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Meet the 2001-'02 Board

Each year at the close of the Annual Conference, ACUTA welcomes a new Board of Directors.

On August 2, President-Elect Maureen Trimm, Stanford University, steps into the presidency for the coming year.

As a result of last month’s election, former Director-at-Large Jeanne Jansenius of the University of the South will assume the position of President-Elect.

John Bradley of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute will accept responsibilities as Secretary/Treasurer.

President Anthony Tanzi, RCDD, Brown University serves as Immediate Past President.

Bill Brichta, DeSales University, was re-elected, and former Program Chair Tamara (Tammy) Closs of Georgetown University was elected to serve as Director-at-Large.

Dave Barta of the University of Oregon and Steve Harward of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will serve the second year of their two-year terms.

The Board-appointed Director-at-Large has yet to be named.

This year’s Board comes with an impressive history of service. Together they

including charter member Tony Tanzi’s 30 years. A member for 25 years, Director-at-Large Steve Harward is also a Past President. This kind of history certainly qualifies the Board to make insightful decisions for the future of the association.

Serving on the Board requires a serious commitment of time and energy. Those who are willing to serve are to be commended. If this kind of leadership role is of interest to you, contact any Board member or Executive Director Jeri Semer about how you can get involved.
Retrospective

It is hard to believe that my year as president of ACUTA is coming to an end. My predecessors cautioned me that the year's activities and responsibilities would leave me asking myself where time went and how we, as an organization, did so much in so little time. They further cautioned me that once I stepped back and looked at all we did as an organization, I would wonder how so many people could come together and work so well. I think I rediscovered how this could be.

In his book *Principle Centered Leadership*, Stephen R. Covey (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1990) focuses on four levels of leadership with key principles. They are:

- Organizational—the alignment of principles and practices.
- Managerial—the empowerment of people to get things done.
- Interpersonal—a person’s relationship (interactions) with others.
- Personal—my relationship with those I love and myself.

After reflecting on my term, it is clear that Covey's thoughts do apply to my experience. I'd like to share some of my thoughts with you, and hopefully capture how we, as an organization have "embodied principles that are valued by every member."

As a member-driven organization, ACUTA does not rise on the merits or efforts of just one person (or a small group of people). We are what we are because of the work and effort of all of us.

The role of a president is to lead the organization's leaders in developing principles, the "why to do's," the elements that build organizations. Sometimes this was fairly easy and straightforward; sometimes this took significant work and effort. Each time, the result was worth the effort.

Another major role of the president is to lead in the development of practices, the "what to do's," the specific applications that fit specific circumstances.

Throughout the year, many individuals contributed to making the principles and practices of ACUTA bring our organization to the status that it has. This is where empowerment happens—you, our membership—have the power to effect change! Real empowerment comes from having both the principles and the practices understood and applied at all levels of the organization. All of us worked hard to make sure that happened.

There are many people that I need to thank for making this year productive and pleasant. Thank you to you, ACUTA's members, for providing me with the opportunity to serve you. You are the backbone of our organization. Your conversations, your phone calls and e-mails were greatly appreciated. You gave me the perspective that meant something to you, and allowed me to advocate that perspective for you. I hope that I have done that advocacy well.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for giving their time and talents to the governance of our association over this past year. Without their help and guidance, I believe that our principles and practices would just be vapor instead of a solid foundation for ACUTA to build on.

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The ACUTA staff—that group of people who spend five days a week working for you and loving every minute of it (well, okay, almost every minute)—is on the grow again.

Megan Statom
You may have noticed earlier this year that we added Megan Statom as a communications assistant. Megan is a junior at the University of Kentucky majoring in communications (that’s the journalism kind, not the technology kind). Megan works part time, spending most of her time writing or on other tasks related to the newsletter and the journal and posting materials to the ACUTA Web site. She assists communications manager Pat Scott and computer services manager Aaron Fuehrer.

Megan aspires to be a writer, and would like the freedom that freelancing offers. She has written an article that will appear in the fall issue of the ACUTA Journal.

Lori Dodson
Our newest addition to the staff is Lori Dodson. As the accounting assistant, Lori works part-time helping business manager Eleanor Smith. Lori’s background includes four years as the office coordinator for a nonprofit in Seattle, and 22 years as a bookkeeper.

