Collaborating with Strangers Workshop for Sustainability
February 21, 2013

A CoLAB was conducted on Sustainability. The CoLAB included presentations on collaboration, followed by one-on-one 3-minute speed-meetings before posting ideas and thoughts. Below is the evaluation of the February 21 CoLAB.

The participants in the CoLAB included 6 faculty members, 18 graduate students, 49 undergraduate students, and 5 "others" (2 additional participants did not specify their titles). Of the 80 total participants, 16 were international participants.

Survey Questions (Q1-Q7)

(Question 1) Length of Collaborating with Strangers Workshop

When participants were asked to assess the length of the workshop, 78.75 percent of participants indicated that the length of the workshop was "Adequate". 10 percent of participants indicated that the workshop was "Too Short", and 8.75 percent of participants indicated that the workshop was "Too Long". 2.5 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Too Long	Adequate	Too Short	No Response
7	63	8	2
(8.75%)	(78.75%)	(10.00%)	(2.50%)

(Question 2) Overall Evaluation of Workshop

When participants were asked to provide an overall evaluation of the workshop, 37.5 percent of participants gave the workshop an "Excellent" evaluation, 57.5 percent of participants gave the workshop a "Good" evaluation, and 3.75 percent of participants gave the workshop a "Fair" evaluation. No participants gave the workshop a "Poor" evaluation, and 1.25 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Response
30	46	3	0	1
(37.50%)*	(57.50%)	(3.75%)	(0.00%)	(1.25%)

*Among graduate students, only 22.22 percent of participants gave the workshop an "Excellent" evaluation.

(Question 3) Would you attend a workshop like this again?

When participants were asked whether they would attend a workshop like this again, 87.5 percent of participants said "Yes", 10 percent of participants said "No", and 2.5 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Yes	No	No Response
70 (87.50%)*	8 (10.00%)	2 (2.50%)

*100 percent of international participants said they would attend a workshop like this again.

(Question 4) Would you recommend this collaboration process to other students/faculty?

When participants were asked whether they would recommend the CoLAB process to other students and faculty, 93.75 percent of participants said "Yes", 1.25 percent of participants said "No", and 5 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Yes	No	No Response
75 (93.75%)	1 (1.25%)	4 (5.00%)

(Question 5) CoLAB Workshop Results

Questions 5.1-5.2 are 5-point Likert scale questions in which participants are asked to evaluate personal outcomes related to the workshop. Options range from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". The results of these questions are described below.

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

When participants were given this statement, 27.5 percent of participants marked "Strongly Agree", 53.75 percent of participants marked "Agree", and 16.25 percent of participants marked "Neutral". 1.25 percent of participants marked "Disagree", no participants marked "Strongly Disagree", and 1.25 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.1

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response
22 (27.50%)	43 (53.75%)	13 (16.25%)	1 (1.25%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.25%)

The average response among all participants who responded to the question was a 4.09 on the 5-point Likert scale. The average response among all undergraduate students was a 4.19, the average response among all graduate students was a 3.83, and the average response among all faculty members was a 3.83. The average response among all international participants was a 3.94, and the average response among all domestic participants was a 4.13. The average responses of these key demographic groups are displayed in Table 5.1(a).

TABLE 5.1(a)

Demographic	Overall	Undergraduate	Domestic	International	Graduate	Faculty
Avg. Rating (out of 5)	4.09	4.19	4.13	3.94	3.83	3.83

(Question 5.2) I am more comfortable with people in other disciplines.

When participants were given this statement, 26.25 percent of participants marked "Strongly Agree", 42.5 percent of participants marked "Agree", and 26.25 percent of participants marked "Neutral". 3.75 percent of participants marked "Disagree", no participants marked "Strongly Disagree", and 1.25 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 5.2.

TABLE 5.2

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response
21 (26.25%)	34 (42.50%)	21 (26.25%)	3 (3.75%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (1.25%)

The average response among all participants who responded to the question was a 3.92 on the 5-point Likert scale. The average response among all undergraduate students was a 4.00, the average response among all graduate students was a 3.72, and the average response among all faculty members was a 3.50. The average response among all international participants was a 3.88, and the average response among all domestic participants was a 3.94. The average responses of these key demographic groups are displayed in Table 5.2(a).

TABLE 5.2(a)

Demographic	Overall	Undergraduate	Domestic	International	Graduate	Faculty
Avg. Rating (out of 5)	3.92	4.00	3.94	3.88	3.72	3.50

(Question 6) Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources, knowledge, and/or grantseeking information? If so, describe.

This question required participants to formulate an open-ended response. The complete list of specific responses is included in the Appendix. 65 percent of participants gave a positive response, 15 percent of participants gave a mixed response, 5 percent of participants gave a negative response, and 15 percent of participants did not answer the question. The results are shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Positive	Mixed	Negative	No Response
52	12	4	12
(65.00%)	(15.00%)	(5.00%)	(15.00%)

Overall, undergraduate student responses were significantly more positive in nature than graduate student responses. 73.47 percent of undergraduate participants gave a positive response, 12.24 percent of undergraduate participants gave a mixed response, 4.08 percent of undergraduate participants gave a negative response, and 10.20 percent of undergraduate participants did not answer the question. By contrast, 38.89 percent of graduate participants gave a positive response, 22.22 percent of graduate participants gave a mixed response, 11.11 percent of graduate participants gave a negative response, and 27.78 percent of graduate participants did not answer the question. The results for these key demographic groups are shown in Table 6(a) and Table 6(b), respectively.

