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ACUTA Annual Conference Headliners

HOLLYWOOD FLORIDA
RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE
32ND ANNUAL ACUTA CONFERENCE JULY 27-31 2003

For registration information, visit the ACUTA website at http://www.acuta.org.

On virtually every campus, budgets are being carefully examined for necessary cuts, and travel is usually one of the first “luxuries” to go. If you have been asked to pass up ACUTA’s annual conference this year, we’d like to offer you some perspectives that may influence that decision.

The return on investment for ACUTA’s annual conference is excellent. You will meet with more than 500 of your peers from hundreds of campuses coast to coast. All of them face the same challenges you do, and some of them have found solutions you may not have thought of yet. How much would just one idea have to be worth in order to justify your attendance? We think it’s highly unlikely that you wouldn’t learn how to do something more effectively or learn of some new product or make a valuable connection that would make your attendance an extremely good investment. (We are so sure you’ll be satisfied that we offer a money-back guarantee.)

Here are some of the big events planned for the 32nd Annual Conference in Hollywood, Florida:

- For high-level administrators: The seventh annual ACUTA Forum for Strategic Leadership in Communications Technology will focus on “Strategies for Management in a Difficult Economy.” Expectations continue to increase for the strategic use of communications technologies. Those who are responsible for communications technology leadership must find a way to look beyond immediate budgetary and technical concerns, lay the groundwork for continued advancement, and understand the priorities of the institution’s leaders.

- Four half-day Preconference Seminars, taking place on Sunday, July 27, offer an in-depth look at various communications technology issues including mobile computing, security, IT policy and procedures, and developing a strategic business technology plan for networking and telecommunications infrastructure. Participants spend half a day in the company of a small group of colleagues, learning from and interacting with expert instructors.

- Keynote speaker and general session speakers include Bruce Jenner, technology strategist Larry Irving, attorney Jeff Linder, and humorist Tom Ryan.

- More than 50 breakout sessions on such topics as VoIP, managing wireless, cost analysis, IT funding, network security, leadership, new technologies, and more.

- The very best opportunities for professional networking with your peers from campuses big and small, public and private, near and far.

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The Value of Volunteering

From the President

Jeanne Jansenius
University of the South

Being from the Volunteer State of Tennessee, I fear being booted across the border if I do not talk about the value of volunteering in my final column as ACUTA President. Although it has been almost two years since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, I continue to be impressed with those volunteers who have been willing to step up to the plate regardless of the cost. During his 2002 State of the Union Address, President Bush issued a call to every American to commit at least two years—4,000 hours over the rest of your lifetime—to the service of your neighbors and your nation. It seems that many of us have accepted his challenge.

The telephone industry, of which all of us are a part, has a tremendous reputation for volunteering in answer to the call of those in need. For example, over the past 86 years the Telephone Pioneers of America, a volunteer organization made up of active and retired employees from the telephone industry, has established a long history of volunteer involvement, selecting and coordinating projects that serve local communities in a variety of ways. Closer to home, here and now, if you’re looking for an opportunity to make a difference, ACUTA may be the answer.

As a member-driven organization that depends on volunteer leaders to come forward from the ranks each year, ACUTA needs you, and I encourage you to become involved. The officers, board of directors, committee chairs, committee members, and state coordinators contribute countless volunteer hours to sustain the association and make it more valuable to each of us. I will take this opportunity to thank them for their guidance, support, and leadership.

Why should you volunteer?

- Experience: You’ll benefit from the opportunity to update old skills and develop new ones.
- Visibility/Networking: Volunteer connections can bring about new career opportunities or allow you to explore different career directions.
- Leadership: When you take advantage of the opportunity to serve as a leader, you gain valuable leadership experience both on and off campus.
- Professional development: You grow professionally when you serve on a committee or share your knowledge and polish your presentation skills by speaking at an ACUTA event.

