



# *Innovation and Cross-Cultural Teaming*

SICCS EE  
Capstone

Bob Witwer  
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# Everyone loves Innovation!

*Yes, it's exciting,  
but...*

*...the reading can  
be a bit tedious...*

*...which is why I'm  
here today 😊*



# What is Innovation?

Simple definition of innovation:

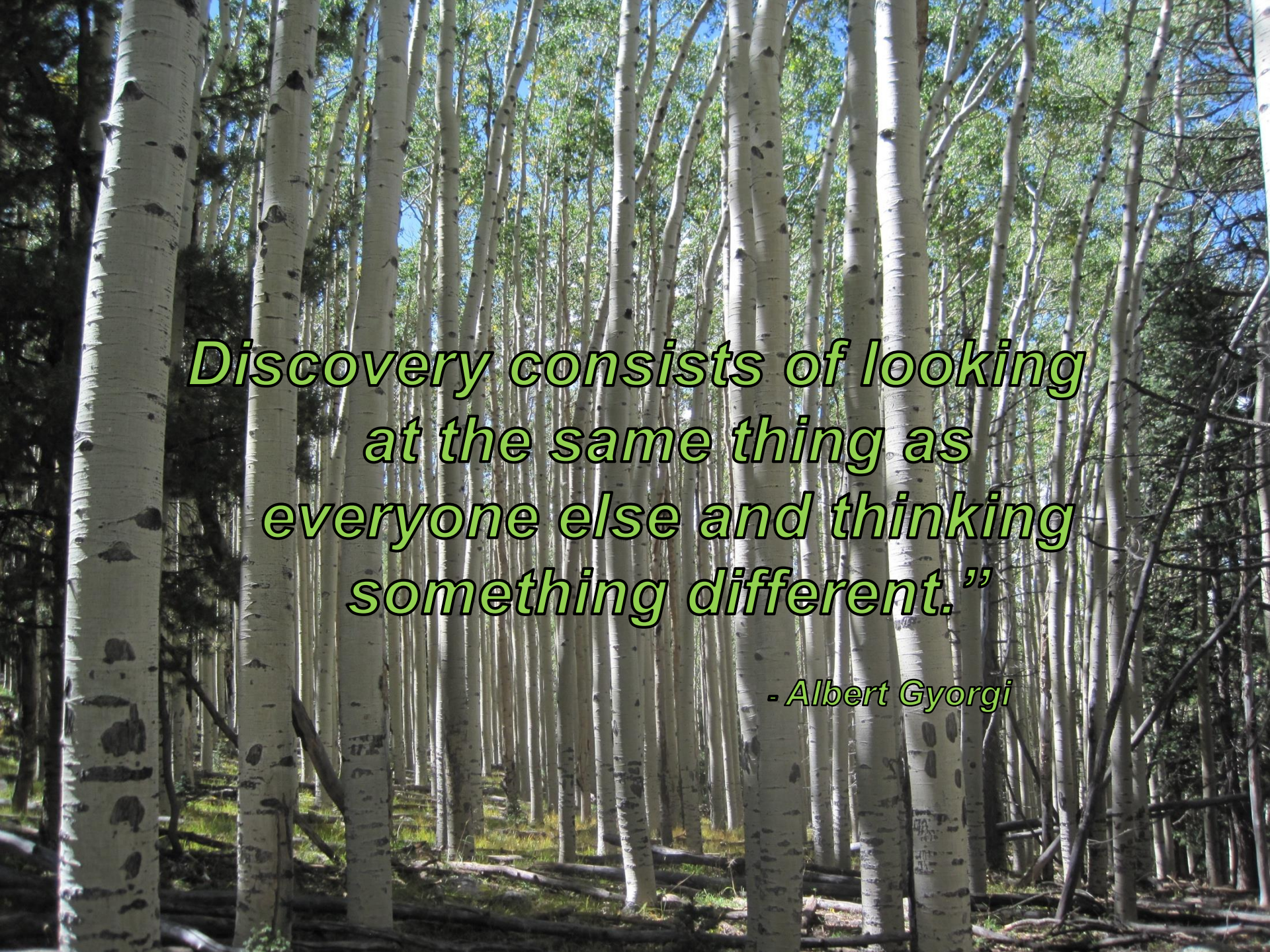
*Creating something new that is of value*

Innovation often requires stepping off into the unknown

Successful innovation requires thoughtfulness  
AND persistence

Strong teams often innovate more effectively than individuals

...plus, let's face it...innovation is FUN



*Discovery consists of looking  
at the same thing as  
everyone else and thinking  
something different.”*

*- Albert Gyorgi*

# The History of Innovation...



***"It was a bowl until I broke the bottom out of it.  
... Now I don't know what it is!!!!"***

# Innovation Categories

**Product**

Television Voice Control

**Process**

Buying an eBook on Amazon

**Market**

Metal Water Bottles

**Business Model**

Uber & Lyft

# Innovator Attributes

- **Broad knowledge – pursue lifelong learning**
- **Keep an open mind - learning & brain change**
- **Systems thinking – it's an interconnected world out there...**
- **Take time to think about what could be different – “what if...”**
- **Think like a child**

***“Be curious always. For knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it.” - Anonymous***

# Innovation Thoughts

- Innovation is often best achieved in the face of constraints (time, people, \$, stuff)
- Deep expertise and experience can be both a strength AND a weakness
- Dialogue – it's more than just talk

***The future is already here – it's just not very evenly distributed" - William Gibson***

# Enabling Innovation

- Encourage innovation with your teammates & classmates
  - **Make and take** time to think about what could be different
  - Understand “Where Good Ideas Come From” *(courtesy of Steven Johnson)*
    - *The Adjacent Possible – better never than early*
    - *Liquid Networks – it’s all about collaboration*
    - *The Slow Hunch – the notion of “Eureka” is greatly exaggerated*
- Humans are fundamentally innovative***

