

Abstract Submitted  
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**Transverse Energy at RHIC in the forward/backward direction with the PHENIX Muon Piston Calorimeter** BENJAMIN SCHWEID, Muhlenberg College, PHENIX COLLABORATION — Progress in the measurement of transverse energy from RHIC Au+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV will be reported. This measurement will be taken in the forward/backward directions. The pseudo-rapidity coverage of the PHENIX Muon Piston Calorimeter (MPC), an electromagnetic calorimeter, is  $3.1 < |\eta| < 3.8$ . Measurement of the transverse energy over this kinematic range will differ from that at mid-rapidity in that the baryon density is much higher. Ultimately, analysis of transverse energy fluctuations as a function of center of mass energy might help signal the existence of a critical point in the phase diagram of nuclear matter.

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