


2009

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Board Approves Slate of Nominees for 2009-10

The Board of Directors has approved a slate of nominees to present to the membership for election to the Board for 2009-10. The new officers' terms begin at the close of the Annual Conference April 22.

The election is conducted electronically using Web-based survey software to verify and count results. All primary (voting) institutional representatives will receive an e-mail announcement containing instructions. You can review candidates and their platforms online before casting your vote. Ballots must be cast electronically or postmarked by Friday, February 13. Vote only once as duplicates will be disqualified.

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

President-Elect:

- Matt Arthur, Washington University in St. Louis

Secretary/Treasurer:

- George Denbow, Univ. of Texas at Austin
- Adrienne Geraldts, Rutgers University
- Jennifer Van Horn, Indiana Univ. Purdue Univ. at Indianapolis

Director-at-Large

- Robert Corbin, Ohio State University
- Ron Kovac, Ball State University
- Riny Ledgerwood, San Diego State University
- Pat Miller, Alliant International University
- Ric Simmons, Louisiana State University

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



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From ACUTA Headquarters



Jeri Semer, CAE
ACUTA Executive Director
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Looking Back and Looking Ahead

The end of 2008 provides an opportune time to look back at ACUTA's significant activities in the year just completed, and to look ahead at the challenging year that is before us.

2008 saw the adoption of an ambitious new Strategic Plan by the Board of Directors, based on months of intense work by our committees, Board and professional staff (available at <http://www.acuta.org/?688>). Perhaps one of the most significant changes resulting from this effort was a change in ACUTA's tag line, adding "Information" to "ACUTA: The Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education". What might seem a minor change in terminology is actually a major shift in perspective, recognizing that our members' responsibilities are continuing on a path to convergence, and that we operate in an increasingly global environment. The new plan also contains three overarching strategies that are woven throughout our goals and objectives for the coming years:

- use Web resources and other technologies more effectively,
- establish and maintain strategic relationships with other associations and organizations, and
- develop a comprehensive marketing plan for ACUTA.

Our committees and staff are already progressing toward accomplishment of all of the high-priority strategies in the new plan.

We can also point to success in the educational programs that our Program Committee and staff brought to the ACUTA membership in 2008. Our seminars and the Annual Conference were all well-attended, and feedback indicates that they were on target in meeting member needs. Last January ACUTA members traveled to the Magic Kingdom of Anaheim, CA to learn about Chargebacks and Cost Models for Communications Technology and User Communications and Support. Those of you who attended will remember great seminars and one of the rainiest January's on record! In April, we made our way to St. Louis to study the Costs, Challenges and Opportunities for Voice over IP and Staffing in a Converged IT World—and to cheer on the Cardinals as they began their season. The Annual Conference at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas offered some of the best-rated General Sessions in recent memory, and great opportunities for networking in an incomparable setting. Finally, the Fall Seminars brought us to the heart of the beautiful city of Boston, surrounded by history and immersed in learning about Data and Voice Mobility and What's New in Communications Technologies. All of these events were wonderfully enhanced by ACUTA's exhibitors and sponsors, who stepped up to the plate with more financial support and participation than ever before.

It was a busy year at the FCC, and ACUTA was in the forefront of representing our members and keeping you informed of important new developments. Members of the Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee and I made several trips to Washington, DC to meet with senior FCC staff to discuss the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms and other key issues. This was supplemented by written comments and letters. We appreciate the assistance of ACUTA members who filed letters on behalf of their institutions. As of this date, it appears that the FCC will not act on comprehensive USF reform until after the new Administration is in place.

ACUTA has also been an active participant as the U.S. Department of Education begins the rulemaking process for the Higher Education Opportunities Act. We are seeking to have representation on one of the negotiated rulemaking committees that will address three key technology issues—illegal peer-to-peer file sharing, emergency notification, and identification of remote students. We submitted comments to the Department on these issues, and will continue our efforts throughout 2009 and early 2010 as the rulemaking process takes place.