Are you ready to volunteer for ACUTA? Not sure what to do or whom to contact? Here are a few suggestions:

- Volunteer for a committee. For a list of the committees and committee chairs go to http://www.acuta.org/dynamic/Listings/Committees.cfm.
- Be a speaker. If you would like to share your experiences or project successes, answer the call for presenters or give Donna Hall (dhall@acuta.org) at the ACUTA office a call at 859/278-3338.
- Be an ambassador for ACUTA! We all benefit when we increase the membership base. Provide the membership committee or Kellie Bowman (kbowman@acuta.org) with the name of an institution that is not a member of ACUTA and the name of a contact person, or provide the name and contact information for a vendor that you would like to see participate at ACUTA events. Or make that call yourself. Your participation, on any level, is greatly valued.

As I look back on the past few months, I see absolutely no way to place a monetary value on the experience and privilege of being president of ACUTA. I encourage each of you to get involved with this outstanding organization. The board of directors, committee chairs, committee members, state and province coordinators, and professional staff have spent a great deal of time this year focusing on a host of strategic goals. Not forgetting that our volunteers had to meet their own goals on campus, I praise their efforts and accomplish-

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Volunteering

continued from page 2

ments, as well as the professional staff, for the care they have taken in looking out for this fine organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual conference in Hollywood, Florida. If I’ve inspired you just a little bit to think about volunteering, you could start by offering your services as a monitor or moderator at a breakout session. (Check the ACUTA website for availability of sessions: http://www.acuta.org/donna2/moderator.pdf.)

As someone wisely said, if you try to find time for something that matters, you never will. You must make the time.

Legislative/Regulatory Issues Matrix Is Available

Sometimes you want to know—briefly—what’s going on in Washington that might have an impact on your campus. ACUTA is proud to present the new Legislative/Regulatory Issues Matrix, a document that provides a brief description of the major issues, the status of each, ACUTA’s position or action taken, the date of the last update, a link to ACUTA’s Legislative-Regulatory Newsletter, and whom within ACUTA to contact for more information.

The URL is http://www.acuta.org/Relation/downloadFile.cfm?DocNum=767. This document will be updated quarterly, and we plan to include a link in the Leg/Reg Update electronic newsletter each time it is updated.

Contributing Documents to the ACUTA Resource Library is Now Easier

by Dave Barta

University of Oregon

A new feature has been added to the “MY ACUTA” portion of the ACUTA Portal/Web Page which will allow online uploading of documents being contributed to the ACUTA Resource Library. This feature is accessible to anyone who has registered their login and password for the portal and can be accessed by clicking on “My ACUTA” in the upper right corner of the Web page.

If you are not sure you have a Web preferences account, use the URL: http://www.acuta.org/myacuta

Now when someone on the listserv asks for a document and several other people say they’d like it as well, you have the option of posting it to the Resource Library and referring everyone to it there. It will also stay there for others who may need it later. Submitted documents will be reviewed by ACUTA staff for appropriate content and then posted, generally within 24 hours.

The Resource Library contains 111 documents including 45 RFPs, 22 position descriptions, 7 campus directory samples, and 37 documents of general interest. They can be listed by these categories or searched by keyword. All have been contributed by ACUTA members. Access the library and the document upload feature by going to the URL: http://www.acuta.org/Dynamic/Library/index.cfm

Enabling electronic submission of resource library documents was an action item in the ACUTA strategic plan. It is one part of the ongoing effort to improve and enhance core resources available to ACUTA members.

Comments, criticisms, or suggestions that can improve the value of the ACUTA Portal/Web page to the ACUTA membership are always welcome and can be addressed to Aaron Fuehrer (afuehrer@acuta.org). Members who are interested in serving ACUTA by participating on the Ad Hoc Web/Portal Committee are invited to contact the committee chair, Dave Barta (dbarta@uoregon.edu).

Thanks go to ACUTA Computer Services Manager Aaron Fuehrer for his work designing and implementing this and the other ongoing improvements to the portal/Web page. Thanks for your contributions.
This month's topic is a prime example of why acronyms were invented. When you get a mouthful-and-a-half term like "Generalized Multi-protocol Label Switching," you just have to be thankful that it can be boiled down to GMPLS.

By the way, no one really knows the name of the inventor of the acronym. But we do know his initials. Ha!

Enough lightheartedness. Let's get down to business and talk about GMPLS. This is an emerging standard designed to address the architectural issues involved as telecommunications carriers move IP networking traffic over their optical infrastructure.

