Nominees for ACUTA Board of Directors for 2006-2007

The Board of Directors has approved a slate of nominees to present to the membership for election to the Board for 2006-07. The new officers’ terms begin at the close of the Annual Conference July 27.

The election is conducted electronically using Web-based survey software to verify and count results. All primary (voting) institutional representatives will receive an e-mail announcement containing instructions. You can review candidates and their platforms online before casting your vote. Ballots must be cast electronically or postmarked by May 26. Vote only once as duplicates will be disqualified.

If you have questions about eligibility to vote, or if the person designated as your campus’s primary representative has left his or her position during the past year and no new voting rep has been named, please contact Kellie Bowman at 859/278-3338, ext. 222, or kbowman@acuta.org.

The candidates are:

President-Elect:
- Walt Magnussen, Texas A & M University

Director-at-Large:
- Harvey “Buck” Buchanan, Florida State University
- George Denbow, University of Texas at Austin
- Diane McNamara, Union College

Serving on ACUTA’s Board of Directors provides opportunities for professional and personal growth. It requires a commitment on the part of the individual as well as the institution for which he or she works. All of these nominees are to be commended for their willingness to serve the Association as Board members.

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In its tenth year, the ACUTA Forum for Strategic Leadership in Communications Technology on July 24-25 in San Diego will focus on an issue that we believe is central to all higher education institutions: leadership and opportunities for converged communications. Whether your institution is well along the pathway to converging networks, organizational structures, or both—or even if you are just beginning to explore new ways of delivering communications services—this two-day program for senior managers at the ACUTA Annual Conference will offer valuable insights.

As the convergence of voice, data, and video becomes more technically feasible, campuses are facing the complex process of merging networks, services, and organizations. Leading the campus and the technology organization through this process presents both leadership challenges and exciting opportunities. Succeeding in this venture will require more than an understanding of the technology, products, and services that are available today. It will require analyzing a myriad of options, selecting the best direction from a strategic, technical, financial, and operational standpoint, and helping campus stakeholders envision and embrace the potential benefits.

Once a direction is chosen, campus technology leaders will be called upon to create an effective organization to support converged communications services, and a sustainable business model. This year's Forum will explore these and other issues surrounding the migration to converged communications.

Program highlights include:

- Enterprise Architecture and Converged Communication Planning
- Strategic Financial Planning for Convergence
- Achieving Convergence While Avoiding Collision: Common Sense for our Common Challenges
- Campus wide Benefits of Converged Communications
- Production Quality, Cost-Effective, Open-Source VoIP: Leadership Challenges for the Future
- Vendor executive panel: Technological Directions for Converged Communications
- The Convergence of Cellular and Campus WiFi
- Roundtable Discussions: Campus Experiences with Convergence

This program will benefit anyone with senior strategic planning and decision-making responsibility for communications and/or information technology. For more information about the full program, go to http://www.acuta.org/1457. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me at 859-278-3338, ext. 225, or jsemer@acuta.org.

Info Links

Frequently, vendors, associations, governmental bodies, and others provide white papers and other informational documents which are announced through a variety of media sources. While some admittedly have a certain slant or opinion, others are quite objective; however, both often contain valuable information. Below are links to selected documents of interest.

- Broadband Properties Mag—Municipal Telecom Update:  
  http://www.broadbandproperties.com/2005issues/dec05issues/
  Measuring%20Broadband%20Eco%20Impact,%20Lehr,%20Gilett,%20Sirbu.pdf
- Toward an Economic Framework for Net Neutrality Regulation:  
- New U.S. GAO Report on Internet Access Taxation:  
- Emergency Notification System RFP Template/White Paper/Matrix:  
  http://www.messageone.com/s220b/
Had René Descartes been alive today, he might have written it this way: “I think, therefore IM.” Which brings up a philosophical query: Could a bona fide philosopher fall into the Instant Messaging vortex? And if there was no one there to hear the fall, would it make a sound?