A Southern California native, Lori moved to Lexington a few months ago when her husband was transferred. They have three grown children, including one daughter who is a student at Western Washington University.

“So far I have been very impressed with ACUTA as an organization and with the dedication of the staff,” Lori says. “I’m looking forward to learning more about the members and becoming a part of the support system.”

You can reach Megan at 859/278-3338 ext. 34 or mstatom@acuta.org and Lori at ext. 27 or ldodson@acuta.org.

Welcome, Megan and Lori, to ACUTA!

Whitney L. Johnson
South has announced that they will be getting out of the payphone business altogether within the next couple years. AT&T is installing a new type of payphone at airports that costs more but also offers more. For 25 cents per minute (with a 4-minute minimum). The newfangled "Public Phone 2000i" allows simultaneous voice and Internet access. It will also carry full-motion video screens for advertising. AT&T will still have some of the old style payphones at airports at the 35c rate. The new phones are already in use at airports in New York, Atlanta, and Dallas and will be installed at other airports in the near future. (VR 6/4)

**Child Online Protection Act**

This bill, often referred to as COPA, was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law in 1998. A group of people and organizations claimed that the law was in violation of the freedom of speech guarantees of the U.S. Constitution and challenged it in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. That Court upheld an injunction preventing the enforcement of COPA. The U.S. Supreme Court has now agreed to review the Appeals Court decision (Telecommunications Reports (TR) 5/28)

**AT&T Restructuring**

At AT&T's annual meeting a few weeks ago 96 percent of the shareholders voted in favor of a charter amendment that would allow a majority, rather than two-thirds, of shareholders to authorize structural changes. AT&T's Board of Directors supported the amendment
Section 508 Sets New Standards

Dave Ostrom, Washington State Univ.
ACUTA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Effective June 21, 2001, new standards developed by the Federal Access Board took effect that may affect some colleges and universities. While the standards do not directly affect non-federal agencies or those who receive federal funds, the Department of Education has stated that they will require compliance for those states receiving funds under the State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities. Public institutions in states that are participating in this program may need to comply with the new regulations as a result of their association with the state.

Background

In August, 1998, Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that reauthorized Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The amended Section 508 requires that when "Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, Federal employees with disabilities have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use by Federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency." The law directed the Federal Access Board to develop standards in support of the requirement. The standards were issued on December 21, 2000, and take effect 6 months later on June 21, 2001.

The Standards

The standard states that "when developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic and information technology, the Federal Government shall ensure that people with disabilities that use electronic and information technology have access to and use of the technology that is comparable to the access and use by people without disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency." The law directed the Federal Access Board to develop standards in support of the requirement. The standards were issued on December 21, 2000, and take effect 6 months later on June 21, 2001.

Examples of requirements within the above areas include the following:

- Video and multimedia products
- Self-contained, closed products (information kiosks, information transaction machines, copiers, fax machines, printers, and other similar types of machines)
- Desktop and portable computers

The Board of Directors met via conference call on June 14. The following are highlights of the Board’s actions:

Vendor Liaison Committee Appointments for 2001-2003 were approved. The appointments are:

- Tad Deriso, CHR Solutions
- Gary Luft, VarTec Telecom, Inc.
- Ed Cronin, Superior Essex
- Rick Day, Daycom Systems, Inc.
- Sandy Roberts, Wellesley College

The budget is on track and aligned for the current fiscal year. The Board approved a videoconferencing deployment at the ACUTA corporate office in Lexington, Kentucky.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Lewis, University of Rochester
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer

FSO and Eye Safety

Dave Koch, Vice President, Development
Plaintree Systems

Free space optics (FSO) or optical wireless systems are a cost-effective solution to the broadband access bottleneck or the "last mile." FSO systems replace cable or fiber, require no

required for alignment, operators should avoid putting installation and maintenance personnel at risk. There are situations where the optical path is entirely under the control of the operator and the risk management is
and information technology, each agency shall ensure that the products comply with the applicable provisions of this (standard), unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The standard includes requirements in the following areas:

- Software applications and operating systems
- Web-based intranet and Internet information and applications
- Telecommunications products

licensing, and can usually be installed in a matter of hours. Almost all FSO companies claim their products are “eye-safe,” but these claims call for a closer inspection.

