Annual Report

FY2024

SURA

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A Message from

James Weyhenmeyer, Ph.D.

Chairman of the Board, SURA

> *By expanding our partnerships, seeking novel research funding opportunities, and supporting researchers, SURA's efforts will contribute to the future of science and technology."*

Dear SURA Members and Stakeholders,

As I reflect on the past year, I am proud to present SURA's FY24 annual report. This year has been marked by significant collaboration across the organization's research and development initiatives, furthering SURA's mission to advance collaborative research and education and to strengthen the scientific capabilities of its members and our nation. I have highlighted some of the highlights from FY24 below:

- ***Leadership in High-Performance Data:*** The Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, managed by SURA subsidiary Jefferson Science Associates (JSA), was selected as the lead for the Department of Energy's High Performance Data Facility Hub, a $300 million project underscoring our leadership in data-intensive science.
- ***Coastal Resiliency Research:*** SURA hosted a two-day workshop focused on discussions and conversations about coastal resiliency research that effectively engages the community.
- ***Science Education and Advocacy:*** SURA implemented several new programs, including partnering with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) to create a Public Policy Fellowship for current and recently graduated life science students from SURA universities, and establishing a scholarship award for students pursuing doctoral-level STEM education at a SURA university.
- ***Recognition of Research Excellence:*** SURA expanded its recognition of research excellence by establishing an Early Career Scientist award program to complement its long-time Distinguished Scientist Awards.
- ***Membership Expansion:*** SURA broadened its impact by including Indiana University and Temple University as part of the SURA membership.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of advancing scientific research and education. By expanding our partnerships, seeking novel research funding opportunities, and supporting researchers, SURA's efforts will contribute to the future of science and technology.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in the SURA community.

Sincerely,

James Weyhenmeyer, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board, SURA

A Message from the President & CEO

Fiscal Year 2024 was a year of strong performance, significant progress, and meaningful impact across our four strategic directions: National Laboratories, Scientific Staffing and Workforce Development, Member Engagement, and Operational Excellence. The work we accomplished together—across institutions, disciplines, and partnerships—reflects the strength of our consortium and the growing role SURA plays in advancing research excellence.

Through its subsidiary Jefferson Science Associates, SURA continued its stewardship of Jefferson Lab and celebrated a number of major milestones. The Department of Energy selected Jefferson Lab to lead the $300-$500 million High Performance Data Facility (HPDF), a pioneering national user facility that will enable data-intensive, AI-driven scientific discovery across disciplines. DOE also approved the start of construction for the MOLLER experiment, a cutting-edge effort in precision particle physics. This year also marked a leadership transition at the Lab. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Stuart Henderson, who concluded seven years of exceptional service as Jefferson Lab's Director. Under his leadership, the Lab significantly advanced its research programs and national profile. We were proud to welcome Kim Sawyer as the new Director of Jefferson Lab. Kim brings decades of leadership in laboratory operations and a deep understanding of the national lab system—making her uniquely suited to guide the Lab into its next era of growth and innovation.

SURA's commitment to workforce development remained strong in FY2024. Through our partnerships at NASA and NIST—including CRESST II, GESTAR II, NIST PREP, and the new FILMSS II contract—we supported students, postbacs, and researchers across the research pipeline.

The JSA Initiatives Fund continued to invest in graduate and international fellowships, K-12 STEM outreach, and community-building across the Jefferson Lab user base. We also launched our first SURA/AIBS Public Policy Internship and honored three outstanding Virginia State University students with our inaugural MSI Graduate Awards.

Our member engagement deepened with the addition of Temple University and Indiana University Bloomington, expanding the strength and diversity of our consortium. Our coastal resiliency workshop convened academic and community leaders to advance science-based solutions to environmental challenges, and Jefferson Lab's 40th anniversary open house welcomed nearly 9,000 visitors—launching the "Science Lovers®" campaign and affirming our commitment to public engagement.

FY2024 was also a year of continued financial growth and long-term sustainability. Since 2022, SURA has demonstrated a positive trend in revenue growth, cost reduction, and investment performance. In FY2024, unrestricted revenue rose to $241 million (up 14%), while corporate expenditures decreased by 11%. A 23.49% return on our investment portfolio yielded $4.24 million, contributing to a 43% increase in net assets over FY2023. These results reflect disciplined management and a commitment to long-term resilience.

As we look to 2025, I remain confident in our ability to grow, adapt, and lead. Thank you to our member institutions, federal partners, and staff for your continued commitment to advancing discovery, developing talent, and serving the nation through science.

Dr. Sean J. Hearne
Pesident and CEO, SURA

SURA Programs, Events & News

Current Research Programs

CRESST II

The Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science & Technology (CRESST II) cooperative agreement between NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and the **University of Maryland-College Park, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Catholic University of America,** Howard University, and SURA entered its 8th program year in April 2024. The CRESST II program facilitates collaboration between NASA researchers and space scientists from CRESST II partner institutions conducting research in support of NASA Goddard's astrophysics and solar system exploration work.

SURA scientist Thibault Lechien presenting to attendees of the Postbac Symposium in May, 2024.

In FY24, SURA's CRESST II Career Development Manager, Katie McKee, was recognized with a NASA Peer Award for her work assisting NASA GSFC staff with the summer internship program and a NASA Sciences and Exploration Directorate Excellence in Mentoring award for her work developing the incredibly successful CRESST II Postbac program. Along with the career development workshops and constant mentorship from NASA postdoctoral scientists, Katie implemented a short overnight field trip for all the postbacs this year to visit the facilities at NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia in order to give them the opportunity to learn more about NASA research occurring outside of NASA GSFC. Among this cohort of postbacs, approximately 75% entered into graduate school after spending one year at NASA. We also welcomed a new cohort of postbacs this year with 10 new postbacs joining 4 postbacs staying for a second year.

During FY24, SURA also co-hosted the 11th International Fermi Symposium in September at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center at the **University of Maryland, College Park** for nearly 200 participants. SURA's CRESST II Special Programs Manager, Aaliyah Kerr, managed all the logistics and planning for the symposium. This event is held every four years in a different location, and the primary focus of the event was to discuss new scientific investigations and results enabled by the Fermi telescope, the mission and instrument characteristics, future research opportunities, and coordinated observations and analyses.

