



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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SURA President Among Southeastern Physicist Awardees

Washington, DC –At its November 9-11 annual meeting in Williamsburg, VA, the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society will recognize three physicists from the Southeast US who have made significant contributions to Physics Education, Physics Research or exemplary service to the Physics Community. The three recipients will be honored at a banquet on November 10.

Dr. Jerry P. Draayer, a Chair Professor of Physics at Louisiana State University will receive the Francis G. Slack Award for Excellence in Service to Physics in the Southeast. As Head of Physics and Astronomy Department at LSU and President of the Southeastern Universities Research Association, Dr. Draayer has facilitated advances in scientific research initiatives that have extend the research capability of the entire southeast region, led to expanded successes at the Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory, and provided new opportunities for high speed networking and collaborative research in marine science.

Dr. Robert Beichner will receive the George B. Pegram Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Physics in the Southeast. A Professor at North Carolina State University, Dr. Beichner is being recognized for "For international leadership in Physics Education Research and for development and dissemination of the SCALE-UP strategy for teaching science." Dr. Beichner developed the SCALE-UP interactive mode for teaching introductory college physics which does away with formal lectures and emphasizes students collaboratively investigating and working through physics topics.

Dr. Akunuri V. Ramayya of Vanderbilt University will receive the Jesse W. Beams Research Award "For his outstanding contributions to nuclear structure physics." In a career of experiments at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other sites, Dr. Ramayya has distinguished himself as a world leader in research on the structure and shapes of unstable nuclei and the process of nuclear fission.

A division of the American Physical Society, the major US organization of Physicists, the objective of the Southeastern Section is the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of physics within the Southeastern region of the United States, including the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit www.sura.org.