ACUTA eNews March 1994, Vol. 23, No. 3
ACUTA purchases building

Wednesday, February 23, 1994 was an important date in ACUTA history. On that date, ACUTA Business Manager Eleanor Smith, on behalf of the Board of Directors, completed the closing for the purchase of ACUTA's new headquarters. On the following Friday, the staff packed equipment, furnishings, files, books, and memories in preparation for the arrival of movers who would transport the office from leased space in downtown Lexington's tallest building to a two-story structure on the south end of town.

This move represents a significant step for the Association which now owns its own building and has a permanent home. The purchase provides ACUTA with an asset so that instead of paying rent, much of our monthly cost of operation becomes an investment.

ACUTA now occupies approximately 3,500 square feet on the second floor of the ACUTA Building. The ground floor has been leased to two government agencies. An additional 1,800+ square feet of space on the second floor will be available for lease to another tenant.

In addition to office space for the six staff members plus room for future growth, the facility includes a conference room, reception area, file room, equipment room, and employee break room. "The Board is very proud of this accomplishment," says Treasurer Robert Aylward. "With this move, we have enhanced ACUTA's financial position and at the same time provided the staff with more suitable quarters to carry out the day-to-day affairs of the Association. It is a very positive step for ACUTA."

Our New Address:
152 West Zandale Dr., Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503-2486
Phone: (606) 278-3338
Fax: (606) 278-3268

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ACUTA adds marketing and promotions committee

The need for a creative and cohesive ACUTA marketing plan was the key impetus for creation of this committee. The committee will work in concert with ACUTA's professional staff, program committee, and publications committee in developing and maintaining a comprehensive ACUTA marketing strategy and plan.

Other key items on the February Board agenda included:

• Update on the recruitment of a new ACUTA Executive Director
• Update on Lexington office space and final approval of the mortgage terms and conditions for purchase of the new headquarters building
• Finalization of the 1994 ACUTA elections procedures and process in transitioning to the new governance structure
• Production and distribution costs for the ACUTA video tape
• Baltimore Seminar and Anaheim Conference planning.

Submitted by
Dr. James Cross, Longwood College
ACUTA Secretary

Toll fraud list grows longer

For the past several months, the ACUTA News has published 800 numbers reported by members that have resulted in charges being billed back to the university or that were purported to be "adult entertainment" numbers. The list continues. Please note, ACUTA has not called these numbers to verify that they are indeed billed back, due to the untimeliness that would result. We have chosen rather to present the information to you for your own quick response.

Laura Smith at North Carolina State called with these 800 numbers: 468-7883, 468-7529, 596-3655, 759-2222, 990-6969. Joyce Becker from Kutztown University sent us the following bill-back international numbers:

1-011-529-1900 1-011-599-6877
1-011-599-6988 1-011-599-2626
1-011-599-2424 1-011-597-423007
1-011-597-423000 1-011-351-9935164
1-011-597-423022

as well as these additional 800 numbers:

800-326-3669 800-359-0069 800-432-8906
800-468-2868 800-736-7886 800-777-9388
800-847-3301 800-877-0122 800-933-9913
800-995-9938

Please continue to call the ACUTA office (606) 278-3338 as you become aware of additional toll fraud or teleabuse examples.

“Voice conversations account for less than half of the traffic on AT&T long distance lines between the U.S. and Japan; the balance is generated by fax machines.”

—Paul Saffo, “Looking Ahead to the Next Decade”
Communications Week (1/3/94)
This has been a busy year for ACUTA and there are many important endeavors underway. I’d like to update you on a few of the items which have been occupying our time of late.

New Offices . . . By the time you receive this, ACUTA’s staff should be settled into our new offices in Lexington. Members should have received a few different notices with the new address as well as new telephone and fax numbers. In case you didn’t, the new information can always be found in the editorial box at the bottom of page 2 of this newsletter. Please make a note of the changes for your records so you won’t get frustrated when you need it.

I visited Lexington in early February to tour the new office building and was very pleased with the layout and feel it will serve our needs well into the future. Very little “fit up” (i.e., refurbishment and/or construction) is needed to make the space fit our needs both now and for what we can see in the foreseeable future. We will own this building and rent out the space we don’t need. Although this doesn’t make our net costs zero, it does give us an asset and a much reduced monthly space cost for more usable square footage. This space is much more appropriate for our operation than the space we had outgrown in downtown Lexington. The staff likes being in the suburbs, with easy parking and access to a variety of needed services close by.