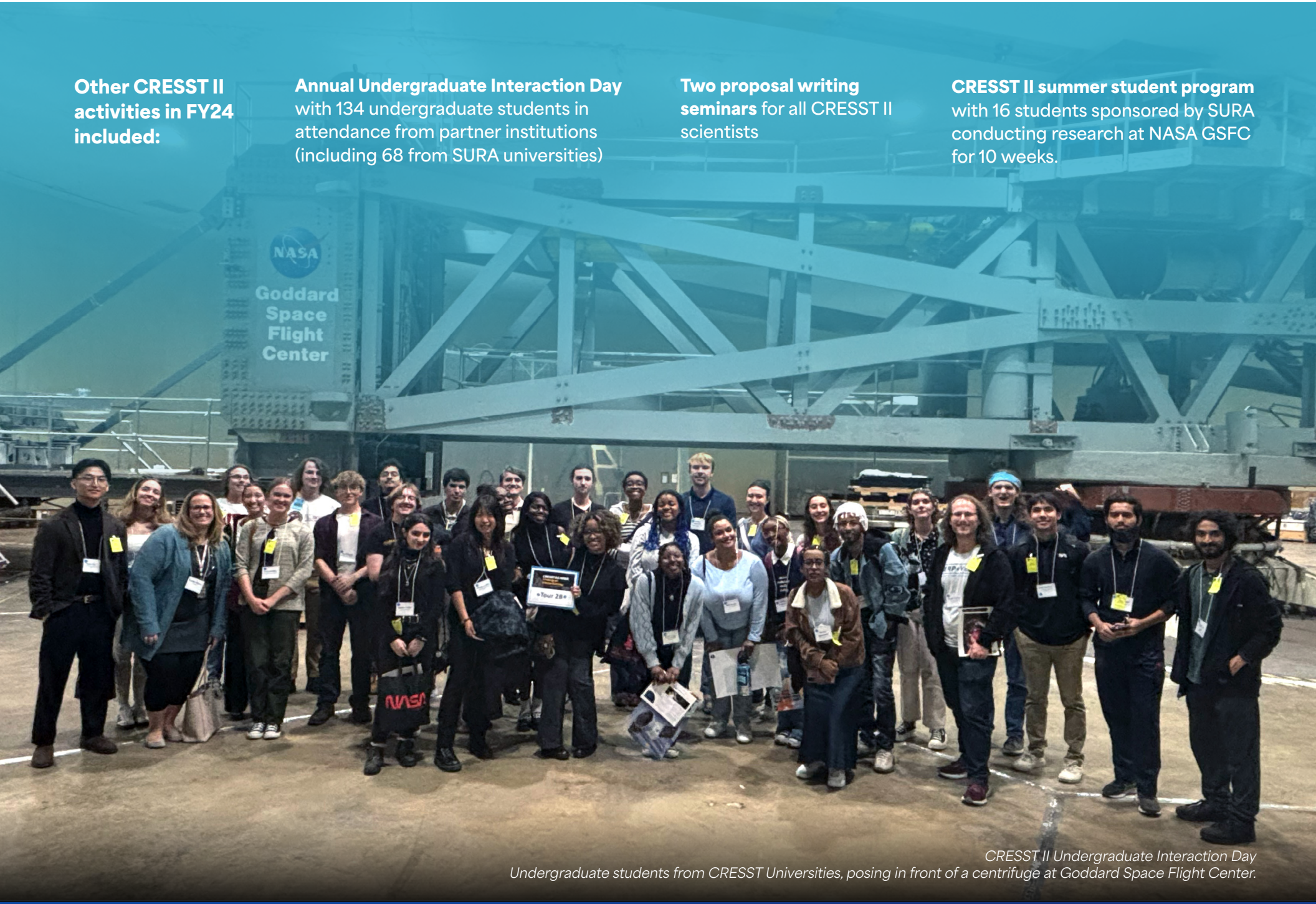

CRESST II SURA scientist Ally Payne presenting at Undergraduate Interaction Day

Other CRESST II activities in FY24 included:

Annual Undergraduate Interaction Day with 134 undergraduate students in attendance from partner institutions (including 68 from SURA universities)

Two proposal writing seminars for all CRESST II scientists

CRESST II summer student program with 16 students sponsored by SURA conducting research at NASA GSFC for 10 weeks.



CRESST II Undergraduate Interaction Day
Undergraduate students from CRESST Universities, posing in front of a centrifuge at Goddard Space Flight Center.

GESTAR II

The Goddard Earth Science Technology and Research (GESTAR II) cooperative agreement between NASA's Godard Space Flight Center and **University of Maryland-Baltimore County**, Morgan State University, **Arizona State University**, Colorado State University, Penn State University, ERT, Northrup Grumman, and SURA entered its 3rd program year in December 2023. The GESTAR II program works to advance Earth science and Goddard's leadership in earth science research by providing a competitive environment to hire and retain high-quality scientists on track to be leaders at NASA, in academia, and industry.

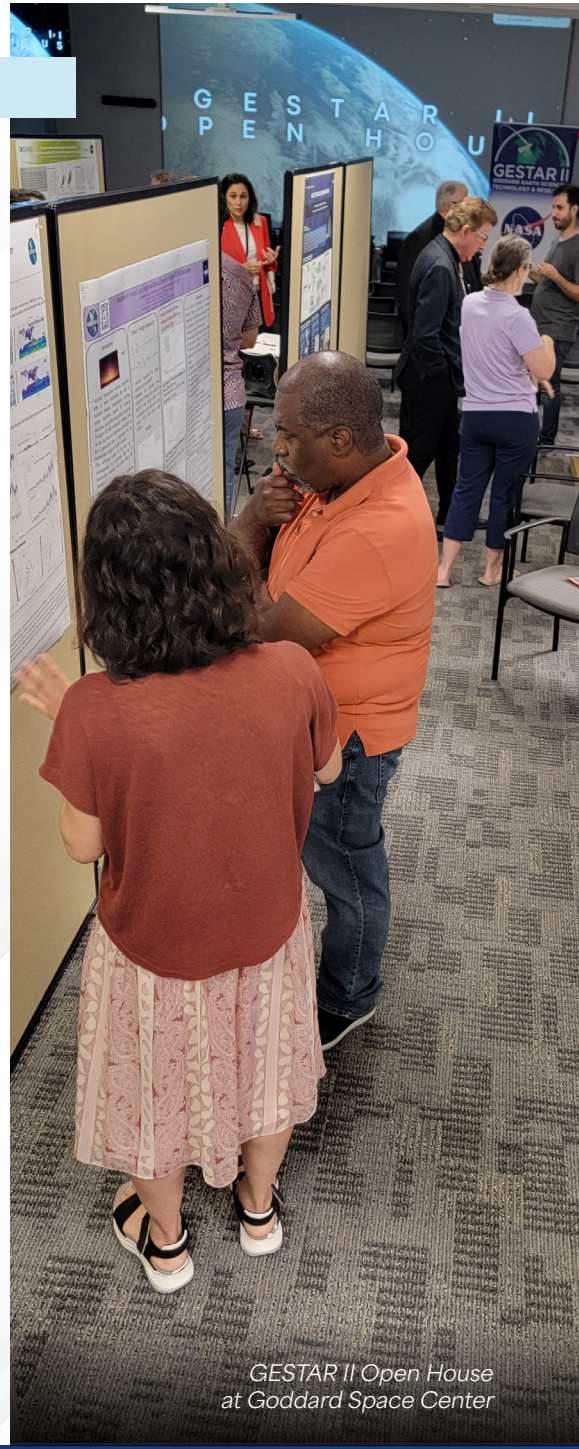
In FY24, the GESTAR II team received official word from NASA that the cooperative agreement would be extended for another two years, bringing the total length of the agreement to 5 years, ending on November 30, 2026.

