Jefferson Science Associates, LLC

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JSA Announces 2013 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Recipients

Washington, DC – Jefferson Science Associates, LLC, announced that Douglas Beck, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Paul Souder, Syracuse University are joint recipients of the 2013 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award for their leadership in the development of the use of parity-violating electron scattering as a tool for the study of nucleon and nuclear structure, and precision studies of the standard model.

The award will be presented to Beck and Souder during a ceremony to be held at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, VA.

Jefferson Lab is a world-leading nuclear physics research laboratory managed and operated by Jefferson Science Associates for the U.S. Department of Energy.

SURA President & CEO Jerry Draayer and CSC/ATD Vice President & GM Paul Branske, the owner representatives on the JSA Board of Directors, applauded the selection panel's choice, noting that the contributions made by Professors Beck and Souder to the Jefferson Lab nuclear physics program have been recognized by their peers in the stellar recommendations both received with their nominations.

"This award to Doug Beck and Paul Souder recognizes two outstanding nuclear physicists for leading distinctive and incisive physics programs at Jefferson Lab. Both Doug and Paul have also been enormously supportive of the entire Jefferson Lab enterprise. It should also be noted that there is an implicit tribute to the builders of the accelerator which has the special properties required by these particularly demanding experiments," said JSA President and Jefferson Lab Director, Hugh Montgomery.

Douglas Beck, a physics professor at the Loomis Laboratory of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1989 following a research fellowship at CalTech, was the spokesperson for a collaboration of over 100 researchers for the Jefferson Lab's G0 electron scattering parity-violation experiment requiring the development of a new spectrometer which Beck oversaw from conception, to design and commissioning at UIUC, to installation at the Lab. Beck has been the recipient of awards including: Arnold T. Nordsieck Award for Excellence in Teaching, American Physical Society Fellow, University (Illinois) Scholar, NSF Young Investigator, and Sloan Foundation Research Fellow. He is the Chair of the Brookhaven National Lab Nuclear and Particle Physics Advisory Committee and a current member of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics Executive Committee.

Paul Souder, a physics professor at Syracuse University since 1983 following a teaching post at Yale University, was instrumental in establishing a rich program studying parity-violating electron scattering through the HAPPEX experiments, using the Lab's unique capabilities to explore the role that strange quarks play in the elastic form factors of the nucleon. Souder's vision for the program, his intellectual leadership, and the implementation of pioneering techniques, have helped to train a new generation of capable experimentalists in a new subfield. Souder has been honored with an NSF Graduate Fellowship, Yale Junior Faculty Fellowship, and Sigma Xi Award for Research Excellence. He is an American Physical Society Fellow and Honorary Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

The JSA Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award, established in 2011 and awarded biennially, recognizes an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions in experimental and/or theoretical research related to the nuclear physics program at the Jefferson Lab. The award is funded through the JSA Initiatives Fund Program and managed by the JSA Programs Committee. It will be presented at Jefferson Lab when it hosts its annual Users Group Meeting in May. The Users Group is comprised of those scientists from the U.S. and abroad who use Jefferson Lab's facilities to conduct experiments.

The panel charged with making the selection for this year's award was chaired by June Mathews, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and included David Ernst, Vanderbilt University; John Hardy, Texas A&M; Robert McKeown, deputy director for Science and Technology, Jefferson Lab; Witold Nazarecwicz, University of Tennessee/Oak Ridge National Lab, and; Elizabeth Lawson, SURA chief governance officer and principal JSA/JLab liaison.

JSA was awarded the management and operating contract for the Jefferson Lab in April 2006 in a five-year operating contract from DOE that provided the ability to earn up to an additional 15 years. SURA was originally awarded the contract to design the lab in 1983 and operated the Lab for DOE following its completion. JSA was created by SURA and Computer Sciences Corp. specifically to manage and operate Jefferson Lab.

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