

The 2012 RHIC/AGS Annual Users' Meeting
Frontiers of RHIC Physics

June 12–15, 2012
Brookhaven National Laboratory



topical workshops:
June 12–13

plenary sessions:
June 14–15

register at:
<http://www.bnl.gov/aum>

organizing committee:
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RHIC/AGS UEC

- ❖ Representing 1000+ scientists worldwide
- ❖ The bulk of our users do research at RHIC, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider
 - ❖ Study of hot, dense tera-Kelvin matter not observed since the early universe
 - ❖ Probing the nature of the proton spin
- ❖ RHIC / AGS UEC has a strong record of recent accomplishments
 - ❖ Strong advocate for quality-of-life improvements on site
 - ❖ Initiated community interest in the Building 400 cafe
 - ❖ Working alongside NSLS and CFN chairs to produce recent housing survey (our users rely on on-site housing, from both cost and convenience)

Activities of the RHIC/AGS UEC

- ❖ Four major activity areas, each with its own TLA:
- ❖ Site access & science (SAS)
 - ❖ Visas, guest appointments, etc. - RHIC users need access to BNL to do science!
- ❖ Funding, Politics and Programmatics (FPP)
 - ❖ A means for RHIC users to show their commitment to RHIC science
- ❖ Quality of Life (QOL)
 - ❖ A means for RHIC users to improve their own experience at BNL
- ❖ Meetings, Communication and Outreach (MCO)
 - ❖ Our way to organize communication with each other, with BNL management, and with the outside world

RHIC/AGS UEC meetings

- ❖ RHIC UEC meetings occur every month
- ❖ Morning sessions are closed for UEC business
- ❖ Afternoon sessions are usually open meetings, where we have been privileged to have speakers from many BNL departments
 - ❖ Tom Regan, Counterintelligence, on how BNL deals with potential threats
 - ❖ Peter Daum, Chair of Environmental Sciences, on mentoring programs at BNL
 - ❖ Tom Schlegel, ITD, on the current state of cyber security at BNL
 - ❖ Ray Hernandez, Nayyarson's, and Andy Seelin, staff services on BNL food services
 - ❖ Karen McNulty Walsh, CEGPA, on how scientific outreach works at BNL
 - ❖ Michael Pena, Laboratory Protection Division, on crisis management at BNL
- ❖ These are open sessions and are a great way to get to know how the laboratory works!

Open Meetings

- ❖ Held several times a year, both at BNL and at the fall DNP meeting
- ❖ At BNL, typically host a meeting during lunch with representatives from lab management
 - ❖ Focus on local issues: site access, quality of life
 - ❖ This year we held a joint meeting organized along with NSLS and CFN UEC's
- ❖ At DNP, we focus on science and the future of RHIC physics at BNL
 - ❖ Recent meetings have had panels on the future of the RHIC facility, and the future of the RHIC experiments
 - ❖ Well attended, and we serve free food

Inside RHIC

Inside RHIC was set up several years ago as in a “blog” format

It is open to all contributions:
our main problem is finding people to write pieces for it!

Please volunteer and help communicate RHIC science to the public, other scientists, and policy makers!

The screenshot shows the 'Inside RHIC | Home Page' in a browser window. The URL is <http://www.bnl.gov/rhic/inside/>. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, Archives, Submission Guidelines, Contact, and RHIC. The main content area displays several articles, each with a small image and a title. The first article is titled 'Search for Associate Laboratory Director for High Energy and Nuclear Physics' dated March 26, 2012. The second is 'New Era of Heavy Flavor Measurements at RHIC: PHENIX Silicon Vertex Tracker' dated March 19, 2012. The third is 'The Annual State of RHIC Report' dated January 10, 2012. The fourth is 'RHIC Heavy Ions Run-11: a Retrospective' dated December 05, 2011. On the right side, there is a 'Subscribe' form with fields for Name, Email, and Security Verification, and a 'Lecture Schedule' link. Below the form is an 'Upcoming Events' section listing the National User Facility Organization Annual Meeting and the RHIC Annual Meeting. The footer includes a 'Go to #fragment-14 on this page' link and social media icons for RSS Feed and Follow Us.

e.g. HP 2012, AUM 2012, QM2012, sPHENIX, STAR upgrades, eRHIC, everything!

Common ground with other UECs

- ❖ RHIC is in the middle of a major planning phase for the future
 - ❖ Major upgrades to RHIC detectors
 - ❖ eRHIC - the electron-ion collider to study the structure of protons and nuclei in unprecedented detail
- ❖ Expect no major drop-off in our user base
- ❖ Lots of common issues with other growing parts of the lab, especially photon sciences and nanoscience
- ❖ We expect to be working with the other BNL UECs in the future, especially NSLS and CFN
 - ❖ This can only improve the scientific environment at BNL by us all working together on common issues...