Also in FY24, SURA's GESTAR II Scientist Support Specialist, Carol Keuhn, managed the planning and logistics for the AERONET Science and Application Exchange held in September 2024 at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center at the **University of Maryland, College Park**. The AERONET (AErosol RObotic NETwork) program is a collection of ground-based remote sensing aerosol networks established by NASA and other international collaborators.

This workshop brought together over 200 scientists from around the world for three days to discuss community topics on the AERONET system, including scientific development, instrument calibration, research, and application.

The GESTAR II leadership and administrative team hosted our first GESTAR II Open House in July 2024. This afternoon event gave GESTAR II scientists the opportunity to present and discuss their research with attendees, including NASA Earth Science leadership, NASA civil servants, interns, and university leadership from the GESTAR II institutions. The event was very well attended success, and we intend on providing this open house annually moving forward.

SURA continued to support a scientist consultant with the AERONET program, and we brought in our first postbac into GESTAR II this year working with ICE-Sat data for her research. The SURA GESTAR II administrative staff continue to work closely with the GESTAR II universities and with NASA to recruit and support undergraduate and graduate students working onsite at NASA. SURA's GESTAR II Special Programs Manager, Dominique Footes, provides mentoring and support with the students onsite, as well as organize opportunities for the students to present their research to NASA and GESTAR II scientists.



GESTAR II Open House at Goddard Space Center

NIST PREP

The NIST Professional Research Experience Program (PREP) cooperative agreement between the NIST campus in Gaithersburg, MD, **George Washington University**, and SURA entered its 2nd year in April 2024. The NIST PREP program was designed to provide laboratory experience and financial assistance to researchers in various stages of their career. Through this agreement we are working with GWU to find engaged students, highly skilled scientists, and subject matter experts at all career stages to work with the civil servant scientists at the NIST campus.

During FY24, SURA brought on scientists to support the NIST PREP program in areas related to the investigation of Hurricane Maria's impacts on Puerto Rico and creating evaluation pillars for assessing impacts and risks for AI.

FILMSS II

Towards the end of FY24, SURA learned that it was part of the winning team for the Fully Integrated Lifecycle Mission Support Services 2 (FILMSS II) contract, led by Amentum Services Inc. of Chantilly, VA. The contract, awarded by NASA Ames Research Center in California, encompasses a broad range of critical support services, such as engineering, project management, and operations support for biosciences flight development projects, astrobiology, aeronautics initiatives, and other specialized technical and professional services. The contract will start on FY25 in December 1, 2024. SURA is very excited to be a part of this contract team and will work to provide collaboration opportunities between NASA Ames Research Center and the SURA university consortium.

Student Internship Program

The SURA Home Office continued its legal internship program in FY24 by providing a paid internship which also offered academic credit for a local law student. During the 2024 spring semester, SURA partnered with the University of Baltimore School of Law's Clinical Law Programs to sponsor UB Law Student Louis Di Filippo in a Corporate Counsel Externship. Before attending law school, Louis graduated from SURA member **NC State University** with an undergraduate degree in Economics. Over the course of four months, Di Filippo assisted SURA with several projects and concluded his internship with a presentation to SURA leadership about Artificial Intelligence. Upon graduation, Di Filippo returned to his native North Carolina where he passed the bar exam and began working for a boutique litigation firm in Greensboro.

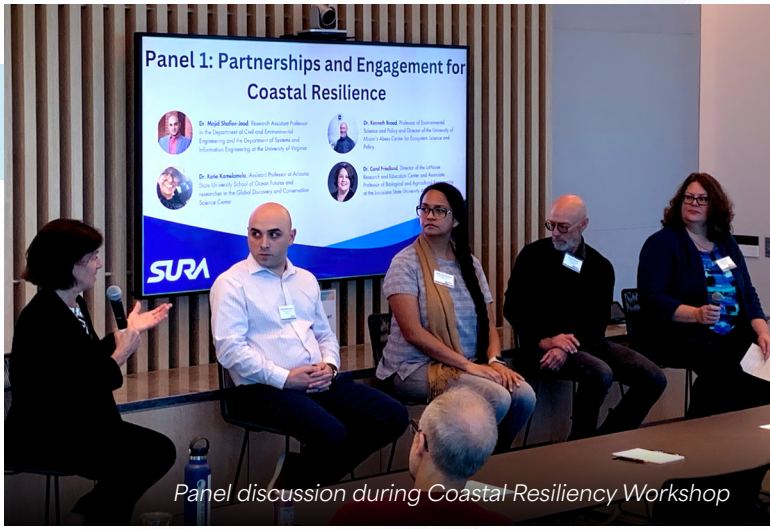
Former SURA intern Bethel Adewale graduated from Howard University and enrolled at SURA member **George Washington University** School of Law.

FY2024 *Events*

Advancing Coastal Resiliency through Research & Community Engagement Workshop

On November 8th and 9th, 2023, SURA hosted the Advancing Coastal Resiliency through Research and Community Engagement Workshop. Organized by Carolyn Wilson, Director of Space Science and Technology Programs, the workshop presented an opportunity to discuss the importance of multi-faceted, collaborative, data-driven research and engagement needs for coastal communities.

The workshop focused on best practices for strategic, community-driven research development for adapting coastal systems to the increasing risks of storms, land loss, storm surge, and other threats driven by climate change. Speakers, panelists and workshop participants included individuals from SURA member universities Arizona State, Florida International University, George Mason, George Washington, Georgia Tech, James Madison University, Louisiana State University, Old Dominion University, Tulane, University of Alabama-Huntsville, University of Delaware, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Texas-Austin, University of Virginia, and William & Mary.



