

Graduate Research Assistantship Opportunity

“Vegetation change in northern Alaska”

Graduate research assistantships at the Masters level are available with Dr. Robert Hollister in the Department of Biology, Grand Valley State University (GVSU) (<https://www.gvsu.edu/aep/>)

The project is working to document and understand vegetation change in northern Alaska associated with climate change. The current funding for the research is from NSF as part of the Arctic Observatory Network and the GVSU component contributes to a larger project that links findings from automated sensor platforms that measure a suite of vegetation surface properties at the sub-meter scale (led by Steve Oberbauer at Florida International University) with medium-scale aerial imagery, using Kite Aerial Photography acquired throughout the growing season and satellite imagery (led by Craig Tweedie at the University of Texas in El Paso) to scale observed changes to the regional level. The research incorporates a warming experiment to forecast vegetation change due to climate change at study sites established in the mid 90's as part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) network (ITEX is a network of collaborating researchers that use a common protocol so that observations from across the tundra can be analyzed together and result in high impact synthesis papers). The project includes over 20 years of observations and there are a wide array of options for study.

The duties of this position will include field sampling of tundra vegetation in Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) and Atkasuk, Alaska, leading the field crew in Alaska, coordinating logistics, organization and analyses of data collected previously and by the candidate, and the completion of a thesis and peer-reviewed publications, as well as the successful completion of the requirements of the degree. Competitive candidates for this position will have a strong work ethic, proficiency in written and oral communication, strong GRE scores, and evidence of scholastic success. Preference will be given to applicants who are self-motivated and enthusiastic about conducting field-based research. The position will be based in Grand Rapids, MI, with field work in Alaska. The position is available to begin in May or August.

The successful candidate will receive tuition support and a competitive stipend.

To apply, please submit the following as an attached pdf to Robert Hollister hollistr@gvsu.edu

- 1) personal statement of career goals
- 2) resume or curriculum vitae
- 3) transcripts
- 4) GRE scores
- 5) contact information for three references