Collaborating with Stranger Workshop for Grant Seekers in and outside the Humanities
December 6, 2012

A CoLAB was conducted for grant seekers in the Humanities. The CoLAB included presentations by Ben Hebblethwaite, Assistant Professor in Haitian French and Creole, Jill Sonke, Professor in the School of Theatre and Dance, and Director of Center of Arts in Healthcare and Manuel Vasquez, Professor of Religion. The guest presentations were followed by a presentation from Bess de Farber, Facilitator and Creator of CoLAB, on theories on collaboration, creativity and grant seeking strategies. Participants than had one-on-one 3-minute speed-meetings before posting ideas and thoughts. Below is the evaluation of the December 6 CoLAB for grant seekers in the Humanities.

The participants in the CoLAB included 25 faculty, 1 postdoc, 9 graduate students, 2 undergraduate students and 6 staff. Of the 43 participants, 9 were international participants.

Survey Questions (Q1-Q7)
(Question 1) Length of Collaborating with Strangers Workshop

Most participants (75.0%) thought that this "collaborating with strangers workshop" was adequate in length (see TABLE 1). Meanwhile, 9.1 % of the participants thought the workshop was too short and 9.1% felt the workshop was too long.

TABLE 1

Too long	Adequate	Too short
4 (9.1%)	33 (75.0%)	4 (9.1%)

(Question 2) My overall evaluation?

When participants were asked to evaluate the workshop (e.g. My overall evaluation?), 64.3% of the participants gave the workshop an "Excellent" evaluation. Meanwhile, 33.3% of the participants graded this workshop "Good" as their overall evaluation.   One participant rated the workshop as "Fair" and none rated it as "Poor". This question results was shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
27 (64.3%)	14 (33.3%)	1 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)

(Question 3) I would attend a workshop like this again?

When participants were asked about whether they would attend a workshop like this again, most of them said "yes" (95.2%), while only 2 participants (4.8%) answered "no" to this question. The results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Yes	No
40 (95.2%)	2 (4.8%)

(Question 4) I would recommend this collaboration process to other students/faculty.

Table 4 presents the results of question 4 (e.g. "I would recommend this collaboration process to other students/faculty.").The results of this question indicated that this workshop had a very positive feedback, since 40 participants out of 44 chose "Yes", and only 4 participants chose "No".

TABLE 4

Yes	No
40 (90.9%)	4 (9.1%)

Questions 5.1-5.2 are 5-point Likert scale questions to evaluate participants' self-evaluation outcomes after the workshop. Options ranged from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree".   The results of these 2-question series are shown below.

(Question 5.1) CoLAB workshop results:
I feel more confident in my ability to approach people I don't know.

Table 5 presents the results of question 5.1. Among all 42 participants who responded to the question, 33.3% of the participants (i.e., 14 participants) selected "Strongly Agree" option, and 42.9% of the participants (i.e. 18 participants) chose "Agree" option. Overall, 76.2% of the

participants indicated a positive feedback on this question. The remaining responses were "Neutral" with nobody disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

TABLE 5

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
14	18	10	0	0
(33.3%)	(42.9%)	(23.8%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)

(Question 5.2) CoLAB workshop results:

I am more comfortable with people in other disciplines.

Table 6 presents the results of question 5.2. For the 41 participants responding, the responses were similar to the responses to Question 5.1. That is, 31.7% strongly agreed, 36.6% agreed and 29.3% were neutral.

TABLE 6

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	15	12	1	0
(31.7%)	(36.6%)	(29.3%)	(2.3%)	(0.0%)

Open-Ended Responses

The responses to questions 6 and 7 below show that the CoLAB facilitation process did help most of the participants access new resources. The primary resource was connecting with other people in different disciplines. In addition, the most useful part of the workshop was the 3-minute speed-meetings. However, participants were also positive about the speakers and the Ideas and Thoughts Boards. The results of the Ideas and Thoughts Boards were similar to the open-ended questions below. The specific responses are contained in the Appendix below.

(Question 6) Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources? If so, describe.

- Yes…but I need to know more about other disciplines before I meet people, I think

- Yes
- Yes, I gained new knowledge about different people
- It's a good start
- Made interesting connections but probably no potential collaborations
- It was good to learn more about the many faculty projects I knew of but had never heard them talk about
- Yes
- Yes, met several people I'll follow up with
- Yes, but briefly, only a few things
- Yes – but I will need to see the slides again
- Yes
- Meeting new people was very helpful
- Meeting others, even with dissimilar interests, helps make me feel more a part of the UF community, whether I contact anyone or not
- Yes, I learned a lot from speakers
- Yes – especially office of research
- Yes – several possibilities to identify research tools to support programs underway
- Yes- and I met several people that I know I will contact and collaborate with or pick their brains
- Yes but try to recruit more faculty from each one of the departments, so we'll have more diversity
- Yes, absolutely much to my surprise I was able to meet 5 people and will be contacting 2 for certain
- Yes, especially in the language department
- I liked the workshop. It was less enlightening this time because I have done this kind of exercise before (always enjoyable)
- Just in general jump starting the idea of reading out and reminding me how it's possible to talk and learn from people in very different fields
- I think so, but I need to let it gel! My discipline is not very collaborative so I feel I'm still learning
- Yes. I learnt about various useful information about my field. I found a connection in my research area
- Yes! Gave me a great resource of new PIs have and how the SSC can provide more resources to help
- Yes! I received a lot of great feedback about my future studies
- Yes. I'm always looking for new resources with which to collaborate
- Yes. Information on funding has been useful
- It was interesting to meet and talk with people who are doing work/research from across campus who are passionate about their work

- Yes, especially human capital that you learn about skills and knowledge and connections they have you can tap in
- Yes, I made contact with some in construction management who is interest in collaborate
- Will look more at sociological perspective in my work, and ..as a culture in long term project
- Yes. I found grant writing resources on campus, and learned about a website through faculty in another dept that gathers academics in one of my research areas
- Yes – I was put in contact with lots of people who have similar/related goals to our office and hope to collaborate so we are complementary in our services
- Yes, I met a couple of people who may be a fit for my site and put two other folds in touch
- Yes
- It was great to have access to people working in grants as well as people who have been through the grant writing process

(Question 7) What was the most useful part of the workshop?

