

**Collaborating with Stranger Workshop for Grant Seekers in and outside the Humanities
January 31, 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 January 31 CoLAB on sustainability.

The participants in the CoLAB included 2 faculty, 14 graduate students, and 1 undergraduate student. Of the 17 participants, 10 were international participants. (One did not complete the evaluation questions below).

Survey Questions (Q1-Q7)

(Question 1) Length of Collaborating with Strangers Workshop

All participants (100.0%) thought that this “collaborating with strangers workshop” was adequate in length (see TABLE 1). No participant rated the workshop as being too short or too long.

TABLE 1

Too long	Adequate	Too short
0 (0.0%)	16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)

(Question 2) My overall evaluation?

When participants were asked to evaluate the workshop (e.g. My overall evaluation?), 60.0% 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
9 (60.0%)	5 (33.3%)	1 (6.7%)	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, all of the participants said “yes”. The results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Yes	No
16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)

(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 16 participants out of 16 chose “Yes”.

TABLE 4

Yes	No
16 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)

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 15 participants who responded to the question, 26.7% of the participants (i.e., 4 participants) selected “Strongly Agree” option, and 66.7% of the participants (i.e. 10 participants) chose “Agree” option. Overall, 93.4% 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
4 (26.7%)	10 (66.7%)	1 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	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 15 participants responding, the responses were similar to the responses to Question 5.1. That is, 13.3% strongly agreed, 80.0% agreed and 6.7% were neutral.

TABLE 6

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2 (13.3%)	12 (80.0%)	1 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (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. 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. I used to have a question on how the people prevent virus on planet. One student gave the answer. There is no effective ways. Just chop the infected plants down.
- Yes. I was able to see people working in different people but that knowledge can be transferred to my field
- I found others with very similar interests
- Yes. I now have found a funding opportunity for my graduate research

- Yes. I found people with similar background with me that I can communicate and seek for suggestions
- Yes. I learned a bit about others research and how I can assist with NATL exercises
- Yes. I had an opportunity to widen my knowledge on other research projects going in UF
- Yes. From this process, I met different people and got many interesting things
- I think that it helped me find other people that are in the “same boat” as I am
- Yes. Always when you meet someone new you end up learning something. In this case, with conversation it is easy to learn new knowledge
- Yes – broader understanding of student interests and assets – also what they hope to get out of class
- Yes very well
- Yes they teach me now to emphasize my skills in research
- Yes

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

- Meeting Margeaux – good contact
- The question about that the things don’t know about it. It is really a good opportunity to know the person in details.
- The intro videos were a nice touch
- Directly connecting with students – getting them out of their comfort zone – thinking outside of the box
- Among all the people we meet you can find a partner to work or a friend
- It was nice to know what the other students in the classroom are studying and where they are in their programs
- It gave me the confidence to talk to others
- I met two students working on plant physiology. I can consult them regarding my questions in future
- Just meeting the classmates was interesting. (realized I have more in common with others than I realized
- Give us an opportunity to communicate with strangers, get familiar with each other which is important in grant applications
- I found learning the process of this workshop most helpful. This activity should prove useful in the future for networking
- Getting to know people, especially those I connected with and shared similarities
- Understanding other people’s ideas
- To get more skills in communications. We can observe how other people start to talk to other people. What are their skills? We can learn. Also, more ideas about different academic areas we can see and obtain

Appendix – Ideas and Thoughts Boards

1. What Synergies or connections did you discover?

- Sustainability Process Co-LAB/Creative Campus
- Two students are interested in Plant Path! (that never happens)
- Human Wildlife conflict
- I found some people from horticulture and food resources department
- Diversity and other culture
- Teamwork
- Another student who is new to PhD program
- I met two people who work on plant physiology so I can meet them in future to ask questions
- Environment and Education Program
- Communicating Science/ technical ideas to public
- A lot of students in this class are interested in Sustainability
- I learned to be organized like someone I met!
- There are many people related to my research
- Dr. Gillet Kaufman informed me of a source of funding for graduate school
- I found a partner to work in this class
- GIS interests
- Posts + Pic – friend of friend
- Stats interest
- FRE! + NATL
- I found people with similar background TO DISCUSS SOME IDEAS
- Follow NATL on twitter

2. What are some follow-up activities or steps you will take?

- Making an appointment. Get contact info
- Reading about China culture
- Be organized
- Reach out to Sustainability groups at UF
- We are going to hang out and work on our grants
- Contact and discuss about ideas
- I am going to talk to them again
- Bring the class food
- I will email Dr. Gillet Kaufman for more information about the work she presented me
- Ask Wade to vol in NATL
- As I met two of plant physiology students, I can collaborate with them in future to do some projects in turf physiology
- Met with a student about funding research

- Assist with burns @NATL
- I want to talk to the person whose major is citrus
- I need to find Mickey Swisher in the FRE department
- FRE & inset relationships – ask for publications
- Talk to these people in detail and seek cooperation or suggestions on my grant proposal

3. What other things do you want to learn?

- We have more similar interests than I had thought!
- Graduate world in general
- International connections and opportunities
- We have a lot of good ideas to share
- Issues are many/ Looking through different windows is important to find solution
- I learnt that you can use pulsating light to reduce peanut allergies
- I learnt soybean can cause allergies
- I will need to work a lot
- Their research interests and understand their stronger skills
- That nearly everyone has done some travelling
- There are silver-Nano particles in my drinking water and they are killing me
- I learnt about the diversity of research group we have in class
- I learnt about Bollywood and inaccurate portrayals of New Delhi
- Many scientists have enthusiasm for working to educate the public especially K-12 students
- Elephants are afraid of bees
- I learnt something about Nepal and India
- I learnt about human wildlife conflict in parks in Nepal
- Armadillos and sloths develop differently than other mammals (opposite)
- An event on sustainable agriculture