

June 27, 2008

Dear Water Institute Faculty, Students and Friends:

The second year of the UF Water Institute is drawing to a close. Some highlights of our activities and accomplishments for the first two years are included below. For more information please visit our website www.waterinstitute.ufl.edu

1) 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 to ensure water resources sustainability for Florida and beyond. For the program, presentations, a participant list and photos see <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/symposium/index.html>.

Note: Mark your calendars for the next Water Institute Symposium that will be held in Gainesville February 24-26 2010.

2) UF WATER INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR SEMINAR SERIES: SPONSORED BY THE SMALLWOOD FOUNDATION

This annual seminar series, initiated in Fall 2007, invites high profile scholars to UF on a monthly basis to: conduct a general Water Institute seminar that will be 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 to discuss specific research/education issues. For the list of speakers who participated in 2007-08 see <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/events/seminars.html>.

Invitees for next year (2008-09) include:

- Foster Brown, Research Scientist, Governance & Sustainable Development, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- M. Pilar Cornejo-Grunauer, Professor, Marine Science and Marine Engineering, ESPOL
- Robert Costanza, Director, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont
- Carlos M. Duarte, Research Scientist, Aquatic Ecology, Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies
- Tissa Illangakere, AMAX Distinguished Chair of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Subsurface Processes, Colorado School of Mines
- Stephen Lansing, Professor of Ecological Anthropology, University of Arizona
- Daniel P. Loucks, Professor of Water Resource Planning and Management, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University
- Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University
- James Shortle, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Institute, Penn State University

3) INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS AND EXPERT PANELS

Six interdisciplinary workshops and expert panels have been 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. For details on these events see <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/events/meetings.html> .

Plans for upcoming workshops and expert panels include:

- September 4, 2008: Coordinate panel discussion on Water and Social Equity at the Harn Museum in conjunction with the Harn's "Water as Metaphor for Identity" exhibition and the UF Common Reading Program "When Rivers Run Dry" .
- September 17-18, 2008: Host St. Johns River Water Management District 2 - day workshop of national experts on the Environmental Effects of Withdrawals from the St. Johns River.
- June –September 2008: Coordinate state-wide peer review of American Water Works Associate Florida 2030 Water Supply Infrastructure Vision Documents. Requested by the Century Commission in preparation for the Governor's Water Summit
- June –December 2009: Coordinate national peer review of the Watershed Assessment Model. Sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.

4) EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

\$4.65 million in external Water Institute Directed and Water Institute Assisted research programs have been funded since June 2006. These programs bring together interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students to provide the knowledge base for, and to develop new technology and policy solutions for state, national and global water issues. In addition, faculty affiliated with the Water Institute currently independently manage over **\$90 million** in active externally funded projects. For details on all these projects see <http://www.waterinstitute.ufl.edu/research/funded.html>

5) 2007-08 PROGRAM INITIATION FUND

\$200K was awarded to 6 faculty groups under the 2007-08 Program Initiation Fund. For details on this program and the funded projects see <http://www.waterinstitute.ufl.edu/research/pif.html> **During academic year 2008-09 the Water Institute will host a series of brown-bag faculty-student seminar/discussion groups led by the 2007-08 PIF project teams.**

6) 2008-09 PROGRAM INITIATION FUND

The 2008-09 Program Initiation Fund is being revamped to experiment with alternative, more "hands-on" strategies for stimulating productive, externally funded, interdisciplinary research programs. The new program will support interdisciplinary working groups consisting of UF faculty, graduate students, and key external experts to address complex issues of water resource sustainability that have state, national and global importance. Working group topics selected for 2008 include:

- Integrated analyses of climate, land use, hydrologic, biogeochemical, ecologic, and socioeconomic systems to inform water management decisions
- The nexus between sustainable energy and sustainable water supplies
- Water-borne contaminants, pathogens and health

The Water Institute will facilitate and fund working groups in each of the above areas to work over a two year period to generate the following types of products:

- Water Institute position papers to the Florida Legislature and/or other Florida stakeholders that summarize the need for the working group effort and its potential to produce important knowledge of significance to the management of Florida's water resources
- Peer-reviewed journal articles that analyze and synthesize existing data and information, results of new modeling studies, new surveys, etc. in support of the working group's agenda.
- Interdisciplinary proposals to fund and execute specific aspects of the research and education agenda.

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Working groups are currently being formed. If you are interested in participating in one of these groups please contact me at wgraham@ufl.edu.

Best wishes for a great summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy D. Graham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'W' and 'G'.

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