# ***Cross-Cultural Teaming***



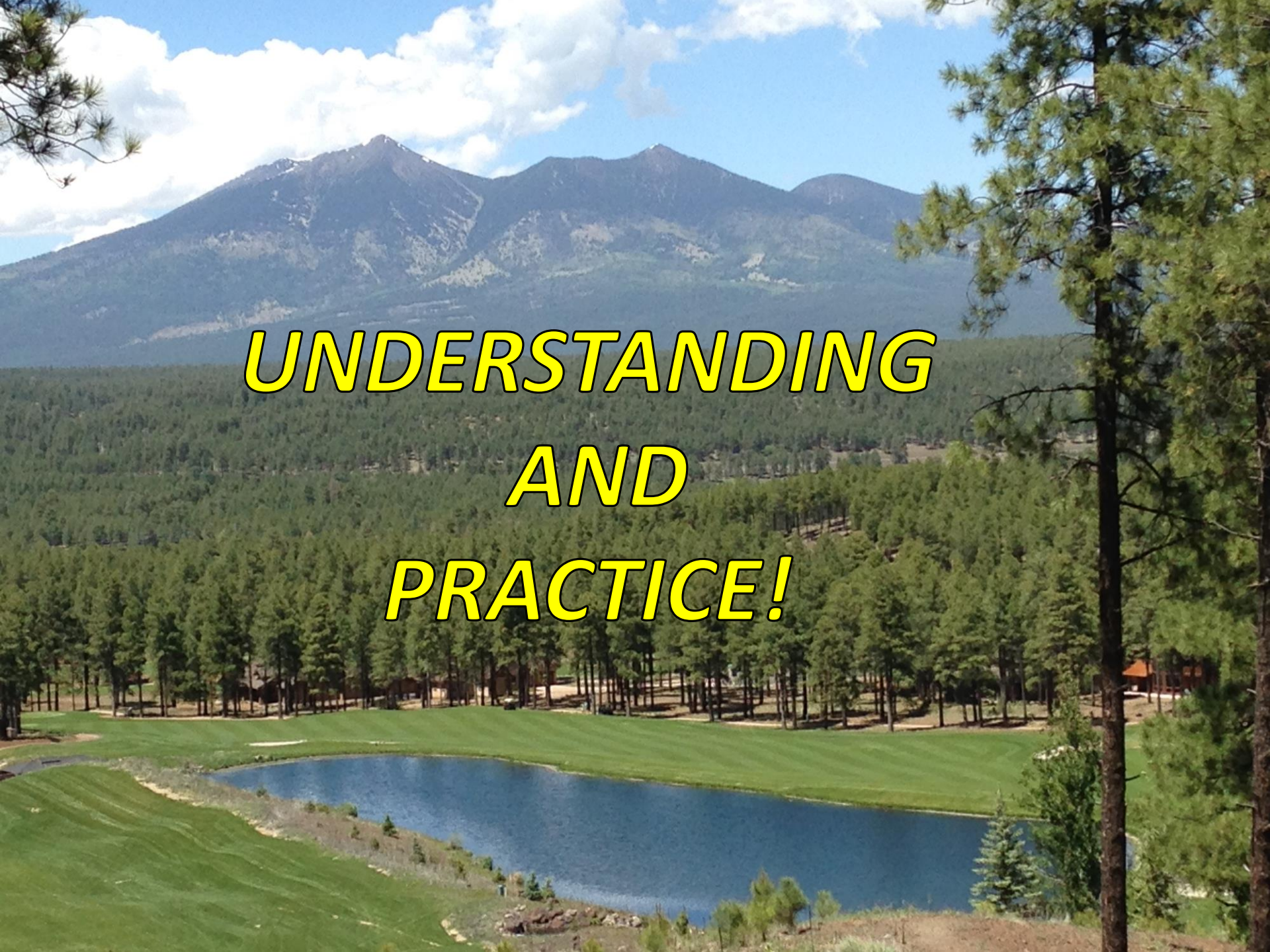
# Prerequisites for Great Teamwork

- **Respect**
  - **Trust**
  - **Credibility**
  - **Honesty with Compassion**
  - **Desire to Understand Others**
  - **Commitment to Participate**
- 
- An aerial photograph of a rugged, rocky mountain landscape. A winding dirt trail is visible on the left side of the image, leading down a steep, rocky slope. The terrain is characterized by reddish-brown soil and sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, a river flows through a valley, surrounded by more rugged terrain and distant mountains under a clear sky.

# What Can Inhibit Great Teamwork?

- Paradigms
- Biases
- Unbalanced Participation
- Communication Difficulties

*...but all of these can be overcome with...*



***UNDERSTANDING  
AND  
PRACTICE!***

# Building a Strong Cross-Cultural Team

- ❖ Take the time to understand cross-cultural differences
- ❖ Adopt a win-win mentality with teammates
- ❖ Openly & honestly discuss any teaming concerns with your teammates
- ❖ Leverage the diversity within your team

***...and then practice, practice, practice!***

# Persistence

**"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." -- *Thomas Edison***

**"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."  
-- *Colin Powell***


**"Energy and persistence conquer all things"  
-- *Benjamin Franklin***

**"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop" -- *Confucius***

# Closing Comments

- If you doubt your birthright as an innovator, remember how you played as a child
- Embrace diversity on your team and make cultural diversity one of your team strengths
- Be persistent

*...and come to class every week! 😊*



***“The most  
powerful weapon  
on earth is the  
human soul on  
fire.”***

*- Ferdinand Foch*



*Questions?*