PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For year two of FAU’s program, journalists will traverse a wide reach of South Florida, with the university’s compact Jupiter campus, 15 minutes north of West Palm Beach, serving as their base camp. The week is intended to be more than just a series of nature treks. Classroom talks are melded with briefings in the field and designed to provide updates on key issues, insight into emerging problems and important scientific, legal or regulatory background. As reporters explore the region’s major natural features, they will have access to some of the top environment experts in Florida and other parts of the nation, including scientists, environmental lawyers, government regulators and water managers. This should improve their grasp of subject matter on a beat that can be quite complicated and technical in nature.

Our tentative 2007 program – designed for up to 25 competitively selected journalists – will examine the issues of wetland restoration, water management, land conservation, invasive species, biological control, climate change, alternative energy and the degradation of marine environments.

Water is a major theme, given the area’s cradling Atlantic, Gulf and estuarine waters, and expansive inland wetlands such as the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee. Participants likely will skim across the northern Everglades by airboat to inspect the impacts of phosphorus pollution and strangulation of native habitat by foreign flora; paddle the scenic Loxahatchee River to see the consequences of drainage along its cypress-flanked banks; examine a restored meander of the Kissimmee River reborn from a drainage canal, and examine beaches that incubate high rise condos along with endangered sea turtle eggs.
Travels beyond campus will take the group through important upland habitat as well. Participants will plod across the sandy, dwarf-tree world called scrub – at least the remnants that eluded developers – and visit pine flatwoods and hardwood hammock.

Tucked in with those excursions are insightful talks on environmental law and growth management and a segment on the practice of environmental reporting, with pointers from Florida media veterans. Although rooted in South Florida, the program is designed to be relevant beyond the region.

The fellowship covers room and board – lodging on campus and most meals – plus bus fares, other field trip costs and instruction. Those selected to attend must pay their own way to and from FAU’s John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter, located in the northern end of Palm Beach County, a short ride from Palm Beach International Airport.

To apply, go to [http://proteus.fau.edu/scripps/application.pdf](http://proteus.fau.edu/scripps/application.pdf), fill out an application and follow the submission instructions.

Questions? Contact Neil Santaniello, FAU journalism instructor and institute program director, at [nsantane@fau.edu](mailto:nsantane@fau.edu) or 561-799-8047.