FSO systems use lasers or LEDs. These differ in several respects including levels of eye hazard. All FSO products carry a variety of designations that most companies are claiming as being eye-safe. However, only the IEC Class 1 designation indicates that the product is safe under all reasonably foreseeable conditions. All the other classes including Class 3A and Class 3B are hazardous to varying extents. In January of this year, the IEC standard was updated, introducing the Class 1M rating that by definition applies to systems dangerous to view when using optical aids such as binoculars.

The International Electrotechnical Commission standard IEC 60825-1 is the authoritative reference for eye safety and defines the various designations and hazard levels associated with LED and laser products. Laser light is far more dangerous to the eyes than LED light of the same power because the eye is able to focus laser light to a fine point resulting in a very high power concentration. In contrast, LED light being from an extended source cannot be focused down so much. The standard implies that the maximum safe power level entering the eye directly from an LED transmitter can be up to ten times greater than that from a laser transmitter of the same wavelength.

As binoculars or gunsights are often then much easier. But in other situations, this will not be the case, and the fact that the chances of injury are very low will not serve as an effective defense in a court of law.

The hazard to the eyes is that powerful invisible beams could enter the eye and concentrate within it, causing heating and possible lesions resulting in both temporary and permanent sight impairments. For operators who plan to use systems designated other than IEC Class 1, the challenge is to quantify the level of risk. What are the chances that anyone can get into the path of the beam? What are the chances that they will then stare into the beam? What are the chances that they will be using binoculars, increasing the hazard level fifty times?

Most laser wireless products fall under a Class 3 category with a few in the new Class 1M category. They are therefore hazardous to varying degrees. LED wireless products generally fall under the Class 1 category and are therefore safe under all reasonably foreseeable conditions of operation.

David Kahn’s career includes positions with Plessey, N6Z Aviation, BNR (Nortel), the Government of Canada. Currently he directs the optical wireless development program at Plantree Systems Inc. At BNR, he helped design the 1981 Elie fibre to the home (FTTH) system. In 1989 and 1990 he chaired the SPIE conferences on fibre in the subscriber loop. For ten years, he presented the systems portion of the optical communications postgraduate course at Carleton University and recently resumed teaching at Ottawa University. David has about 35 patents and is a member of IEEE LEOS. Reach David at dkahn@plainetre.com.
From ACUTA Headquarters

ACUTA Participates in Industry Meetings of Interest to Members

CHEMA
In June, President Tony Tanzi, President-Elect Maureen Trimm, and I attended the Council of Higher Education Management Associations (CHEMA) meeting in Washington, DC. This group is composed of representatives of more than 30 associations, which, like ACUTA, represent professionals on the administrative side of university management.

As always, the meeting provided an opportunity to exchange information on the issues that are challenging all of our administrative colleagues, and to discuss joint projects that might benefit all of our members.

APPA
One very positive outcome of discussions at the meeting was that ACUTA and APPA, the Association for Higher Education Facilities Officers, will be pursuing talks aimed at developing a joint leadership training program for our members. The need for excellent leadership and communication skills cuts across departmental boundaries on campus, and applies equally to telecommunications professionals, facilities officers, and other administrative professionals. We ate Past President Tony Mordosky and I participated in last June with an eye toward future collaboration. We plan to work closely with APPA faculty to adapt the curriculum to incorporate material that is appropriate and highly relevant for ACUTA members. Watch your mail for more information later this year as this program develops.

This program would be an outstanding professional development opportunity not only for senior leaders and department heads, but also for other members of the professional staff who may be called upon to lead teams or projects.

ATIS, Ordering & Billing Forum
In May, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee Chair Randy Hayes and I attended the biannual meeting of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, Ordering and Billing Forum. This is a telecom industry group composed of carriers and other industry members. The purpose of our attendance was to meet with one of their committees to attempt to work out industry guidelines that would prevent unauthorized charges for present our members' concerns, which came as a surprise to many of the industry representatives.

No industry-wide solution has been agreed upon yet, but we did significantly raise awareness of the problem and some companies will be working on internal company procedures to resolve it. Discussions are continuing regarding an industry-wide solution that would prevent these unauthorized charges from being billed to colleges and universities. However, any solution would not be mandatory, as it would not carry the force of law.

