

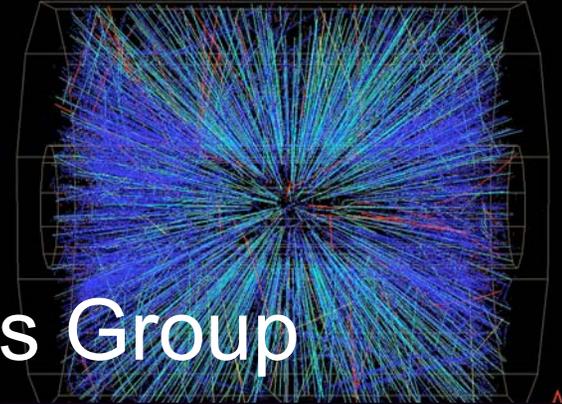


# RHIC/AGS Users Group

DOE RHIC Program Review  
July 10, 2003

Vicki Greene, Vanderbilt University  
Chair, RHIC/AGS Users Executive Committee

# Outline



- Profile of the RHIC-AGS Users Group
- Purpose of the RHIC/AGS Users Group
- The Users Executive Committee and its subcommittees
- Accomplishments for 2002/03
- Major Concerns
- Goals for 2003/04
- UEC Membership



# Profile of the RHIC/AGS Users Group

The RHIC/AGS Users Group has  
~1084 Members  
976 in RHIC Physics  
and 561 U.S. participants



Particle Physics  
(AGS)



Accelerator Physics  
(Accelerator Test  
Facility - ATF)

7/10/2003

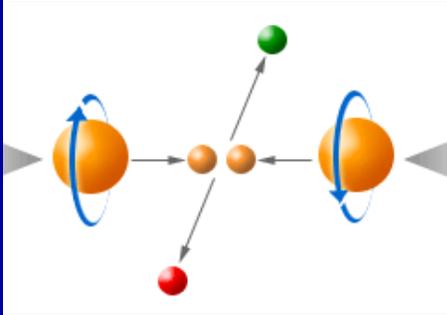


Nuclear Physics (RHIC)

DOE RHIC Program Review



Biology  
(NASA Space  
Radiation Laboratory )



Medium Energy  
Spin Physics  
(RHIC)

# Purpose of RHIC/AGS Users Group

- The Users' group must enable the users of its member facilities to do their scientific work productively and with a minimum of unnecessary obstacles.
- Students and postdocs doing work at RHIC & AGS should be supported through career building programs such as the RHIC/AGS Thesis Award and through social activities such as the Association for Students and Postdocs (ASAP).
- The User's group must help the funding offices by making a strong case for continued support of the facilities and associated research programs.

# RHIC/AGS Users Executive Committee

- The Users Executive Committee (UEC) is elected by the Users during the annual Users Meeting (now in Spring).
- Membership includes a chair (Vicki Greene), past-chair (Rich Seto), and chair-elect (Gary Westfall). The chair has a 1-year term.
- One member is appointed by the chair (Glenn Young).
- There is a student/postdoc member (Jane Burward-Hoy, Carol Scarlett).
- We try to balance membership across field, geography, and lab & university representation.

**Work towards these goals is done primarily by  
the  
Users Executive Committee through the UEC  
subcommittees:**

- Political Action (formerly Public Relations)
- Users Meeting
- Thesis
- Computing

- Bylaws
- Non-U.S. Visitors (formerly Foreign Visitors and Security)
- Quality of Life

# Public Affairs/Political Action Subcommittee

- The crisis in RHIC funding due to the failure of Congress to pass the necessary funding bills for FY2003 threatened an early end to RHIC Run 3.
- In response, a website was established at Iowa State University. The website had
  1. A sample letter to a congressional representative describing the problem.
  2. A link to a congressional website with addresses and fax numbers.
  3. A sample letter of thanks for officials who signed the funding bills.
  4. The site got over 250 hits.
- A group from Iowa State, MIT, Texas A&M, Ohio State, and Notre Dame visited their congressional representatives. They received a warm reception from all who were visited.
- Public Affairs sponsored a visit from Susan Ginsberg with the APS Office of Public Affairs to make a presentation at the May RHIC/AGS Users Meeting on how to communicate effectively with Congress.
- It is essential for individual RHIC/AGS users to visit their congressional representatives and make the need for support of science known. Members of the subcommittee will work to help and encourage users to make such visits.

# RHIC/AGS Annual Users Meeting

- The annual meeting was moved from Oct. to May 15-16, 2003.
- The dinner on Thursday night and one talk during the meeting was held jointly with the Loopfest workshop at BNL.
- The thesis award was raised from last year's \$1,000 (plus travel expenses) per award to \$3,000 (including travel expenses).
- The agenda was planned to represent the full range of science represented in the AGS and RHIC complex.
- Over 100 registered participants attended the meeting and the feedback was generally positive. Tremendous interest was generated by the RHIC talks which were the first public presentations of preliminary data from d+Au gold collisions.

