International Conference To Be Held In Honor of Roy P. Daniels Professor and LSU Distinguished Research Master Jerry P. Draayer, President of Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA)

This coming spring (June 4-7, 2012), “Horizons of Innovative Theories, Experiments, and Supercomputing in Nuclear Physics” (HITES 2012) – an international conference in honor of Prof. Jerry Draayer to celebrate his worldwide-recognized research and academic achievements – will welcome more than a hundred participants with about a quarter from abroad: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Japan, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and Russia. The conference will be attended by some of the most prominent world-leading nuclear physicists and computer scientists, as well as many young emerging scientists.

The scientific meeting will be held in the historic French Quarter of New Orleans. It will cover cutting-edge science and will represent a unique synergy of topics – related to Draayer’s outstanding research – in theoretical and experimental nuclear physics, fundamental physics, and high-performance computing. In particular, presentations will focus on the quest for further understanding fundamental properties of nature; physics of quarks/gluons and neutrinos; structure and reactions of nuclei, which hide tremendous amount of energy that could be harnessed in support of a broad spectrum of humanitarian needs such as medical, industrial and energy applications; further studies of exotic nuclei and evolution of the universe; as well as the latest advances in computer science.

Draayer is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Louisiana State University as well as President and CEO of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), which is a consortium of over 60 research-intensive universities in the southern United States. SURA manages and operates the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab) for the Department of Energy. The nuclear physics research facility provides unique capabilities for a user community of approximately 1,300 researchers from 280 institutions worldwide.

Prior to his current leadership at SURA, Draayer was on the Louisiana Board of Regents as the Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research & Development. This followed his directorship of the Office of Federal Programs for the Regents. His achievements with the Regents include the establishment of a Joint Faculty Appointment Program that established pairs of hires between Louisiana's HBCU's and other institutions of higher education.

In his 30+ years as a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Louisiana State University, Draayer has served as chair of his Department, Vice-president of the Faculty Senate, and Chair of the Council for the College of Basic Sciences. He also holds a joint appointment as a professor in the Department of Computer Science. He has sponsored 17 long-term/sabbatical visitors, 15 postdoctoral
associates, 17 Ph.D. candidates, plus a complement of M.S. students. Draayer continues as a member of the faculty at LSU.

Draayer is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including LSU Distinguished Research Master (LSU, Engineering, Science & Technology) in 2007, Francis G. Slack Fellow (American Physical Society, Southeastern Section) in 2006, Roy P. Daniels Professor of Physics (LSU) in 2002, Fellow (American Physical Society, Division of Nuclear Physics) in 2000, and Corresponding Member of the Mexican National Academy of Sciences in 1998. He was appointed Guest Professor at the University of Tübingen in Germany (1992-1994) and Associate Professor at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France (1991-1992). Professional services include: associate editor of several professional journals, conference organizing committees of many national and international conferences, external reviewer on various international and national university committees, and referee for a wide variety of proposals and journals. He has also served on many professional committees, including several of the American Physical Society. And in 2010 he received a distinguished alumni award from his high school in Albert Lea, MN where he served as president of his senior class.

Draayer has served as principal investigator on numerous NSF and DOE proposals totaling well over $25 million in awarded grants. He has co-authored 4 books, published over 250 regular refereed journal articles, and is a regular invited lecturer at national and international scientific conferences which has resulted in an additional 200 publications.

Draayer received a Ph.D. in Physics and Mathematics (1968) and a B.S. in Physics and Electrical Engineering (1964), both from Iowa State University.

Contact:
James P. Vary, Professor of Physics, Iowa State University, 515-294-8894 (phone), jvary@iastate.edu, 515-294-6027 (fax)
Kristina D Launey, Research Associate, 225-578-0351 (phone), kristina@baton.phys.lsu, 225-578-5855 (fax)
Mark Caprio, …