

Professor Curtis McKinney
Earth Science

Everglades immersion as a class field and research trip.

In the Earth Science classes we encourage our instructor to use field experiences to highlight course topic. In South Florida the hydrologic value of the Everglades is immense. Surface waters fed by subsurface groundwaters allow the direct effects of pollution to be observed from the agricultural areas. The effect of phosphate fertilizers causing plant blooms and loss of oxygen directly affects fish communities with observable results. Students will be sample collectors to retrieve water for toxicology analysis in our new Chemistry environmental labs where we have bought many cutting edge mass spectrometers. Students will conduct water analysis for phosphate and other additives as part of their environmental studies.

I am at present continuing to look at levels of radioisotopes (Uranium and thorium) in South Florida waters, soils and rocks.