NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

National Science Foundation

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FIRST BATCH OF US STUDENTS BEGIN RESEARCH ATTACHMENT STINT IN SINGAPORE UNDER THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC SUMMER INSTITUTES PROGRAMME

1. The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF) announced today the start of the first East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI) programme in Singapore, involving some 15 US science and engineering graduate students.

2. EAPSI, started by NSF in 1990, aims to introduce US graduate students to science, engineering and research activities undertaken in East Asian and Pacific universities and research institutions. Singapore joined Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan in this programme, which has benefited more than 1,600 participants since its inception. The eight-week programme in Singapore, from 16 June 2008 to 8 August 2008, will provide opportunities for the visiting students to cultivate relationships with Singapore organisations which may foster future collaborations.

3. Candidates for the programme were selected based on merit through a review process conducted by an external NSF review panel. Successful candidates were matched with an appropriate host institution and host researcher. The National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will host the 15 students this year. Other research organisations will participate in future programmes.

4. Of the 15 EAPSI candidates, 10 will be attached to NUS and five to NTU. The graduate students come from US universities such as MIT, University of Washington, University of Michigan and University of Minnesota. Following a two-day orientation programme hosted by NUS, NTU, A*STAR and NRF, these students will undertake research projects in disciplines like Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mechanical and Computer Engineering as well as Education in Science, under the supervision of the NUS and NTU professors. (See **ANNEX 1** for the list of EAPSI candidates.)

5. Chief Operating Officer of NRF, Dr Francis Yeoh, said: "The EAPSI programme is a good co-operation programme that allows Singapore to partner with international scientific organisations like the US National Science Foundation to promote the exchange of ideas in science and technology research. It is an excellent platform for outstanding young US graduate students to be introduced to Singapore's vibrant research environment."

6. Director of the Office of International Science & Engineering (OISE) in NSF, Dr Thomas Weber, said: "The East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes programme is NSF's flagship International Research programme for US graduate students wishing to conduct research in Singapore and a very good way for the US scientific community to begin developing research relationships in Singapore that last a lifetime."

7. Mr Edward McCumiskey, a PhD candidate from Virginia Commonwealth University, said: "I plan to conduct research that synergises the interests and expertise of my graduate advisor in the US and my host research supervisor in Singapore. Aside from research, I want to immerse myself in the very unique Singaporean culture, and savour her world-famous cuisine. I am sure the programme will be a tremendous success in Singapore because of her openness to international visitors and strengths in scientific research. I hope that it will also be a success for me personally, and lead to collaborations and future visits to this beautiful island."

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ANNEX 1

EAPSI CANDIDATES

	Name	Current Institution	Proposed Project Title
1	Lindsay Allen	University of Michigan	A Study of Verification Methods of IEC 61499 Execution in FPGA (Logic Control for Manufacturing Systems)
2	Edward Gilding	University of Minnesota	The regulation of floral organ shape in orchid
3	Justin Havird	University of Florida	Taxonomic diversity of the teleost family Cobitidae in Southeast Asia
4	Jennifer Karre	Northern Illinois University	Parenting style and its impact on adolescent behavioral outcomes outside the United States
5	Elizabeth Klemm	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Lipid Analysis of ER-associated Degradation: Probing the Mechanism of Dislocation
6	Leah Lucas	Arizona State University	Mobility Measurements of Novel Organic Donor/Acceptor Photovoltaic Devices
7	Edward McCumiskey	Virginia Commonwealth University	Dewetting Studies of Au on a Nanoindentation-Patterned Template
8	Nhu Nguyen	East Carolina University	Modulation of Eye Development by Prolactin during Zebrafish Embryogenesis
9	Thomas Palathra	University of Maryland College Park	Physically based simulator development for a microlithography process

	Name	Current Institution	Proposed Project Title
10	Jennifer Parker	University of Washington	Application of Whole Genome Amplification to Microbial Metagenomics
11	Aaron Pierpont	University of North Texas	End-on vs. Side-on Dinitrogen Binding in Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Transition Metal Catalyst
12	Jennifer Quynn	University of Washington	A Study of Feedback and Science Learning in Singapore Secondary Classrooms
13	Jahmeilah Richardson	University of California Irvine	Serious Games for Education/Learning Psychology
14	Chung-Huei Wang	University of Washington	Gene delivery from electrospun nanofibrous scaffolds for esophageal tissue engineering
15	Jude Yew	University of Michigan	Participation as Social Performances: A dramaturgical approach to understanding