Panel discussion during Coastal Resiliency Workshop

Annual Meeting

On July 22, 2024 SURA opened its three-day annual meeting at its Washington D.C. Home Office with a Stakeholder Engagement Workshop led by Chief Growth Officer Scott Heefner. The Stakeholder Engagement Workshop provided an opportunity to update our understanding of the research interests, capabilities, and priorities of the SURA member universities.

Additional agenda topics included Influencing Decision-Making in Education and Research presented by Moran Global Strategies, Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists presented by Dr. Ping Ge, Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and scientific presentations by the Distinguished and Early Career Scientists awardees.


Vice Chair Srirama Rao, VCU and Member Representative Michael Keeves from Norfolk State with student awardees MaKhaila Bentil and Joy Watson

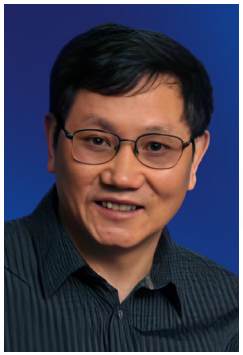
Awards

Distinguished Career Scientist Awards

The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is pleased to announce the selections of Dr. Jizhong Zhou of the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Chryssa Kouveliotou of The George Washington University as the 2024 recipients of the SURA Distinguished Scientist Awards.

The Distinguished Scientist Award is SURA's highest award that recognizes exceptional scientific leadership, given to scientists conducting exceptional research in disciplines related to SURA's programs.

Dr. Andres Gil, SURA Board Member and Chair of the Development & Relations Committee, Dr. Jizhong Zho, Distinguished Scientist Awardee, and Dr. Sean Hearne, SURA President and CEO



Dr. Jizhong Zhou, an international leader in microbial ecology, is a Chaired Professor at the **University of Oklahoma's School of Biological Sciences**. Dr. Zhou is most well-known for his groundbreaking discoveries in understanding the feedbacks, mechanisms, and principles for microbial systems in response to climate change and environmental contaminations, and pioneering advances in developing ecological theories, and innovative experimental and computational technologies for resolving the complex microbial world. His foundational work has been instrumental in the revolution of contemporary microbial ecology. Dr. Zhou is globally recognized for his outstanding accomplishments with over 600 peer-reviewed papers that have been cited >80,000 times.

Distinguished Career Scientist Awards

Dr. Chryssa Kouveliotou, a world leader in the field of astrophysics, is a Professor of Physics at **The George Washington University**. Dr. Kouveliotou has made transformational contributions to the X-ray and gamma ray Universe, particularly our understanding of magnetars, a class of extremely dense neutron stars with extremely high magnetic fields. She discovered two physically distinct classes of gamma ray burst sources. Her discoveries opened a new area of study, which she has led for three decades; she mentored many young scientists who have made awesome contributions to that field. Furthermore, Dr. Kouveliotou is a global leader in the study of gamma-ray bursts, the most energetic explosions in the Universe, and has expanded our understanding of this cosmic phenomenon.

Dr. Andres Gil, SURA Board Member and Chair of the Development & Relations Committee, Dr. Pamela Norris, Vice Provost for Research at George Washington University accepting the Distinguished Scientist Award on behalf of Dr. Chryssa Kouveliotou, and SURA's President Dr. Sean Hearne.

SURA Board Director and IT Committee Chair, Marc Hoit, NC State

SURA Board Director Dan Sui, Virginia Tech, Elizabeth Lawson, and Wendy Stout, Virginia Tech

David Norton, SURA Board Immediate Past Chair and SURA CEO Sean Hearne

Early Career Scientists Award

SURA also honored Dr. Avik Dutt of the University of Maryland, College Park with the 2024 SURA Early Career Scientist Award at its Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. The Early Career Scientist Award recognizes a single faculty member who has made significant scholarly contributions within ten years since completing their Ph.D.

Dr. Andres Gil, Chair of the Development & Relations Committee and SURA Board Member, Dr. Avik Dutt, Early Career Scientist6 Awardee, and Dr. Elizabeth Beise, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Maryland and SURA Board Member.

Dr. Avik Dutt is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Institute for Physical Science & Technology (IPST), and a National Quantum Lab fellow at the **University of Maryland, College Park**. He focuses on interdisciplinary research at the Fearless Optics, Quantum Engineering, and Technology (FloQuET) lab, and innovates using ideas from nanophotonics, quantum science, nanofabrication, and nonlinear optics. Prior to joining UMD, Dr. Dutt conducted postdoctoral research in the Ginzton Lab at Stanford University where he focused on topological photonics. While at Stanford, Dr. Dutt contributed to research on synthetic dimensions, by initiating experimental efforts in the field. Through a paper published in 2019, he introduced and demonstrated a technique to experimentally measure an important property - the band structure - for systems exhibiting synthetic dimensions, through ultrafast time-domain spectroscopy. SURA honored Dr. Zhou, Dr. Kouveliotou, and Dr. Dutt at its July 23, 2024 Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

NEW THIS YEAR

MSI Graduate Awards

MaKhaila Bentil, Joy Watson, and Emma Quarles, were selected as the inaugural recipients of the 2024 Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Graduate Awards.

Introduced this year by SURA, the MSI Graduate Awards Program is designed to support exceptional STEM field bachelors' degree graduates from non-R1 SURA Member MSIs who wish to pursue STEM related PhD education at a SURA member university. The program supports SURA's commitment to reduce barriers for students in higher education.

Awardee, **MaKhaila Bentil,** has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and a minor in Mathematics from **Virgina State University**, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Old Dominion University. Bentil created her university's first rocket launch team and was an intern at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in 2022, a student teacher at NASA H2O, and has received several honors, including being VSU's highest ranking senior.

Awardee, **Joy Watson**, has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from **Virginia State University** and was completing a Masters degree program in Mathematics prior to pursuing a PhD in Mathematics. Watson also has numerous accomplishments, including being an undergraduate researcher at VCU, a Post Secondary fellow at SRI, and a mathematics tutor at VSU Academic Center for Excellence. She served as president of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Awardee, **Emma Quarles**, has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from **Virginia State University**. Quarles is looking to widen her exposure and knowledge in neuropsychology and wants to earn a doctorate degree to become a licensed clinical neuropsychologist. Her research interests include traumatic brain injuries, particularly intending the effects of substance abuse on them. She is a determined visionary, as exhibited by her diverse experience, including research with the Psychoneuroimmunology of Risk and Disease Laboratory, grant development for the NIH Diversity Supplement, and contributing to multiple manuscripts. Quarles also demonstrates strong leadership skills, having been an Executive Board Member of PsiChi Sorority and the captain of VSU's volleyball team.

