newly funded research project entitled “Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Pine Mortality in the Southeastern United States”. The project will address two questions: (1) is there a decline in southern pine forests that are different from historical (healthy) patterns of growth and mortality? (2) what are the patterns of decline in time and space? These questions will be addressed at stand, landscape, and regional scales using data obtained from remote sensing, forest inventory, and field sampling. The graduate student is expected to incorporate many research techniques from the discipline of tree ring research (dendrochronology) to study pine decline, including investigating possible role of global/climatic change on pine decline. We are seeking an outstanding candidate with BS and/or MS in Forestry, Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Sciences. A past record of scientific publication and experience in conducting tree ring analyses is desirable. The student will be offered a full graduate research assistantship (\$19,000/year) plus a tuition waiver. The assistantship is for 3.5 years, which is renewable annually based on satisfactory performance. Competitive university and/or college scholarships are available for outstanding candidates, and students working in our lab have had a great track record to obtain these scholarships. Supplementary teaching assistantship may also be available. The assistantship will start in August 2009 or as soon as possible. If you are interested, contact: Dr. Geoff Wang, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, 261 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0317 (Phone: 864-656-4864; Email: [gwang@clemson.edu](mailto:gwang@clemson.edu)). In your initial contact, please send the following information: statement of your research interest, degrees earned, GPAs, GRE score, and TOFEL scores (for foreign students). For information about Clemson University and the Silviculture/Ecology Lab, visit [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu) and [www.clemson.edu/~gwang/](http://www.clemson.edu/~gwang/)

A graduate research assistant position at the Ph.D. level is available starting January 2009 with Dr. Sophan Chhin in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University (MSU). The general objective of the project supporting this assistantship is to examine the effect of silvicultural management practices on interannual variation in physical (e.g., ring width, density) and chemical (e.g., cellulose and lignin content) wood properties. The project will incorporate many methodological techniques from the discipline of tree ring research (dendrochronology). The successful applicant is also expected to explore possible relationships between wood properties and past climate which may serve as the basis for future projections of wood parameters under different climate change scenarios. This research will have implications for optimizing silvicultural practices for improved wood quality, and contribute to the sustainable production of bioenergy and biofuels in the context of climate change. MSU is a land grant institution and there are many opportunities to conduct research at the network of MSU experiment stations throughout Michigan.

Applicants should preferably have a BS and MS in forestry, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a similarly related natural resource field. A past record of least one journal publication, and experience conducting tree ring analyses is desirable.

The position includes a tuition waiver and health benefits, and a competitive stipend (~\$21,000/year) for 3 years that is renewable annually based on satisfactory performance. Please submit application package that includes a cover letter, curriculum vitae, transcripts, GRE scores, and contact information of three references to (electronic applications are preferred):

Dr. Sophan Chhin  
Assistant Professor, Silviculture and Forest Ecosystem Productivity  
Department of Forestry  
Michigan State University  
126 Natural Resources Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1222  
Tel: (517) 353-7251  
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Applications will be considered immediately and continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration please submit material by November 10, 2008. MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.