A joint MCO/SAS project w/ NSLS & CFN UECs:



UEC³ Housing Survey

Peter Steinberg, RHIC UEC, Dan Fischer, NSLS UEC, Balaji Raghotamachar, CFN UEC

March 19, 2012

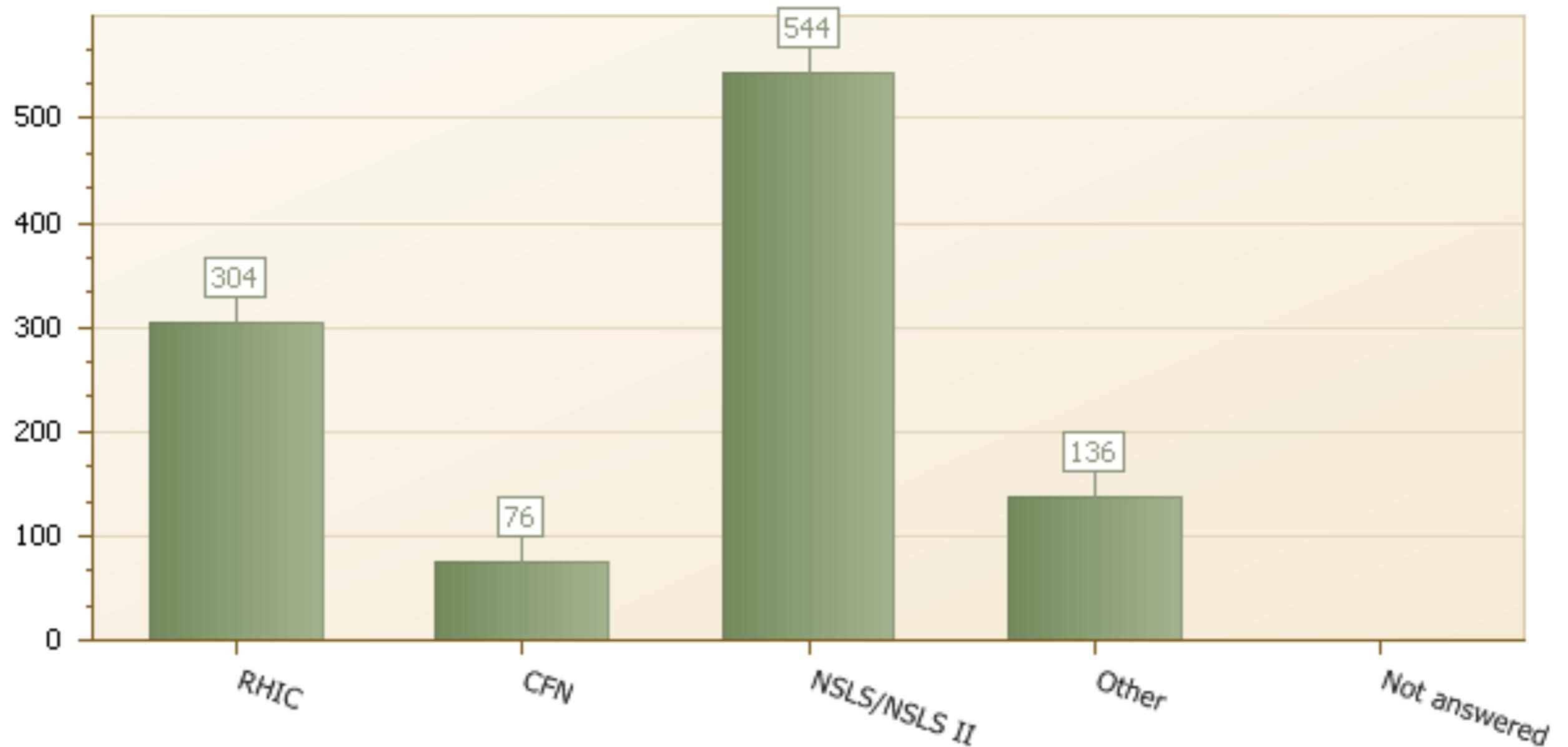
2012 Housing Survey

- ❖ Created as a response to concern of BNL scientific community that BNL's move away from on-site housing would have a substantial impact on the ability of users to do research at BNL
 - ❖ Survey sent to all users, including RHIC, NSLS and CFN - the three largest communities at BNL
- ❖ We wanted to see
 - ❖ How many times people come to BNL, and for how long
 - ❖ Where they stay
 - ❖ If they felt the housing as it is was satisfactory
 - ❖ If their research would be impacted by losing housing
- ❖ Indirectly, we also learn what an off-site option would need to provide to satisfy the current needs of the user community