Dr. Omar Faison, SURA Board Member and C-MSI Committee Chair with awardee MaKhaila Bentil

Dr. Omar Faison, SURA Board Member and C-MSI Committee Chair with awardee Joy Watson.

SURA Board Member Dr. Omar Faison stated,

"As both the Chair of the Committee of Minority Serving Institutions and Associate Vice Provost for Research & Economic Development at Virginia State University, I am delighted to celebrate the achievements of MaKhaila Bentil, Joy Watson, and Emma Quarles as they receive the inaugural MSI Graduate Awards. This recognition is a testament to their hard work, determination, and academic achievement, and it reflects the excellence that students from HBCU's and other Minority Serving Institutions bring to the STEM fields. I am hopeful that this program will inspire many more students to pursue advanced degrees in STEM and contribute to the growth and innovation of our academic communities."

SURA/AIBS Public Policy *Fellowship*

Kristine Zikmanis, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at **Florida International University**, was selected from a very competitive pool of applicants as the inaugural SURA/AIBS public policy intern during Summer 2024.

Ms. Zikmanis was the recipient of NOAA's Office of Coastal Management Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship in 2020. Her passion for actionable science was ignited, when as a NOAA Fellow, she helped scientists and coastal communities understand the challenges that influence future policy and management strategies. Ms. Zikmanis expressed her belief that scientists were responsible for ensuring that their research is appropriately communicated to make informed management decisions.

During her internship, Ms. Zikmanis monitored the activities of federal science agencies and tracked legislative developments in science policy. She spent time with government relations and community outreach teams, meeting with the Congressional Research Service, gaining valuable information to support her interest in effective science communication and collaborative research. She organized congressional science briefings and participated in advocacy events, preparing one-pagers encouraging adequate government investment in scientific research and development to fuel innovation, create jobs, and grow the economy. As a special project, she researched and presented information on Small Modular Reactors.

New SURA *Members*

The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is pleased to announce **Temple University** and **Indiana University** as new members.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Philadelphia's only public research university, Temple is an R1 research institution and a global center of academic excellence. Its commitment to access, community engagement, and discovery resonates deeply with SURA's goals of advancing transformative scientific research and collaboration.

Temple University's mission to provide access to an excellent, affordable higher education and its focus on creating a collaborative community, foster an environment ripe for groundbreaking research and transformative educational experiences. This can be seen across the university, particularly within Temple's Department of Physics. This includes CST faculty who conduct experiments at the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) at Jefferson Lab and others who are leading a new theoretical nuclear physics collaboration centered on Jefferson Lab physics topics.

With a student body of more than 30,000 students across diverse campuses, including in Philadelphia, Tokyo, and Rome, Temple exemplifies global leadership and commitment to academic excellence and innovation. This ethos, coupled with Temple's unwavering dedication to community engagement and providing access to affordable education, makes it an invaluable addition to the SURA consortium.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Indiana University exemplifies the collaborative spirit and research excellence that define SURA's mission. Through strategic partnerships with industry, community organizations, and academic peers, IU advances scalable research pathways that address pressing societal and economic challenges. Its multidisciplinary initiatives and robust support for faculty innovation—ranging from invention disclosures to patents and licenses—align with SURA's commitment to fostering impactful, mission-driven research across the Southeast and beyond. IU's dedication to improving individual well-being and regional prosperity makes it a vital contributor to the shared goals of discovery, innovation, and public service championed by the SURA community.

Events for FY 2025

SURA Workshop on Emerging Research in Space Biology

With the release of the decadal survey for NASA's Division of Biological and Physical Sciences, the growth in commercial space, and the critical need for more research in space biology, this workshop will highlight the upcoming research funding priorities of NASA, research conducted by scientists at SURA institutions, and create opportunities for future collaborations between attendees. Discussions will focus around different areas of space biology, such as agricultural development, human physiology research, and the future landscape of space biology research in the United States.

DATE:
February 2025

LOCATION:
Space Florida
505 Odyssey Way, Suite 300, Merritt Island, FL 32953

JSA
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Programs, Events & News

News & Events

High Performance Data Facility

DOE's Advanced Scientific Computing Research program selected Jefferson Lab to lead the $300-$500 million High Performance Data Facility (HPDF) in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. The HPDF will be a first-of-its-kind scientific user facility that specializes in advanced infrastructure for data-intensive science, providing transformational capabilities for data analysis, networking and storage for the nation's research enterprise. Data services from the HPDF will enable researchers to better leverage artificial intelligence and machine learning models in the analysis of data. A versatile, modular data center building, funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, will house the HPDF on the Jefferson Lab site. Jefferson Lab's winning proposal was supported by SURA member universities, including **Old Dominion University**, **William & Mary**, **Virginia Tech** and the **University of Virginia**.

Governor Glenn Youngkin joins in celebration of HPDF award, October 16, 2023

MOLLER

The MOLLER (Measurement of a Lepton-Lepton Electroweak Reaction) Experiment received DOE approval to begin construction. The experiment will make an extremely precise measurement of the electron's force field to learn about specific and rare interactions with other subatomic particles. Planned for installation in the Lab's Experimental Hall A, MOLLER will be a complex system of beamline elements, experimental torus magnets, target, and detectors, utilizing the Lab's Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility. University principal investigators, postdocs and students, along with Lab staff, have been instrumental in developing the design and early acquisition phase for MOLLER, resulting in DOE's Critical Decision 3 *Approve Start of Construction*. The MOLLER physics collaboration expects to produce first physics result in 2027.

Jefferson Lab Open House

On a balmy, spring Saturday in June, an estimated 9,000 visitors spent the day at Jefferson Lab to celebrate its 40th anniversary. Visitors enjoyed exhibits, hands-on demonstrations and presentations, displays, and tours throughout the Lab site in over 15 open facilities. Jefferson Lab's scientists, engineers, technical staff and administrators were on hand to explain the science behind the technology and demonstrate how each component works to enable nuclear physics experiments. Tours of the 7/8-mile racetrack-shaped accelerator tunnel, 25-feet underground, were conducted throughout the day, giving visitors a glimpse of the magnets of all shapes, sizes, and varieties; 27-foot-long cryomodules; and instrumentation needed to run the accelerator.

***James Madison University** student Laila Peterson models a t-shirt from the Virginia is for Science Lovers™ campaign that promotes the Commonwealth's commitment to science and technology.*

The U.S. Department of Energy's Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility's new LOVEwork installation celebrates Virginia's iconic "Virginia is for Lovers" slogan, with a twist – "Virginia is for Science Lovers." The LOVEwork is made entirely from repurposed aluminum flat pipes called vacuum chambers once used in particle accelerator magnets at another Department of Energy National Laboratory.