IM, as you know, is intensely popular. iPod popular. Hip-hop popular. So popular, in fact, that its traffic volume could exceed that of e-mail by the end of this year. And the age demographic that is among the heaviest users makes it a big concern for college and university networks.

IM’s proponents defend its “instantness” as a tool for quick answers to urgent little questions, and they do have a point, at times. As for us, we find it an intrusive interruption that shatters any hope of maintaining focus on the task at hand.

Which, we suppose, makes it a perfect fit for a generation full of people with minimal attention spans anyway.

Now that we’ve probably offended all of you who love your IM, we’ll focus on the real issue of this column: the network security issues that IM raises. We ran across a Symantec/1Mlogic white paper that had some good points to make, and wanted to share them with you.

The white paper addresses IM “insecurity” trends that you should add to your list of things to worry about. For instance, just the sheer growth of IM’s popularity, coupled with increasing interoperability among platforms, magnifies the risk posed by what is typically a communications medium that is not well protected. Multiply the increasing IM threats times the rapidly growing number of users, and you can see what that does to the risk factor.

Expansion in IM functionality is another concern. With new versions of IM clients offering VoIP and virtual conferencing, this convergence of voice and data opens doors to additional threats, such as denial of service attacks, spam, and identity spoofing.

On top of this, the lowlifes who create viruses and spam and other attacks are getting more sophisticated in the ways they get their infections to spread. For instance, there is a “talking worm” that can mimic an IM user and actually engage the target in what appears to be a conversation before making its move. The infections are increasingly able to leap from one network to another and move from public IM networks to internal IM servers. They can also change their payload signature to avoid detection.

Another trend is that cyber-criminals are turning to IM as a means of compromising computers and networks to access confidential data and steal identities. In the “good old days” of IM attacks, maybe you’d end up with a damaged computer or server; now the damage can be far more encompassing.

Finally, there is the intellectual property issue. Statistics show that 30 percent of users engage in IM file transfers with outside parties. Their main reasons? To avoid the file size restrictions and content filters of their e-mail systems and because they didn’t want a record of the file transfer.

Like so many other applications, IM can be useful to your organization or it can be dangerous. Descartes would appreciate that. He would also no doubt suggest that you make sure your network is well protected from the danger.

As always, if there are specific topics you would like to see covered in this space, please let me know via e-mail at kevin@duxpr.com.

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35th Annual Conference & Exhibition

“Sailing into Convergence”

July 23-27, 2006

San Diego, California

Manchester Grand Hyatt

For details: 859/278-3338 • www.acuta.org

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R U Protected from the Dangers of IM?

Kevin Tanzillo

Dux PR

kevin@duxpr.com

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Paul Asadoorian, Lead IT Security Specialist at Brown University, delivered a presentation at the Spring Seminars in Providence that was very well received. We are pleased to present this information again in the form of an audio seminar.

Due to the open nature of wireless networks, implementing security is challenging. There have been numerous standards, technologies, and strategies aimed at solving wireless security issues. This presentation will explain the different wireless technologies, identify the risks associated with using and setting up wireless networks, and cover methods of protection.

ACUTA audio seminars are an excellent value. For just $69 members/$109 nonmembers, any number of people from your institution can participate—without leaving the campus. The presentation will also be available for purchase as a CD. Visit the ACUTA website (www.acuta.org) or call 859/278-3338 for more information or to register.

If you’re planning to come to the Annual Conference in San Diego, please think about signing up now to be a session moderator or monitor. It’s a great way to contribute to the Conference’s success and to get more actively involved. A moderator introduces the presenter, and the monitor distributes and collects evaluation forms. If you’re ready to volunteer, your first step is to review the Conference agenda either in the printed brochure or online.

The URL for the online brochure is http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce06.cfm. You can review the moderator sign-up page at that same URL or at http://www.acuta.org/donna2/moderator.pdf.

