

Peer Review of Brandon Benson's Presentation
By Adrienne Propp

Overall, I was very impressed by Brandon Benson's presentation. He was the first speaker of all of the SULI interns this year, but he spoke with poise and confidence. His project was titled "Channeling, Volume Reflection & Gamma Emission Using 14 GeV Electrons in Bent Silicon Crystals."

The presentation was very informative and easy to follow. He presented the problem motivating his work, and did a good job of explaining how he approached rectifying it. The focus was clear, as he made sure to not stray from his main idea and he reminded the audience of the focus of his work a few times. He also did a good job of explaining enough technical details so that we had a thorough understanding of what he did, but not so many that those of us with other specializations were lost. The visual aides were extremely helpful. He had many pictures to help him explain the crystals, nuclei strings, and undulations he spoke about. Furthermore, it was evident that he was knowledgeable enough about his topic that he was able to explain complicated topics in a simple and understandable manner. This was even clearer in the Q&A afterwards, where he was able to answer nearly all of the questions he was presented with. I could also tell that he had really considered his results in the perspective of the big picture, taking care to account for any error he might have accumulated.

Brandon was definitely prepared for the presentation – the slideshow was top notch and he spoke well. He made good eye contact and had good intonation. My only comment would be that he was a bit soft-spoken, which made him seem nervous. His facial expression also contributed to this. However, it is completely understandable to be nervous as the first speaker, and his nerves didn't seem to negatively affect him during the presentation.