Gabriella Sciolla – MIT
SLUO Executive Committee, Chair

Outline:

- What is SLUO?
  - Composition, organization and goals
- What does SLUO do?
  - A few examples: Public Lectures, lobbying activity, Health Insurance
- Why should YOU be involved in SLUO?

SLUO Annual Meeting
July 6, 2004
Who is SLUO?

- **SLUO = SLAC Users Organization**
  - Large Community: >1800 users
    - 16% SLAC employees, 84% external users
  - Diverse and international population:
    - Students, postdocs, research scientists, faculties
    - 60% of users from US Institutions, 30% from Western Europe
    - 40% Americans, 60% non American citizens

- **SLUO Executive Committee**
  - 12 members elected by SLUO community
  - 3 years term; 4 new members elected/year

- **The “SLUO Desk”**
  - Fran Spiller & Olga Iakovleva
The SLUO Executive Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ray Cowan</td>
<td>MIT</td>
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<td>Yuri Kolomensky</td>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>BaBar/E158</td>
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<td>Krishna Kumar</td>
<td>UMass Amerst</td>
<td>E158</td>
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<td>Eli Rosemberg</td>
<td>Iowa State</td>
<td>BaBar</td>
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<td>Bruce Schumm</td>
<td>UC Santa Cruz</td>
<td>BaBar/SLD</td>
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<td>Gabriella Sciolla</td>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>BaBar</td>
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<td>Eric Torrence</td>
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<td>BaBar/LCD</td>
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<td>Amanda Weinstein</td>
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SLUO’s areas of activity

- **Quality of Life at SLAC:**
  - Housing, healthcare, transportation, social activities, …

- **International Visitors Issues:**
  - Understand issues related to visa and participate in activities

- **Washington, DC trip:**
  - Organize and participate in the annual SLUO/UEC lobbying activity

- **Public Meetings:**
  - Organize Annual SLUO Meeting and SLUO lectures

- **Outreach:**
  - SLAC/SSRL public lectures, high school mentoring programs, …
The annual Washington trip

- **Purpose**
  - Promote DOE-OS/NSF funded physics research in Washington with Senators, Representatives and their staff

- **Main themes**
  - Exciting opportunities in (particle) physics research
  - Importance of science and engineering in modern society

- **Joined effort between SLUO and Fermilab UEC**
  - Common scientific interests ➔ coherent message!
The Washington Trip

2004 trip: March 24-25

- Delegation of about 20 people
  - 10 from SLAC and 10 from Fermilab
- Visited 104 offices + Committee Members and OMB/OSTP
SLUO/SSRL Public Lectures

The goal
- Opportunity for SLAC people to learn about SSRL and vice versa
- Outreach to local community and SLAC family members

Educational but entertaining lectures to communicate the importance and the excitement of the science done at SLAC

The format
- Bi-monthly public lectures held in Panowsky Auditorium
- Alternate between SLAC and SSRL speakers
- 1-hour presentation followed by a mini-reception during which public can informally ask questions to 10 “scientists on duty”
- Big help from SLAC’s Communication’s department
Welcome

Ever wonder what goes on at SLAC? Here is your chance to find out. The SLAC Public Lecture Series opens the doors to the inner workings of SLAC for the local nonscientific community. Find out what SLAC is all about: the research, the facilities, and the people that make this a world-class research institute. Hang around for refreshments after the talks. Physicists will be on hand to chat so bring your toughest questions to stump the professionals!

Next Lecture:
Our Lopsided Universe: The Matter with Anti-Matter

2004 Schedule: Check out Upcoming Lectures
SLAC/SSRL Public Lectures:

A Reality!

