JSA Awards Graduate Fellowships for Research at Jefferson Lab

Washington, DC – Jefferson Sciences Associates announced today the award of seven JSA/Jefferson Lab graduate fellowships. The doctoral students will use the fellowships to support their advanced studies at their universities and conduct research at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab) – a U.S. Department of Energy nuclear physics laboratory managed and operated by JSA, a joint venture between SURA and PAE Applied Technologies.

The 2014-2015 fellowship winners include:
John Hardin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michael Williams, Advisor
Emmanouil Kargiantoulakis, University of Virginia; Kent Paschke, Advisor
Jie Liu, University of Virginia; Xiaochao Zheng, Advisor
Marco Pannunzio Carmignotto, The Catholic University of America; Tanja Horn, Advisor
Chao Peng, Duke University; Haiyan Gao, Advisor
Ye Tian, University of South Carolina; Ralf Gothe, Advisor
Cheng-Ying Tsai, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Mark Pitt, Advisor

The students’ research proposals cover a broad scientific spectrum, including experimental physics and accelerator physics and technology. Hardin and Tian are repeat JSA fellowship recipients who currently are completing their 2013-14 academic year at Jefferson Lab.

JSA/JLab fellowship recipients attend universities that are members of the Southeastern Universities Research Association, a consortium of more than 60 leading research universities. SURA built and operated Jefferson Lab, before becoming a partner of Jefferson Science Associates.

The SURA Board of Trustees first established the fellowship program in 1989. Since the program’s inception, over 180 fellowships have been awarded to students from 20 different SURA member universities. The JSA/JLab Graduate Fellowship Program is now supported by the JSA Initiatives Fund. Each $12,000 fellowship award contributes to the student’s research assistant stipend and is supplemented by support from the home institution. Additional funds are available for research-related travel for the student during the fellowship period.

The committee that reviewed and selected this year’s fellowship winners was chaired by George Washington University physics department chair Allena Opper. Other committee members included: Hari Areti, Jefferson Lab; John Arrington, Argonne National Lab and Jefferson Lab Users Group Board chair; Edward Brash, Christopher Newport University; Cynthia Keppel, Jefferson Lab; George Lolos,
University of Regina; and, Julie Roche, Ohio University. The committee was supported by Elizabeth Lawson, JSA Initiatives Fund program manager.

“JSA/JLab graduate fellowship recipients are chosen based on the quality of their research proposals, their academic standing, and the references of their professors and senior scientists at Jefferson Lab. The competition this year was very strong with a pool of applicants that was among the best we have experienced in the 25-year-old history of the program. These young fellowship recipients will continue their coursework while enhancing their academic experience with direct interactions and participation with mentors and scientists at the Lab,” said Opper.

JSA President and Jefferson Lab Director Hugh Montgomery noted, “It is important that we continue to attract the best and brightest students in our field to spend time at Jefferson Lab. During the year, these young researchers will become fully immersed in their research and will tap into the capabilities of the Lab. JSA’s continued support for the Graduate Fellowship Program contributes to the Lab’s achievement of providing data to about one-third of the U.S. Ph.D.’s in nuclear physics each year. This is a key component of the education and training of the next generation of science leaders and the increase of science literacy in society.”

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About the JSA Initiatives Fund. JSA partners (SURA and PAE Applied Technologies) established the JSA Initiatives Fund to support programs, initiatives, and activities that further the scientific outreach, and promote the science, education and technology missions of Jefferson Lab in ways that complement its basic and applied research focus. Initiatives Fund awards are for those projects that benefit the Lab user community and that leverage commitments of others. The annual commitment is administered by SURA for the JSA Programs Committee. For more information, visit http://www.jsallc.org/index.html.

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’s mission is to advance collaborative research and education and to strengthen the scientific capabilities of its members and our nation. For more information, visit www.sura.org.