We also kept you informed with Alerts on issues including the new Federal Trade Commission "Red Flag" identity theft rules, IRS/cell phone legislation, and regulations re-

garding emergency notification calls and text messages. In addition, members of the Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee and our legal counsel made presentations at ACUTA conferences and seminars, sharing the latest intelligence about key regulatory issues.

In 2009, we anticipate a significant ramp-up in legislative and regulatory activities, requiring even greater levels of involvement by ACUTA. We signed on to the Call for a National Broadband Strategy, and we are participating in a coalition of higher education, telecom and technology industry representatives calling for greater support of broadband for a more competitive U.S. economy. We have also supported Internet2 in its call for expansion of the FCC's pilot project for rural health care telecommunications capabilities, to support telemedicine with USF funds. With the new Administration will come a new FCC, and many issues that have been undecided in 2008 are likely to be addressed by the new FCC leadership. All of these issues will require diligent efforts to represent and inform ACUTA members.

In the educational arena, we are gearing up for the first-ever springtime ACUTA Annual Conference. On a greatly accelerated schedule, our Program Committee and staff have planned outstanding sessions and other learning opportunities for April 19-22 in Atlanta. In addition, the Strategic Leadership Forum will directly address strategies for coping with these challenging economic times while meeting technology demands.

We are also heavily involved in planning the Summit on Unified Communications scheduled for this July in Denver. This intense program will examine one of the hottest areas in communications today, including UC trends, current and potential applications, financial issues related to UC deployment, technical models, legal issues, and more. This is a must-attend program if you have or are considering UC on your campus.

More information on these and our other seminars in 2009 is available at <http://www.acuta.org/?2266>.

Needless to say, the ongoing success of ACUTA depends on the continued support and participation of our members. I recognize that these are challenging economic times. However, the need for professional development and regulatory representation doesn't subside during a tight budget year, and only ACUTA offers programs that are designed precisely with your needs in mind. If you and your colleagues can attend only one or two programs in 2009, I hope you will seriously consider these outstanding ACUTA events.

On behalf of the entire ACUTA staff team, we are looking forward to a productive year ahead, and we wish you a healthy and successful 2009!



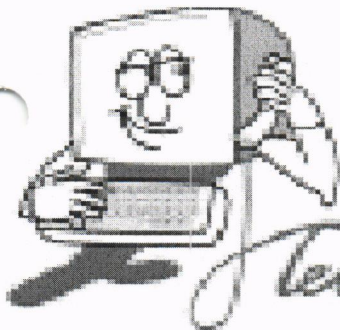
Be a Moderator or Monitor at the Annual Conference

The 38th Annual Conference and Exhibition will be here before we know it—April 19-22 is right around the corner!

Now that the agenda of sessions is complete, we have posted the sign-up sheet for moderators and monitors. Moderators introduce the presenters (aided by a script prepared by the staff); monitors distribute and collect the evaluation forms. Moderating or monitoring a session (or multiple sessions) is a great way to contribute to the success of the conference and to meet presenters and other attendees.

Both the schedule and the moderator list are posted at http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce09.cfm. Take a look at the great line-up of sessions the Program Committee has put together and send the number or title of the session(s) where you would be willing to volunteer.

For more information, contact Donna Hall, ACUTA Professional Development Manager, at dhall@acuta.org or 859/278-3338 x231.



Kevin Tanzillo
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A Clean Slate, and a Clean Network, for the New Year

Well, here we are in 2009. Normally we're incredibly optimistic at the start of a new year, but with the economic uncertainties, a sunny outlook is a bit hard to come by this time around. Still, because we consider pessimism a contagious disease, we're going to stay away from the dark side. They say "technology" as an industry will be less affected than some other areas; we can hope they are right, and that we'll all soon be back on our way to a less treacherous economy.

In the meantime we can each cope by optimizing our opportunities, our outlook, and even our networks. Which is our not-so-smooth way of leading into this month's topic, wide area network optimization. It just seemed timely—in the same way that we clean the slate at the start of a new year—to talk about unclogging the network pipes as well.

With WANs, whether you're connecting a number of campuses in a region or state, or linking small satellite facilities to the main network, it's all about performance. That means making the best use of bandwidth and minimizing the transmissions and applications that jam things up, particularly in the busiest times.

