The Pacific Basin Research Center was founded in 1991 as an external research unit of SUA, supporting scholars in the international academic and policy-making communities to study issues and events impacting the development of the Asia Pacific region. In addition to its external activities, PBRC also seeks to support SUA faculty participation in research and in the dissemination of knowledge related to this critical area of the world.

In 2005, the PBRC inaugurated a Summer Research Grants program for Soka University of America faculty. Starting in 2008, the Center began offering two Summer Research Grants of $5,000 each for faculty interested in pursuing research on topics relevant to countries and peoples lying in and around the Pacific Basin. PBRC offers occasional stipends to faculty to: 1) prepare and submit a research proposal to external funding sources such as foundations, government agencies, international organizations, or nonprofit groups to pursue applied or scholarly research on a topic affecting Pacific Basin countries; and 2) prepare a 25-30 page working paper based on the grant proposal examining the state of knowledge and future research needs for the issue(s) for which external funding is sought. The working papers will be published in a new PBRC Working Papers Series.

The Summer Research Grants are intended both as “seed money” to help faculty prepare proposals to grant-making organizations for larger amounts of external funding for Pacific Basin research and as a means of disseminating knowledge about the Pacific Basin in fields in which SUA faculty are doing research and offering courses.

The PBRC’s current research focus is the role of development in the aversion of violent conflict within and between countries in and around the Pacific Basin. In general, PBRC research assesses the efforts of countries in the region to find peaceful policies and strategies for human development in all of its dimensions.

The PBRC broadly defines the Pacific Basin as all of those countries located adjacent to the Pacific Ocean (i.e., North, East, and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand, and North and South America). For specific research projects, the PBRC has also included countries (e.g., India) that strongly influence those bordering the Pacific Ocean.

Applications will consist of a maximum 3-page single-spaced proposal outlining: 1) the topic for which an external grant application will be prepared; 2) external funding sources to which a proposal will be submitted; 3) the importance of the topic for Pacific Basin economic, political, social, cultural, artistic, humanistic, scientific or technological
development; 4) how pursuit of the proposed research will add to existing knowledge; and 5) the approach or methodology for undertaking research on the proposed topic.

The applications will be reviewed by the director and associate director of PBRC with the assistance of appropriate members of the PBRC advisory committee or external experts as needed.

Applications should be submitted via e-mail to Dr. William Ascher, PBRC Director and Dr. John Heffron, PBRC Associate Director, by Friday, May 6th for Summer 2011 support at the following addresses:

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PBRC Director  
Donald C. McKenna Professor of Government & Economics  
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