JSA Initiatives Fund Program

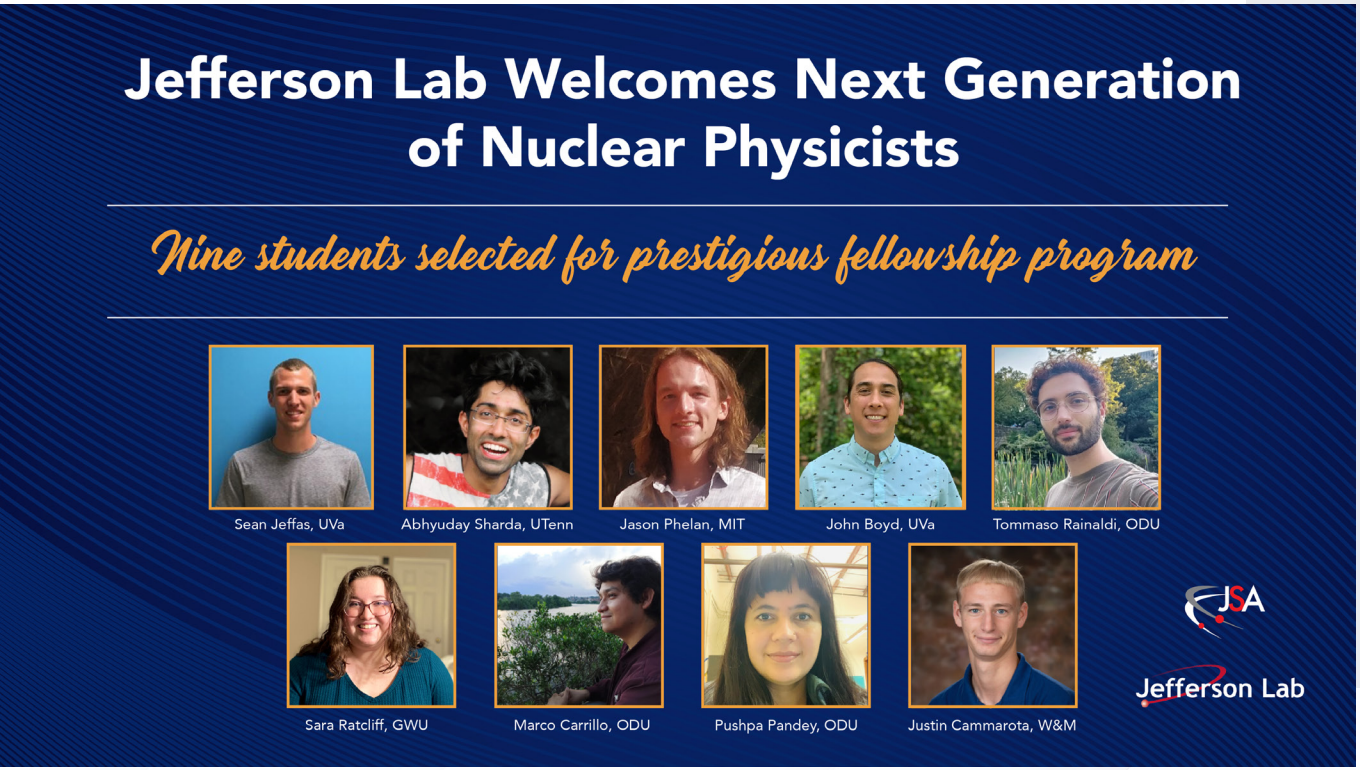
SURA subsidiary, Jefferson Science Associates (JSA), annually funds the JSA Initiatives Fund Program. Now in its 19th year, **JSA has awarded ~$8.0M for over 500 projects** that enable and support programs, initiatives, and activities that further scientific outreach and foster a vibrant research environment that supports the lab's missions and helps to develop our next generation scientific workforce. The IF Program promotes scientific collaboration and knowledge sharing, and creates valuable opportunities for our scientific community. The Program enables students and young researchers to participate in cutting-edge research and build professional networks.

Award of Initiatives Funds are made for:

- ***Graduate and undergraduate fellowships***, providing hands-on research experience and mentorship for students while they further their education.
- ***Scientific meeting support***, facilitating exchange of ideas and collaboration among researchers and honing presentation skills of young researchers at conferences and workshops.
- ***Education and career development***, equipping students and early career scientists with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the scientific workforce.
- ***STEM activities***, inspiring future generations of scientists through outreach programs and educational initiatives starting at the K-12 level.
- ***Student prizes and awards***, recognizing and encouraging outstanding research achievements among students and young researchers.

JSA/JLab Graduate Fellowship Program

Since the inception of the JSA/JLab Graduate Fellowship Program, over 270 graduate fellowships have been awarded to students at SURA member universities. These fellowships provide promising young students with resources and opportunities to work with Jefferson Lab scientists on cutting-edge scientific projects that are aligned with their academic studies. Nine graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees at SURA member universities were selected to receive research stipends for their proposals.



Academic Year 2023-24 recipients included:

- ***John Boyd***, University of Virginia
- ***Marco Carrillo***, Old Dominion University
- ***Justin Cammarota***, William & Mary
- ***Sean Jeffas***, University of Virginia
- ***Pushpa Pandey***, Old Dominion University
- ***Jason Phelan***, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ***Tommaso Rainaldi***, Old Dominion University
- ***Sara Ratliff***, The George Washington University
- ***Abhyuday Sharda***, The University of Tennessee

