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Revisiting King Tide Day

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Eyes on the Rise

Revisiting King Tide Day

OCTOBER 11, 2014 / TED GUTSCHE / 0 COMMENTS

Hundreds of high school and college students spent two days on Miami Beach this month, testing flood waters as part of the eyesontherise.org project that's designed to “hack” journalism curriculum.

The events were part of the [Florida International University School of Journalism and Mass Communication](#)'s way to develop community journalism about important environmental issues such as sea level rise that also [pushes the boundaries](#) of [how journalism is taught](#).

Here's the low-down:

Students began the [training for testing flood waters](#) with a [Sept. 29 event](#). More than 220 people attended at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus. The rally included [Lily Bui](#), a graduate student at MIT, who shared with students major ideas behind [sensor journalism](#). The day's events ended

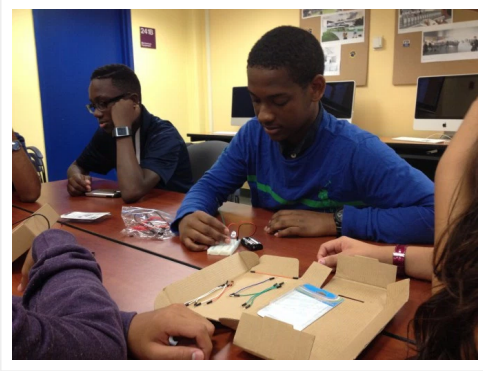
with a workshop on communicating issues of sea level rise and climate change, hosted by [The CLEO Institute](#).

Sea Level Rise Rally



Dozens of SJMC and [MAST @ FIU](#) high school students [spent Oct. 1 and 2](#) working with their [coqui sensors](#). Built from scratch with the help of [Don Blair](#) and [Public Lab](#), students were able to understand the engineering behind the sensors that test for, among other things, water salinity.

Armed with their sensors, [students took to Alton Road in Miami Beach](#) on Oct. 8, the first of two days of [King Tides](#) — the days when [the seas have above-average high tides across the world](#).



Again on Oct.

9, students took positions through Miami Beach, **collecting water from storm drains** and any standing water to measure its salinity.



Water samples were tested at the scene for salinity. Other samples were gathered at 10 locations and returned to the MAST @ FIU campus at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus. There, students part of the 190-

student school will test the water over the next several weeks to identify potential chemicals and variants in the water.



Students from MAST @ FIU, high school students selected by The CLEO Institute, and college students from FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication helped describe the process and importance of understanding sea level rise with local press that **attended a press conference** hosted by FIU's SJMC.



More than 80 people and members of the press attended.



Media coverage included the **Weather Channel** and the **TODAY** show.



Many came to hear from the students about their interest in sea level rise — including [Gina McCarthy](#), Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Led by The CLEO Institute, local science experts wrapped the event with a working lunch for students at [Miami Beach Urban Studios](#) on Lincoln

Road.



Students will be working on journalism over the next several weeks to help relay the data and other meanings gathered from this series of events.



[Eyesontherise.org](https://eyesontherise.org) plans more events for the Spring semester, including a hackathon, to relay to the public the importance of gathering their own data and information about local environments. More info will also be coming about the [student-designed and built flooding app](#) for

South Florida residents.



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