Your final step is to e-mail Donna Hall at dhall@acuta.org with the title or the number of the session(s) for which you’d like to help. You will receive a confirmation and instructions in June. It’s as simple as that! Please call Donna Hall at the ACUTA office at 859/278-3338 x 231 if you have any questions.

It’s that time of year again—time to register for the 35th Annual ACUTA Conference coming up July 23-27 in San Diego, California. Register online and get additional information at http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce06.cfm.

On the website, you can also view detailed information about each of the more than 50 breakout sessions available at the conference by going to http://www.acuta.org/Conferences/Agenda.cfm?id=68.

In addition there are three pre-conference seminars (one morning and two afternoon) with details available at http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/precon06.cfm.

Senior higher education leaders will want to attend this year’s Forum for Strategic Leadership in Communications Technology. Information about the Forum can be found at http://www.acuta.org/?1457.

Looking for a specific product or service? Curious to see what companies are going to be exhibiting at the Conference this year? A real-time list is available at http://www.acuta.org/members/sce06.cf. Not only will you find a list of attending companies, but you can search by products and services offered by these companies that could help you fill a need.

If you have any questions, please feel free contact me at afuehrer@acuta.org.
Invoices for dues for the 2006-07 fiscal year will be mailed May 1. Everyone is encouraged to pay dues as soon as possible to avoid a lapse in benefits.

What are those benefits? Networking... Discounts at events... Leg/Reg Updates... Listserv... Journal... eNews... Professional Development... and more!

This is the second year of our transition to a new dues structure with significant changes as we strive to decrease our financial dependency on event registrations for funding for the resources ACUTA provides.

The new structure created a fifth category for institutions with full-time enrollments of more than 20,000. Additionally, within each tier, we created three dues categories aligned with the 2005 Carnegie Classifications for higher-education institutions. These are (1) two-year, tribal, and community colleges; (2) comprehensive and liberal arts institutions; and (3) doctoral, research, and medical institutions.

Under this membership dues structure, you have the opportunity to designate additional individuals at your institutions who can take advantage of all of the Internet-based services of ACUTA at no additional cost.

For details, contact Kellie Bowman, Membership Development Manager, at kbowman@acuta.org.

The Board of Directors met at the Spring Seminars in Providence on April 1 and approved the 2006-07 ACUTA budget as well as a slate of candidates for the 2006-07 elections.

- Jennifer Van Horn, Indiana University at Bloomington, was approved as Program Chair in Training.
- Holly King, Northwestern University; Lizanne Hurst, Lehigh University; and Wayne Hunter, Drew University, were approved as new members of the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee. Additional travel funds for representatives of the Leg-Reg Committee to attend FCC meetings in Washington D.C. were approved.
- Based on the recommendation made by Attendance Marketing, the Board voted to move the 2009 Annual Conference to the spring time frame, with the understanding that ACUTA will continue to offer the equivalent of three seminars and one annual conference each year.

Attendance Marketing submitted a summary of the annual conference survey results and made recommendations to determine follow-up steps. The survey looked at program content, networking opportunities, locations, and time-frame issues. In addition, it asked questions about costs, travel, and other sources of professional education.

ACUTA will continue to work with Attendance Marketing to enhance ACUTA's visibility in the industry and increase membership as well as attendance at our events.

- The Board indicated that ACUTA's extensive activities over the past nine months were impressive and provided good publicity, which helps ACUTA gain visibility and differentiation from other organizations.
- The Board and the Leg-Reg Committee are continuing their effort to convince the FCC that an exception to the proposed Universal Service Fee numbers-based collection method is needed for colleges and universities.

Respectfully submitted,
Riny Ledgerwood
Universal Service Fund

Six articles in Telecommunications Reports (TR 3/15/06) related to the USF, covering a wide range of issues and topics about what is happening or what may happen. Article headings below indicate some of the things under consideration.

