



## ***Press Release***

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **University Consortium Presents Thesis, Poster Competition Winners**

**Washington, DC** – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today announced winners of the SURA/JLab Thesis Award and the First SURA Poster Competition for Graduate Students at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Virginia. The annual thesis prize recognizes an outstanding graduate researcher for their dissertation, and contributions and service to the Jefferson Lab community. The winning posters, demonstrating various experiments in nuclear physics, were judged on June 20 in conjunction with the Jefferson Lab User Group Annual Meeting.

The annual SURA/J Lab Thesis Award, with its \$1,500 cash prize, was presented to Karl J. Slifer of the University of Virginia for his dissertation, *Spin Structure of  $^3\text{He}$  and the Neutron at Low  $Q^2$* . SURA also provided awards for the top three poster competitors with cash prizes of \$1000, \$750, and \$500 respectively. The winners were: First prize to Sarah Phillips from The College of William & Mary; second prize to Christopher Tennant, also from The College of William & Mary; and a tie for third prize (splitting the \$500 award) to Peter Monaghan of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tanja Horn of the University of Maryland.

Dr. Jerry P. Draayer, SURA President and CEO, presented the awards in a ceremony today saying, “The quality of Karl’s thesis demonstrates not only the advanced level of his training and knowledge, but the exciting promise of his future work in the field of physics.” He added, “The poster winners also exhibited immense talent in their presentations.”

The design and authorship of academic posters allow students and scientists to demonstrate with description, graphics and other visual means an illustrative way to explain complex subject matter. The SURA competition posters were judged on: 1) the clarity with which the physics and its motivation are presented; 2) the clarity with which the student presents his or her contribution to the research; and, 3) the overall quality of the presentation. The four judges from the Department of Energy’s Jefferson Lab were: Dennis Skopik, Deputy Associate Director of Physics; Fred Dylla, Chief Technology Officer; John Domingo, Physics Division Senior Fellow; and Bernhard Mecking, Physics Division Senior Fellow.

Jefferson Lab is a renowned research facility with over 2,000 international users. Nearly one-third of the Ph.D.’s awarded in nuclear physics in the U.S. results from research done at Jefferson Lab. SURA was responsible for the 1980 initiative that created Jefferson Lab and has been responsible for its operation since construction was completed in 1995.

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*The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit [www.sura.org](http://www.sura.org).*