February 24:
All About SLAC: What Goes On In the World's Longest Building (N. Calder, SLAC)

April 27:
Synchrotron Radiation: The Light Fantastic (Herman Winick, SSRL)

June 29:
Our Lopsided Universe: The Matter with Anti-Matter (Steve Sekula, MIT)

August 31:
Metals, Molecules, Life and Death (Graham George, U. of Saskatchewan)

October 26:
Particle Astrophysics (Roger Blandford, KIPAC)

December 14:
Magnetism and X-Rays: From the Compass to Modern Technology (J. Stöhr, SSRL)

Big success!
SLUO/SSRL Public Lectures:

a very successful experience

Excellent opportunity attract people to SLAC, tell them about who we are and what we do and get them excited about science

- Very good presentations, very much appreciated by the general public
- Packed-full auditorium
  - Three times in a row
  - Last lecture: ~420 people!
- Ask-a-scientist sessions
  - Very successful too

This effort will continue!
Health Insurance for SLAC users

- The background:
  - It was pointed out that many users have insufficient or sub-optimal health insurance coverage while working at SLAC

- Myth or reality?
  - Last fall SLUO ran a survey to assess the scale of the problem

- SLUO ran a survey last fall
  - 150 users completed the questionnaire (anonymously)

- Results:
  - Complete results available at: [http://www.slac.stanford.edu/~sciolla/tmp/HealthSurvey2.pdf](http://www.slac.stanford.edu/~sciolla/tmp/HealthSurvey2.pdf)
  - In the following only results for people based at SLAC
SLAC-based users

For people staying at SLAC > 75% of the time

- Faculty: 4%
- Graduate Student: 37%
- Post Doc: 37%
- Staff: 16%
- Other: 2%
- Retired: 4%

- Usually very healthy 😊
- Very limited cash 😞
SLAC-based users

Are you covered for...?

For people staying at SLAC > 75% of the time:

- Emergency: 96% HOME, 90% SLAC
- Hospital: 93% HOME, 87% SLAC
- Drugs: 80% HOME, 75% SLAC
- Routine: 91% HOME, 73% SLAC
- Dental: 64% HOME, 56% SLAC
Recent Progress

- **Routine exams for PhD students**
  - Students visiting SLAC will be able to utilize the Vaden Students Health Center at a per visit fee (lower than market rate)
  - This will cover ONLY primary care. Anything serious has to be covered in other ways
  - A step in the right direction, although not a solution

- **A real Health Plan for visitors**
  - Established a group covered by a self-insured plan.
  - Group includes some currently uninsured people on campus plus our SLAC visitors (both short and long term)
  - Same coverage as SLAC employees, but $$$
Where SLUO needs improvement...

- Low participation of SLAC users in the SLUO
  - Few (250) users voted for their representatives
  - Not many users contact their SLUO representatives

- Not all the users are equally represented in Exec Committee
  - No theorists, no KIPAC representative,…
    → Need for more diversity!

- Can SLUO help improving quality of life at SLAC?
  - Reinforcing the “feeling of community”

- Can we help increasing the commitment of SLAC Users towards outreach, “inreach”, lobbying for the future of our field?
... and here is how you can help!

- “Run” to become a member of the SLUO Executive Committee
  - If interested, let your Institutional Rep, or a member of the Executive Committee, know ASAP: nominations today at lunchtime

- Get involved with the SLUO/UEC lobbying activity
  - Form a network of people from different districts who are willing to serve as contacts with their Senators and Representatives in Washington for Physics related issues.
  - Modest commitment: mainly e-mail activity

- Any good idea on how to improve quality of life at SLAC?
  - Let the SLUO Exec know: we may be able to help
SLAC-based users

What is the situation while at SLAC?

Number of times people answered YES to the questions below

- Is your family covered if they travel with you to SLAC? (Do not mark if not applicable)
- Are your out of pocket expenses significantly larger than at your home institution?
- Does your home institution help with any extra health care expenses while at SLAC?

For people staying at SLAC > 75% of the time

- 79%: Family covered?
- 53%: Extra costs?
- 13%: Aid from institution?
Do we have a problem?

Although the situation is not dramatic, there is a problem.

People spending > 75% of their time at SLAC:

- 50% have substantially higher health-related costs while at SLAC
- 27% are not covered for routine visits
- 10% have no emergency coverage
- 50% have no dental coverage
- 20% have no family coverage

NB: 80% of these people are Graduate Students and Postdocs

- Usually very healthy 😊
- Very limited cash 😞