Bylaws and Governance Changes . . . In addition to the office relocation, you should have received information concerning the recent Bylaws changes. These changes were a result of the governance study undertaken by the Board of Directors last year. If you have any questions, comments or concerns after reading the brochure sent out in late February, there are several ways you can communicate your thoughts or questions. As always, we encourage you to contact your Region Director or any other member of the Board of Directors. I, too, would welcome your call or a note. I have been setting aside “open door sessions” at each of our events to talk with any member one-on-one about any topic. If you’re planning to join us in Baltimore for the spring seminar, that’s another opportunity. We have also planned a special information session at the summer conference in Anaheim to inform the membership of the changes that have occurred and to answer any questions attendees may have. This has been a year of change for ACUTA and the Board of Directors wants to be sure that all members are informed and have ample opportunity for feedback.

Member Needs Assessment . . . Speaking of feedback, our survey firm has heard from 61% of those who were mailed member needs assessment questionnaires. My thanks to all of you who responded for taking the time to help us out with this important survey. If, by some chance, you’re one of the 100 or so folks who still have the questionnaire in your “to do” pile, please take a minute or two to pull it out, complete it, and drop it in the mail. We would appreciate your cooperation.

Search Committee . . . With a little bit of luck, I am hoping to be able to announce the selection of a new Executive Director prior to the Baltimore seminar. The Search Committee will be interviewing finalists in Lexington on March 4. This will allow each of the finalists to see our new offices, meet the staff and the Board, as well as familiarize themselves with the Lexington, Kentucky, area. There will be a Board of Directors’ meeting the following day, and we hope to be able to make an offer shortly thereafter.

ACUTA Promotional Video . . . Anyone who attended last summer’s conference or the winter seminar has seen preliminary draft versions of our promotional video. Production is complete and the final product should be ready soon. Although we have lots of ideas about how this video can be used, you may have some we haven’t even thought of. If so, contact one of the “producers,” Jan Weller or Randy Collett, or any other Board member. Thanks to both Jan and Randy for their initiative and perseverance and to the institutional members and vendor members who were kind enough to subject themselves to the video camera. The personal interviews filmed in Nashville at last summer’s conference really improved the video. If you attend this summer’s conference in Anaheim, you’ll not only see the final product, but you’ll get your own personal copy to take back to share with your management, staff, colleagues, and vendors so they can see what ACUTA is all about: Avid Colleagues Utilizing Telecommunications Advancements.

Phew! I’m tired just talking about all this activity! Actually, it’s invigorating being part of such a strong, progressive organization and leading a group of dynamic, dedicated and seemingly tireless Board and staff.
Final touches put on Baltimore seminar program

Mal Reader  
University of Calgary  
ACUTA Program Director

The Spring Seminars in Baltimore will feature subjects of vital interest on campuses today: Hot Management Topics and Campus Cable TV.

Those who choose Hot Management Topics will explore a slate of continually developing and evolving telecommunications management issues, including:

- **Long Distance Issues**, presented by Darryl Poovey, Director of College and University Marketing at Commonwealth Communications Long Distance. Darryl’s presentation will cover new issues and trends, consortiums, affinity programs, a comparison of Smart Card offerings, and debit card marketing strategies for revenue enhancement.

- **Regulatory Issues** will be addressed by consultant Peter Tannenwald. These will include aggregator, ADA and cable TV regulation, plus toll fraud responsibility.

- **Organizational Changes and Effects** will feature Ralph Droms, Co-Director of Computer and Communication Services and Associate Professor in the Computer Science faculty at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. This session looks at how telecom and computer organizations are changing on campus, with special focus on how this is affecting the way we do business.

- **Infrastructure Issues** associated with national and local system interfacing, and the extension of computer services off campus will also be reviewed by Bucknell University’s Ralph Droms.

- **Wireless World** will look at the rapidly exploding technologies of wireless, cellular, and PCS and their potential to meet many of our new and changing needs on and away from campus.

- **IXC Activity** (Network Activity) will feature a presentation by one of the acknowledged experts on the North American Numbering Plan, Garry Benoit of Bellcore in New Jersey. Garry’s department is responsible for the coordination of the changes planned for 1995 and 1997, and for creating an awareness of the impacts that will have on our PBXs and private networks. Other happenings in the public switched network arena will also be addressed.

- **Risk Assessment and Management** will feature Ken Kumasawa and Ed Simonson of Teledesign Management in a session aimed at alerting you to ways of minimizing exposure to risk and protecting the integrity of your PBX, network, and long distance calling systems.

- **Safety** will look at providing effective emergency communications on campus. Paul Petroski, Director of Telecommunications at University of Maryland in Baltimore, will give a presentation on a PC-based emergency response system recently implemented on his campus which gives campus police access to a caller database. The issues of database accuracy—for 911 and similar emergency response databases—will be addressed.

- **Video** will examine the trends associated with the integration of video, computer, and telecommunications technologies in the instructional and learning environments, and the difficulties of providing seamless services. In this segment of the program, Ann Marie Berger of the Epic USA consulting company will distinguish from among the many flavors and qualities of video-conferencing/teleconference today, and review the technical aspects, standards, capabilities, and future of each.