One way to aid in this is caching. The more you can hold documents, files, and applications locally, the less you have to chew up bandwidth going across the WAN to pull them each time your distant users need them.

There are essentially three categories when it comes to caching - Cold (actually, not yet cached), warm, and hot. Cold documents or applications have to be pulled across the WAN when demanded, and the idea is to cache them after the first request. Obviously, this initial request consumes the greatest bandwidth. But once documents or applications are in the local server, they can be held there on a warm or hot basis for further use.

With warm caching, after a user requests a document or application, the local server responds with the locally held version but checks across the WAN for any updates before delivering it to the user. Hot caching is the most efficient, particularly for frequently accessed materials. With the proper application of a continual refresh algorithm, it ensures that the cached object is continually updated. Thus when the request is made, there is little cross-WAN bandwidth used and the user does not have to wait for the update.

How much bandwidth can be kept off the WAN by caching depends on the type of work done by each site on the network. But if you do the math with file and application sizes, you can see how caching helps reduce overall WAN bandwidth. The result is better performance for everyone, as well as cost savings, since it reduces the need to add circuits.

Savings really can add up via small increments. For instance, we could reduce oil imports and our carbon footprint significantly if each of us just used one less gallon of gasoline a week. By the same token, using just a bit less WAN bandwidth each time an application is launched or a document downloaded can make a sizable difference in performance and in holding off the need for additional circuits.

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.

Video over IP

"Video over IP will probably have by far the largest impact to networks in the next few years. A study we just completed even surprised us at Cisco that in 2007 video traffic on the Internet eclipsed the entire amount of Internet traffic in 2000. Our studies on our own corporate network indicate that video is already up to 40-50% of network traffic. Video applications will increase exponentially as collaboration increases in the next 'wave of productivity.' This is why I say it's essential to understand. It's not just videoconferencing on the network, it's many video apps: conferencing to the desktop, telepresence, IP video surveillance, streaming broadcast, digital signage, and on and on. It's just beginning."

Cisco's Neil Anderson in response to an interviewer's question in Network World 3/26/08



D C Update

Dave Ostrom

Washington State University (retired)
ACUTA Legislative &
Regulatory Affairs Committee
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For More In-Depth Coverage of Legislative & Regulatory Issues: ACUTA members may read about the latest developments in telecommunications- and Internet-related issues in the most recent Legislative and Regulatory Update, an electronic newsletter prepared monthly by Dow Lohnes. Access this newsletter at <http://www.acuta.org/relation/DownloadFile.cfm?docNum=309>

FCC and USF

At the beginning of December the FCC was expected to meet on December 18 with the possibility of action on the USF contribution methodology. This issue was removed when on December 2 the FCC extended reply comments on the USF issues to December 22. Later the FCC cancelled its December 18 meeting after pressure from several key legislators. Now the FCC has scheduled an open meeting, via conference call, on December 30th and after this update must be submitted. It is unclear as to what the agenda will include.

FCC and Internet-based TRS

On December 19 the FCC did release a Second Report and Order regarding 10-digit numbers for Internet-based TRS users including video relay services (VRS) and IP relay services. The 10-digit numbering system is due to be implemented on December 31, 2008, and will provide TRS users with a geography-based 10-digit phone number at which they can be reached using their IP or video connection. As an example, this will allow such users to list a number on their business cards or a call-back number where they can be reached when conducting business. In the order, the FCC clarifies the processing and priority of 911 calls, establishes that registration will be required with a 3-month period ending March 31, 2009, and decides against the use of toll-free numbers. The order also made reference to the first notice that questioned the impact on multi-line telephone systems (MLTS); however, the 2nd order contained no information on MLTS. (I agree that the 10-digit numbers for TRS users should have no impact on MLTS providers including higher education.)

DTV Transition

The FCC also released on December 24 a Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding the Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act or "Analog Nightlight Act." This act addresses the need to provide emergency and DTV transition information after the February 17, 2009 DTV transition date on analog services to customers who failed to make the switch. The act was signed into law on December 23. The FCC obviously has a very short time frame to implement this and has requested that comments be submitted within 5 days after the NPRM is published in the federal register. It may take weeks before the notice is published in the register.