Total number of responses

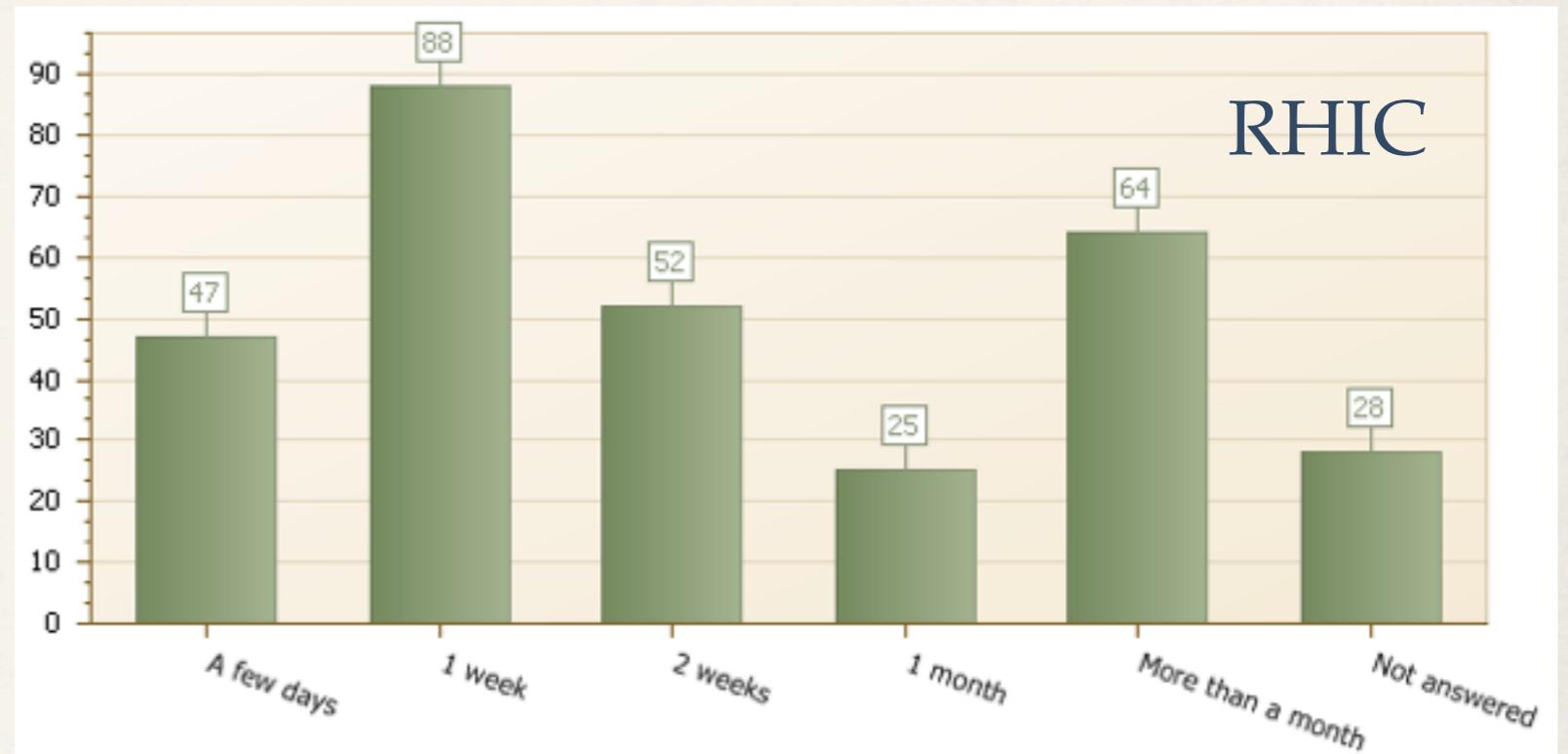
Number of responses: 1060

