Department of Ecology, Ecology and Behavior
Position Announcement

Position: Two REU (Research Experience For Undergraduates) Positions in Urban Ecology

Term: Summer, 2013

Reports to: Faculty supervisors: Sarah Hobbie, Jeannine Cavender-Bares, Marla Spivak, and Kristen Nelson

Post-doctoral supervisor: Will Pearse

We have funding to support two REU students to conduct independent research projects that will build upon our research characterizing urban plant diversity in the Twin Cities. This work is part of a larger project funded by the National Science Foundation Macrosystems Biology program examining whether urbanization leads to ecological homogenization across six US cities.

We have identified two research questions that would utilize data from and build upon the core project and will improve our insights regarding ecosystem services provided by residential landscapes. We anticipate that two REU students will work together on these, with one taking the lead on one of them, and the other taking the lead on the other. That way, they can assist one another with field and laboratory work, as well as broaden their learning experiences.

Position I:
One project will focus specifically on quantifying leaf functional traits (specific leaf area, leaf size, and leaf shape) in order to analyze whether functional diversity is homogenized in ways that parallel species and phylogenetic diversity.

Position II:
The other project characterize the major habitats in residential yards in terms of bee abundance (both native and honey bees). The student will be responsible for sampling bee abundance in field, preparing and pinning bee collections in the laboratory for later identification to species, and analyzing for patterns across yard habitats.

To apply, please send CV (resume), cover letter, and the names and contact information of 2 references to: Will Pearse, will.pearse@gmail.com, by April 15, 2013. Each position will pay a stipend of $500/week for the summer. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents of the United States and must be enrolled in a degree program (part-time or full-time) leading to a baccalaureate or associate degree. Students who have received their bachelor's degrees and are no longer enrolled as undergraduates are generally not eligible to apply.