- Lawmakers Agree Reforms Are Needed to Keep USF Afloat in New Age of Communications Technology: About 6 Senators spoke at a hearing on USF distribution early in March and agreed that “the federal government should no longer subsidize antiquated networks across the country, and must be smarter with the money it does make available to carriers to make sure it is going to meet the needs of consumers and businesses that need the most help.” Senators DeMint (R, SC) and Sununu (R, NH) led the charge for substantial reform of the USF, saying that “it is time to adjust the current funding model because it is technologically outdated and financially unsustainable.” Both Senators have been consistent critics of the system and have been working on legislation to change the USF system for several months. The lawmakers and others present at the hearing agreed on the importance of making broadband service eligible for the receipt of universal service subsidies.

- Martin Quizzed on USF Items by House Appropriations Panel: In early March the FCC Chairman was questioned by members of a House Appropriations subcommittee about some USF-related budget requests, indicating that they recognize federal regulators are trying to cut down on past fraud and abuse problems, but they are concerned about whether more money is the right way to solve the problem. The FCC Chairman also heard that some of the lawmakers are concerned about his proposal to change the USF contribution mechanism to a numbers-based plan, instead of one based on the amount of interstate long-distance calls made. Martin also indicated that he wants the FCC to get involved with the broadband issue.

- Group Sees No Problems from Per-Number Proposal: Some of those involved in the telecom industry are in favor of this proposal.

- Universities, Colleges Fear USF Per-Line Fee System: Several ACUTA member institutions have sent letters to the FCC concerning the expected cost increases they would have if the per-number plan were established to provide the money for the USF.

- New Reports Diverge On USF Recommendations: Two recent reports that looked at the USF take drastically different stances on the current shape of USF and the changes needed for the system as the industry continues its trek into a broadband age that will alter how consumers and businesses communicate with one another.

- FCC Extends USF Assistance for Hurricane Katrina Victims: The Commission has extended the e-rate benefit plan to help many school students and library patrons in the states hit by Katrina. This extension is expected to cost $211 million including $132 million for e-rate funding.”

Whitney Johnson Retires from D C Update

The D C Update column in the May eNews will be Whitney Johnson’s last. After 12 years, Whitney is retiring—again.

In 1994, Whitney had recently retired from his position as Director of Data and Telephone Systems at Northern Michigan University, where he worked for 21 years. He wrote his first in-the-trenches report on legislative and regulatory actions for the April 1994 issue of the ACUTA News—and he hasn’t missed an issue since.

A charter member of ACUTA’s Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee, he has participated in the committee calls since 1992. For 12 of those years, he has also gathered information from a variety of print and online sources to write the column, culling what seemed most significant and putting it into words everyone could understand. His report always addressed what was important to campus communications technology.

To say “thank you” is inadequate for all these years of outstanding service, Whit. Your contribution to ACUTA and the profession are immeasurable, and we will always hold you in the highest regard.
Electronic Devices on Airplanes

A study by a group of researchers at Carnegie Mellon University reported that the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices on airplanes, including laptop computers and portable gaming devices, can cause interference to critical aircraft electronics systems. The research group reported that more research must be done to further determine the impact of the wireless devices on airplane equipment and recommended more aggressive efforts by the FCC as well as other agencies to deal with the issue.

One of the researchers indicated that use of the devices while on the airplane “can disrupt normal operation of key cockpit instruments, especially Global Positioning System receivers, which are increasingly vital for safe landings.”

From September to November 2003, researchers flew on 37 flights, monitoring radio frequency emissions from all of the mobile devices being used aboard the plane and an antenna attached to a portable spectrum analyzer.

Both the FCC and FAA have prohibited the use of mobile phones while aboard a plane that is in the air. Research noted that up to four mobile phone calls were made during each of the flights in the study. (TR 3/15/06)

All of us should remember that it is not a good idea to use cell phones from an airplane.

New Mergers

As announced in March, a merger between AT&T and BellSouth is in the planning and negotiation stage. The plan may face Democratic opposition on Capitol Hill and arguments by industry and consumer-advocate opponents that regulators should block the deal or at least require strong commitments to an open Internet. Several members of Congress indicated their concerns and expect the merger review to be thorough and take a while to complete.

