Research Description: In the Mercer Laboratory, we work on understanding how plants are adapted to their environment. To do so, we look at traditional varieties of crops, saved by generations of farmers in the areas where they were domesticated. Recent work has focused on maize and chile pepper from southern Mexico. Using controlled and field experiments, we try to understand the differences between collections from different environments. We ask, how does their physiology differ? How does their physiology respond to different environments? In so doing, we can better understand how adaptations to environment have helped shape diversity in these crops. We can also ask, how will they respond to climate change? We are looking for two students to get involved in our lab and be part of experiments understanding these interesting processes.

GPA/Major Requirements: Students in CFAES. Interest in applied plant science preferred.

Required Skills: None

Time Commitment: 5-15 hours per week for 4 months

Compensation: Academic credit/Volunteer/Work-Study

Potential for Presentation: Yes

How to Apply: Interested students should contact Vivian Bernau by email (Bernau.2@osu.edu) and include a brief statement of interest and an updated resume/CV.