Summer field assistant(s) needed: July-early Aug 2021

Interested in arctic adventure under the midnight sun? We have an opportunity for 1-2 undergraduate students to join a fun, energetic, interdisciplinary team of arctic scientists for 2 to 3 weeks this summer as part of the Navigating the New Arctic project: Landscape Evolution and Adapting to Change in Ice-rich Permafrost Systems (NNA-IRPS), NSF Award Number 1928237. This project is investigating how changes in climate, snow, water, vegetation, disturbance, and time influence the thawing or stabilization of ground ice in Arctic Alaska. The Principal Investigator is Donald (Skip) Walker at UAF. The project website is: www.geobotany.uaf.edu/nna

Students will assist with vegetation sampling, CH4 and CO2 flux measurements, thaw depth and soil moisture measurements, and constructing temperature stations for use in permafrost modeling. Our 2021 field sites are in the vicinity of Deadhorse, Alaska, in the Prudhoe Bay area. Transportation will be provided to and from Fairbanks to the sites and all travel, food and lodging costs will be covered.

Who should apply: Students with an interest in arctic fieldwork, climate science, vegetation, and/or trace gas fluxes. Students available for summer field work should be prepared to be out for full days and be comfortable working outdoors in the Arctic. Students must be available to be in the field from July 13-July 28 or July 13-August 4, and may need to quarantine before departure.* Students can also assist with pre-trip packing.

2021-2022 lab assistant opportunity: Undergraduate field assistants will have the opportunity to continue with the project as a lab assistant. Lab work will include processing and analyzing soil, water, and vegetation samples and helping with data entry during the academic year.

*COVID protocols: The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires a 10-day quarantine before going into the field. While there is a possibility that the requirement could be waived for those who are fully vaccinated, at this point we must plan to quarantine starting July 3. The NSF logistics contractor will provide COVID testing at two intervals prior to travel. Testing costs will be covered by the project.

Contact: Skip Walker, dawalker@alaska.edu, (907) 451-0800 or 474-2460.