Collaborations

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Background

- Early career collaborations with GT colleagues:
  - Attenuation Mechanisms and Measurements (NSF project with Carlos Santamarina)
  - Combined Research and Curriculum Development (NSF CRCD project with 4 others)

- NSF Mid-America Earthquake Center (Multi-disciplinary, multi-university)
  - 1997-2007
  - Leadership Team – Hazards Co-coordinator

- NSF NEESR-GC: Seismic Risk Mitigation for Port Systems
  - 2005-2011
  - 17 investigators at 10 universities and consulting firms

- DOE Savannah River Site
  - 2008-2012
  - with Carlos Santamarina, Paul Mayne, and Susan Burns

- NSF CMMI
  - 2011-2014
  - with Franco Fedele (CEE) and Anthony Yezzi (ECE)
**Why collaborate?**

- Because two heads are better than one
- Because it’s more rewarding and fun
- Because you must to succeed in academia

**How to collaborate**

- Make sure you are visible to potential collaborators
  - Be visible within your own department, college, or university
  - Make sure your development office knows your expertise and help them out when they ask you to attend meetings; this is often a good way to develop relationships with industrial sponsors
  - Be visible within the professional community (e.g., conferences)
  - Get to know program officers in your area (e.g., Patricia Gallagher)
- Be a good collaborator
  - Make an effort to understand the broader goals of the project
  - Don’t be a lone wolf; participate in project meetings, meet deadlines, etc.
    - Often difficult for junior faculty because of their focus on tenure
  - *Instill a culture of collaboration in your graduate students, who are often focused on their own goals (e.g., the scope of their dissertation may broader than the tasks required for the collaborative project)*
How to Lead a Collaborative Project

• State the obvious: choose team members with the qualities described above
• Diversity in all its forms is important
• Make sure that project team members buy in to the overall goals of the project
  o What seems obvious to you may not be to others
    ▪ They may have contributed only select pieces of the overall proposal
    ▪ They may have their own goals
    ▪ Relate story of initial NEESR-GC project meeting with Rick Fragaszy
• Frequent communication is essential
• Establish deadlines and hold people to them (even if you have to be a jerk)
• Rapid prototyping is essential (fail quickly!)