**PhD position**

**The interactive effects of fear and fire**

**Position**: PhD Graduate Research Assistantship: The interaction between fear and fire in a free-living mammal in Dr. Michael Sheriff’s lab (http://michaeljsheriff.weebly.com)

**Location:** The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

**Description:** I seek a highly motivated student to fill a PhD assistantship in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at the Pennsylvania State University. The position is fully funded including tuition and summer salaries. The project is fairly open ended but the project falls within the scope of investigating the interactive effects of predation risk and fire on the behavior and physiology of free-living mammals (potentially the eastern cottontail rabbit or the cotton rat).

With climate-induced changes in fire ecology, it is critical to understand how predator-prey dynamics will respond to the drastic and immediate changes to their environment induced by fire. Longleaf pine ecosystems are characterized by globally significant levels of biodiversity that is maintained by frequent low-intensity fire. Fire influences the distribution and abundance of food and cover resources for wildlife and this project aims to investigate the effects of that spatio-temporal process on predator-prey interactions. This position requires extensive field work and laboratory analysis. The field site is located at the Joseph W Jones Ecological Research Center (<http://www.jonesctr.org/research/wildlife/>).

**Qualifications:** Applicants must hold a B.S. in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife or a related field, have a GPA of 3.0 or greater and competitive GRE scores. Applicants must be highly motivated, have excellent written and oral communication skills, and be capable of working independently. The most qualified applicants will have laboratory and field experience, have worked with, tracked and handled wild mammals. A Master’s degree and publications are preferred but not required. To apply please email a cover letter describing research experience and interests, CV, transcripts, GRE scores, and contact information of three references to Dr. Michael Sheriff (mjs72@psu.edu) with PhD Application in the subject line. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until January, 2016.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.huck.psu.edu/content/graduate-programs/ecology>.

**Salary:** Competitive stipend, plus tuition and benefits.

**Start-Date:** August 2016 preferred.