Ph.D. Research Assistantship Available

The Kansas State University Department of Entomology in Manhattan, KS is recruiting a Ph.D. student to work on an interdisciplinary project on the functional genomics and chemical ecology of sensory systems in stored product insects. This research will be performed in collaboration with scientists at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Stored Product Insect and Engineering Research Unit (SPIERU). Stored product insects cause significant losses to stored grains and food products made from grains and threaten global food security. The Ph.D. student recruited for this project will contribute to addressing these issues through research to improve control and monitoring tactics for stored product insects. Research will involve investigating behavioral responses to chemical cues, identifying genes critical for perceiving and responding to chemical cues and evaluating the functional genomics of behavioral responses to food odors or pheromones. Applicants should have strong interests in the areas of chemical ecology, insect behavior, genetics, functional genomics, and next-generation sequencing. Specific objectives and approaches of project can be tailored to match the interests of the student, so please inquire below for more information. Candidates who have already completed or will complete their M.S. degree by December 2019 and are available to start in January 2020 (spring semester) are encouraged to apply. Applications are due prior to October 15th, 2019. Please, send a letter of interest describing your qualifications, resume/CV, TOFEL scores for international applicants, and the contact information for three letters of reference. Stipend, tuition assistance, and benefits will be provided. Applications can be submitted to Dr. Kun Yan Zhu (kzhu@ksu.edu). For questions or more information about the position, please contact Drs. Zhu, Rob Morrison (william.morrison@usda.gov), or Erin Scully (erin.scully@usda.gov).

Manhattan is a beautiful and dynamic college town nestled in the scenic Flint Hills of Kansas, with an abundance of outdoor recreation, nightlife, and cultural event opportunities. The Department of Entomology at Kansas State University is the fourth most highly ranked department in the country. You can find more information about the Department of Entomology at https://entomology.k-state.edu/. If you would like to learn more about SPIERU, please visit https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/mhk/egahr/spieru/. We strongly encourage applicants by underrepresented groups in science, including women, LGBTQ, people of color and others.