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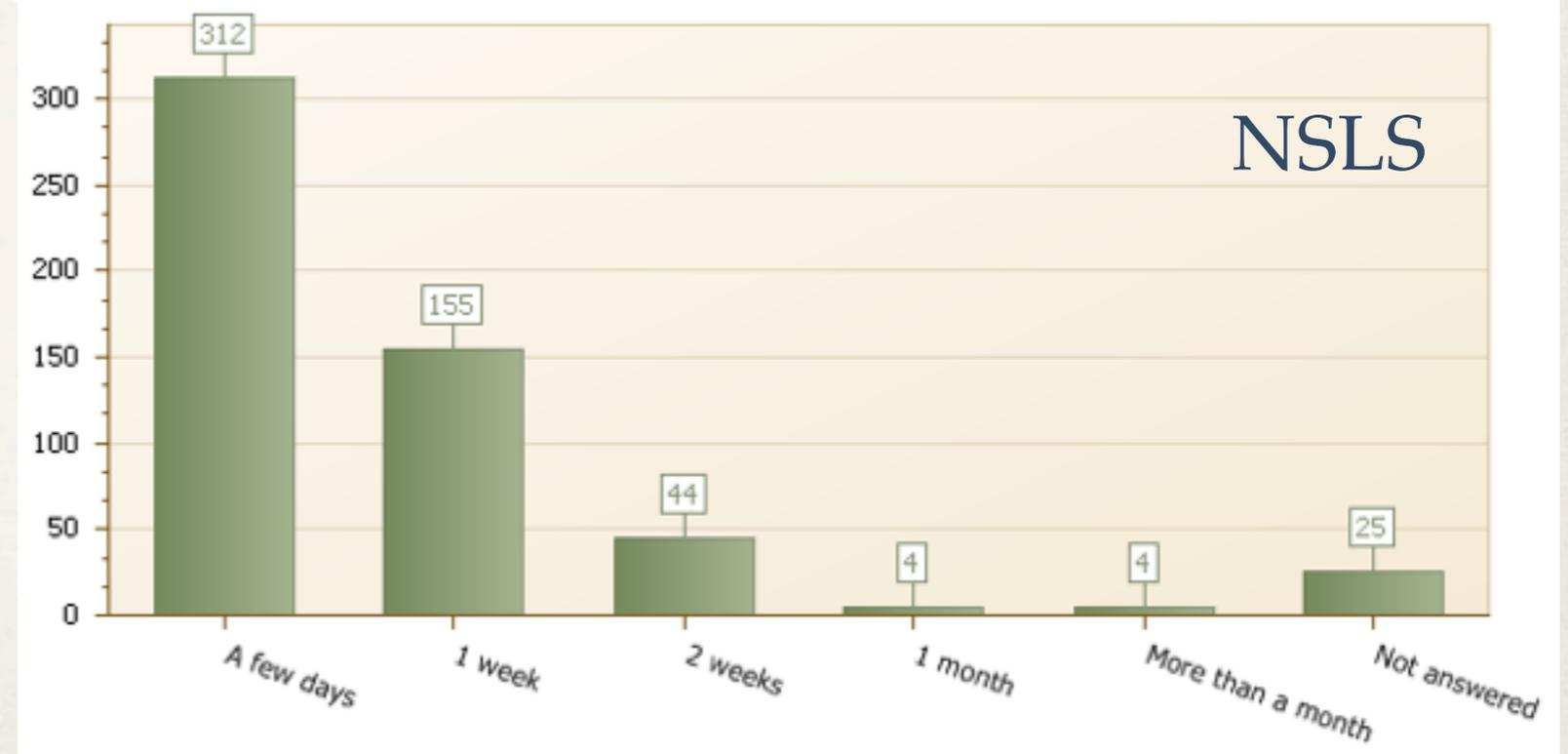


