

This newsletter presents findings from Quarter 2, 2013 evaluations of the usefulness and impact of the Fall Science Meeting, Science Seminar Series, and Research Abroad Experience.

2013 NANOGrav-PIRE Fall Science Meeting

Thirty-eight attendees participated in the NANOGrav-PIRE Fall Science meeting held October 21-22 in Lancaster, PA at Franklin and Marshall College.

Full group sessions:

- ◇ 75% rated *very to extremely* useful.

Parallel sessions:

- ◇ 75% rated *very to extremely* useful.

Executive session:

- ◇ 100% rated *extremely* useful.

J1713+0747 Global Campaign:

- ◇ 100% rated *very to extremely* useful.



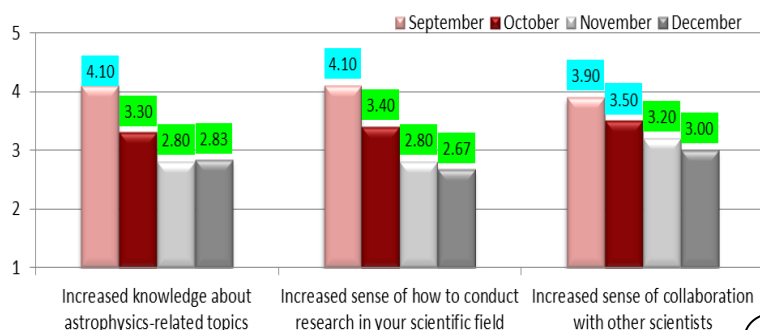
Participants' suggestions:

- *Introduce new people.*
- *Update everyone on working group activities.*
- *Ensure venue is well suited for working groups.*
- *Continue having emerging scientists lead sessions.*
- *Make parallel sessions relevant for newcomers.*
- *Break focus sessions into sub-sessions.*



Science Seminar Series

Four science seminars occurred during Fall 2013. Participants rated their gains in the three impact areas on a scale of 1-5, 1=*none*, 5=*a lot*. September's seminar had the greatest impact across the three items.



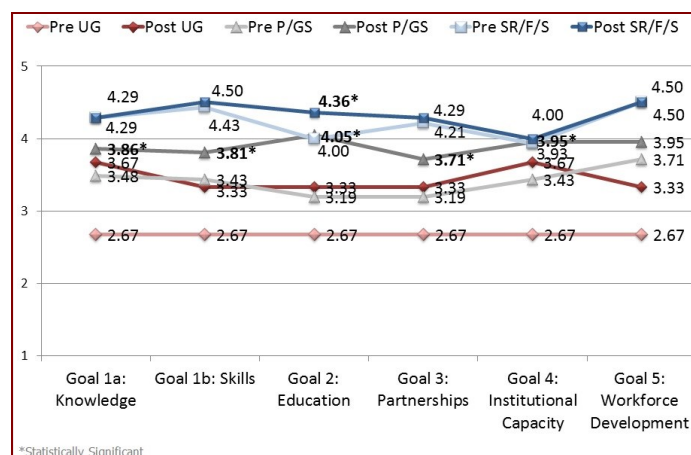
Recommendations:

- ◆ Invite females and underrepresented students.
- ◆ Encourage more graduate students to participate.
- ◆ Provide topics for undergraduate students.
- ◆ Test out technology in advance.

PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Knowledge
- Goal 2: Education
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity
- Goal 5: Workforce Development

Fall Meeting Achievement of Project Goals



PS/GS and UG made considerable gains in all goal areas due to participation in the Fall Science Meeting. SR/F made considerable gains in Goal 2 – Education.

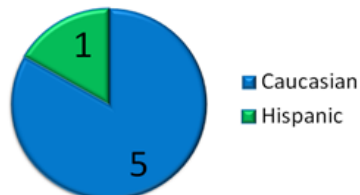
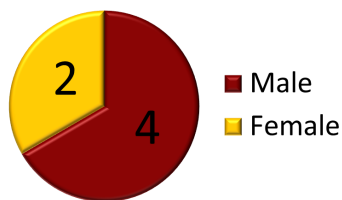
Fall Focus Group



Research Abroad Experience

Baseline to post-survey results

During the summer and fall of 2013, 3 undergraduates and 3 graduate students completed research abroad experiences.



Recruit more females and URM students to participate in research abroad experiences.