# Plans for 2004 Users Meeting

- We met with Peter Paul on June 5 to begin planning next year's Annual Users Meeting, which will likely be held on May 13,14 or May 20,21 just preceding or following the NSLS annual users meeting.
- We will meet with the head of the NSLS Users Center and propose making a presentation at the August meeting of the NSLS UEC to have some joint functions during next year's annual meetings of the two facilities. Obvious areas of overlap are biological physics research, students and postdoc issues, and quality-of-life issues.
- The concept being advanced for mid-May of 2004 is "Users Week at BNL". The BNL Directorate has expressed support for the concept.

# RHIC/AGS Thesis Award

- The RHIC & AGS Thesis award, established last year by the UEC with funds from BSA, continued with the awarding of the prizes for the second year at the May 2003 Users Meeting.
- The monetary value of the award was increased substantially in '03 due to the generosity of BSA.
- Eight Theses were received as of the deadline for thesis submission of April 15, 2003,. Three of these were based primarily on work at RHIC, three were based primarily on HEP work at the AGS and two were based on MEP experiments at the AGS.
- A selection committee, appointed by then UEC chair Richard Seto, was finalized on April 14, 2003. The committee met twice during the period of May 6-7, with the final decisions provided to Susan White-DePace of the Users Center on May 7.
- There were several excellent theses covering the broad range of work done at the RHIC & AGS complex.

# 2003 RHIC/AGS Thesis Award Winners

- Frederick Gray: A Measurement of the Anomalous Magnetic Moment of the Positive Muon with a Precision of 0.7 Parts Per Million.
- Hiroki Sato:  $J/\psi$  Production in p+p Collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV.



# ASAP

- Brookhaven's Association for Students and Postdocs (ASAP) is an organization of students and postdocs working at Brookhaven. Our main aim is to improve the quality of life of our members here at Brookhaven, and to act as a voice for the students and postdocs working here.



# Major Issue: Offsite Participation in Meetings

- Not all rooms are set up to allow offsite users to connect.
  - When meetings occur in the Large Seminar Room in Physics outside users are left out!
- Often outsiders cannot hear the speaker and/or discussion.
  - There should be appropriate video and audio equipment in all meeting rooms.
- Some of the bridge lines allow only 5-6 users to connect.
- Many other labs have better facilities for offsite users — e.g. FNAL, CERN
- This issue needs manpower as well as equipment.
- The webcast for the June 18 press event was successful and much appreciated by offsite members of the community.

**This is a critical need for international collaborations!**

# Progress on offsite meeting access



- Last week, Tom Kirk organized a discussion about this issue to see what can be done quickly.
- As a result of this discussion, Tom Throwe has proposed a plan to allow meetings that include interactive graphics. It uses RealMedia software that already exists in some form at the lab.
- To make a web cast one needs the following hardware at a minimum per room:
  - computer
  - sound card
  - video capture card
  - camera
- A better microphone system will be needed, especially in the Large Seminar Room.
- The UEC will refine the needs of the users in order to optimize the implementation of this plan.

# Major Issue: Non-US Visitors – VISA Restrictions cause problems for experiments with large international component

- Solution should be a multi-lab effort.
- We must coordinate with Lab Directorate.
- Can DOE apply pressure here? Ray Orbach is probably the correct person to speak to about DOE policy.
- We need to determine what aspects of the policy can be fixed by BNL changes, and what requires political action.
- The Users Office does a great job of handling individual problems, but they run the risk of being overwhelmed!

# Goals for the upcoming year

- Improve meeting facilities for off-site users.
- Have Users' Meeting that is a real showcase for RHIC science.
- Have Users' meetings at all APS, DNP,... meetings.
- Mount more visits to DC and letter-writing campaigns.
- More regular communication with DOE.
- Work with BNL management to improve access to meetings for offsite collaborators. This is already bearing fruit!
- Work with Users Office, Lab management, and government to improve access for non-US visitors.
- Hold regular "Open Forum" meetings before some UEC Monthly meetings where users can raise concerns.

# Current UEC Members

Victoria Greene, Chair  
Vanderbilt University

Mike Lisa  
Ohio State University

Richard Seto, Past Chair  
University of California at Riverside

Jack Engelage  
Space Sciences Laboratory

Gary Westfall, Chair Elect  
Michigan State University

David Hofman  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Carol Scarlett  
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Brant Johnson  
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Mike Sivertz  
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Michael Murray  
Texas A&M University

Steve Johnson  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Stephen Pate  
New Mexico State

Glenn Young  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

John Hill  
Iowa State

Jane Burward-Hoy, Student/PostDoc Member  
Los Alamos National

Marcelo Vazquez  
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Steven Kettell  
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Peter Yamin, Secretary (ex-officio)  
Brookhaven National Laboratory