

RHIC and AGS Users Executive Committee Monthly Meeting

Second Thursday of each month, Noon-2:00 PM (Eastern)

1/11/2018

Today's Guest



Dr. Kerstin Kleese van Dam
Director, Computational Science Initiative at BNL

<https://www.bnl.gov/compsci/people/staff.php?q=123>

- **2015-present Director of the Computational Science Initiative (CSI)**
 - Extreme scale data management, Metadata, Provenance and Data Curation
 - Building out BNL's research programs in data driven discovery (aka Big Data)
- **Previously, Associate Division Director and Chief Scientist (PNNL/Battelle)**
 - Computational Science and Mathematics Division
- **Director of Computing, Biomedical Sciences, University College London**
- **Group Leader, UK Science and Technology Facilities Council**
 - Led the e-Science Centers data management group, building a data management system for the synchrotron, neutron and laser User Facilities. She was also involved in establishing the UK's Digital Curation Center. These systems have been copied, world wide.
- **And, among other things, Software Developer for the German Climate Computing Center (DKRZ)**
- **Expert on extreme data flow and management**
- **Custodian of BNL's large scale computing infrastructure**
- **Architect of the BNLs redevelopment of NSLS II (the old light source) to become the new home for large scale computing facilities at BNL**

A few talking points with Kerstin



- Folks on the phone: please aggressively interrupt the conversation to insert your thoughts and questions
- What is the Computational Science Initiative?
- What is the future of extreme computing at BNL?
- What's going on inside the old NSLS II building?
- Extreme hardware ... but also extreme networks?
- What role does NY State play in all of this?
- Are there facilities coming to BNL that would be of interest to Lattice Gauge Theorists?
- What is the future for RACF? Should the experimental collaborations be paying attention?

UEC Membership



Name	Position	Term	Affiliation
<u>Jim Thomas</u>	Chair	6/17 - 6/18	<u>The Berkeley Lab</u>
<u>Rosi Reed</u>	Chair Elect	6/17 - 6/18	<u>Lehigh University</u>
<u>Lijuan Ruan</u>	Past Chair	6/17 - 6/18	<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Megan Connors</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>Georgia State University</u>
<u>Brett Fadem</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>Muhlenberg College</u>
<u>Justin Frantz</u>	Member	6/17 - 6/20	<u>Ohio University</u>
<u>Tony Frawley</u>	Member	6/17 - 6/20	<u>Florida State University</u>
<u>Jacquelyn Noronha-Hostler</u>	Member	6/17 - 6/20	<u>Rutgers University</u>
<u>Claudia Ratti</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>University of Houston</u>
<u>Sevil Salur</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>Rutgers University</u>
<u>Bjoern Schenke</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Bernd Surrow</u>	Member	6/15 - 6/18	<u>Temple University</u>
<u>Aihong Tang</u>	Member	6/16 - 6/19	<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Kenneth Barish</u>	Appointed Member	6/17 - 6/19	<u>UC Riverside</u>
<u>Gabor David</u>	Appointed Member	6/16 - 6/18	<u>SUNY @ Stony Brook</u>
<u>Peter Petreczky</u>	Appointed Member	6/16 - 6/18	<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Matthew Posik</u>	Appointed Member	6/16 - 6/18	<u>Temple University</u>
<u>Daniel Brandenburg</u>	Student/Post-doc Rep	6/17 - 6/18	<u>Rice University</u>
<u>Alexander Jentsch</u>	Student/Post-doc Rep	6/17 - 6/18	<u>University of Texas</u>
<u>Li Yi</u>	Student/Post-doc Rep	6/17 - 6/18	<u>Yale University</u>
<u>Doon Gibbs</u>	Ex-Officio Member		<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Hong Ma</u>	Ex-Officio Member		<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Berndt Mueller</u>	Ex-Officio Member		<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>
<u>Thomas Roser</u>	Ex-Officio Member		<u>Brookhaven National Laboratory</u>

Agenda Suggestions & Committee Reports



- **Site access and Science**
 - Today's guest is Dr. Kerstin Kleese van Dam - CSI
 - Kathy & Kelly updates, especially the Russian visa situation
- **Meetings, Communications and Outreach:**
 - Annual Users Meeting
 - Very preliminary thoughts about the AUM – Rosi
 - Thesis competition and Thesis Awards – LiJuan
 - DNP Election ... get out the vote! ... other news – Peter and Bjoern
- **Funding, Politics and Programmatics**
 - News about Nuclear Science Day on the Hill (Wash. DC trip) – Jim
 - Mechanisms for writing letters to Congress – Justin and Brett
- **Quality of Life**
 - BNL Center after hours dining ... probably a lost cause ... do we push?
 - Day Care center ... do we follow up?
 - Water in the apartments, loss of the Service Station ... do we follow up?
- **Diversity**
 - Lactation room update
 - Maintaining a diverse, inclusive, productive and stress free work place