FCC Chairman Martin indicated that the merger application would be considered quickly and carefully. Some industry groups favor the merger and others are opposed. At least one telecom industry analyst indicated that government approval appears likely. AT&T and BellSouth officials are confident that the merger will get regulatory approval. The merger will cost AT&T $67 billion in stock plus assumption of $22 billion of BellSouth debt. (TR 3/15/06)

If this merger takes place, there will be only three local exchange carriers covering the entire country: Qwest, Verizon, and the company that results from this merger (which will likely be called AT&T). There were five LECs before SBC merged with Ameritech, plus three major long-distance carriers. Now two of the long-distance carriers have merged with LECs, AT&T merged with SBC, and MCI merged with Verizon.

FCC Commissioner

President Bush has nominated Robert M. McDowell to fill the vacant commissioner position on the FCC. McDowell is currently senior VP and assistant general counsel at CompTel. His nomination has to be confirmed by the Senate before he becomes a Commissioner. He will make the FCC a total of three Republicans and two Democrats, and that may have an impact on how the FCC reacts to the merger noted above. (TR 3/15/06)

For More In-Depth Coverage of Legislative & Regulatory Issues:

ACUTA members may read about the latest developments in telecommunications and Internet-related issues in the most recent Legislative and Regulatory Update, an electronic newsletter prepared monthly by Wiley Rein & Fielding. Access this newsletter at http://www.acuta.org/relation/DownloadFile.cfm?docNum=309

I Must Say GOODBYE!

This is expected to be the last one of these D C Updates that I will be doing. I have been doing this e-News column for 12 years as a volunteer during my retirement from Northern Michigan University. I hope it has been of use to most of you out there in ACUTA.

ACUTA is the best national collegiate organization that I have been involved with during the last 50-plus years, and I have been in such organizations including mathematics, statistics, and computer science. As I see it, the ACUTA goal is always to help the member move forward at his job. I wish the best of everything to all of you. wjohnson@nmu.edu.
Welcome New Members

Institutional Members

British Columbia Inst. of Technology, Burnaby, BC, Canada. T5
Jacquie Champion, Mgr., Project Services & Telecom Div. ...... jacquie_champion@bcit.ca

Corporate Affiliate Members

COPPER MEMBER

Hubbell Premise Wiring, Stonington, CT ................. http://www.hubbell-premise.com
JoAnne Rush, Marketing Manager; 800/626-0005
Hubbell Premise Wiring manufactures structured cabling systems and connecting hardware. Our
broad offering includes high-performance cable, jacks, patch panels, cords, fiber-optic products,
racks, enclosures, cable management, raceway, and delivery systems.

Public Telephone, San Clemente, CA ......................... http://www.pubtel.net
Scott DeLong, CEO; 949/325-0106
Public Telephone offers the following to college/university clients: Toll-free origination (FREE
T1 + commission), pay telephones (advertising revenue potential), directory assistance,
conference calling, operator services, group messaging. All of these programs are designed to
save you money and improve the level of service.

ACUTA Online Press Room

The following press releases have been posted to the ACUTA website since the
April eNews. We encourage you to visit the ACUTA website frequently for the
latest information from a variety of sources, including our corporate affiliates.
- Cingular, Siemens and Georgia Tech Unite to Unlock the Future of 3G
  Wireless Applications
- Teltronics, Inc., Becomes an Authorized Siemens Partner to Bring
  Innovative E911 Tools to the Siemens Communications Market
- PAETEC Solution Now Rated Avaya Compliant
- PAETEC, CICU Team to Cut Higher Education Costs in New York

Nominate Now for the
ACUTA Ruth A. Michalecki Leadership Award

Deadline for Nominations is May 12.
More information and a nomination form are available at

ACUTA extends appreciation to PAETEC Communications for sponsoring this award again this year.