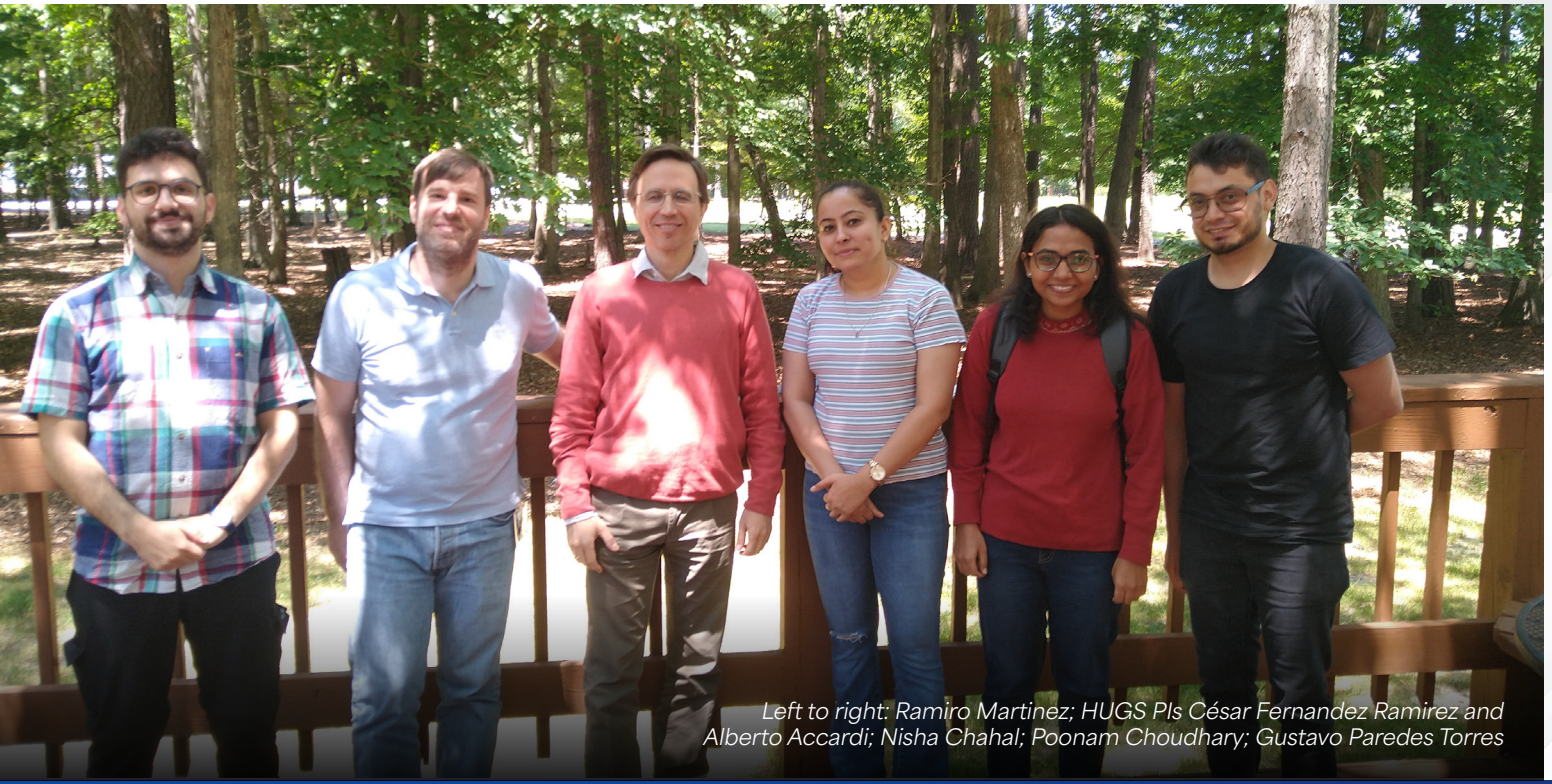
HUGS International Fellowship

HUGS International Fellowships were awarded to four international graduate students from developing countries to extend their participation in the **Hampton University** Graduate Studies (HUGS) Program. One of the original Jefferson Lab student programs, established by Hampton University and Jefferson Lab in 1986, HUGS is designed to train the next generation of nuclear physics researchers.

Chahal, Choudhary, Martinez, and Torres remained at Jefferson Lab two weeks beyond the end of the three-week HUGS Program during which time they continued their immersion into the life of the lab, interacting with lab researchers and users, further developing their research skills.

The 2024 awardees, selected from among two dozen applicants, were:

- ***Nisha Chahal*** (India)
- ***Poonam Choudhary*** (India)
- ***Ramiro Tomás Martinez*** (Argentina)
- ***Gustavo Paredes Torres*** (Mexico)



Left to right: Ramiro Martinez; HUGS PIs César Fernandez Ramirez and Alberto Accardi; Nisha Chahal; Poonam Choudhary; Gustavo Paredes Torres

JSAT Program

Jefferson Lab Science Activities for Teachers (JSAT), a STEM science education development program for fifth-, sixth-, and eighth-grade science teachers, helps to bring science to life in the classroom. Teachers attend 2-hour evening sessions throughout the school year at the lab where they learn activities that enhance physical science instruction and innovative ways to engage students through interactive learning strategies. Following each session, JSAT teachers leave with a complete set of the evening activity, enabling them to immediately replicate in the classroom. The AY2023-24 curriculum included activities explaining: matter, energy transfer, force and motion, magnetism and electricity, atomic structure, waves and sound, simple machines, watersheds and optics.

In addition to the 50 regional elementary and middle school teachers participating in the award-winning JSAT program during the school year, JSAT hosted the Annual Teacher Night in April 2024, drawing over 100 participants who learned from JSAT teachers the many demonstrations, activities and experiments from the 2024 program.

Annual Meeting of the Jefferson Lab Users Organization (JLUO)

JSA supported the Annual Meeting of the JLUO. The JLUO is comprised of ~1,700 staff scientists, professors, researchers, post docs and students working at their home institutions and at the lab on a variety of research projects in computation, data analysis, experiment preparation and related lab activities. JSA supported 60 students to attend and participate in the 2024 meeting, hosted several student events and sessions, and provided travel support for key speakers. At its 2024 Annual Meeting at Jefferson Lab, June 10-12, 2024, JSA announced the award of the JSA Post Doctoral Grant, JSA Thesis Prize, and Student Poster Prizes.

Post doc Debaditya Biswas honored at JLUO Annual Meeting. Left to right: Paul Mantica (DOE); David Dean (Jefferson Lab); Stuart Henderson (Jefferson Lab); Prize winner Debaditya Biswas; Elizabeth Lawson (SURA/JSA); Marco Contalbrigo (JLUO Board)

JSA Post Doctoral Fellowship

Virginia Tech post doc research associate **Debaditya Biswas** was awarded the 2024 prize for his proposal ***Detection of Muons for Studying Double Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering***. Biswas' proposal was selected based on the quality of the writing, its scientific impact, the originality of the approach, and his mastery of the subject.

Poster Prizes

One of the exciting events on the JLUO Annual Meeting agenda is the JSA Graduate Student Poster Competition. In selecting the winning posters, the judges considered: Scientific context and merit; Scientific accomplishment, contribution and/or innovation; Accessibility to the broad nuclear/particle physics community; and, Poster design, clarity and visual impact. **Old Dominion University** students **Mariana Tenorio-Pita** and **Marco Carrillo**, and University of York student **Asli Acar** were recognized for their prize-winning entries.