- **Beyond the Horizon** provides an opportunity for Mike Enyeart, Assistant Director of Communications Services at Indiana University, Bloomington, to report to us on his institution’s network task force study on Scholars’ Networks and their applications in off-shore communications for teaching and learning purposes. A sampling of the kinds of “global” initiatives presently being pursued by our North American institutions in partnership with other countries will also be featured.

☐ **Please Note:** Your help is requested with regard to compiling a list of “global” initiatives for inclusion in the Beyond The Horizon presentation. Please give Program Director, Mal Reader, a call if you know of or are involved in any initiatives being undertaken by colleges and universities which reach out to other countries through telecommunications. A great deal of detail is not required; the object is to compile a list which is representative of the various types of projects presently planned or underway. The program for the seminar in Maui in January 1995 may expand on some of the more interesting ones.

If you’ve got the Hot Management Topics covered, you might prefer to tune into the Campus Cable TV presentation.

Video in many forms—entertainment programming, corporate education initiatives, video conferencing, packaged self-improvement programs, and distance education activities—is being distributed via all available channels from broadcast to cablecast, satellite to video tapes. What impact will innovations such as multimedia and HDTV have? Two things are clear: We...
Legislation impacts telecommunications

Randy Collett
Central Missouri State University
ACUTA Executive Vice President

No doubt, many of you have been reading of telecommunications related legislation winding its way through the Washington, D.C. maze. Your Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Committee has discussed these issues, and wants to keep you informed. The potential impact of the legislation will more than likely affect each ACUTA member differently. Therefore, even though our committee will probably not recommend an official ACUTA position, we wanted to provide a brief summary about the proposed changes so that you can decide for yourself.

Clinton Admin. Commerce Dept. paper (1/94)

According to this plan, telephone companies would be allowed to provide cable TV service through separate subsidiaries. In addition, it prohibits buyouts and requires that telephone and cable companies provide capacity to unaffiliated video programmers.

It also continues the doctrine of universal service by requiring the FCC (and/or states) to preserve and expand it. This proposal would also eliminate a state's ability to limit market entry. It would require all service providers to interconnect their networks with other information service providers and telecommunications companies, with even stricter requirements for local exchange carriers.

Finally, providers of two-way, broadband switched services could elect to provide the service under the streamlined provisions of the new Title VII.

Hollings-Danforth Senate Bill (2/94)

This is essentially a bill that deregulates the local exchange carriers. With input from the FCC and the Justice Department, the Bell Companies could offer long distance services out-of-region, so long as certain requirements are met that would indicate there is no harm to competition.

In-region services could also be provided once the company could demonstrate that the local network was not only open to competition, but also facing substantial competition.

Like the Clinton plan, the Hollings-Danforth Bill would allow phone companies to provide in-region cable TV through separate subsidiaries, but would also allow cable TV companies to enter telephony markets under similar conditions.

This legislation would allow Bell companies to manufacture equipment through separate subsidiaries so long as domestic manufacturing and content rules were followed. It is similar to the Clinton plan regarding universal service, connectivity, and state's limits on market entry.

Brooks-Dingell House Bill (11/93)

Basically this is a deregulation bill, but it offers waiting periods and FCC/Justice Department oversight for entry. For instance, it allows phone companies to: provide in-region and interstate service with no waiting period; provide interstate resale after an 18-month waiting period; build and operate out-of-region networks after five years.

Like the Senate bill, it would allow phone companies to seek permission to manufacture equipment through separate subsidiaries so long as domestic manufacturing and content requirements are met.

Markey-Fields House Bill (11/93)

This bill allows phone companies to provide in-region cable TV service through separate subsidiaries but prohibits buyouts of existing cable TV systems. It requires phone companies to provide access to their switches from other video programmers. Additionally, this bill would require phone companies to open networks to competitive access providers, information service providers, and cable TV companies.

The bill would establish a federal/state board to preserve and expand universal service, and like the Clinton plan would require all service providers to contribute. It would also eliminate the states' ability to limit market entry.

These proposed changes are extensive, and, no doubt, the debate will be lengthy. The political posturing has already been emotional—from both sides. Many are taking the position that this legislation is required for beginning the implementation of the "Information Highway" (an already overused term, don't you think?).

From a personal perspective, I'm glad to see the universal service doctrine remain a vital part of the discussion. My institution is part of a more rural community (pop. 10,000), and probably close to the bottom of any provider's list for technology spending. I don't want to see the gap widen between the technological "haves" and the "have nots." We already have enough challenges to face when it comes to implementing applications that require high bandwidth to rural areas. And frankly, I don't anticipate local service competition here in Warrensburg for several years (if ever).