What has happened is that a very complex architecture has been set up to accommodate IP traffic over networks that were originally designed to handle voice and fixed circuits. This has created a need for a single control plane that extends from the IP level to the optical transport level. For those of you keeping score, IP is at Layer 3, and the optical transport is at Layer 1.

GMPLS extends the intelligence of the network from the edge, into the core, and back out to the edge. Although GMPLS is only a proposed standard that is still a year or two away from significant deployment, it builds on the standardization of MPLS (back in the days when acronyms maxed out at 4 letters). MPLS has been an effective means of simplifying network architecture by replacing the need for ATM and frame relay equipment to oversee traffic engineering.

MPLS creates paths across a network of routers, while GMPLS extends that ability for the purpose of establishing connections at the optical transport level. It can do it in two ways, either making the router a client of the optical network or a peer of that network. The difference is in whether the router or the optical network makes the decision on the path of the connection.

GMPLS also specifies bandwidth allocation and how failures in the network are communicated. How it does this is through a tremendously technical process whose description is best left to those who are really, really interested in detail. If you are one of them, I actually have three white papers in PDF format that I would be happy to send you. Just drop me an e-mailed request at the address below.

In essence, GMPLS is seen as a tool to help service providers dynamically provision bandwidth, cut costs, and improve their ability to restore the network after failures. Those individuals and companies driving the standard believe that GMPLS will also trigger new carrier services such as optical virtual private networks.

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.

The Web Site Recognition Task Force congratulates the two schools selected for the first quarter of 2003 for having outstanding sites that exemplify the best use of Portals.

University of Wisconsin-Stout: http://portal.uwstout.edu
California State University-Fullerton: http://my.fullerton.edu/portalvsvb/CSULOGONUSER.aspx?posted=1 (Username: demo7, Password: test1234)

These two sites will be featured on the ACUTA website on June 2, 2003.
EVANSTON, Ill. - May 19, 2003 - ACUTA members Northwestern University and Video Furnace, in collaboration with C-SPAN and Internet2, have announced the availability of live, high-quality C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 broadcasts 24 hours a day to anyone with an Internet2 network connection that is multicast capable. This experimental, research broadcast project is made possible through Northwestern University's high-performance networking, a cooperative partnership with C-SPAN, and Video Furnace's IP video technology.

Video Furnace's software technology and scalable IP multicast technology enable anyone with a notebook or desktop computer connected to a multicast-capable Internet2 network to watch C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 live. The live C-SPAN signals originate from Video Furnace servers located at Northwestern.

"We believe this to be one of the world's first successful live broadcasts over Internet2, and it showcases the capabilities and reality of converging live video to the desktop utilizing high speed, multicast-enabled IP networks," said Mort Rahimi, vice president and chief technology officer for Northwestern. "Advanced networking makes this kind of multimedia transmission possible because it's designed to deliver large bandwidth and has a multicast backbone. It's a terrific demonstration of what can be done using the latest networking technology."

"Video Furnace's unique technology lets users watch this or any other Video Furnace-enabled streams without having to install any players, browser plug-ins or other software on their computers," said Howard Weinzheimer, Video Furnace CEO.

All common operating systems are supported for viewing. The only requirement is a current Java-enabled browser to accept the end-user license agreement necessary to receive the appropriate Video Furnace InStream content viewer at www.i2-multicast.northwestern.edu.

The C-SPAN broadcast over Internet2 networks uses the same Video Furnace technology that powers Northwestern's NUTV service. NUTV delivers 20 on-air and extended television channels to students' desktop and notebook computers in Northwestern's undergraduate residence halls through the university's existing IP network.

C-SPAN is also continuing to work with Northwestern's International Center for Advanced Internet Research (iCAIR) on another research project with C-SPAN, established in 2000 as part of the Internet2 Digital Video initiative.

The ACUTA Board of Directors met in Norfolk, Virginia on Saturday, April 26, 2003. Following are highlights of that meeting.

The President thanked the Board for attending this meeting and for their continued dedication to ACUTA. She commented that Eleanor Smith intends to retire in the fall and she acknowledged Ms. Smith's contribution to ACUTA.

