

Seeking 2nd-3rd Year Undergrads to Participate in a Field Study of Eastern U.S. Streams

If you are a 2nd or 3rd year undergraduate with an interest in freshwater ecology AND you are an underrepresented student of color (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander), I have an opportunity for you. In Summer 2017, I will sponsor a small group of students – *one that consist entirely of students of color* – to join me for an original research project, surveying streams along the U.S East Coast. I myself am a minority and can remember my hesitation to enter a field where other minorities were so rare. Now, I am offering students of color a first substantive research experience, within an environment where each student is completely free to be him/herself with peers and a mentor who can easily relate.

Logistics – I am now recruiting undergraduate students of color who have an interest in freshwater ecology and research. Each participant must currently be a sophomore or junior; seniors will be ineligible, as they will not have time to complete an independent research project after the summer fieldwork trip. Training will begin in early 2017 (Spring semester) and will be conducted via a series of online meetings. In late July 2017 (*tentative dates: 24 July-8 August*), each participant will join me in Richmond, VA to begin an 2-week fieldwork trip, beginning with a high-gradient stream on the Blue Ridge (Front Royal, VA) then moving down to a low-gradient, sandy-bottom stream in central Alabama. At each site, we will conduct comprehensive surveys of physicochemical habitat, fish assemblage structure and biomass, and benthic invertebrates. The following academic year (2017-2018), each participant will complete an independent research project using data from the summer sampling trip, with myself and a faculty mentor at the home institution serving as co-advisors. Results from the independent research project will then be presented at the Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) meeting in summer 2018. For more on logistics, see the project website at: www.mcgarveyecology.com/summer-2017.

Student resources – All travel expenses will be paid; *no personal costs will be incurred by the students*. This will include round-trip airfare to join the group and all lodging and meals. Full travel expenses will also be paid for each participant to attend the annual SFS meeting the following summer. Additionally, each undergraduate participant will earn a *stipend of \$1000 over the 2-week survey*.

If you are interested in joining my team and seeing what a career in freshwater ecology may entail, I would love to hear from you – the sooner the better! Contact Dr. Daniel McGarvey directly at djmcgarvey@vcu.edu. You can learn more about me on my website: www.mcgarveyecology.com.

