



# Selected Applicants for 2008 Scholarship Program



**MELISSA MARTIN** ~ *University of Florida*

“The focus of my work will be the investigation of the ecosystem-level consequences of the invasion and management of *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. My findings will increase our knowledge of the ecological impacts of invasive species and their management. Elucidation of the extent, duration, and impact of the changes caused by invasion and management of exotic plants will help in developing more effective restoration and management techniques.”



**PAMELA SULLIVAN** ~ *Florida International University*

“Tree islands have been designated as indicators of *Everglades* ecosystem health, but very little is known about their formation and preservation. My research work is on groundwater/surface-water interactions on tree islands in the *Everglades*. My results will facilitate the creation of tree-island restoration guidelines in terms of identifying the relationship between surface-water level management and tree-island function.”



**JAY MUNJON** ~ *Florida International University*

“The overall effect on net carbon balance on aquatic ecosystem by calcification is complex and not completely understood — and in the *Everglades* — the effect of carbonate precipitation on the total CO<sub>2</sub> balance is completely unknown. The first question that I wish to answer is if a periphyton-dominated *Everglades* marsh is a source or a sink for carbon dioxide. Furthermore, I wish to determine how the productivity varies between short and long hydro-period marshes as well as how the periphyton contribution to the carbon dioxide sink compares to the contribution of aquatic macrophytes.”



**CLIFTON RUEHL** ~ *Florida International University*

“My work uses a food-web approach to improve our understanding of how nutrient enrichment affects aquatic community structure of the Florida *Everglades*. To accomplish this goal, I use an integrative approach of field studies, mesocosm experiments and lab techniques. We anticipate the combination of experimental studies and new technology will provide information to aide interpretation of time series data collected for monitoring the Comprehensive *Everglades* Restoration Plan.”

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