The Executive Director provided a status report on her 2002-03 goals as approved by the Board. The Executive Director also presented a recommendation for pricing of the sponsorship of the ACUTA E-news, consistent with the recommendations from the Publications Committee that the sponsorship be approved. The pricing was approved by the Board.

The Board also approved the proposed 2003-04 FY budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The Board discussed membership dues and structure. The Finance Committee and staff will be reviewing the structure and the result of this work will be brought back to the Board for approval. The Membership Committee was tasked with developing an operational plan that will increase membership and recruiting opportunities across the spectrum of all higher-education institutions. The discussion also emphasized the need for active Board involvement in membership recruitment.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bradley
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
State Budget Gaps

According to a study by the National Conference of State Legislatures earlier this year, state budget gaps have grown by 50 percent and two-thirds of states will need to cut budgets by $26 billion by June 30, which for most states marks the end of the current fiscal year. Many colleges and universities are already suffering from these state budget cuts that will continue to show up in the institutional budget over the next few years.

Many states are looking at increasing revenues by adding taxes that will involve the telecom industry. In March the Governor of Pennsylvania proposed changing the state’s tax system as part of his “budget blueprint,” which seeks to boost taxes on landline and mobile phone calls in excess of $500 million over the next two years. He wants the tax to cover interstate landline phone calls and all wireless calls. The tax currently only applies to intrastate landline calls. These fees would add more than $200 million to state coffers in fiscal year 2004 and more than $300 million in fiscal year 2005, according to the governor.

South Dakota passed a bill in March that assesses a 4 percent tax on the gross receipts of wireless services. Counties will receive 40 percent of the proceedings, while 60 percent will go to the state’s general fund. By vetoing the bill, the governor tried to get the full amount in the general fund so he could allocate 40 percent (about $2.2 million) to his health insurance bill. Legislators stuck to their guns, however, and overrode the veto. The total of this tax would be about $5.5 million for the state.

Maryland’s Legislature has passed a bill that will tax the telecom services of Prince George’s County residents and businesses by at least 5 percent to pay for a program for disruptive, delinquent, or low-performing students in grades six through 12.

Bills are under consideration in Arizona and Nevada to tax the direct broadcast satellite (DBS) TV service. Taxing purchases of goods over the Internet is also being looked at in many states. According to a California State Senator a recent report estimated that California lost $1.75 billion in sales taxes due to purchases made over the Internet in 2001. Nationwide, state and local governments lost $13.3 billion in states taxes due to Internet purchases, and that loss is expected to grow to $45 billion in 2006.

More than 30 states have joined forces in the Streamline Sales Tax Project (SSTP), which is a multistate effort to simplify and streamline state sales- and-use taxes. It seeks to overcome problems associated with collecting sales tax on mail-order items and items purchased online. (Telecommunications Reports [TR] 4/15/03)

Triennial Review

The printed copy of this review (all 400+ pages) had not been released by the first of May but may have been released by the time you are reading this. There is a lot of speculation in the telecom industry as to just how the final copy of the triennial review will impact the industry. It looks like this will be a big boost for the legal profession.

Once the order is issued, the legal challenge will begin, with both sides targeting the provisions that they find most egregious. One big question is which federal appeals court will hear the matter. When cases are challenged in multiple circuits, an administrative office of the federal court system decides where the case should be heard. Incumbent Local Exchange carrier officials wouldn’t comment on their litigation plans, but it’s clear that they would like the dispute to be considered by the U. S.
Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit. CLECs, on the other hand, would prefer it be heard elsewhere. (TR 4/15/03)

Some correspondence between an FCC Commissioner and a member of the House who is actively involved with telecom issues included comments about the move to give state public service commissions a significant role in determining the continued availability of unbundled local switching, a key piece of the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P).