TABLE 6(a)*

Positive	Mixed	Negative	No Response
36	6	2	5
(73.47%)	(12.24%)	(4.08%)	(10.20%)

*Results for undergraduate participants only.

TABLE 6(b)*

Positive	Mixed	Negative	No Response
7	4	2	5
(38.89%)	(22.22%)	(11.11%)	(27.78%)

*Results for graduate participants only.

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

       This question required participants to formulate an open-ended response. The complete list of specific responses is included in the Appendix. 71.25 percent of participants said that interacting with others was the most useful part of the workshop, 20 percent of participants offered a different response, and 8.75 percent of participants did not respond to the question. The results are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7

Interaction	Other	No Response
56	17	7
(70.00%)*	(21.25%)	(8.75%)

*93.75 percent of international participants said that interacting with others was the most useful part of the workshop.

<u>Appendix</u>

(Question 6) Did the CoLAB facilitation process help you access new resources, knowledge, and/or grantseeking information? If so, describe.

<u>Positive Responses</u>

- Yes, everyone had a ton of information to offer about their initiatives. The post discussion website will be extremely helpful in making connections.

- Yes, I was able to meet someone who would be able to help provide info for a project.

- Yes, I have learned many new ideas and knowledge related to different fields of study.

- Yes, there were many people with more experiences that were able to give me directions as to what I can do in the future.

- Yes, I met people with great ideas for a sustainable future. I would like to continue learning.

- Yes, this process exposed me to some new resources on campus and new projects that are happening.

- Yes, I enjoyed talking to new people.

- Yes, I learned about a possible graduate school program.

- Yes, I learned about new ways I can get involved.

- Yes, I was able to make connections with people from a wide variety of disciplines.

- Yes, I found some people who had ideas I could work with.

- Yes, I found some people that could help in finding research opportunities or internships in the future.

- Yes, it helped me find information to help with my hobby.

- Yes, I met others who could provide me with access and info or that I could provide for them.

- Yes, I met someone who works in the power company.

- Yes, I spoke with a lady who is involved in public speaking.

- Yes, people at UF and global programs.

- Yes, it helped me meet new people and establish connections and find commonalities with people across all areas of the school.

- Yes, I did meet resources in organizations I want to join, so that will help that process.

- Yes, it gave me resources of who to connect with.

- Definitely, the people I have met have given me directions for my independent research and other work.

- Background info at beginning was informative – great video to kick things off.

- Yes, I learned about new resources on campus I did not know about.

- In many ways, many of the people I spoke to gave me a lot of info.

- Yes, I am now interested in carbon offsetting and Gators Going Green.

- Yes, I was exposed to new projects and ideas. Interesting to hear what other people are attempting to accomplish.

- Yes, many resources including professors, students from the international community, and the office of sustainability were interested in helping me expand my charity to Gainesville.

- Meeting different kinds of people allowed for different perspectives on how people [felt about] sustainability. Also having faculty/student interaction is interesting.

- Yes, the CoLAB helped me to learn more about past and current projects.

- I learned there are a lot of people networking and they are valuable for putting people together.

- Yes, I was able to meet with people I would normally never see.

- Yes, I am excited to talk to the people I met. I really want to keep the connection with them.

- Yes, I was introduced to new web resources free of charge.

- Yes, I learned about a new grad program, a concert tonight, a club on campus, what microfund means, and the College of Law wildlife event.

- Yes, I met people that could help me (advise me) in my field.

- I feel like I learned how to tap into and understand other disciplines and the strengths of other people.

- Yes, it gave me knowledge on a topic that I am not familiar with. It allowed me to identify ways in which I could cooperate with people I didn't know I could work with.

- Yes, many people were involved on campus and were doing research.

- Yes, I got information about different topics related directly and indirectly to my area such as farming, sustainability extension project.

- Yes, new people's ideas from different views.

- Yes, I had the chance to know people with different majors and experiences. It encouraged me to seek more colorful life and make my life meaningful.

- Yes, I found out about some new projects.

- Yes, I met people in my discipline and got great insight.

- Yes, I have found out new information about the sustainability major here at UF.

- Gained more knowledge about people of other disciplines and what forms of sustainability they are interested in.

- Yes, Kathryn Frank.

- I learned of existing clubs and departments that may be pertinent to my interests.

- Yes, it allowed me to access a network of those interested in sustainability.

- Yes, I learned new ideas and found out useful information.

- Yes, it helped me know my topic from different perspectives.

Mixed/Negative Responses

- Not as much as I thought at this point, but I'm sure today's interactions will lead to future ones.

