The International Conference on Strangeness in Quark Matter 2006 (SQM2006) will be held from March 26-31, 2006 at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) campus. The SQM2006 is organized by Kenneth Barish (UC Riverside), Huan Zhong Huang (Chair, UCLA), Joseph Kapusta (Minnesota), Grazyna Odyniec (LBNL), Johann Rafelski (Arizona) and Charles A. Whitten Jr. (UCLA).

The UCLA campus is located in the West Los Angeles area surrounded by Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Hollywood and Santa Monica all with many popular tourist attractions. The most convenient airport is the Los Angeles airport (LAX), which has connections to most major cities in the world and is within 20 miles of the campus. March should be among the best months in Los Angeles, sunny and pleasant.

The conference will focus on recent experimental and theoretical developments on the production of strange and heavy flavor (charm and beauty) quarks in nuclear collisions at SPS and RHIC energies. Emphasis will be on strange and heavy quark probes for the QCD nature of the dense matter created in nucleus-nucleus collisions at these energies. Recent advances at GSI energies, the future heavy ion program at the LHC and strange quark dynamics in astrophysics will also be reviewed.

The first day of the conference (March 26, 2006) will be devoted to a student and post-doctoral symposium, followed by plenary sessions during the rest of the week. Contributions to the symposium will be included in the conference proceedings. The conference aims at a lively, informal atmosphere with ample discussion time during both the conference sessions and social hours.

The conference registration fee will be US $375 which will cover light breakfasts and lunches, breaks, the conference banquet, an excursion and a copy of the conference proceedings. The conference web site is http://www.physics.ucla.edu/SQM2006. Details of the conference and hotel accommodation information will be available at the web site soon.
There will be funds available to support conference participation by graduate students. Students are encouraged to submit an application for a registration fee waiver when online registration opens. Here is a tentative timeline for the conference events:

1) First Circular – July 2005
2) Second Circular – October 2005
3) Conference Registration Opens – October 2005
4) Third Circular – January 2006
5) Abstract Submission – January 2006
6) Hotel Reservation – see website
7) Early Registration Ends – February 2006
8) Final Circular – March 2006

We invite you to attend the SQM2006 conference.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Barish, Huan Zhong Huang, Joseph Kapusta, Grazyna Odyniec, Johann Rafelski and Charles A. Whitten Jr.