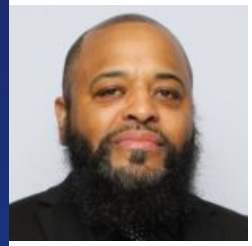
Poster prize winners honored at JLUO Annual Meeting. Left to right Paul Mantica (DOE); David Dean (Jefferson Lab); Stuart Henderson (Jefferson Lab); Prize winners: Mariana Tenorio-Pita, Marco Carrillo, Asli Acar; Marco Contalbrigo (JLUO Board); Elizabeth Lawson (SURA/JSA)

Thesis prize winner honored at JLUO Annual Meeting. Left to right: Paul Mantica (DOE); David Dean (Jefferson Lab); Stuart Henderson (Jefferson Lab); Prize winner Karthik Suresh; Elizabeth Lawson (SURA/JSA); Marco Contalbrigo (JLUO Board)

JSA Thesis Prize

William and Mary post doc research associate **Karthik Suresh** was awarded the 2024 thesis prize. Suresh's thesis Partial Wave Analysis of Neutral b1 Meson at GlueX was presented for his PhD from the University of Regina in 2023.

A Letter From the CFO



Fiscal Year 2024: A Year of Strong Performance and Strategic Growth

Fiscal Year 2024 was marked by solid financial performance and ambitious growth initiatives. Key achievements - including the launch of a new scientific program, implementation of targeted corporate cost reduction strategies, and a 23.49% return on the company's investment portfolio - helped to position SURA to navigate the anticipated complexities of 2025 with resilience and confidence.

FY24 Financial Performance Overview

- *Unrestricted Revenue:* $241M – a 14% increase over FY23
- *Corporate Expenditures:* $2.83M – an 11% decrease from FY23
- *Net Change in Net Assets:* $1.96M – a 43% increase from FY23
- *Debt Reduction:* $338K – a 4% decrease from FY23
- *Return on Investment:* $4.24M – a 74% increase from $2.44M in FY23

Cost Management and Efficiency

In FY24, we executed a series of cost-optimization initiatives that led to an 11% reduction in corporate operating expenses. These included:

- Engaging external partners in bid and proposal efforts
- Streamlining our vendor base
- Negotiating cloud services contracts
- Enhancing automation across financial processes

Financial Risk Management and Compliance

We are proud to report that the following audits resulted in unmodified opinions, with no significant deficiencies or material internal control findings:

- FY24 Financial Statement Audit
- FY24 Federal Single Audit
- CY23 ERISA Retirement Audit

Our financial statements as affirmed by our outside auditors present the financial position of SURA fairly and accurately, in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

A Note of Appreciation

I would like to thank our finance team for their professionalism and dedication. I also extend my gratitude to our board, member universities, partners, and other stakeholders for their continued support of and trust in SURA's mission.

Sincerely,

William Allan Jones, Jr., MBA, CGMA, CPA
Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, SURA

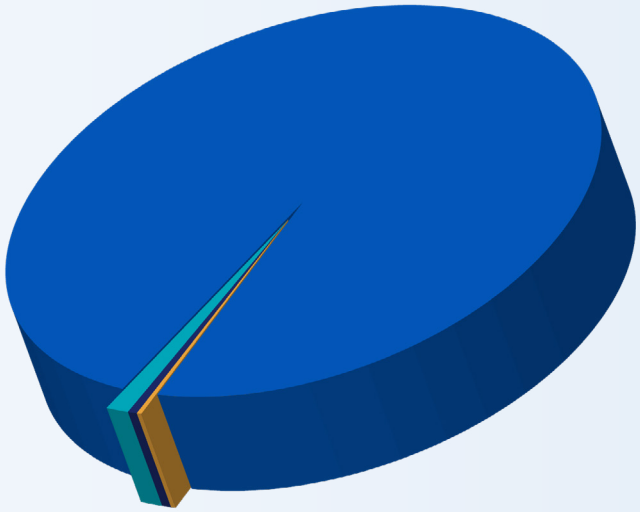
FY24 Revenue & Support

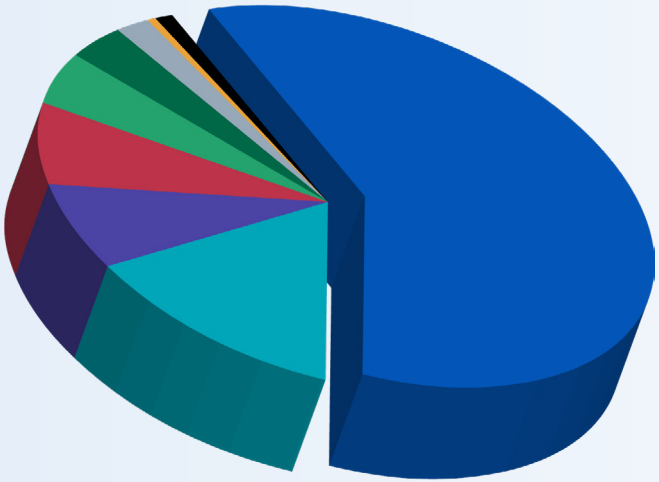
Grants & Contracts
$235,467,838

Commonwealth of Virginia Funding
$2,790,902

Other
$1,941,959

Membership Dues
$366,875





FY24 Expenses

Salaries & Fringe Benefits
$143,768,537

Materials & Supplies
$33,133,654

Professional Services
$16,344,774

Utilities
$17,940,786

Capital Procurement
$12,783,241

Plant & Equipment Maintenance
$9,092,413

Travel
$5,276,818

Rent
$1,911,804

Other
$2,022,366


SURA
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Christopher Newport University
Clemson University
Duke University
FAU Florida Atlantic University
FIU Florida International University
Florida State University
Florida Tech
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Hampton University
Idaho State University
Indiana University
JMU James Madison University
LSU
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mississippi State University
Norfolk State University
NC State University
Ohio University
Old Dominion University
Rice
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The Catholic University of America
The George Washington University Washington, DC
The University of Alabama
UAB
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of Oklahoma
The University of Tennessee System
Tulane University
University of Arkansas
University of Central Florida
University of Delaware
UF University of Florida
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University of Louisiana Lafayette
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University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
The University of Southern Mississippi
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
VCU
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
William & Mary

SURA is a consortium of universities with a mission to advance collaborative research and education and to strengthen the scientific capabilities of its members and our nation.

It was established as the Southeastern Universities Research Association in 1980 to design, build, and operate what is now Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility - a U.S. Department of Energy science laboratory.

Jefferson Science Associates (JSA) , a wholly-owned SURA subsidiary, now operates the lab. SURA also facilitates collaboration with government agencies and researchers to advance information technology, understanding of coastal and environmental phenomena, space science and technology, and to promote scientific discoveries that impact our lives.

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