- Speed meeting
- To talk to new people
- The card with information is a great idea and helps conversation along
- Speed meetings because it demands active involvement
- Meeting everybody
- Hearing from successful grant seekers
- The 3-minute fun part! Thanks
- The most useful part is the excitement it fosters for your own work – talking to others about it renews your interest
- Stimulating
- Listening to Bess. Meeting people
- Time to meet and talk
- Meting people – wish that had been first and then synthesize
- Speed meetings
- Time to connect face-to-face!! We need more
- I found both the individual speaks at the beginning and the speed dating to be fantastic. Thank You!
- The presentation
- I am an introvert person and have difficulty in talking with strangers. This workshop helped me in dealing with this.

- I went to a grant writing workshop with Bess. You are all very capable of organizing. Kudos!
- Talking to a diverse group
- 3 minute meetings
- Listening, sharing and talk was smart. Hearing from colleagues about the ways they have..the institution to build bridges
- The presentations by successful grant receivers
- The 3-minute speed meeting and idea boards as it acts as a way to tap others resources
- Meeting a few of the PIs I serve
- I enjoyed balking about the one thing most people don't know question
- Learning about the CoLAB resource
- The overall impression is excellent. It makes you feel the diversity and synergy of the world
- 3-minute talks. It is nice to know what people in oterh disciplines are working onI liked all components especially speed dating
- Great initiative to break disciplinary walls
- Sparking ideas
- Learning about successful grant proposals – helps me to think ambitiously!
- I made a connection on how important our office can be in connecting people who need to solve surprisingly similar problems in very different disciplines
- Speed dating – grant presentations equally valuable
- The speed dating. Would love to shorten the presentation portion and have another minute or two with each attendee

Appendix – Ideas and Thoughts Boards

1. What Synergies or connections did you discover?

- Desire for a collaboration tool to discuss half formed ideas
- Connection between language, acquisition and science education
- Shared resource @ CLAS
- Very beneficial talking to language specialists
- Consider to express my ideas audio-visually and not write books
- There is more than actual research/job in each people that connect us
- Resource uses in cultural context
- Leveraging expertise for schools
- Common fungi of FL – Online herbarium collection
- UF has a lot of resources outside my department who do cool things I care about
- International language ability to speak to anyone
- I met someone participating in an assessment I am running
- I met people who I have emailed but never met through work
- Urban studies
- Sustainability
- People involved in research similar to mine
- I had something common with everyone I talked to
- Anthropology Sociology
- Ethics and Sustainability
- I met someone from near my hometown
- Sustainable forest and water
- Feminist studies in different areas
- Medicine and ethics, website to join
- Personal perspective US scientific evidence
- Voudo studies
- Diversity of this World and its interconnection
- I met a person whose husband works exactly in my research area
- Africa, spirits, plants and Tai Chi

2. What events, processes and/or services would support today's connections and ideas?

- CoLAB on proposal writing (from concept to submission)
- Time without the bell for those connected with
- Help finding grant for those who are not US citizens
- Exchange information, ideas through meetings, emails
- CoLAB to bring STEM to Humanities or vice versa
- Outdoor events f\with this team
- Contact info
- More of these with more people

- Resources and opportunities for interdisciplinary projects
- Online "clearing house" of projects in search of collaborators – Matchmaking service
- Learn about successful tech used to connect or collaborate
- More grant writers to help faculty
- UF Science communications academy
- Office of Research
- $ for planning meetings! Salary and food
- Libraries
- A "match.com" to supplement the speed dating?
- A round 2? I don't know what it will look like
- Help getting the big picture
- A collaborative research or knowledge sharing
- Having clipboards at this event might be helpful

3. **What other things do you want to learn or know?**

- How can office of research, libraries etc. help find each other
- Find out about "Edu Curious"
- How to connect with ongoing projects and NGOs
- Promote collaboration throughout the tenure and promotion process?
- Find out about Alachua ancient collections online
- How do I accept failure with equanimity
- I also want to read Victoria Rowin's next book
- How to do a grant budget
- I want to read Lawson Sjoberg's next book
- Connecting with ongoing projects
- Weaving hand and machine
- Understand art in politics better
- Use e-reserves
- Experonzo Language – Benefits and pitfalls
- How to get funding for research
- Making ideas real
- Things people do that are not related to work at UF

4. **What are your next steps?**

- I want to come out of my shell at UF
- Make a list of people I met today, develop a map and contact
- Bring together people with shared interest
- Connect with CoLAB profile
- Look at webpage from library…Check other webpages for new/different things
- Contact that senior scholar, introduce myself
- Investigate other programs and opportunities available at UF
- Get more involved in center for women's Studies

- I want to email everyone I talked to just to continue conversations
- I feel energized to pursue fledgling ideas
- Connect with connections made here to gain valuable resources
- Get funds to write my next book
- Contact by email
- Collaborate with developers
- Email Harn and community workshop
- PhD, Research, Post Doc
- Coffee
- Ponder
- Contact
- Get money
- Work on the idea
- Email people re: how our website can best meet needs
- Plan research projects, meetings