

March 23, 2009

Dear Water Institute Faculty, Students and Friends:

The UF Water Institute, now completing its third year of operation, brings together talent from throughout the University to address complex water issues through innovative interdisciplinary research, education, and public outreach programs. To date over 180 UF faculty members from 9 colleges have affiliated with the Water Institute. This email is intended to bring you up to date on UF Water Institute programs developed over the past three years. [Click here](#) to refresh your memory on the mission, vision and goals of the UF Water Institute.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH/SERVICE PROGRAMS

Biennial UF Water Institute Symposium: Sponsored by Progress Energy - The inaugural [Water Institute Symposium](#), held in Gainesville Feb 27-28, 2008, brought together 450 scientists, engineers, academics, policy makers, water managers, industry representatives, lawyers, students and members of the public to consider the relationships among challenges to water resources sustainability, explore solutions for pressing issues, and provide broad based recommendations for research, education, technology and policies needed to ensure water resources sustainability for Florida and beyond. Save the date for the next Symposium Feb 24-26, 2010 in Gainesville, FL.

UF Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series: Sponsored by the Smallwood Foundation - This annual seminar series, initiated in Fall 2007, has brought [15 high profile scholars](#) to UF to conduct a general Water Institute seminar of interest to a broad audience, meet with the Water Institute Faculty Advisory Committee to discuss strategic planning and partnering opportunities, and meet with interested Water Institute faculty and students to discuss specific research/education issues. To nominate speakers for the 2009-2010 series please email [Wendy Graham](mailto:wgraham@ufl.edu) at wgraham@ufl.edu.

Interdisciplinary Workshops and Expert Panels - Periodic interdisciplinary workshops and expert panels are hosted to develop partnerships between and among UF Water Institute Faculty, external academics and external stakeholders to identify and prioritize critical water issues requiring interdisciplinary expertise, as well as to provide expertise and support for addressing these issues. To date we have hosted more than [10 workshops and panels](#) for a variety of stakeholder groups.

Administration of the Hydrologic Sciences Academic Cluster (HSAC) -The Water Institute provides administrative services to the HSAC. The [HSAC](#) is a unique interdisciplinary program designed to broaden the skills of science and engineering students who are interested in all aspects of water; i.e., occurrence and quantity, distribution, circulation, quality, and management/policy. To affiliate with the HSAC as either a faculty member or student please complete the on-line application at <http://www.hydrology.ufl.edu/>

Smallwood Student Intern Program – A gift from the Smallwood Foundation helps support student [interns](#) to work on interdisciplinary Water Institute projects. As team members, students conduct an individual project that contributes to the overall effort, while learning about the process of interdisciplinary scientific research, collaboration and scholarship. Five interns are currently participating in this program. Stayed tuned for new internship opportunities beginning Fall 2009.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

UF Water Institute Affiliate faculty and graduate students are involved in research projects in wide-ranging aspects of water-related sciences, engineering, design, policy and law. The goals of individual research projects include such diverse interests as advancing the understanding of fundamental physical, chemical and biological processes in various aquatic systems, understanding how people organize themselves to use and manage water, and developing solutions to practical problems through engineering, design and legal applications of new scientific understanding. There are four categories of externally funded Water Institute projects, depending on the level of involvement of the Water Institute in the project development (For more details see [WI Project Classification Policy](#)). Current projects are funded by NSF, NOAA, USDA, FDEP, FDACS, WMDs, TBW, AWWRF and the Carl S. Swisher Foundation.

Water Institute Directed Research Projects (\$3.9 Million, 11 projects)

For Water Institute Directed Projects, the Water Institute Director/Staff provide overall proposal coordination and/or project management. 11 projects totaling \$3.9 Million have been funded under this category. Six projects totaling \$1.4 Million are currently under review. Four additional projects totaling \$26 Million have been submitted but not funded.

Water Institute Assisted Research Projects (\$2.5 Million, 6 projects)

For Water Institute Assisted projects, a Water Institute faculty member provides overall proposal leadership, but the Water Institute provides support services such as initial organization of the project team, liaison with a sponsoring agency, matching funds, technical support, data management, and/or project management. Six projects totaling \$2.5 Million have been funded under this category. One project totaling \$235K is currently under review.

Water Institute Program Initiation Fund (PIF) Related Projects.

These are externally funded projects resulting from a Water Institute Program Initiation Fund (PIF) effort. In 2007, six PIF projects involving 16 faculty members from 4 colleges were selected for seed funding. Deliverables from these projects include 5 journal articles, 1 white paper, and 8 proposals totaling \$5.3 Million for externally funded research projects. [Click here](#) for abstracts and final reports on these projects.

The 2009 Program Initiation Fund is currently supporting three projects involving 14 faculty members from 3 colleges to develop the theoretical underpinnings, preliminary data and methodological specificity needed to develop compelling, nationally-competitive proposals for integrated analysis of coupled human and natural water systems. Issues that the projects will focus on include surface water withdrawals in the St. Johns River Basin; development and implementation of springs management plans; and water allocation issues in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basins.

Water Institute Faculty Research Projects (\$90 Million)

In addition to the research projects described above, faculty affiliated with the Water Institute currently manage over \$90,000,000 in active externally funded projects. These projects are compiled in a [web-accessible database](#) that can be searched by investigator, department, keyword, title, and date and/or funding agency.

If you would like assistance from the Water Institute in building a team to prepare an interdisciplinary research, education and/outreach proposal, or in providing technical support, data management or project management services to an interdisciplinary project please email (wgraham@ufl.edu) or call us at (352)-392-5893.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like more information about any of our existing programs, or with suggestions for new initiatives!

Sincerely,

Wendy Graham, Ph. D.

Carl S. Swisher Chair in Water Resources and Director UF Water Institute

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