- Kind of, it mainly introduced me to new ideas.

- Only the workshop process, it was not really helpful to access new resources (though it was excellent in many other aspects), because 3 minutes is too short to do that.

- Not really, there were a lot of people in my field.

- No, but I did improve my communication abilities and comfort level.

- No, because most of the people were in my class.

- Not as much as the previous workshop. This event was flooded with a large number of undergraduate students from a single department, which greatly reduced the diversity of interactions. I do not have high expectations that any new grants or projects will arise out of today's event.

- Unfortunately not too much but I think it was a great practice in networking and program promotion.

- To a degree. A lot of what I focus on is way outside of academia, so it was hard to relate to many.

- I got a few ideas from others on other groups on campus I was unaware of. Unfortunately, there were not many people from related disciplines, and many from planning and sustainability sciences undergrads.

- I did not exchange contact with anyone, but I did come to the realization that many areas of study relate to sustainability.

- I may contact someone to see the possibility of collaboration.

- Each conversation was too short to get into details; you only got to know the person, not their goals. It was strange.

- Not so much resources, but information. There were lots of new ideas/innovations that I found interesting.

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

<u>Interaction</u>

- Getting to talk to a bunch of "strangers" from different disciplines.
- I met someone who could help with a project.
- I got to know what kind of projects people are working on.
- The interactive aspect with the people. I liked to be able to meet with so many different people from different disciplines.
- I met people that I would have never thought of meeting.
- I enjoyed meeting a mixture of faculty and students. We do not get to talk to faculty and grad students too often, so it was nice to make that connection.
- Discussing projects on campus with other students.
- Communicating with different types of people.
- The most useful part was the mixture of students.
- The pairing up because it enabled me to see many different perspectives.
- Making a few connections with random people (I think one more minute would have been helpful).
- The opportunity to connect to others.
- Bringing people together.
- Talking to others. That is how we get things done.
- The speaking with other people basically.
- Keep talking and meet different people.
- Having an opportunity to talk with people outside my research community.
- Becoming a better communicator.
- Talking to a variety of strangers I would utilize more of the room to cut down on the ambient noise.
- Meeting new people and talking with them is a new experience.
- The most useful part of the workshop was the "speed dating" rounds full of information because you are meeting new people.
- Facilitating an environment to talk to people I normally would not.
- The interaction with each individual participant.
- The conversation because you have the opportunity to know and talk to people.
- The networking.
- Networking and connecting with people outside my field of study (3 minutes is too short!).

- I got to make some friends from other grades in my major.

- Networking! Having good questions and basic info as a starting point was helpful.

- The three minutes I spent with people because they gave me new information.

- Finding contacts within the local community.

- Getting to ask people questions about their work freely.

- The most useful part of the workshop was the "speed meeting" because I was able to meet people in different disciplines from my own and learn about ongoing projects.

- Talking with random people, [allowing] you to understand the perspectives of others.

- Connecting with people from other fields or majors.

- Talking to the people.

- Getting the word out about planning, giving students expertise networking, and learning about diversity of interests that relate to sustainability.

- Student, faculty, and other interactions – we need more pathways to make connections.

- Meeting others from different disciplines. The one-on-one time should be five minutes, in my opinion.

- Being forced to talk to random people because I never would have met them otherwise.

- Speaking with people I did not think had things in common with me. Surprisingly, I always had some sort of connection with the person I was talking to.

- Talking with strangers. First it was extremely interesting. Second, it was the way to identify resources.

- Meeting strangers and making friends. Not so many chances in real life.

- Getting to know others. Communicating with strangers is interesting.

- Meeting people who can help me within my area of study.

- Finding out other people's interests and plans about sustainability. It opened my point of view and gave me new ideas.

- Talking to strangers.

- Meeting people in my major and making connections.

- Public speaking skills. Approaching new people.

- Networking.

- I came late, so only did the "speed dating" portion. That was good, though.

- The rapid switching between people, forcing those who participated to network and feel more comfortable talking to strangers.

- I learned how to approach people I don't know.

- Talking to strangers. It's great just getting to talk to different people of different ethnicities and to hear their stories.
- Communication.
- Meeting new people, and talking about their career goals. It was quite enlightening.
- Communicating with people from different majors.

Other Responses

- Learning new ideas and gaining new perspectives/insights.
- Getting an idea about the breadth of research on sustainability topics.
- Pre-presentation was very effective in communicating overall goals.
- It was nice to have a specific set of steps or rules to follow.
- The poster was a great way to break the ice.
- The PowerPoint in the beginning had a lot of useful tips for collaborating in a team.
- Reading about projects others are involved in.
- The "method". I would like to try it in the group I work with.
- The opening was very helpful in setting the intention and purpose.
- Learned a lot about what's going on around campus.
- The poster – it helped spark conversations.
- Last part of the workshop, same as the process.
- Learning about the process of CoLAB and how this process could be used in the future.
- The post-workshop website with contact info.
- Everyone had unique interests and were focused in different disciplines.
- Having the ID cards so that we could find similarities with each other.