Much like the Modified Final Judgment (MFJ) that broke up the Bell System, this may be a moving train that you may not want to jump in front of. However, there are usually positives and negatives of any issue. Care should be taken to accentuate—yet attempt to control—the positives. On the other hand, we should continue to regulate the negatives.
Oregon ED-NET creates statewide telecom highway

Don Foshee
Education Industry Manager, VTEL

In 1990, voters of Oregon passed Ballot Measure #5, a proposition which called for the drastic reduction of state funding via property taxes. With no existing sales tax, Oregon was faced with severe cutbacks in personnel and vital services, with the most severe hits likely to be in education. This was not the best of news for Oregon’s newest agency at the time—Oregon ED-NET. This fledgling organization, created in 1989 by the legislature and funded via lottery revenues, was mandated to address a variety of formidable challenges.

First, after more than five years of meticulous planning, ED-NET and its small staff were given responsibility for final design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the most comprehensive hybrid of telecommunications technologies in the United States. A statewide infrastructure consisting of three primary networks was to be put in place, utilizing both new and existing technologies, including satellite, microwave, ITFS, cable TV, and terrestrial audio and computer conferencing. Network I, on-line in the fall of 1990, provides one-way broadcast video via satellite and two-way audio interaction to and from over 200 sites across the state. Network II, which first went on-line in early 1992 with VTEL interactive conferencing systems, was designed to link 41 two-way, compressed video sites statewide, also via satellite, utilizing VSAT technology. It is by far the most heavily used of ED-NET’s systems. Network III (called “Compass”) is the latest ED-NET offering—a statewide computer-based system providing a wide range of low-cost terrestrial services such as e-mail, electronic bulletin boards, computer conferencing, and database access.

Second, as a result of its legislative mandate, ED-NET faced the challenge of becoming self-supporting by the end of its second biennium. Although initial funding for building the networks was provided via the lottery, long-term operating expenses are recouped via membership and usage fees. This has been an even more challenging task given the fiscal crisis which has existed in the state since passage of Measure 5.

At a time when agencies, departments, schools, colleges, and universities all across the state were faced with cutting people, services, and critical programs, ED-NET began aggressively pursuing members, program providers, and potential program consumers with a bold message: “ED-NET is part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

Today Oregon ED-NET is one of the most heavily used systems in the U.S. Last year the three networks logged thousands of hours, and continued growth—in sites, services, and usage—is expected. The success of this ambitious project has provided a model for other similar efforts in states across the country.

Among its many achievements are:

- 42 two-hour “electronic town hall” sessions with Governor Barbara Roberts
- 100 higher ed courses this year as well as the USDLA award-winning “World Today” class
- Linking of Oregon students with great achievers like Maya Angelou, Julius Erving, Susan Butcher, and Bill Clinton.

This article was excerpted from VTEL’s newsletter.

Baltimore program...
Continued from page 4

have an insatiable appetite for video materials, and we expect them to be available everywhere.

We’ve scheduled some experts from both education and industry to bring you the most up-to-date information on all aspects of cable TV on campus.

- From Pegasus Information Systems, Craig Brubaker will discuss Program Planning and Negotiating with a Local Cable Operator.
- Campus Information Channels will be presented by Florida State’s Harvey Buchanan and Charles Friedrick.
- Learn all about Building a Campus Cable Network from Jim Dronsfield of Duke University.
- If you’re wondering How Students Use Campus Cable TV, don’t miss the presentation by Laurel Hellerstein of the University of Massachusetts.
- Ned Lamont, Campus Televideo, will tell attendees all they need to know about System Design.
- You’ll be more than entertained by Warren Mayer of the University of Missouri as he brings you up-to-date on the Campus Entertainment Channel.
- We expect a very informative session from Peter Tannenwald of the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin and Kahn on Cable Television Regulation.

So if you’re planning to bring cable TV to your campus, be sure to join us for these and other interesting, informative presentations. Of course, you’ll also be able to speak face-to-face with vendors who will be exhibiting at the seminar, and you’ll get first-hand information from other campus representatives who are dealing with the same questions you face.

With an exciting location and vital topics, we’re expecting excellent attendance in Baltimore. We hope to see you there, too!
Improvement projects pave the way for new technologies at University of Chicago

John E. Iannantuoni
NTCS Director
University of Chicago

Networking, Telecommunications, and Computing Services at the University of Chicago has launched a major project to provide a comprehensive networking infrastructure for the University.

This project will establish the wiring and communications infrastructure needed to bring the rapidly converging multimedia technologies of voice, data, and video to virtually every desktop, classroom, and laboratory. It will prepare us for the campus information superhighway of the future and link to regional, national, and international networks while allowing us to use today's state-of-the-art technologies.

The funding and resources needed to make this initiative possible on a campus scale resulted from the recent reorganization and combination of Networking, Telecommunications, and Computing Services into a single organization.

