

## Catalyst Proposals Selected for Funding–FY11-12

### *Collaborating with Strangers*

Melissa Clapp; Bess de Farber, grants manager; Barbara Hood, public information officer; Margeaux Johnson, science/technology librarian; Ann Lindell, chair, Architecture & Fine Arts Library; all part of George A. Smathers Libraries

**Amount:** \$13,000

Collaborating with Strangers is a team effort by the UF Libraries (three librarians, PR officer, and grants manager/project facilitator) and partner representatives from arts, science, engineering, and various undergraduate programs to promote, facilitate and evaluate 6 speed meeting sessions (2 hours each from 4 to 6 p.m.) based on a facilitative process known as CoLAB Planning. An average of 30 participants for each session will include faculty, graduate and undergraduate students; pre-registration is not required. External evaluation will determine effectiveness for future replication and expansion. The project goal is to use successful facilitation processes and online follow-up for eliminating barriers to networking and learning about extant campus resources. By doing so, the team and its partners will create the fertile ground necessary to generate creative ideas for sharing resources/information while combining forces across disciplines.

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### *Rehumanizing the University: New Perspectives on the Liberal Arts*

Kole Odutola, Department of Language, Literature, and Culture ; Sophia Acord, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

**Amount:** \$3,000

This project will allow the development of a one-credit course, housed in the Honors Program, which will give students direct access to guest scholars participating in the annual speaker series organized by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS). The engagement will be done in a relaxed and creative manner; that is, the construction of knowledge will not be the usual “tell and listen” format but will instead combine attendance at speaker presentations with independent and collaborative work on the subject. The course will first run in Fall 2011, when the theme of the CHPS series is “Rehumanizing the University: New Perspectives on the Liberal Arts.” Students will attend every lecture, conduct pre-presentation research on the subject, create and maintain a semi-public discussion forum where debates and conversations will be facilitated. The students will also produce a creative summative final project that will be disseminated and preserved as appropriate.

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### *Swamp Dance Fest!*

Neta Pulvermacher, School of Theater and Dance; Alora Haynes, Dean of Fine Arts, Santa Fe College; Lori Pennington-Gray, UF Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sports Management

**Amount:** \$25,000

The Swamp Dance Fest! is a transformative four-week international dance festival and intensive intended for pre-professional through professional dancers as well as non-dancers of all ages. It combines a rigorous schedule of classes, rehearsals, and performances, artist talks, seminars, lectures, public programs, and special projects that take dance out of the studios and into the streets, malls, parks, lakes, galleries, and museum spaces. The festival aims to invite the world into our studios and share our art form. It is our hope that through this endeavor we can develop the potential of Gainesville, UF, and Santa Fe College as an energetic, off-beat cultural destination, full of innovation and creativity. The festival will greatly add to the traditionally slow Summer B by offering a jolt of energy and creativity.

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*Food and Art*

Rebekah Raulerson, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication; Katerie Gladdys, School of Art and Art History

**Amount:** \$5,000

Florida's agriculture and life sciences industries, including issues about food, are portrayed to the public in many ways: different media channels, stakeholder groups' activities, personal interest groups, etc. This project will allow members of the UF community to see food issues through the use of art. Students in the Agricultural Education and Communication Department will be paired with students in the School of Art & Art History during a series of six, one-hour professional development workshops to create an art piece that represents a facet or facets of food issues. At the end of the workshop series, students will participate in a reception and roundtable discussions displaying their artwork with other UF faculty, staff, and students.

*Exploring the Nexus Between Science and Art*

Celeste Roberge, School of Art and Art History; James Gillooly, Department of Biology

**Amount:** \$15,000

At both national and international levels, there is a growing recognition of the power in combining science and art. We propose to create a dynamic forum for students to work together at the interface of science and art where the practices and concepts of each discipline will inform each other through a new interdisciplinary course. The course will consist of a series of lectures and discussions by visiting scholars that specialize in merging science and art, followed by the application of what the students have learned through performing science and creating art in interdisciplinary teams. This project is motivated by the success of an on-going group of undergraduate artists and graduate student scientists currently meeting together informally at UF. Results of the project will be presented in a variety of formats, including an interdisciplinary gallery exhibit, slide show, online blog, and local publications.

*Greening Gator Footprints: Sustainability through Conservation and Eco-Innovation*

Les Thiele, Sustainability Studies and Political Science; Anna Prizzia, UF Office of Sustainability

**Amount:** \$10,000

Greening Gator Footprints is a two-part pilot program for UF undergraduates. It develops supervised and mentored student teams that foster creativity and conservation on campus. Student teams will: 1) analyze data related to sustainability indicators at UF and present this information in creative, effective ways to encourage the reduction of ecological footprints; and 2) develop an Eco-Innovation Program that stimulates and fosters the entrepreneurship and innovation of UF's undergraduates.

Both initiatives reinforce the central message that sustainability presents both a daunting challenge to conserve our natural resources, as well as a unique opportunity for innovation, community development, and entrepreneurship. Student team members will be recruited from across campus, and in particular from the Environmental Science program in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (CALs); the Sustainability and the Built Environment program in the College of Design, Construction, and Planning; Environmental Engineering; and the Sustainability Studies program in CLAS.

*Developing the Harn Museum of Art as a Teaching Resource*

Glenn Willumson, School of Art and Art History; Eric Segal, Harn Museum of Art

**Amount:** \$10,000

We seek support for a six-session Fall semester seminar to prepare UF instructors from all disciplines to use the Harn Museum of Art as a teaching resource. In the Spring term, each seminar participant

will incorporate the museum into one or more of her courses. The Creative Teaching proposal provides participants with incentive funds, research support, a structured curriculum, and a skills-building context that respects their demanding schedules. The aim is to reach faculty members interested in employing material objects in courses, but who may be uncertain as to how to take this step outside of their own training and experience. The process of instructors rethinking teaching methods and disciplinary objects is itself creative, and this proposed project extends that creativity to the experience of students. We expect that the diffusion of these local course transformations across a broad range of disciplines will have a substantial impact on creativity.

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### Creative Scholar-in-Residence Proposal Selected for Funding–FY11-12

James Gillooly, Department of Biology *Host Department:* School of Art and Art History **Amount:** \$10,000

While there is a growing recognition of the value in combining science and art in teaching and research, progress in this direction at UF could benefit from a more coordinated effort to bring these disciplines together. Thus, I propose to serve as a liason between disciplines by i) introducing the philosophy and process of science and art to the respective disciplines ii) raising awareness of the benefits for integrating art and science, and iii) facilitating the formation of artist-scientist teams to showcase these benefits through their scholarship. I would do so through a series of activities designed to bring artists into laboratories, scientists into studios, and both into each others classrooms. These activities could benefit both disciplines by enhancing creativity and communication in both teaching and research. Products would include the development of a new course, a new undergraduate science-art partnership program, and the submission of an interdisciplinary grant.