Duration of trips: RHIC vs. NSLS

RHIC people typically stay for a week or more than a month

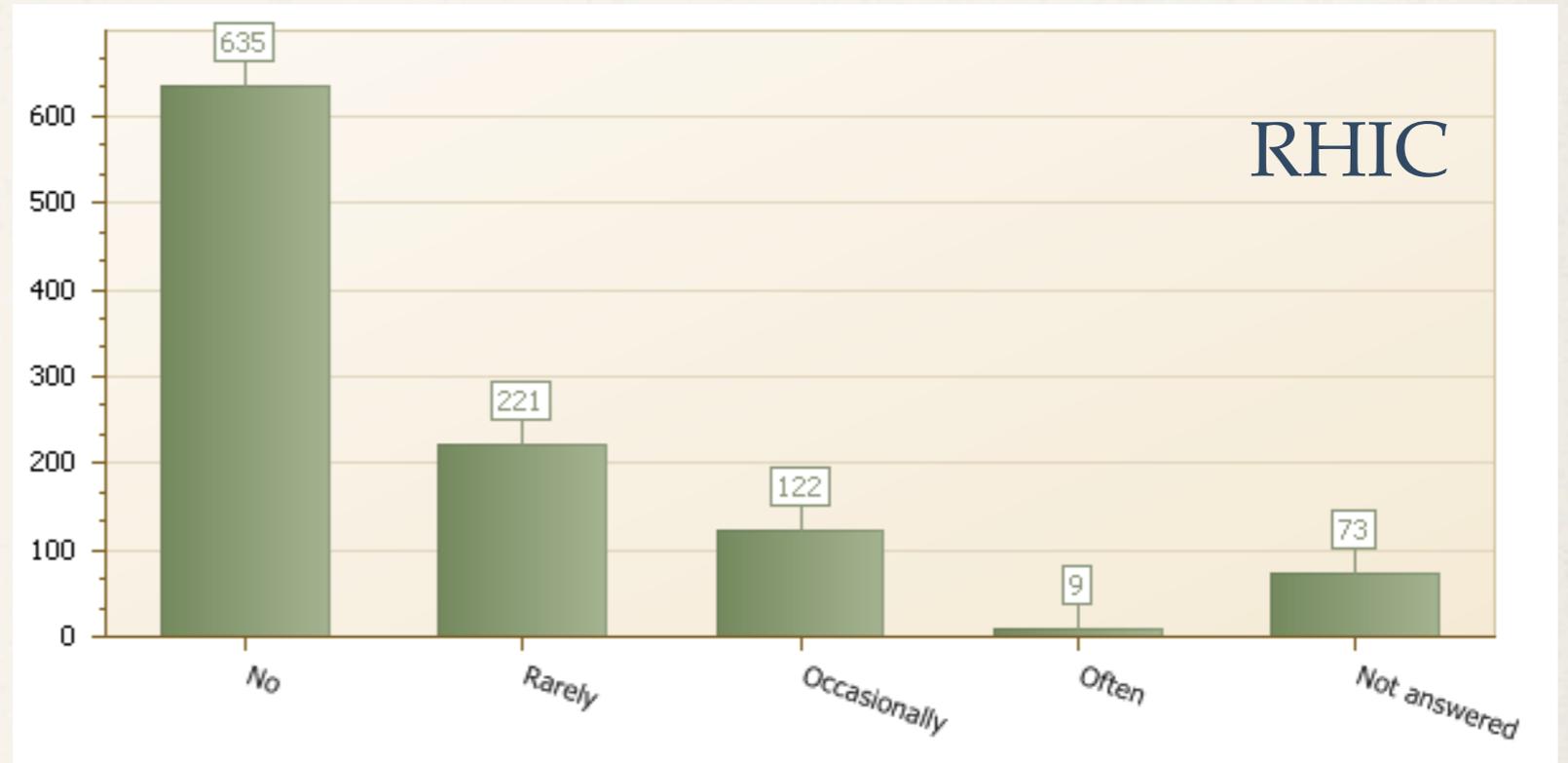


NSLS people typically stay for few days or a week, not much longer

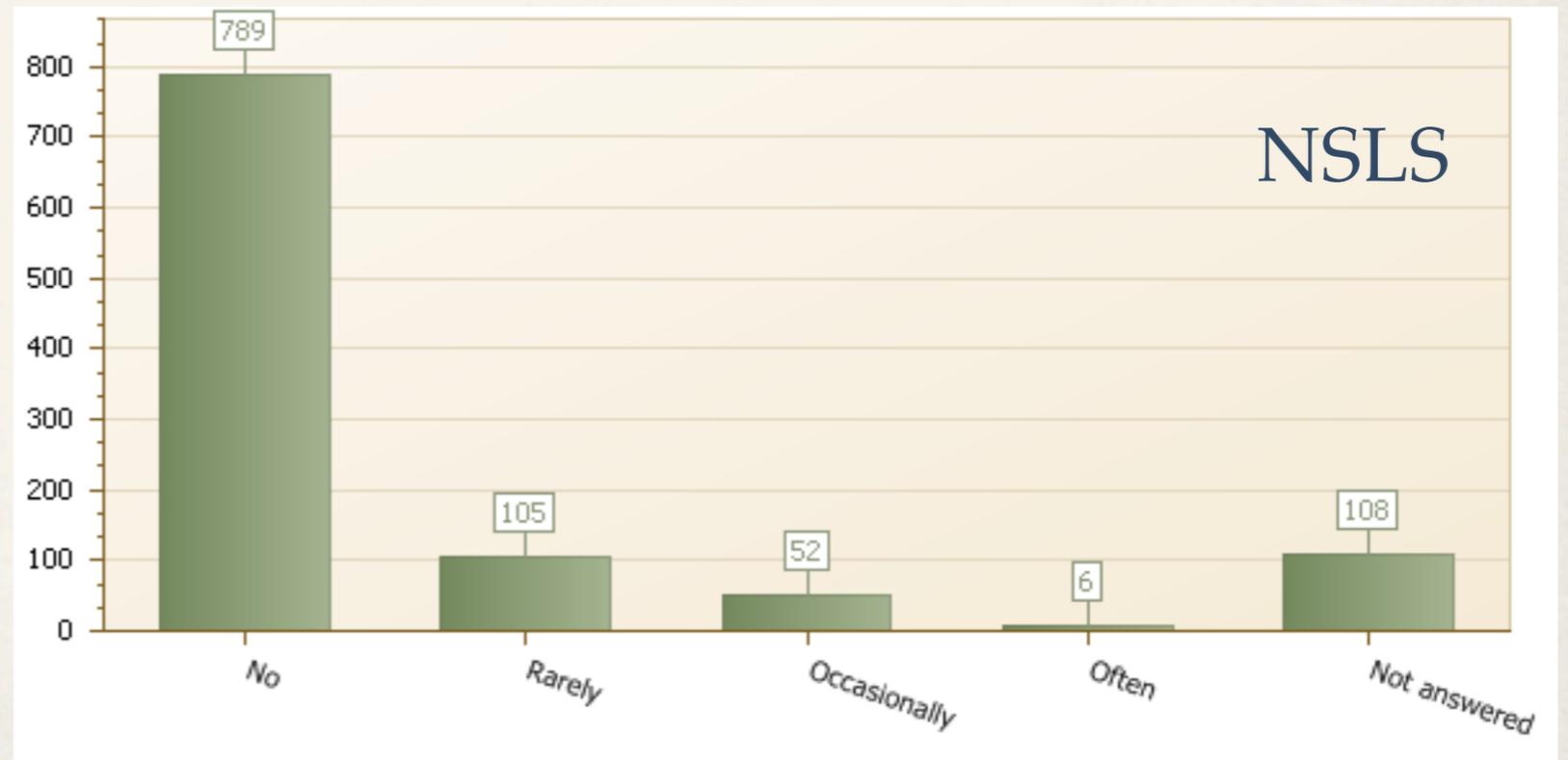


