Faculty Member Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dr. Brittany Peterson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Info</td>
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<td>618-650-2453</td>
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<td>Campus Box</td>
<td>1651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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1 Funded, 2 Unfunded URCA Assistants

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<tr>
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<th>This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>This project deals with social justice issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.</td>
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This project deals with human health and wellness issues.

This project deals with community outreach.

This mentor’s project is interdisciplinary in nature.

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- No

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position? (Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9 hours

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes—BIOL 493 (0-2 credit hours)
Location of research/creative activities:

- Science West 1340

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

Our lab works on insect-microbe associations. While we are broadly interested in these ecological relationships, we typically work with non-model species including termites, grasshoppers, and crickets. There are two main lines of work in our lab 1) is related to host insect symbionts defend their hosts against potential pathogens and 2) how we can exploit information about insect-microbe relationships for sustainable insect control.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

Students are responsible for designing, executing, recording, analyzing, and reporting the results of their projects. Students receive hands-on training and are able to communicate with the PI and others in the lab to troubleshoot, optimize, and advance their projects.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with research or creative activities experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Students will be expected to present a poster of their work for the BIOL senior assignment during their senior year. Most students will present their findings at a local or regional venue by graduation. Exceptional projects may be invited to present at national conferences and write up their work for publication. Additionally, all students will generate protocols, learn to critically evaluate scientific literature, and design experiments to empirically test the hypotheses they formulate.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- Students must be available at least 6, but preferably 9 hours per week during normal business hours (8am-5pm).

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- All work is on campus.
Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- Preference for students who have completed BIOL 150 with a C or better.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- N/A