Current Projects

Dr. Stephen Holland has been awarded a 15 month research project with Florida State Parks

Dr. Stephen Holland paired with Dr. Chuck Cichra (Aquatics and Fisheries Sciences) have been awarded a 15 month research project with Florida state parks entitled “Silver River Recreational Use and Resource Condition Baseline Study.”

In brief, due to the 2013 acquisition of the former Silver Springs theme park by Florida State Parks and a change in management goals for the park, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is interested in a scientific assessment of the level of recreational use and environmental condition of the Silver River ecosystem. An assessment of the level of aquatic recreational use of the river and the condition of the shoreline and submersed aquatic plant communities through observations and river user surveys during the 2015 year will be conducted with a summary report produced in the spring of 2016.

Many consider this as one of Florida’s first ecotourism destinations, with its first tourist trips occurring by paddle boats before the Civil War in the 1850’s. The river attracts many ecotourists and nature viewers to this long established nature based destination. The University of Florida and EFTI faculty and research assistants will provide information to the park managers to maintain a sustainable and quality experience while enjoying the Silver River.
Current Projects

EFTI and TCMI partnering with the United Nation’s World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to study the Sharing Lodging Market

The UNWTO and the umbrella association of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafés in Europe (HOTREC) have accepted a proposal to work with EFTI, TCMI and the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (HTSI) at Ramon Llull University of Spain to study how the shadow economy is changing tourism and society.

Dr.’s Pennington-Gray and Dunn are leading the project focusing on the sharing lodging market and its effects on the U.S. lodging industry, while HTSI is studying the European tourist accommodation market.

EFTI and TCMI Partner with MMGY Global on Proposal to Conduct Tourism Crisis and Destination Image Study for Visit Baltimore

Dr. Dunn, Dr. Pennington-Gray and Jason Stienmetz worked with MMGY’s Dr. Peter Yesawich and Steve Cohen to submit a proposal to study Baltimore’s recent civil crisis and its affect on the destinations image among consumers and meetings planners.