4.B. PRIME

The Pacific Rim Experiences For Undergraduates (PRIME) Program was created in 2004 to provide a project-based, hands-on research internship program, combined with a cultural awareness experience, for science and engineering undergraduates at UC San Diego. PRIME grew out of the PRAGMA collaborative framework and people network. PRIME’s projects are based on PRAGMA collaborations, as well as additional collaborations between UCSD and PRAGMA researchers.

To date, more than 180 students have participated in PRIME. This year, the 10th year of the program, PRIME sent 12 students to the seven sites listed at right. Two of these sites are new host sites. The first, the Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) is home to a key technical contact, Dr. Kohei Ichikawa, who had been a graduate student at Osaka university when PRIME started and enjoyed hosting students there. The second is the University of Queensland, with key contact Dr. David Abramson, who recently moved from Monash University and who has been hosting PRIME students since PRIME’s inception.

PRIME added more training pre-departure for students this year as well, helping provide both a brief overview of culture through history in Japan as well as instruction on how to prepare a scientific poster. In addition, we will host a PRIME seminar in Fall 2013 to have PRIME students present the results of their work to prospective students. We add this to provide students a fuller experience presenting the results of their work.

Finally, we also gave our website a much needed face lift in light of our main goal of making information easier to find for our several audiences: 1) students interested in applying, 2) representatives from other programs who are interested in our curriculum, and 3) representatives from other organizations who want to understand some of the activities with the impact of PRIME students.

We want to acknowledge last year’s unexpected and generous gift from one PRIME’s former alumni, Haley Hunter-Zinck (PRIME 2008, Monash University). She is currently a graduate student at Cornell University, working on a Ph.D. in computational biology and medicine. Her unrestricted gift to PRIME is a tribute to her mother, who was passionate about promoting the success of women in science. Hunter-Zinck hopes that her donation to PRIME will inspire others to follow her lead in supporting the international program. This gift is gratefully accepted for future students, and allows the program to continue to evolve to improve the experience. We also acknowledge the support of the US National Science Foundation, and of all of the host sites. (ADD JSPS, NICT)

In the subsequent pages and in the San Kei En Project (in *Highlights*) we share projects and results from a selection of this year’s PRIME students. These projects range from application of technology to drug discovery to the development of technology for applications in environmental observing or public display of culture.

Host Sites in 2013

Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST)

National Institute for Information and Communication Technology (NICT)

National Taiwan University (NTU)

Osaka University

Taiwan Forest Research Institute (TFRI)

University of Auckland

University of Queensland