

RHIC AGS Users' Organization

Abhay Deshpande

Stony Brook University &

RIKEN BNL Research Center

Chair, RHIC-AGS Users' Executive Committee

Annual DOE RHIC Science & Technology Review

July 7-9, 2009

Theme of the talk:

- Introduction to UEC
- Comments on our recent activities
- Concerns & aspirations of the Users

Thanks:

- Users appreciate: the DOE office of science's efforts on our behalf for the science funding.
 - We appreciate the efforts by Dennis Kovar, and now Jehanne Simon-Gillo and her office, toward continued support of RHIC physics.
- The Users appreciate the work done by Susan White-Depace, Angela Melocoton, Kelly Guiffreda & Regina Robinson for their dedicated, professional and friendly service to all of us.

Resources for RHIC Users

- **RHIC-AGS Users' Group**
 - Includes: RHIC & AGS users, National Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL), Tandem & Accelerator Test Facility (ATF) @ BNL; User's office assists users of ATLAS, Daya Bay & LSST
- **RHIC-AGS Users' Executive Council (UEC)**
 - Elected and appointed representatives
- **RHIC-AGS Users' Center**
 - Acts as an advocate on behalf of users with BNL management. Ensures that guests comply with laboratory policies, standards, procedures, regulations and training. Organizes UEC and users' meetings

Demographics

Category of Users	Number as of June 2007	Number as of June 2008
Total	1880	2217
Total RHIC	950	1016
RHIC Faculty, Staff	510	
RHIC Students	350	
RHIC Post-Docs	60	
RHIC remote users	30	
(AGS, ATF, NSRL, Tandem)	600	666
ATLAS, Daya Bay, LSST NYBlue	380	735

Demographics by experiment

Collaboration	June 2008
RHIC Users	1016
PHENIX	519
STAR	445
PHOBOS	28
BRAHMS	5
PP2PP	1
eRHIC/EIC	18

RHIC Peer Reviewed Publications Total: 200

2000	1
2001	15
2002	20
2003	23
2004	32
2005	31
2006	31
2007	34
Jan-Jun 2008	13

2008 is a partial year

RHIC Ph.D. Theses

Total 182 (TBC)

2000	4
2001	9
2002	24
2003	25
2004	29
2005	31
2006	26
2007	32 (TBC)
Jan-Jun 2008	12

2008 partial year

Good ratio:

$$\frac{\text{RHIC Publications}}{\text{Ph.D. Theses}} = \frac{200}{181} = 1.1$$

Caveat: MS degrees not counted here... about 30 have been awarded, correlation to publications not known.

UEC 2008-9

- **UEC Chairs:**

- Abhay Deshpande (Stony Brook, Chair)
- Jim Sowinski (Indiana, Chair Elect)
- Rene Bellwied (Wayne State, Past Chair)

- **UEC Members (elected & appointed)**

- Helen Caines, Yale U.
- Manuel Calderon, UC Davis
- Hank Crawford, LBNL
- Renee Fatemi, Kentucky U.
- Brant Johnson, BNL
- John Lajoie, Iowa State
- Michael Murray, Kansas
- Cornelis Onderwater, Groningen
- Peter Steinberg, BNL
- Carla Vale, BNL
- Monica Sharma

+ Ex officio members
from BNL management

UEC's Working Groups (2007-8)

- **Site access and science (SAS, Susan W. DePace)**
 - Physical access, computer access, computing
- **Funding, politics & programs (FPP, Rene Bellwied)**
 - Funding
 - Political action: OSTP, OMB, Congress
- **Meetings, communications & Outreach (MCO, Abhay Deshpande)**
 - User's meeting, open forums
- **Quality of life (QOL, John Hill)**
 - Housing, transportation, site improvements
 - Liaison to Association for Students and Post docs (ASAP)

Similar structure in future. Chairs will change. To be decided this month.

Annual Users Group Meetings

- **Annual Users' Meeting**
 - Most recent May 27-30, 2008
- **Open Forum Meetings: 4 / year**
 - April APS meetings:
 - Fall DNP Meetings
 - @BNL: Annual Users' meeting + December
- **Monthly UEC meetings**
 - UEC + members of BNL management + invited guests for topical discussions

Users' Meeting 2008

http://www.bnl.gov/rhic_ag/users_meeting/default.asp

- **Topical workshops , May 27**
 - 2 Spin Physics + 4 heavy ion physics
- **International Symposium, May 28**
 - Impact of RHIC on Nuclear Science
 - Speakers from US, Japan, Europe
 - Scientific impact and excitement about its bright future as a “QCD Lab” in the next decade
- **Plenary Sessions, May 29+30**
 - Highlights from accelerator & experimental collaborations, view from the DOE, poster presentations & discussion on *Minorities in Physics*
 - Laboratory's view of the future, theses awards

Selected items of impact by the UEC 2007-2008 (I)

- **Three chair's visit to Washington DC, March '08 (FPP)**
 - Coordinated with Batelle and BNL management in DC. Fruitful, constructive, informative. Met with staffers, and accidentally with a couple of senators.
 - Aim was to support the FY'08 Supplemental Request (Senate \$250M->\$1B, House much smaller)
 - Many other issues might have affected this, but recently this bill was passed with \$62.5M for DOE.
- **User Center Staff (led by Susan De-Pace) has heroically reduced the Site-Axes Wait List dramatically (SAS)**
 - No golden bullet, but a confluence of many things pursued tirelessly by Susan et al at the GUV center