Kathy and Kelly's Corner

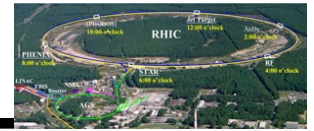


- Kathy and Kelly's notes & important news
- Russian Visas
 - The ups
 - and the downs

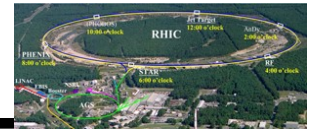
The Annual Users Meeting



- **Our single biggest activity** – serious work to begin in Jan/Feb
 - Workshops
 - Plenary sessions
 - Typically Tuesday – Friday, mid to late June
 - Chair of the Organizing Committee will be Prof. Rosi Reed
- **Save the Date**
 - Tell your Friends, tell our Competitors(!)
 - June 12 – 15, 2018
 - (Actually, it is very important that we advertise this date so that competing meetings don't accidentally overlap our dates. For example, the BNL Physics Department Colloquium committee, Quark Matter and the JLAB Users Meeting.)



- **The Annual Users Meeting**
 - Preliminary thoughts



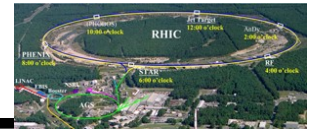
- **An opportunity for LiJuan to report on additional UEC news and events plus the Annual Users Meeting**
 - **Thesis competition and Thesis Awards**

Funding, Politics and Programmatics



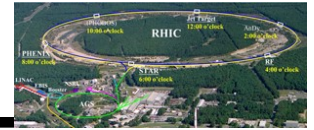
- **We invented two new activities last year ...**
 - 2. Recommend a slate of Candidate for the APS/DNP Executive Committee**
 - **Slate of candidates to be selected by UEC, and signatures solicited at AUM. Again, the timing is perfect ... due by July 1st.**
 - Raju Venugopalan for Chair (BNL, Theory)
 - Ramona Vogt for Exec Comm (LLNL/UCDavis, Theory)
 - Bill Zajc for Division Councilor (Columbia, PHENIX & sPHENIX)
 - Rene Fatemi for Exec Comm (U. Kentucky, STAR Spin)
 - Spencer Klein for Exec Comm (LBL, STAR)
 - David Hoffman for Exec Comm (U. of Illinois, Chicago LHC&STAR)
 - JT for Secretary/Treasurer (LBL, STAR)
- **Please encourage your friends and colleagues to vote**
 - **A rich field, thanks to Helen Caines (Chair) and the Nominating Committee**
 - The slate of candidates includes an unusually large number of people with backgrounds in Heavy Ion Physics, Hadronic Physics and/or Collider physics.
 - The elections will be closing soon. If you haven't voted already, please do so. The election web page requires your APS Member Number and a unique password for the election. The password can be found in an email which was sent to you by Ben Gibson (noreply@directvote.net). The Subject line reads "Division of Nuclear Physics Election - login information is found below".

Nuclear Physics Day on the Hill



- **RHIC and AGS Users on a trip to Washington DC**
 - to join our MSU and JLab colleagues in celebrating Nuclear Physics Day “on the Hill”
 - I contacted Paul Doucette regarding any news about the schedule
 - Unfortunately, there's lots of uncertainty about the timing of completion of the FY18 appropriations process, which in turn could delay the release of the FY19 budget request. That will in part dictate our decision about a date for Nuclear Physics Day on the Hill. And we just got the Senate's 2018 calendar a few weeks ago, so we now know when the House and Senate will be in session. I will have to discuss this with my counterparts at JLAB and MSU and get back to you, but the **March/April timeframe may be the most likely.**
 - Contact: Thomas Phillips @ bnl.gov
 - We are going to have to get organized quickly If this schedule holds
 - **Note to self**

How are LBGTQ issues handled around the world



- It is useful to note how our colleagues and competitors from around the world deal with Diversity and Inclusion issues
- For example, the restrooms at Cambridge Massachusetts City Hall are labelled:

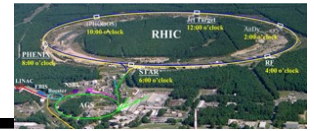
1, 2, 3 and 4

Swiss style private stalls in public places

Things to remember



- **UEC Monthly Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each Month**
 - **October 12th** **Director Gibbs**
 - **November 9th** **Abhay Deshpande** **(EIC, Stonybrook)**
 - **December 14th** **Thomas Roser** **(CAD, BNL)**
 - **January 11th** **Kerstin Kleese van Dam** **(CSI, BNL)**
 - **February 8th** **Michael Thoennessen** **(Editor in Chief, APS)**
- **Primary Web address for the UEC** (it is a little slow, so be patient)
 - <http://www.rhicuec.org>
- **Communication with the UEC**
 - rhic-uec-members@listservers.net
- **Communication with the UEC Leadership & Management Team**
 - **Jim Thomas** jhthomas@lbl.gov portjeffny@gmail.com
 - **Rosi Reed** rosijreed@lehigh.edu rosijreed@gmail.com
 - **LiJuan Ruan** ruan@bnl.gov ljruan@gmail.com
 - **Kelly Guiffreda** guiffreda@bnl.gov
 - **Kathy Nasta** nasta@bnl.gov



Backup Slides

What do we do? (its not just food and rusty water)



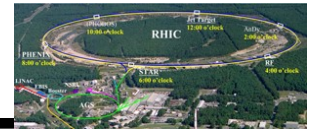
- **BNL LD-16 Committee Handbook - AGS/RHIC Users Executive Committee**
 - The Group's purpose is to provide an organized channel for the interchange of information between the Laboratory administration and those who use BNL's nuclear, high-energy, and heavy-ion, radiobiological, and testing facilities. Representing a wide spectrum of research workers, the group will make known to the BNL administration the needs and desires of those actively engaged in leading research projects, while providing a means for BNL to inform them of current and future plans for the Laboratory. It is expected that this will enable the Laboratory administration better to evaluate the needs of its users' so they can more efficiently plan their use of Laboratory facilities.

Our primary purpose is to communicate important issues to lab management, and vice-versa. BNL is a User Facility and so Users and Management need to communicate constructively in order to ensure a successful laboratory.

[illegible]

- Please propose new ideas and activities!

Funding, Politics and Programmatics



- **We invented two new activities last year**
 - They have tremendous merit and I would like to propose that we pursue them again this year

1. Letter to Congress

- A letter to our congressional representatives recommending robust support for Science Funding
- Authors to be solicited at the AUM – the timing is perfect

Perhaps Justin + Brett can draft a template & report back in ~2 months

2. Recommend a slate of Candidate for the APS/DNP Executive Committee

- Ask RHIC Users to send nominations to DNP Nominating Committee
- Slate of candidates to be selected by UEC, and signatures solicited at AUM. Again, the timing is perfect ... due by July 1st.

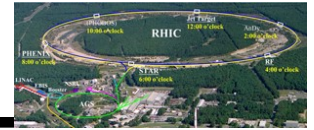
Peter and Bjoern have volunteered to evaluate past candidates and past winners to tell us what to look for in a candidate. We will need a clear set of guidelines to guide a future committee (~March) and to explain to an aggressive young Assistant Professor why he/she was not selected as our candidate

Washington DC: lobbying Congress



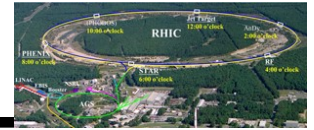
- **Lobbying Congress on behalf of the RHIC & AGS facilities, but also all of Nuclear Science**
 - A trip to DC in April or May
 - We never criticize another facility, but we do speak to our representatives about the importance of Nuclear Science to the economy and the Nation.
 - We try to visit as many RHIC & AGS Congressional Delegations as possible
 - All UEC members are welcome and encouraged to attend
 - This is a private trip (i.e. you pay) because this is actual lobbying and we can't use government resources to pay for the trip. In fact, I shouldn't even be showing you this slide :-)
- **This is a very important activity ... it does make a difference**
 - Please send you private (non-governmental) email address to Kelly and Jim so we can communicate with you.

Open Forums



- **We conduct an open forum twice a year: at the Fall DNP Meeting and at the Annual Users Meeting**
 - **The goal is to hear directly from Users regarding issues that affect User research & productivity while using BNL facilities**
- **The Fall DNP Meeting is held in October**
 - **We usually have a brief professional meeting and dinner/social in conjunction with the Open Forum**
 - **Rosi has all the details**
- **The Annual Users Meeting is held in June**

Communication with BNL Management



- For the past several years, Kathy has done an outstanding job of organizing monthly meetings with BNL Management
 - RHIC and Light Source Chair's attending
- We should keep doing that ... if she has the energy to continue organizing those meetings
- But I would also like to invite BNL managers to our Monthly UEC meetings in order to have a pleasantly stimulating discussion about research and life at BNL.
 - Eg. EIC discussions, NSAC Long Range Plan discussions
- I propose to invite one Manager per month to our meetings
 - Lunch time (Eastern) to keep it casual
 - Noon to 2:00 PM (Eastern) if we have a guest
 - Noon to 1:00 PM (Eastern) business meeting, only, if we don't have a guest