

SESAPS 2015, Complete with Prize-Winning Poster!

November 24, 2015



Poster prize-winning undergraduate Jesse Buffaloe was one of several students representing UT physics at SESAPS 2015: the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society, hosted by the University of South Alabama (USA) November 18-21.

[See the SESAPS 2015 Photo Album \(../events/2015-SESAPS/index.html\)](#)

Both undergraduates and graduate students presented their work on a wide range of scientific interests, with **Buffaloe (pictured right) taking home the prize for best Undergraduate Poster** for "A Singular Value Decomposition of 15M Progenitor Chimera Entropy



Data." He explained: "My research is based around using a matrix method known as Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) to explore the data generated by core-collapse supernovae simulations, in the hope that we can better understand the nuances of their explosion mechanism. This award would not have been possible without the collaborative effort between myself and Brandon Barker, nor without the guidance and input of Anthony Mezzacappa, Eirik Endeve, and Eric Lentz."

Barker is a fellow undergraduate physics major at UT, while Mezzacappa is the Newton W. and Wilma C. Thomas Endowed Chair as well as the director of the Joint Institute for Computational Sciences. Endeve is a joint faculty member in the department and both he and Lentz are involved with astrophysics research both at the university and at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

All together, UT and UT Space Institute students and faculty submitted 19 abstracts to the meeting. The full program is available online via the **meeting website** (<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/physics/sesaps2015/>), along with more photos and videos.

Thanks to UT SPS Events Coordinator Brooke Carter and Assistant Professor Nadia Fomin for providing images for the photo album.