The plan is designed to install 6,000 new high-function connections throughout the campus over a three-year period, which began in July, 1993. This, in addition to the 2,000-3,000 high-function connections installed over the last two years by many departments, will provide advanced network access to 99+ percent of our offices and work areas. Presently, we have exceeded our first-year installation projection of 2,000 and have raised a bit of dust in many areas.

We have established a Universal Wiring Plan (UWP), which is being used by both the University’s and Hospital’s technical and physical planning staffs, so that the networking infrastructure will be delivered uniformly to each area. The UWP provides for two cables, each containing four unshielded twisted pairs of category-5 copper wire, from a communications closet to each high function wallplate in virtually every office, classroom, or laboratory. Each pair of wires is capable of supporting 100 megabits of data to the desktop (10 times the current Ethernet maximum). Initially, one cable is being used to support voice and the other is being used for data and video applications. Thus our telephone wiring plant is being upgraded simultaneously.

Future advances will come with the equipment located in the communications closets and the complimentary intelligence at the desktop. The closets are connected to the campus backbone, which is connected to national and international networks. Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), a very high speed transmission method, will be supported by this infrastructure, as will Copper Distributed Data Interface (CDDI), a 100-megabit protocol. The recently published standards for ATM specify 51 megabits per second to the desktop. Our infrastructure will support 100 megabits per second with prospects of doubling or tripling that over the same cable. Given the standards for ATM, our Universal Wiring Plan will support advanced applications such as full motion video and imaging, combined with slow speed transmissions of voice to every desktop.

Our department is very busy as we work to improve existing services, automate the workplace, and provide the foundation for the coming advances in technology.

Scholarship available

Xavier Mann, 1994 Chairman of the International Wire and Cable Symposium (IWCS), has announced two scholarships, named for President and Director of the IWCS, Elmer F. “Ace” Godwin, to be awarded on an annual basis.

To qualify for the Godwin Scholarship, students must be pursuing a science or engineering degree related to the wire and cable industry. One of the awards, which will be based on academic merit, will be presented to a rising high school senior and the second to a student who is already enrolled in a college or university.

Interested candidates should contact the IWCS headquarters at 174 Main St., Eatontown, NJ 07724. The deadline for 1994 applications will be July 31 with winners selected by August 31.

Successful meeting tips

"Oh, great. Another meeting." In these days of doing more with less, time is a critical commodity that affects the bottom line. Make your meetings more vital by following these tips:

• Ask yourself, "Is this meeting necessary?" before you call a meeting. This even applies to regular staff meetings.
• Write down your goals for the meeting.
• Distribute an agenda to everyone who will attend the meeting the day before.
• Limit discussion to the items on the agenda.
• Be sure each item that requires a follow-up has been assigned to someone in attendance, and that he/she has a "due date."
• Begin on time. End on time.
Search for new members continues...

Kellie Bowman
ACUTA Membership Services Coordinator

ACUTA’s ongoing effort to recruit nonmember schools is gaining momentum. February’s newsletter announced our theme, “Search No More—ACUTA Has Solutions for You,” showcasing benefits of membership to more than 2,300 institutions. Demonstrating the networking for which ACUTA is famous, more than 100 members have agreed to be a personal contact for nonmember schools of similar size and structure. We’re hoping another 100 members who were recently contacted will let us know soon that they want to participate in this effort.

The packet to nonmembers is scheduled to be mailed in early March. Look for updates as we report our success in future editions of the newsletter.

In addition, it would be great to hear your suggestions, comments, questions, and testimonies about recruiting. Please call Margie Milone, Membership Director, at (216) 672-7922, or me at (606) 278-3338.

1994: A big year for monographs

The Publications Committee is expecting 1994 to be a very busy year in the monograph program. The committee is currently considering monographs on such subjects as Enhanced 911, ISDN, Consulting, the Electronic Classroom, and more.

A monograph is a concise, scholarly treatise of a particular topic. Subjects for ACUTA monographs must be deemed by the Publications Committee to be of interest and usefulness to the membership. Emphasis on explaining how to implement a particular strategy or type of equipment is preferred over emphasis on advocacy of a strategy or type of equipment, although a reasonable balance between the two may be acceptable.

Who writes a monograph?...(Could I?)

The program is open to all ACUTA members, associates, and affiliates who wish to participate. For author’s guidelines, call the Publications Editor at ACUTA at (606) 278-3338. An honorarium of $500 is paid to the author upon publication.

How can I get copies?

A copy is mailed to each member upon publication. Additional copies may be purchased by calling the ACUTA office. The price per copy is $5 for members and $10 for nonmembers.

What monographs has ACUTA published?