In the meantime, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) initiated a proceeding two years ago to expand the rules that apply to "900" calls to all types of telephone billed purchases. ACUTA testified at the FTC's public hearing on this matter. The FTC has yet to adopt regulations.

Randy Hayes and other participants will report on progress and proposed solutions at ACUTA's Annual Conference on Tuesday, July 31 at 3:45 p.m. in the session entitled "Resolving Unauthorized Charges."

President's Message

Continued from page 1
Thank you to the committee and task force chairs and members of our committees and task forces for all your work and efforts. These are the members who take the challenge and give their time and talents to do the knowledge management so necessary for us to thrive as an organization. They are working to establish defined paths for ACUTA's growth and relevance. They are what Covey calls "abundance managers." They serve others anonymously. They feel that service is the rent we pay for the privilege of membership. They are too often just inwardly rewarded for the huge service they provide. We need more volunteers to come forward and keep ACUTA what it has become.

Thank you to the ACUTA staff for their efforts during the past year. This is the group of professional people who provide support to me in my role as President, to the Board, our committees, and to you, ACUTA's membership. Words cannot express how grateful I am that ACUTA has been blessed with having this dedicated group of people.

My work associates and Brown University continue to be very supportive of my activities in ACUTA. I am very fortunate to be associated with people who share my vision and passion for trying to make a difference. I've
We continue to keep you informed of new developments in both of these areas. Please feel free to contact me at jsemer@acuta.org or (859) 278-3338, ext. 25, if you have any comments or concerns that you would like to share.

Institutional Members
- Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI. Kenneth Arthur, 616/337-7241. T1

Corporate Affiliate Members

Telecommunications Specialists, Inc., Caledonia, MS. Harold Honnoll, 662/356-4100 ... www.tsiconsultants.com

TSI is an independent telecommunications consulting firm. We conduct forward and backward audits of local, long distance, and data services. We also assist clients with telecommunications equipment acquisition, network design, cash flow analysis, and recommendations.

T-Metrics, Inc., Charlotte, NC. Roger Pohl, 704/525-5551

T-Metrics is the leading supplier of PC-based attendant consoles that integrate telephone lines with on-campus directories and call completion applications such as call routers, auto attendants, and ACDs for a total call solution package.

Telephone & Voice Services Coord., Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., Teaneck, NJ.
Contact: Melanie Scarpa - 201/692-7390 or scarpa@fd.edu

Wireless LAN Program Manager, Cornell University
Send cover letter and resume to: Tammy S. Drake, HR Associate, Cornell Univ., CIT, 200 CCC - Garden Ave, Ithaca, NY 14853-2601 EO/AAE

Chief Info. Officer, Info. Tech. Services, Bowling Green State Univ.
Submit letter of application, resume and 3 names, addresses and telephone numbers of professional references to: Office of Human Resources (Search M-021), 100 College Park Ofc. Bldg., Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, OH 43403. http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr AA/EO

4 Positions: University of California at Berkeley
Voice Installation Technician, Senior Electronics (Job #01-112-10/PA)
Voice Services Field Installation Supervisor, Electronics (Job # 01-1)
Network Engineering Supervisor, Programmer/Analyst (Job #01-111-10)
Radio Communications Technician, Principal Electronics (Job #10-139)
Send cover letter and resume including job number to UC Berkeley, Human Resources, Employment Services, 7G University Hall #3542, Berkeley, CA 94720-3542. Fax: 510/643-6657. E-mail: applyubc@uclink.berkeley.edu. See Human Resources Web site for information on benefits. EOE

My love and thanks to my family for giving me one of the most powerful, unifying experiences that I have ever had. I continue to receive their unqualified support. They put their own needs behind mine and graciously accepted my travels and devotion to the needs of our organization during the past year. They created a nurturing environment for me to achieve a worthwhile purpose. Without their support, I could never have made it this far. For this, and many other things, they have my undying love and devotion.

Hopefully, I helped make a difference in your professional lives and our organization. I will always have a special place in my heart for all the experiences that we shared, the lessons we learned, and the people who helped make this year possible. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for one of the best experiences of my life.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions, and can be reached at Anthony_Tanzi@brown.edu.