

**McCormick Specialized Reporting Institute 2015:  
Covering Water in a Changing World**

**Contact Numbers:**

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**Wednesday, November 11**

Arrive in Gainesville, Florida

Hotel: Reitz Union, University of Florida,  
655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville FL

**6 – 8:00 p.m.** Meet and Greet: Third Floor, College of Journalism and Communications, Weimer Hall.

**Thursday, November 12**

**7:00 a.m.** Breakfast at hotel

**7:30 a.m.** Bus departs for Ichetucknee River  
Be in lobby of Reitz Union at 7:25 a.m. to board bus

**Water talk: Elemental water.** A welcome to Florida and overview of U.S. water resources: at the surface, in the atmosphere, and in aquifers (where most Americans get their household water).

*Cynthia Barnett, environmental journalist and UF Hearst Visiting Professional and aquatic ecologist Tom Frazer, director of the UF School of Natural Resources and Environment and UF Water Institute. Tom will give us a freshwater overview and a primer on the Ichetucknee River, springs region and karst aquifer.*

**8:30 -1:15 p.m. Paddle, Picnic, & (hopefully optional) Plunge.** Our water overview continues as we paddle side-by-side with scientists down the Ichetucknee. Its limestone outcroppings and springs make it one of the few places in the United States where you can see what is usually hidden underground: the inextricable links between groundwater and surface water, and those between pollution and drinking-water supply. Paddle: Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Picnic lunch: Ginnie Springs, High Springs.

*Paddling with our group: Lars Anderson, Florida naturalist, river guide, and author of several natural histories of the region; Dr. Tom Frazer, director, UF Water Institute;*

*Andrew Freedman, Mashable; Dr. Lenny Konikow, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia; Dr. Bill Pine, fisheries professor who works in the Southeast U.S. and the Grand Canyon; Dr. Matt Cohen, watershed hydrologist; Rich Henning, senior VP, United Water (aka Suez Environment North America); Ecology-Journalism PhD student Jennifer Adler; CJC Special Projects director Ellen Nodine.*

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** Bus departs from the river back to the University of Florida Reitz Union Hotel

**2:30 – 3 p.m.** Break back in hotel room

**3 – 5:30 p.m.** Location: College of Journalism and Communications, Weimer Hall 3032

**3 – 3:30 p.m. Water talk: Quantity: Depletion or Drought?** Hydrogeologists often use the metaphor of a bank account to describe our groundwater resources. If that's true, we're seriously overdrawn. We'll hear an update from the U.S. Geological Survey from the first national assessment of groundwater depletion nationwide, and talk about how to cover "invisible" environmental issues such as what's happening to our aquifers, along with how to help audiences understand the relationship between depletion and drought.

*Speaker: Dr. Lenny Konikow, emeritus scientist, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia*

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Water talk: Quality: Harmful algal blooms and pollution issues, from Peoria to Palm Beach.** Forty years after the Clean Water Act, the United States (and the world) face an increasing scourge of pollution, including harmful algae blooms that have tainted drinking water in Toledo and shut down beaches in Florida. Scientists from Ohio Sea Grant and Florida Sea Grant will join water journalist Tom Henry of the Toledo Blade to talk about these increasing events and how we can report on them before the next crisis.

*Speakers: Tom Henry, Toledo Blade; Dr. Karl Havens, director, Florida Sea Grant; Dr. Jeff Reutter, Ohio Sea Grant.*

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Water talk: Covering utilities, pipe to price.** Across the U.S., historic drought, water-quality threats heightened by warming waters and poorly maintained infrastructure are threatening public supply – and laying bare the flawed way we pay for water. Public and private utility executives join water journalist Cynthia Barnett to discuss fresh approaches for covering infrastructure, price, and other water-utility issues.

*Speakers: Alison Adams, Chief Technical Officer, Tampa Bay Water; and Rich Henning, Senior Vice President for Communications, United Water*

**5:30 – 7pm** Break

**7:30 p.m. Dinner, Upstairs on outside back deck of The Swamp restaurant.** SRI participants meet at The Swamp restaurant, 1642 W. University Avenue, an easy walk just one block north of campus, for a true college-town dining experience.

## Friday, November 13

*On Friday morning, we blend the Specialized Reporting Institute with a climate communications summit open to the larger campus; we'll return to our small group in the afternoon.*

**7:00 a.m.** Breakfast in hotel

### **Science, Society and the Climate Story: Storytellers and Scientists Connect on Climate Change** **Location: Library East, Room 100**

**8– 8:30 a.m.** Coffee/Snacks

**8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Why a Land-Grant University Must Lead on Climate Change**

*Dr. Jack Payne, Senior Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida*

**8:45 – 9:15 a.m. Climate Change Communications Research: What's New?**

*Dr. Lauren Griffin, Environmental Sociology, Managing Editor, Frankology*

**9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Deadly Heat Waves, Drought and Floods: Extreme Weather and Public Interest in Climate Change**

**Sponsor: Florida Climate Institute**

*Andrew Freedman, Science Editor, Mashable*

**9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Establishing Public Trust on Climate Change Science**

*Dr. Teresa Myers, Center for Climate Change Communications, George Mason University*

**10:15 -10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30 -11 a.m. Communicating Climate through the Lens of Rising Seas**

**Sponsor: UF Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series**

*Dr. Benjamin Strauss, Vice President for Sea Level and Climate Impacts, Climate Central*

**11 - Noon Roundtable: Scientists and Communicators on How We Talk With Each Other and our Audiences about Climate Change.**

*Dr. Andrea Dutton, Geochemist, University of Florida*

*Andrew Freedman, Mashable*

*Dr. Benjamin Strauss, Climate Central*

*Cynthia Barnett, Hearst Visiting Professional, UF College of Journalism and Communications (moderator)*

**12:15 -1:15 p.m. Lunch –Library East Room 100 (Sponsor: IFAS)**

**Coda:** *Ann Christiano, Frank Karel Endowed Chair in Public Interest Communications, UF College of Journalism and Communications*

**Keynote:** *Mac Stone, Conservation Photographer*

## McCormick Specialized Reporting Institute finale : Return to Weimer 3032

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Water talk: Extreme Weather and Climate Change:** From extreme storms to extended droughts and heavier precipitation, weather stories are morphing into climate change stories. Hands-on with Deke Arndt on using NOAA weather data and the intersection among water, weather and climate in our regions.

*Speakers: Deke Arndt, NOAA; Andrew Freedman, Mashable.*

**2:30 --- 3 p.m. Water talk: Ecosystem Restoration Promise and Peril: Outlook on Everglades Restoration.** In November 2000, just as the U.S. Supreme Court was listening to arguments in the Bush v. Gore election debacle, a miracle of bipartisan unity passed Congress in the \$8 billion, 30-year plan to restore the Florida Everglades, then the largest ecosystem restoration ever attempted. Fifteen years later, the plan is stuck in the muck. We get an update on the progress of Everglades restoration, and ponder what this case study says about society's ability to restore large ecosystems in politically divided times.

*Speaker: Dr. Karl Havens, executive director, Florida Sea Grant.*

**3 – 4:15 p.m. Water talk: McCormick Specialized Reporting Institute: Story ideas, Solutions and Next Steps** We highlight some of the most engaging new ways journalists and news organizations are bringing water and climate stories to their audiences, noodle challenges like capturing editors' attention and brainstorm story ideas for participants. **Our goal is for you to leave this panel with a list of story ideas, built over the past two days and refined here.**

*Cynthia Barnett and Ann Christiano*