Trouble making reservation

Have you ever had trouble making a reservation?



Have you ever been turned down for a room?

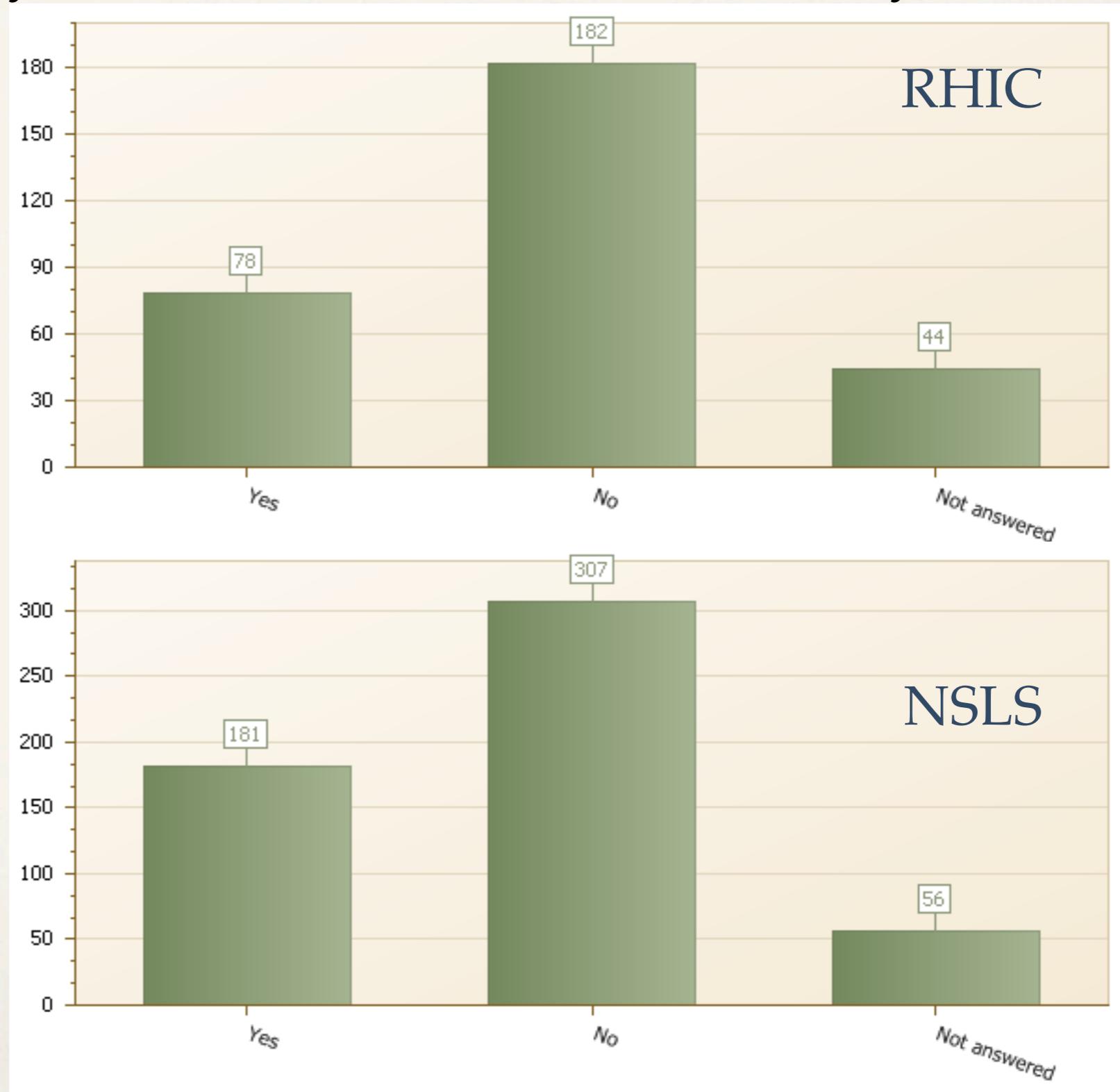


People who have a lot of trouble are rare: why can't lab make it more of a priority to help them?