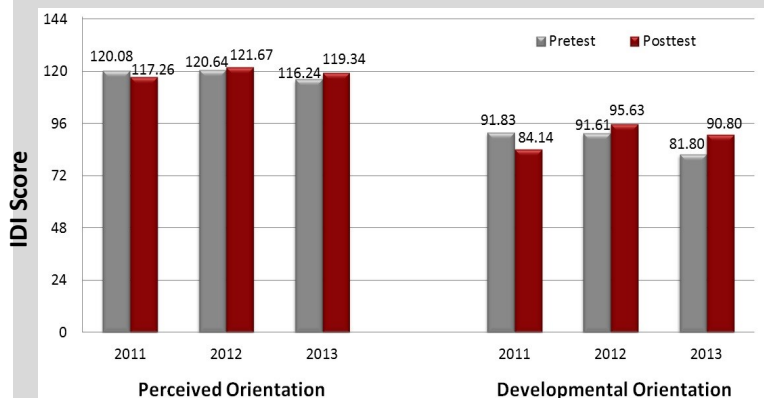
Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)

The IDI assesses growth in perceived (PO) and developmental (DO) cultural orientation.

PO=how they rate their own level of intercultural competence

DO=their actual level of intercultural competence

2013 participants had a larger mean increase in DO than in previous years. This increase appears to be related to a longer amount of time spent abroad.

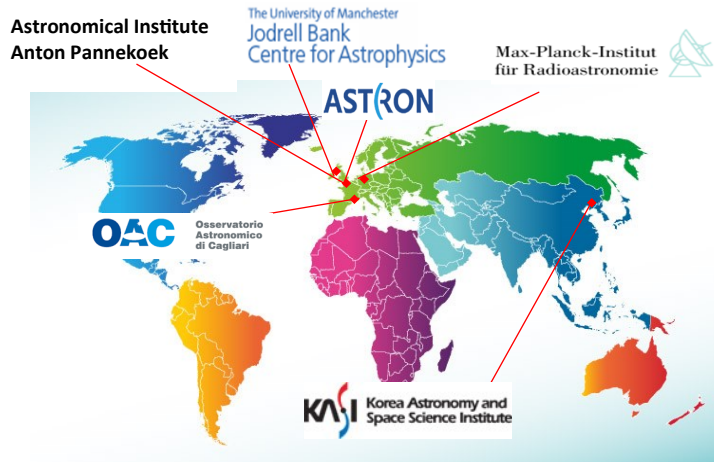


Academic Year	Average # Months Abroad	Change in D.O.
2010-11	1.2	-7.69
2011-12	1.8	4.02
2012-13	2.4	9.00

Upcoming Evaluation Activities

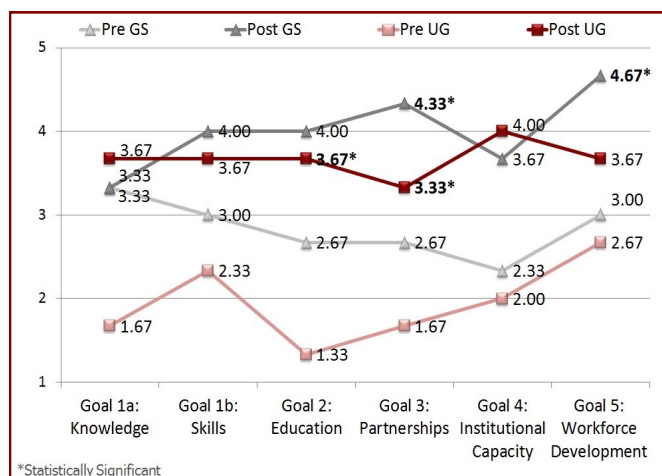
- Evaluation of Science Seminar Series.
- Evaluation of spring NANOGav meeting in Puerto Rico.

Research Abroad Locations



Research Abroad Project Goal Achievement

All participants made considerable gains in all goal areas.



STRENGTHS

- Mentors believe students had sufficient knowledge and skills to work on projects.
- All are willing to host another PIRE student.
- Relationships between abroad and home institutions and their relationships with the PIRE project were strengthened.

CHALLENGES

- Language barrier, housing, other students not wanting to take advantage of social aspects.
- Students need language training and assistance from their home institutions.
- Mentors report students would benefit from additional research and software skills.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Improve planning of logistics (passport, funding, housing) and research projects on which the student will work prior to the research abroad experience. Identify necessary software and make sure students have access to it.
- Provide opportunities and/or encourage students to learn basic communication in the target language.
- Provide more opportunities for students to interact with other students and researchers at the research abroad institution.
- Increase time abroad.
- Follow up with students who have participated in a research abroad experience to identify next steps to keep them in NANOGav.