PhD student position in Plant molecular biology and biotechnology

UNC Greensboro, located in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, is a higher-research activity university as classified by the Carnegie Foundation. Founded in 1891 and one of the original three UNC system institutions, UNCG is one of the most diverse universities in the state with nearly 20,000 students and over 2,700 faculty and staff members representing more than 90 nationalities. With 17 Division I athletic teams, 85 undergraduate degrees in over 100 areas of study, as well as 74 master’s and 32 doctoral programs, UNCG is consistently recognized nationally among the top universities for academic excellence and value.

The Department of Biology (BIO) offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Science (MS) in Biology and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Environmental Health Science degrees. Graduate students enrolled in either program have the opportunity to work with a research advisor from among 23 full-time faculty. Research areas range from the ecological to the cellular level, and include aquatic ecology, trophic interactions in lakes and streams, plant-microbe-herbivore interactions, microbial food chains, infectious disease ecology, plant evolution and population ecology, animal behavior, aging, cell motility, developmental, chromosome, cell cycle and viral genetics, neuroendocrine control of metamorphosis, glucose homeostasis, plant molecular biology and biotechnology (https://biology.uncg.edu/position/research-faculty/).

The molecular biology and biotechnology lab focuses on using molecular-genetic and biotechnological tools to improve desirable traits including yield, nutritional quality and stress resilience in economically important crops including underutilized/orphan crops such as teff (*Eragrostis tef*) and millets. These crops have a great potential for food security due to their nutritional quality, health benefits, role in sustainable agriculture, and resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses relative to major cereals. Osena lab is also interested in identifying and importing novel traits from extremophiles to improve crops resilience to abiotic stresses.

We are currently looking for a PhD students for Fall 2019, who will focus on the identification and molecular characterization of traits regulating stress resilience, enhanced nutritional quality and health benefit of underutilized crops. Experience in basic molecular biology/biotechnology techniques is a plus.

Please send your CV, the names of two referees and a research statement stating why you are interested in the topic, and to join Osena lab by email (alosena@uncg.edu) until the end of November. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. The deadline for submitting the application to the graduate studies is January 15, 2019.