

**Florida Institute of Technology  
Budapest University of Technology  
and Economics (Hungary)**

*Environment*

**FY 2001 GRANT AMOUNT \$120,000**

**SOURCE Exchanges Appropriation**

**Florida Institute of Technology** is partnering with the **Budapest University of Technology and Economics** on an environmental studies program. The partnership is centered on faculty exchanges to identify areas of common scientific and technical interest, with a goal of developing new programs and enhancing existing programs of relevance to Hungary and Central Europe. Thus far 14 faculty members have paid two- to four-week visits to the respective partner institutions. In

the first year of the program, the universities sponsored an Eco-Tourism Workshop to help develop a type of tourism in Hungary that is already well developed in Florida. The partners secured direct support for the workshop through the U.S.-Hungarian Joint Fund. A planned outcome of the workshop is the creation of a birding and wildlife festival in Hungary in the spring of 2004, based upon the careful study of such festivals in Florida. A second focus of the partnership is a workshop to begin in the fall of 2003 on problems of sustainability under conditions of globalization from the perspective of U.S.-European Union (EU) relations. The discussion will include partners from different EU countries and EU officials. Given the compatibility and commitment of the two partners, numerous areas of collaboration will continue to be discovered.

**“ I plan to take a group of students to Hungary over spring break. They will get a students’ view of Hungary, not a tourist view.”**

*- Gordon Nelson, Florida Institute of Technology*



Faculty from the Florida Institute of Technology tour Hungary's Tisza Lake as part of an environmental studies partnership with Budapest University of Technology and Economics.