Would you use offsite rooms?

- ❖ If these higher quality rooms were located offsite would you use them?

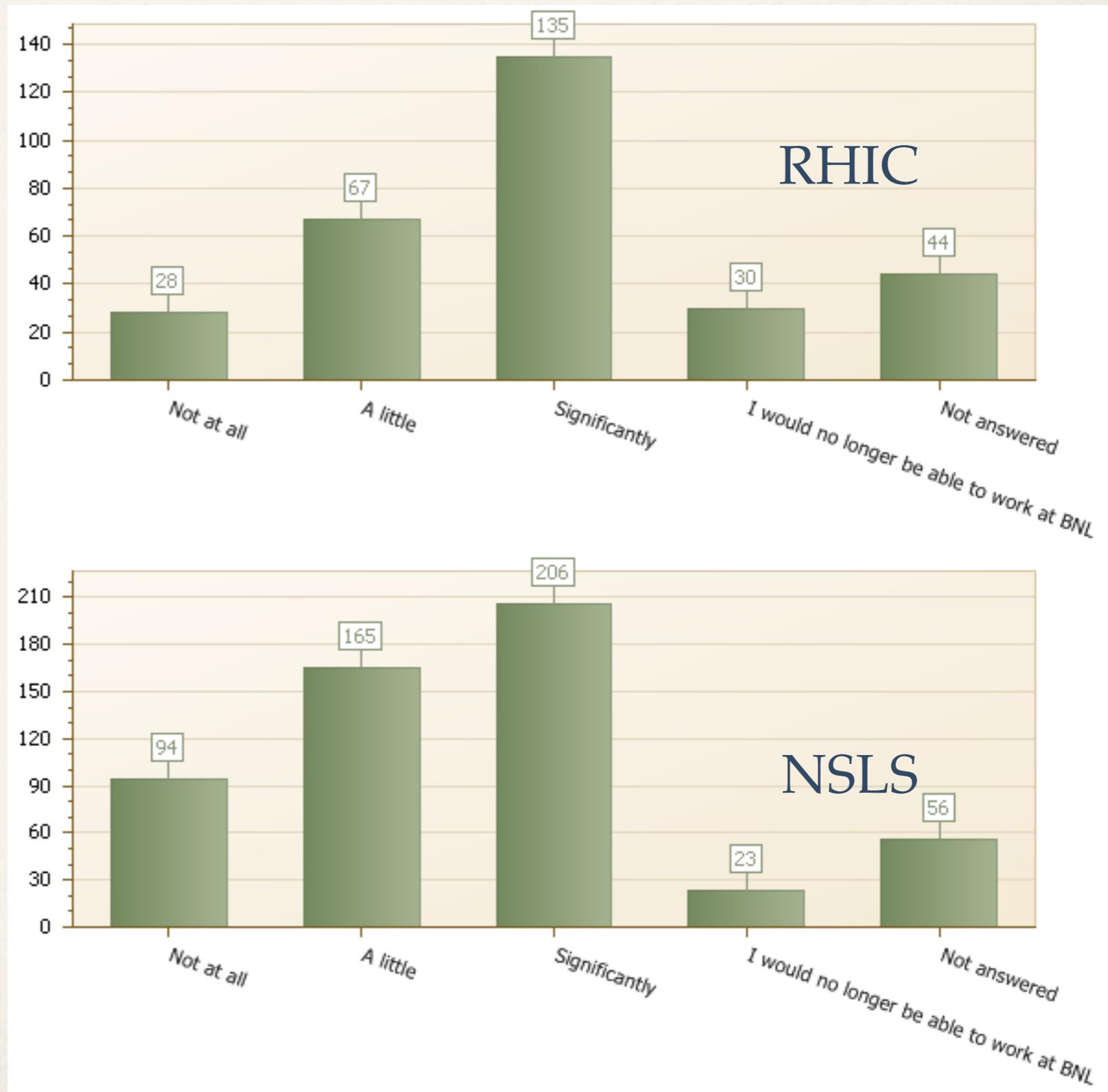
Most RHIC and NSLS users are not interested in higher-quality, higher-priced rooms



Impact on research

- ❖ If BNL drastically reduced or eliminated on-site housing in lieu of convenient commercial housing, would it affect your ability to work at BNL?