- Distance Education: Interactive Video Classroom (Michael Yoakam, Indiana University)
- College & University Telecommunications Marketing (Terry L. Robb, Univ. of Missouri)
- Major Project Management: The Yale Telecommunications Project (Mike Grunder, Yale Univ.)
- Buying a Telecommunications Switch (Sara Knaggs, InteCom, Inc.)
- Telefacsimile Communications in Higher Education (Dr. James S. Cross, Longwood College)
- Digital Video (Coleman H. Burton, University of Missouri)
- ACUTA: A Case for Change (Strategic Planning Comm. 1992), (Dr. James Cross, Longwood College; Coleman Burton, University of Missouri; and Sydney A. Paredes, U S West)

If you have an idea for a monograph subject, the Publications Committee would love to hear from you. Contact any of the following people for more information or to share your ideas: Dave Barta, Univ. of Oregon; Marianne Landfair, Indiana Univ.; Dave O’Neill, Washington State Univ.; Marv Peck, Emory Univ.; Terry Robb, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia; or Pat Scott, ACUTA Publications Editor.

ACUTA Calendar

- ANNUAL CONFERENCE -
  Anaheim, CA
  July 31–Aug. 4, 1994
  HOTEL: Anaheim Hilton
  TOPICS: Management; Regulatory Issues; Professional Growth; Voice, Data & Video; more
  - Fall Seminar -
    Richmond, VA
    Oct. 16-19, 1994
  HOTEL: Hyatt Richmond
  TOPICS: • Network Planning & Management
          • Student Services
  - Winter Seminar -
    Maui, Hawaii
    January 17–21, 1995
  HOTEL: Inter-Continental Resort
  TOPIC: • To be announced
More directory updates and new members

Please make the following changes to the information in your directory:

- Sharon’s last name is Byrd, not Byrne on pg. 41. Add her fax # 919/515-6237 and e-mail address: sharon_byrd@tel.bas.ncsu.edu.
- David’s last name is Earnest, not Eanwar on pg. 48.
- On pg. 49, Harold Elston is now Director of Telecommunications. Add his new e-mail address: elston@aixl.ucok.edu.
- Ken Leverington (pg. 67) has a new e-mail address: ken@uafsysb. New fax: 501/575-2550.
- Add to pgs. 24 & 85: Ben Shelton, Director, Systems & Programming, Parkland College, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821. Ph., 217/373-3799; fax, 217/351-2581; e-mail, ben@parkland.cc.il.us.
- Marvin Taylor (pg. 90) has a new e-mail address: mtaylor@eose.oshe.edu.
- On pg. 96 change Terri’s last name to Zabrowski and her title to Asst. Telecommunications Director. E-mail should be: tzabrow@uwspmail.uwsp.edu.

Welcome New Members
January 26 – February 16, 1994

Region 1 (Northeast)
- Smith College, Northampton, MA. Tony Symanski (413) 585-2220

Region 2 (Southeast)
- Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA. Ann Reaves (912) 681-5000
Copper Corporate Affiliate
- TRCA, Tampa, FL. Vivienne Gordon (813) 623-3545

Region 3 (Midwest)
- Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Gene McCabe (217) 786-2475
Copper Corporate Affiliate
- Parker Consulting & Teletraining Inst., Stillwater, OK. Alice Parker (405) 744-7510

Region 4 (West)
- Chapman Univ., Orange, CA. Noreen Matera (714) 744-7011
- College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA. Elaine Snyder (619) 773-2510
- Concordia Univ., Irvine, CA. Jan Morton (714) 854-8002
Copper Corporate Affiliate
- SP Telecom, San Francisco, CA. Peter Geddis (415) 905-4055

PDAs: Are they coming or going?

Before we saw them in action, we heard a lot about personal digital assistants and how they would revolutionize the way we communicate on a minute-to-minute basis. Now that they’re here—the most famous being Apple’s Newton MessagePad—we’re somewhat underwhelmed.

Two major complaints emerge: One, we don’t really know how to integrate them into our lives. Exactly what do they do? Two, why can’t they read your handwriting and mine like they were supposed to?

According to Frank Dzubeck, quoted in Computerworld (2/14/94), “The computer companies have got it backward. A PDA’s first function is voice; its second function is to take notes.” Dzubeck, president of Communication Networks Architects, Inc., went on to say that Simon, the IBM-built Southwest Bell smart phone which is being tested now, may provide a glimpse of the real personal communicator of the future. It fits into the realm of the easy-to-use telephone, not the more difficult computer.

Another player warming up on the sidelines is Bell Northern Research in Ottawa, presently researching a project called Orbitor, which will combine a cellular phone with software for faxing, limited e-mail functions, and personal information management. It would allow written messages to be sent, but would not require handwriting recognition. It would also offer voice recognition.

