

Catalyst Proposals Selected for Funding–FY 12-13

Collaborating with Strangers

Ann Lindell, et. al., George A. Smathers Libraries

Amount: \$4,981

Project Goals:

- (1) Present four topic-based collaboration development workshops, Collaborating with Strangers <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/communications/colab/home.html> for undergraduate, graduate, Post Docs, and faculty with these interdisciplinary interests: 1) NSF/NIH grant applicants, 2) Sustainability, 3) Digital Projects in Sciences and Humanities, and 4) TBD.
- (2) Improve interdisciplinary networking skills while participants increase their knowledge of available resources/assets using the CoLAB Planning Series speed-meeting processes during each two-hour session.
- (3) Augment online community of participant profiles (currently 158) to encourage ongoing discovery and resource sharing.
- (4) Promote process and results through various conference presentations, publications and online research guide dedicated to collaboration and creativity.
- (5) Evaluate sessions through external evaluation services provided by David Miller, Ph.D. to determine effectiveness, improvements and potential for replication.

The Civil Debate Wall

Sheila Dickison, et. al., Graham Center for Public Service

Amount: \$12,000

The Wall is a new portal for civic debate. It is an experiment to determine if we can use social media to train more effective citizens. It is also beautiful and fun to use. When introduced to the Wall, digital natives jump to use it. And we want to see this tool used by the entire campus.

The Wall can be visited physically in the Pugh Hall Ocora, where the user interacts by touchpad and has the option of posting a photo with his or her opinion. Those who choose remote interaction with The Wall can visit <http://www.civildebatewall.com/>

The Wall will investigate whether one can create meaningful conversations on policy issues using contemporary forms of communication. The questions to be answered are:

- (1) Is The Wall a viable tool for positively impacting civic participation?
- (2) Can The Wall change behaviors in the eighteen to twenty-two demographic utilizing familiar social media interfaces and modern technology?

To that end, the award will provide faculty members or graduate students in six UF entities (colleges, centers, programs (selected by a diverse committee in a competitive application process) funds to develop summer 2012 projects using The Wall as a way to engage students in their respective units, while at the same time bringing the rich resources of UF—its students and faculty—to a creative exploration of new technologies and citizenship.

Student Artisan In Residence Program

Eric McLamore, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, et. al.

Amount: \$20,000

Existing civil infrastructure related to water, food, and energy will likely be strained by increasing overpopulation and a changing climate. Nature provides a wealth of inspiration for the development of biomimetic and biogenic regenerative technologies which can provide these critical resources. However, one of the most significant challenges faced by the field of sustainability science is community acceptance of novel biotechnologies which can improve or enhance on existing infrastructure. The overall objective of this project is to increase public knowledge of sustainability

concepts related to sustainable food, water and energy use through an interdisciplinary student artisan in residence program (SARP). The student artisans in residence will be involved in a wide range of interdisciplinary projects in the field of biological engineering. The work developed by the artisans will increase community knowledge by improving the communication of research principles to public audiences through the use of visual and/or interactive media. Artisans will be responsible for identifying at least two project deliverables to be developed using the unique blend of research equipment available in the Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department as well as any equipment available in the artisans home Department. The artisans will organize and participate in a campus wide sustainability workshop, and also participate in a K-12 summer camp for underprivileged Florida youth. This integrated multi-disciplinary collaboration will foster creative inquiry between artisans and faculty, staff and students in engineering in an emerging field of global importance. The campus wide sustainability workshop will be open to all students from UF and Santa Fe College, and the modules developed for the K-12 summer camp will be disseminated to schools via a digital repository for use by other instructors. The principal investigators will serve as mentors and monitor progress of the artisan on a weekly basis to maintain momentum.

Teaching Creativity

Margaret Mertz, College of Fine Arts, et. al.

Amount: \$10,000

The University of Florida is a large, complex institution that is driven by discipline-driven, compartmentalized research, teaching and learning environments that generate innovative and inspiring work from students and faculty. In spite of natural curiosity and the desire to explore new fields and ideas, often students and faculty become narrowly focused on their most immediate colleagues and priorities within their disciplines. The one-and-a-half day conference Teaching Creativity will bring people together across the university to share their approaches, successes and failures which drive their creative problem-solving forward.

Exploring the Real and the Imaginary: The Parallel Worlds of Harry Potter

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, Health Sciences Library, et. al.

Amount: \$3,500

JK Rowling provides a highly creative vision of another, parallel and infinitely believable world that succeeds in part because it draws on both old and new. Mythology and persistent visions of heroism; Renaissance medicine, chemistry, and alchemy; language and recognizable ancient beliefs represent the old, quirky and amusing games, relationships, names, and technology the new. This juxtaposition provides a world familiar and comforting, but at the same time one that continually explores new and exciting territory, and provides a mirror for understanding moral and social dilemmas and perhaps even for resolving personal issues and taking positive action in times of crisis.

So far reaching is the influence of Harry Potter that the series has sparked the imaginations at the National Library of Medicine, which created a traveling exhibition on this Renaissance world. This exhibition will be hosted by the Health Science Center Library and will serve as a focal point for a series of events, including lectures featuring UF and national experts. In addition, an (Un)Common Read Class will be taught in the fall, with students reflecting on the activist message of Harry Potter. We are seeking funding through Catalyst to augment these events, through additional creative, interactive and engaging means, including film-making and essay contests. These events will facilitate a deeper understanding of the role of literature in shaping lives, behavior and the nature of science (and magic) and actively engage participants in the creative process. Film screenings, some held in the Digital Worlds Institute, will include introductions that highlight salient points in the film. Together these activities will provide significant opportunities to create a nexus for creative expression at the University of Florida.

Play Across the Lifespan

Jacqueline Swank, et. al., College of Education

Amount: \$10,000

The purpose of this project is to explore the essence of play across the lifespan and promote creative expression that will impact the social fabric of the campus. The project encompasses two components: (a) a qualitative study involving collaboration with various areas of the UF campus community, including UF students from various programs, Oak Hammock (the affiliated community), and P.K. Yonge (the affiliated K-12 school); and (b) multiple creative workshops.