

This newsletter presents findings from Quarter 3, 2014 evaluations of the Science Seminar Series and Spring NANOGrav meeting.

Science Seminar Series

Thank you to the five sets of science seminar presenters! Between 10 and 19 people have attended monthly science seminars this academic year. Postdocs generally had the largest attendance, followed by senior researchers and faculty.



Date	Presenter	Number of attendees					# of respondents	Response rate
		Total	SR/F	PD	GS	U		
September 10	Kejia Lee	10	4	4	2	0	10	--
October 7	Jintao Luo	14	2	9	2	1	10	71%
November 4	Bob Hanisch/Ray Plante	14	2	5	2	0	5	36%
December 2	Brian Christy	16	7	7	2	0	6	38%
January 28	Jordan Camp/Jeremy Schnittman	19	6	3	0	0	9	47%
Total		73	21	28	8	1		

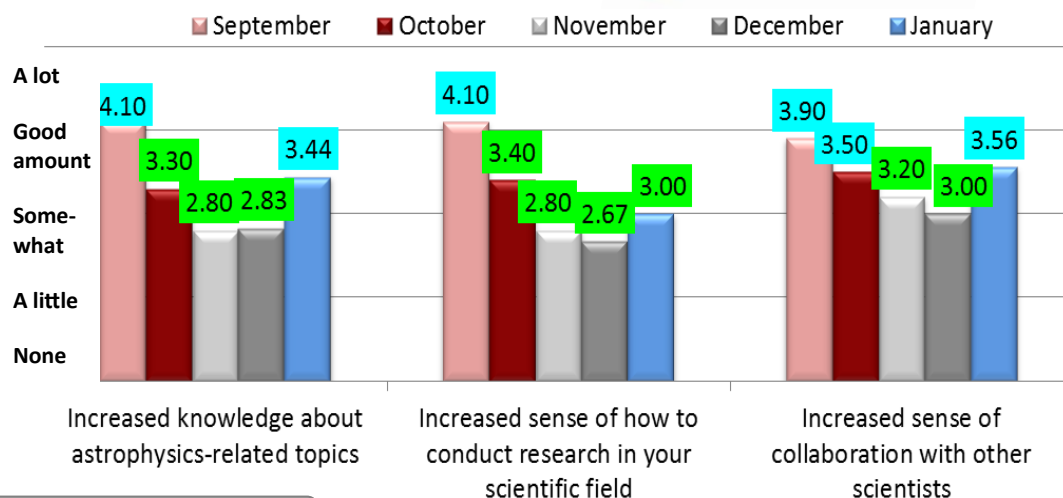
PROJECT GOALS

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

IMPACT

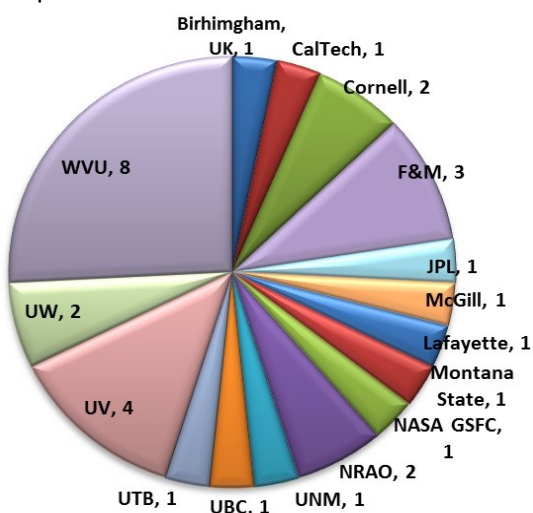
Future requested topics:

- Astropolitics for grad students and postdoc - how to navigate a career in the pulsar world.
- Details about EM simulations
- MHD simulations of circumbinary disks
- LOFAR



Spring NANOGrav-PIRE Meeting

Thirty-two senior researchers, faculty, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students attended the February 5-7, 2014 meeting held at the **Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico**. Attendees represented **16 institutions** from the US, Canada, and Europe.



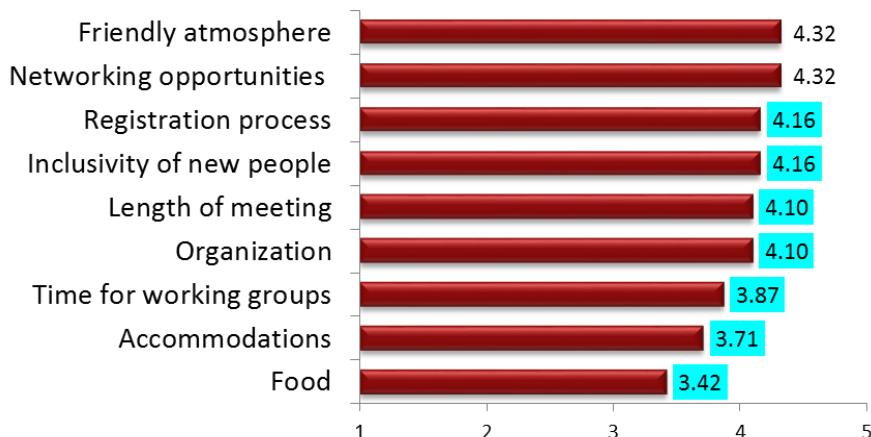
All sessions were rated *somewhat* to *extremely* useful. Everyone rated these sessions *extremely* useful:

- ◇ An introduction to gravitational waves and Q&A.
- ◇ PINT Demonstration.

Spring NANOGrav-PIRE Meeting, continued



Meeting Logistics

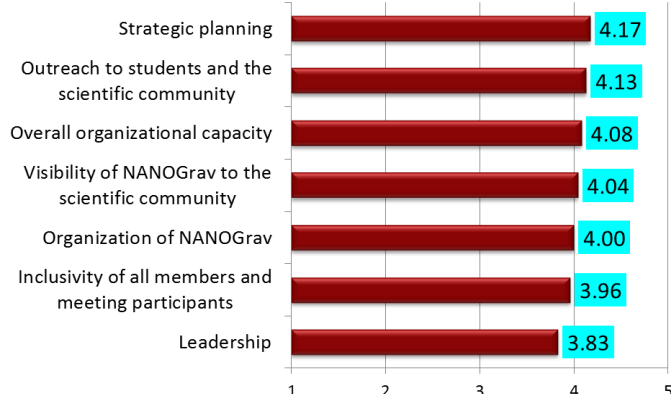


Participants' Suggestions to Improve Meetings

- ◇ Presenters provide a general overview of the topic.
- ◇ Parallel sessions to provide more time for discussion.
- ◇ Better organize working group times.
- ◇ Increase organization of working groups.
- ◇ Incorporate more general talks for people who do not yet specialize or are not familiar with specific areas.
- ◇ Design discussion sessions to facilitate conversations between subgroups.

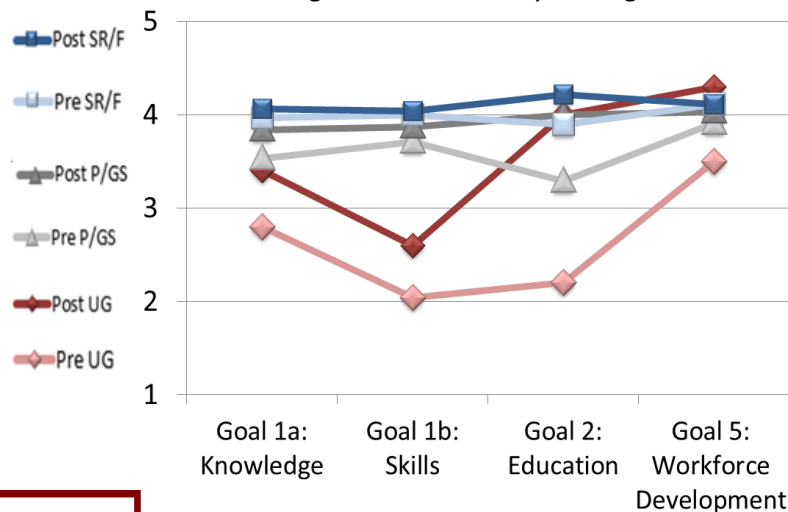
Growth in NANOGrav Institutional Capacity

Participants provided ratings of *a good deal of improvement* for all areas of NANOGrav management and organization.



Meeting Impacts

All meeting participants made gains in goal areas. Greatest gains were made by undergraduates.



Evaluator's Recommendations

Science Seminar

- ◆ Encourage graduate students to participate.
- ◆ Provide topics for undergraduate students or alternate seminars.
- ◆ Offer seminars on proposed topics.

Science Meeting

- ◆ Introduce and welcome all new participants, introduce leaders.
- ◆ Presenters provide introductory material at the beginning of their talks.
- ◆ Create and better organize opportunities for discussion and collaboration.
- ◆ Hold advanced meeting sessions to develop senior researcher/faculty's knowledge, skills, and research project ideas so they continue to grow in goal areas.

General Recommendations

- ◇ Increase NANOGrav's visibility through publicity and announcements.
- ◇ Encourage more people to participate in outreach activities.



Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Evaluate Science Seminar Series and YouTube videos.
- Baseline survey of new 2014 participants.
- Evaluate Student and Science Week of International Science meeting in Banff, British Columbia, Canada.
- Annual post-survey of all participants.