Meanwhile, we’ll see more PDAs till somebody figures this one out. Sources say Motorola, Inc., will announce its $1,500 handheld PDA, Envoy, on March 7 with a projected ship date of August. Envoy will run on Motorola’s Dragon chip and weigh less than two pounds.

One possible question for the researchers, though, might be, “Don’t you watch late-night television?” We all know personal communicators are little triangles we wear on our shoulder. We just touch them when we want to speak to anyone anywhere on the starship.
Info-highway goes international

The Ottawa Citizen (1/19/94) reports that the Canadian government has renewed its pledge to implement a strategy for the infohighway in the Throne Speech to Parliament. In a signal to industry players that the Prime Minister and Cabinet support objectives, Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps and Industry Minister John Manley said the plan to link communications networks, with government guidance and private sector funding, is a key to ensuring Canada has the tools to compete internationally. The speech also confirmed a government promise to create the Canada Investment Fund to help leading-edge technology firms obtain long-term capital.

Capital is apparently not an issue for the UBI consortium (Universal Bi-directional Interactive) of Quebec cable giant Videotron, Canada Post, the National Bank, Hydro-Quebec, Loto-Quebec and the Hearst Corp, who will launch a $750-million, eight-year project on Canada’s first home electronic superhighway. With no hardware charge to consumers (charges only for services used), the first phase to be in place early in 1995 will offer direct-debit home shopping and banking, e-mail, advertising flyers, coupons, and tutoring, according to the Toronto Financial Post (1/25/94).

But not every Canadian is breaking speed limits getting onto the superhighway. Internal Department of Communications documents suggest that the Quebec government may “deem it necessary to impose some gates or rules on the content of information flowing to Quebec.” One analyst added that the idea of unifying Canada with an information highway “...may be perceived as a threat to the distinctive character of Quebec and another assimilation factor.” (Ottawa Citizen, 01/31/94)

Meanwhile, south of the border, the New York Times (1/26/94) reports that MCI Communications is joining Mexico’s biggest banking company to build a long-distance digital network in Mexico, creating a seamless communications web covering most of North America.

New compression technology

According to the Wall Street Journal (1/27/94), Digital Compression Technology is an “upstart” company boasting new technology that will enable ten channels of video to be sent over existing copper telephone wires. The same technology will compress 20 to 30 channels into the space of one cable TV channel, three times what is currently possible with digital compression. The technology has yet to be demonstrated outside the lab, but the company’s chairman likens it to “sending 16 cars through a tunnel side by side, instead of single file, and realigning them at the other end.”

One phone fits all

Sneaking a peek into the future, Business Week (1/24/94) reports that “AT&T is betting on the ubiquitous telephone emerging as the gizmo of choice for accessing the information superhighway.” AT&T’s Project Sage is working on a phone that can be the central controller for routing information to and from household electronic gadgets such as TVs, VCRs, PCs, fax machines and video cameras.

Along the same lines, Fiber and Wireless, Inc. and Hitachi Denshi have launched Mediafone, a PC-based telephony device that lets users dial up, transmit, and receive video, voice, graphics, and data via regular phone lines or cellular phones. (Communications Week, 2/7/94)

Info-highway construction begins

The Tampa Tribune (1/26/94) reports that the first leg of the information superhighway is planned for completion in August, linking 106 schools, prisons, hospitals, and other facilities in North Carolina. The optical fiber network, built by BellSouth, GTE, and Carolina Telephone, will be able to carry simultaneous voice, video, and data.

Meanwhile, the University of South Alabama Library has linked its online public access catalog to a handheld computer using cellular communications, in a project conducted in cooperation with AT&T, BellSouth Cellular, and Notable Technologies. Researchers can access a library catalog, electronic mail, or read the entire works of Shakespeare in electronic form, while sitting under a tree in the park.” For info, contact: uldf@usouthal. (ACUTA representative at Univ. of South Alabama is William Brierly, Telecommunications Manager.)

“I’m away from my desk…”

According to a trade group for voice-mail providers and equipment makers quoted in the New York Times (1/25/94), three out of four of the nation’s largest 2,000 companies now have automated call-routing or answering systems.
ACUTA Resource Library is growing!

As I was packing the resource library files for our office move, I occasionally glanced through some of the materials and marveled at their detail and quality. A small but growing group of professionals in our membership is contributing to make ACUTA’s library the information resource on telecommunications facilities and services in a higher education environment.

I strongly encourage your participation in building and utilizing this resource. The current input from the membership is a mere trickle of the potential out there. I challenge you all to bury me behind my desk with RFPs, bids, policies, procedures, anything that relates to running your operation! Have your staff copy everything that’s non-proprietary in the office; paper files, microfiche, floppy disks, CD-rom disks, 8mm tape, it doesn’t matter. We’ll sort it, separate it, categorize it, and file it. These digitized materials, combined with ACUTA newsletters and handout materials from past seminars and conferences, will create a powerful research database for almost any telecom-related topic. Later this year, we’ll begin putting it all on-line via our Internet node for your much improved access convenience.