Would affect many RHIC and NSLS users significantly



Bottom lines

- ❖ Survey has over 1000 respondents
 - ❖ 85% from RHIC & NSLS (so focus on these two groups)
- ❖ Two communities have different needs
 - ❖ RHIC users tend to stay for 2-4 weeks a year, with longer stays
 - ❖ NSLS users tend to take shorter trips, and stay 1-2 weeks a year
- ❖ Cost is a driver for both communities
 - ❖ Both feel that while dorms are not great compared to other labs, the cost is reasonable for what you get (although many complaints about cleanliness!)
 - ❖ Neither group is asking for higher quality rooms
- ❖ Loss of housing onsite will impact a clear majority of users, many “significantly”

Being involved with the RHIC UEC can lead to tangible improvements to quality of life at BNL!

Proposal for a “BNL Cafe” in the RSB

Peter Steinberg

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Carla Vale

Iowa State University

RHIC/AGS UEC Meeting

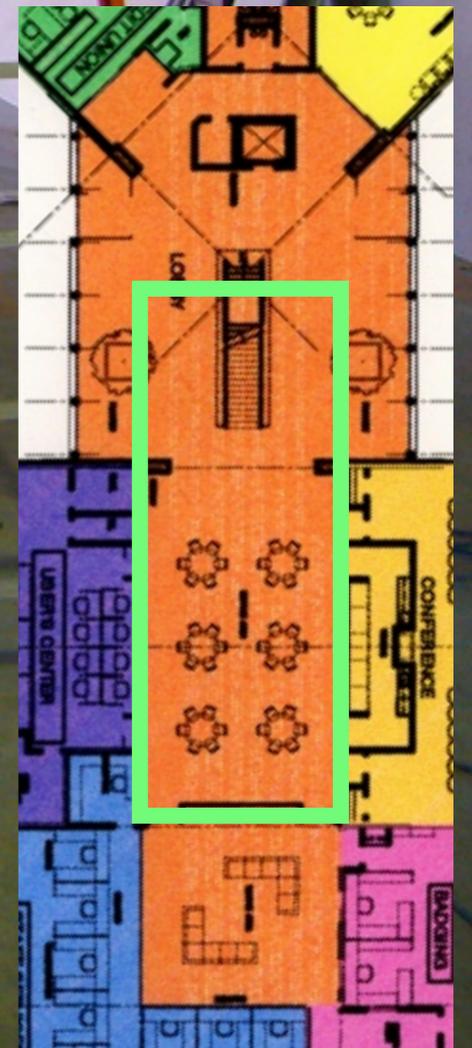
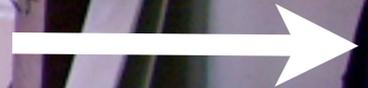
July 21, 2006



2006

Atrium

Coffee Vendor



Common Area

And by 2008...

- ❖ We had a fully-functioning cafe in the RSB Building 400
- ❖ Partially subsidized for several years
- ❖ Now unsubsidized, profitable and a part of the BNL landscape!
- ❖ Completely run by staff services, but we are always in touch with them to make improvements
- ❖ The point is:

**If you can make a clear case for something new,
and show that there is broad interest,
the UEC provides one avenue to get it done!**

SAS

- ❖ Susan White DePace is your main advocate to streamline the procedures to getting access to BNL
- ❖ Constant effort goes toward making it more straightforward to
 - ❖ register as a user
 - ❖ get the training you need
 - ❖ find your way on-site to services and resources
- ❖ If you find that you or your colleagues have trouble with these issues, always feel free to contact Susan or the RHIC UEC Chair!

FPP: Visit to DC?

- ❖ The UEC is long overdue to visit Washington DC to meet with Congressional staffers
 - ❖ “Three chairs” visits used to be more common -- less so, these days
- ❖ We planned a trip for early this year, but environment leading to Tribble subcommittee made it difficult
- ❖ We are still planning a visit in the near future
 - ❖ Of course only with advice with lab management and Battelle
- ❖ It is important to show the commitment and breadth of RHIC user community
 - ❖ University involvement is essential
 - ❖ LHC community made a huge showing in DC (30-40 people), and we should look at least as committed!

Conclusions

- ❖ The RHIC / AGS Users Group is your voice
 - ❖ With BNL management, to improve access to BNL and quality of life
 - ❖ And to work with your colleagues to promote RHIC science
- ❖ The RHIC / AGS UEC is a means to help you do this
- ❖ Please get involved by running for UEC elections as a member or for chair !
- ❖ Please get involved by coming to open meetings!
- ❖ Please get involved by writing for Inside RHIC!
- ❖ And we are always open to new ideas!