Selected items of impact by the UEC 2007-2008 (II)

- **Initiation and running of RHIC News (J. Haggerty, BNL, MCO)**
 - It has become “a must read” item; always on User’s minds and discussions. Effective method to disperse info on RHIC achievements, happenings and last but not the least, a very effective vehicle for the management to communicate with RHIC users directly.
 - Users appreciate this very much
- **Symposium during this year’s User’s Meeting (MCO)**
 - *Impact of RHIC on Nuclear Science*
 - Well attended (> 250 people), distinguished speakers from all over the world & some members of DOE office of science
 - Discussed the present impact and anticipated role of RHIC when luminosity and detectors are fully upgraded

Selected items of impact by the UEC 2007-2008 (III)

- **Opening of the BNL-Café at the Users Center (QOL)**
 - A grand success, efforts led by C. Vale and P. Steinberg of the UEC
 - Users thankful for UEC's initiative and the Lab's support
 - We are happy to learn that so far the Café is breaking-even, hopefully it will even make money in future
- **Communicated with Nayyarssans (Cafeteria Contractors) (QOL)**
 - Improvement in service quality
 - Number of items improved, costs clearly displayed, certain specific requests accommodated
 - Over all I see increased satisfaction amongst the users & the UEC

Selected items of impact by the UEC 2007-2008 (IV)

- Modest changes in the dorms, through repeated communication with BNL housing (QOL)
 - Sets of dishes added to various kitchens
 - Small changes in the dorm bathrooms being implemented

Major Concerns of the RHIC user Community (June 2008)

1. **Funding for science** [In 2007: was #1]
 - RHIC operations, upgrades, RHIC II and EIC
2. **Quality of life at BNL** [In 2007: was #3]
 - Housing, cooking in the dorms, **lighting (3A)**
 - Sensitivity to minority issues (new issue)
3. **Visa and site access issues** [In 2007: was #2]
 - 60:40 -> Non-US:US ratio of RHIC Users
 - About 200 from “sensitive” countries

Funding Science: RHIC's Future

Concern # 1

- Second year in a row, the DOE's NP funding went below the threshold for shutting down ONE NP lab: A major concern
- Users believe that the management and the UEC is working on this. UEC has encouraged Users to be more active in communicating the importance of science to their congressional representative, but still this does indeed disturb people
- Limited or shorter than planned RHIC operations then create internal differences amongst users, pressed by the survival of their own science. So far the collaborations and management have managed this very amicably, but it is of concern to many users in future.
 - STAR vs. PHENIX, HI vx. Spin, Luminosity vs. Energy Scan

Addressing Concern #1:

- **Hope for a collective effort to produce the world class science of this lab:**
 - Scientists: through good science and communication/outreach
 - Management through inclusive decisions
 - DOE through its own continued effort, and appropriately weighted reviews of operations & results
- should try to ride-out these bad times...
- **A strong positive outlook helps on all sides**

Quality of Life

Concern #2

- **Housing: Despite a recent survey & analysis led by our Rene Bellwied (past chair) which indicated otherwise:**
 - The conditions in dorms are not satisfactory, especially to our younger users
 - Senior users: are divided in to two:
 - Smaller groups with limited travel support are ready to live with it for Physics (fear of higher costs if substantial improvements occur)
 - Larger groups which are less concerned about these costs and seniors would really prefer more choices and better service
- **Bottom Line: (my personal thought) is that over all there is dissatisfaction, and what to do about it depends on what options a group faces depending on its financial condition.**

Addressing Concern #2

- **The lab should take a longer term view of the housing situation.**
 - The housing at the lab has remained (almost) the same over the last 20 years. If the lab is planning to be a world leader in nano-science and QCD in the next decade, it should take steps despite costs consequences (both to the lab and users) to maintain a healthy housing option

Quality of Life: Lighting

Concern # 2

- Road that connects to the RHIC ring is devoid of lights. UEC has discussed this in detail last year and while the need for lighting has been appreciated, no money could so far be allocated. Issues:
 - Regulations regarding distance between lights
 - Users walking to take night shifts
 - Unavailability of shuttle at all times (would police help out?)
 - Certain Watch shift crew needs emergency response abilities: not all students/post docs have cars. This is not just an instantaneous problem, but a long term career problem as well...
 - Getting a bike rental on site is a problem, although is being resolved... but what use without lights?
- UEC will pursue this with the management in the coming year

Minority issues Concern #2

- After the recent discussion of minority issues in physics (at the User's meeting) some emails/comments have been made.
- Is there a training/awareness program regarding minority issues at BNL?
- We plan to discuss this issue within the UEC this year and come back to the lab management with suggestions/needs and recommendations.

Summary

- Users group active and well
- Involved in several impact-full activities at and around RHIC/BNL in the last year
- Concerns are mainly associated with funding and some aspects of quality of life which we plan to address and work with the BNL management.