Following is a “snap-shot” of materials that are presently available in paper copy. Call, fax, or write for copies. The patience sometimes required for response time is greatly appreciated.

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Clemson University campus locations—including the bookstore, copy center, and the Telecommunications Services Office—providing the card is on the nationwide HONOR System. According to the University of Arizona newsletter, Computing & Communications News, campus phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses for faculty, students, and staff are only a few keystrokes away. The Electronic White Pages even allows individuals to update their own listings. Planning to purchase a call accounting system? Want to avoid a few potholes down the road? Call Julie Hatfield at Tulane Univ., (504) 865-5206 or reach her e-mail at julie@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu. She'll be happy to give you a defensive driving lesson based on her own experience....

**Update:** The Clinton administration's Information Infrastructure Task Force has set up a Gopher server, allowing Internet users to retrieve documents, speeches, and other information related to the proposed information superhighway. Use the telnet or Gopher function to reach iif.doc.gov and logon with the password "gopher." (Thanks to the Chronicle of Higher Education for this information.)...

**Are you into Distance Learning?** The Electronic University: A Guide to Distance Learning Programs is available from Peterson's Guides by calling (800) 338-3282. The guide compiles information on courses taught by satellite, computer networking, and other technologies....

**Don't forget:** I welcome your comments, articles, and I'm especially interested in hearing from those who have phone registration on their campus. Contact Pat Scott at ACUTA's new office: phone (606) 278-3338, fax (606) 278-3268 or e-mail psco@ukcc.uky.edu.

**Deadline for May:** Friday, April 8.

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**Position Available**

**Telecommunications Engineer**

University of Cincinnati

**Responsibilities:** Overall admin. & tech. responsibility for installation & maintenance of university-wide voice & backbone/WAN data telecom svcs. & systems. Supervise design, engineering, & installation of additions to campus voice & backbone data networks; ensure appropriate staffing levels, & systems operations; lead professional telecom. network teams to ensure integrity of systems & solve user problems. Supervise mgmt. of switchrooms & assoc. eqpt. Write specs for contracts, oversee bidding process & work of subcontractors, incl. code compliance, space planning, documentation, & related duties.

**Requirements:** B.S. in Telecom, Eng. or related field; min. 5 yrs. exp. in implementation, operations & sys. mgmt. with telecom & network sys. of comparable size & complexity; or comb. of educ. & exp. Ideally also, direct exp. with Intecom S-80+ & SL-1 PBXs, & FDDI sys. & networks; 3+ yrs. supervisory exp.

**To Apply:** Resumé, cover letter, salary req: to Office of Prof. Recruitment, Control #94AS0010, Mail Loc. 506, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45267 AA/EO

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**Buck Bayliff, Wake Forest Univ.** would like to know if anyone has a program allowing students to finance computers over a 2-3 year period; a purchase-as-you-go plan separate from tuition. Contact Buck at (910) 759-5932 or e-mail bayliff@ac.wfnet.wfu.edu.

**Editorial Apology!** Official apologies to Jamie Inman of MCI for failing to acknowledge in any way that the photo of the Westl Mission Hills that appeared on the front page of last month's newsletter came from her! Sorry, Jamie, and I sincerely hope this doesn't mean you won't send me any more photos!

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**Coming Events**

**CACUBO Management Institute**

June 12–17, 1994

An intensive approach to learning with solid case-study work involving group interaction. Live in a planned community within the Univ. of Wisconsin for one week and learn about your strengths, contributing to a larger community, and tapping into the strengths of others. Work as a team member seeking creative solutions to problems, issues, and concerns in higher education administration.

**Courses:** Leadership styles, benchmarking using financial data, team building, planning and organizing persuasive presentations, managing change through goal setting, effects of institutional communications and operations on organizational structure, & strategic planning techniques.

Instructional materials, lodging, & most meals included in registration fee of $875. Info: Elaine Watson, DePaul University, (312) 362-8458.

**Position Available**

**Telecommunication Director**

Mercer University

**Responsibilities:** Manage & operate university-wide dept. of telecommunications. "Hands-on" position. Acquire & implement telecom systems, evaluate needs, develop policies & plans, supervise operation of telecom systems & on-going maintenance & training programs.

**Requirements:** B.S. in Telecommunications or related field or equivalent exp. Broad technical knowledge of telecom systems & industry, good written & verbal communication skills. Exp. in telecom mgmt. & extensive knowledge of RBOC operations preferred. Higher ed telecom exp. highly desirable. Competitive salary, excellent benefits.

**Apply to:** Dir. of Personnel, Mercer Univ., 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207 AA/EO