Another item, being challenged by Covad Communications, concerns the end of line sharing that came out when the review was announced in February. Since then the staff has worked on the order and the FCC has remained in a sunshine period, barring parties from lobbying the Commission on triennial review matters until the order is completed. Presentations are allowed, however, if requested by agency officials. (TR 4/15/03)

**USF E-rate**

In its meeting April 23 the FCC took steps to address fraud in the e-rate program. The FCC unanimously adopted a report and order that (1) allows for a three-year debarment for "persons convicted of criminal violations or held civilly liable for misconduct arising from participation in the program" and (2) "clarifies that requests for duplicative services will not be funded." (TR 5/1/03)

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has been reviewing e-rate documents and has come to the conclusion that there is a need for an investigation. The committee is looking into reports that the program has more than the normal amount of fraud and that the FCC and the Universal Services Administrative Committee (USAC) haven't provided enough oversight.

Since the House Committee began to look into the problem, both the FCC and the USAC have announced plans to look further into reports of fraud and seek ways to strengthen oversight. The USAC's Schools and Library Division indicated that it was forming a 14-member fraud task force to investigate the problem and summarize its findings by early summer. (TR 4/15/03)

**Siting of Towers**

The FCC is looking at the rules that are in place concerning the siting of towers. As the wireless telephone industry grows, the need for towers increases, and they need to be close together to give proper coverage to the cell phones in use. Environmental groups are very concerned about the problems that the towers cause for birds. According to an FCC legal advisor to Chairman Powell, "At the moment, it's premature to jump into something that would drastically change the regime, because we just don't think there's enough information out there." He also noted that any changes would involve other agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration. (TR 5/1)

**State Commissions and Job Cuts**

Some state commissions are becoming very concerned about the quality of service that the telecom companies are providing to their customers. In two states in the Verizon area the commissions are closely watching what is happening. Others are likely to get into the act.

Verizon eliminated 20,000 jobs during 2002, and 3,400 of them were on the east coast. They announced in April that they had identified 3,600 "surplus" positions across the Northeast and mid-Atlantic incumbent telephone company territories. These job reductions will likely come from buyouts, early retirement offers, and some layoffs. (TR 5/1/03)

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**Approval Expected for 802.11G**

According to Internet News (5/22/03), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has approved a final draft of the specification for 802.11g, and the IEEE Standards Board is expected to ratify the new specification in June.

Although some hardware manufacturers have already released 802.11g devices, concerns over interoperability have kept others from producing 802.11g hardware until the standard is ratified. Capable of transferring data several times faster than 802.11b products, 802.11g products are intended to be backward compatible with devices running the older standard.
Welcome New Members

Institutional Members

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY T4
www.brooklyn.cuny.edu
Mark Gold, ITS Director, 718/951-5861

Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO T2
www.mines.edu
Gary Bowersock, Telecom Manager, 303/273-3578

Glenville State College, Glenville, WV T1
www.glenville.edu
Sandra West, 304/462-4107

Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH T4
www.ysu.edu
Joseph Scarnecchia, Director, Support Services, 330/941-3549

Corporate Affiliate Members

Copper Members

Ramtel, Johnston, RI
Eleanor A. Kelley, 401/231-3340
www.ramtel.com
RAMTEL has been manufacturing hands-free security telephones since 1985. All products are manufactured in the U.S.A. We work directly with end user for more personalized service. Enclosures, wall units and columns are fabricated in stainless steel for a lifetime investment.

Video Furnace, Inc., Libertyville, IL
Howard Weinzimmer, 847/362-6800
www.videofurnace.com
Video Furnace’s IP Video System is the only end-to-end solution that brings live video to any network-connected viewing device, such as notebook or desktop computer, without requiring the user to install any resident player software or hardware.

President’s and Executive Director’s Columns to Alternate Months

Did you miss Jeri Semer’s Executive Directors’ message in this issue? Don’t worry; her column will appear again next month. As a result of the focus group conducted at the Winter Seminars in Tempe, the Publications Committee recommended to the Board that the newsletter be slightly shorter. The Board approved a change that will bring you the President’s message every other month beginning in August, and the Executive Director’s message in alternate months.

ACUTA Events Calendar

32nd Annual Conference & Exhibition
Hollywood, Florida
Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa

Fall Seminars
San Diego, CA
Hilton San Diego Resort

Winter Seminars
January 11-14, 2004
New Orleans, LA
Sheraton New Orleans

Spring Seminars
April 18-21, 2004
Miami Beach, FL
Wyndham Miami Beach Resort