Merger Update

In other news, Sprint and Clearwire have completed their merger of WiMAX spectrum and service assets after receiving FCC approval in November. Of interest is that Comcast Corp., Time Warner Cable Inc., Google Inc., and Bright House Networks will be minority shareholders in the new Clearwire. The new service based upon Sprint's WiMAX offering will be marketed by all partners under their own brand names.

Changes Coming

As mentioned last month, the regulatory environment is guaranteed to change with the new administration but it may be sometime before we know how. Given the number of critical issues related to the economy, it may be some time before President-Elect Obama deals with the FCC. Representative Henry Waxman has been voted in as the new chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Senator John D. Rockefeller will be the new chair of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. All of these new players leave a lot of uncertainty. Stay tuned.

FCC Summit on Pandemic Preparedness

Ed Quinn
The Ohio State Univ.

In October, Cheryl Andrews and Brian Zieber from the Ohio State University attended the FCC's Summit on Pandemic Preparedness. They have compiled a report outlining the issues covered at this summit that may have bearing on the responsibilities of ACUTA members. Here are some highlights of the report.

Two panels made presentations at this event. Panel 1 consisted of representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NYPD, Oak Ridge National Lab, the U.S. Public Health Service, and others. The moderator opened the discussion with a specific scenario outlining a stage-three pandemic outbreak. She asked each panelist to address the scenario from their separate viewpoints, including their organization's responsibility, the impact on their organization, and the first critical steps.

One conclusion that was drawn was that public health response partners are "absolutely dependent on voice and data communications." Panelist Bryan Gorman from Oak Ridge Labs encouraged his fellow panelists, as well as the audience, to assist in solving these continued concerns and challenges:

1. Keeping focused on pandemic preparedness.
2. Private sector's concern with a perceived lack of clarity between Federal and state government's role.
3. Working to satisfy the need for consistent and accurate information from government offices.

Identifying development strategies between cross sectors such as energy and communications, communications and data communications networks as they relate to energy, economy, and society is the key to controlling and increasing survival rates for any type of outbreak or natural disaster.

Panel 2 included representatives from the security and communications industries. Moderator Jeffrey Goldthorp asked the panel to focus on three objectives:

1. Network performance during a pandemic outbreak
2. Public awareness
3. IT Continuity Plan

The full report is available on the ACUTA website at <http://www.acuta.org/?2323>.

Board Report December

Riny Ledgerwood
San Diego State Univ.
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
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The Board of Directors met by conference call on December 5, 2008. The Board reviewed and approved the following:

- October 2008 financial statements
- Membership Recruitment Report
- Proposed slate of 2009-10 Board of Directors Nominees
- Jennifer Van Horn as Chair of the July, 2009 Unified Communications Summit

As colleges and universities are tightening their travel budgets in response to the current economic downturn, the Board discussed the possible financial impacts that this may have on ACUTA at the upcoming seminars and Annual Conference. In order to reduce expenses, ACUTA already implemented some cost-saving measures at the Lexington office. In addition, the Board is also exploring some other ideas that will reduce ACUTA's overall expenses.

ACUTA is continuing to look for ways to add value for its members by providing a cost-effective and time-saving forum for interaction among technology providers and their current and potential customers. Other benefits include access to the listserv, legislative and regulatory alerts, audio/webinars, the Journal, eNews, and other sources of information.

Respectfully submitted,

Riny Ledgerwood
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
Director, Communications and Computing Services

New Section on ACUTA Website:

Special Deals and Discounts from ACUTA Corporate Members

ACUTA is excited to announce a new section on the ACUTA website where institutional members can access discounts, special deals, and other offers from corporate members. This is a complimentary benefit to all members.

The new webpage is available at <http://www.acuta.org/?2293> and can also be accessed from our home page (www.acuta.org). There are currently six postings from corporate members:

- 3Com Corporation: Upgrade to 3Com Energy Efficient Switches
- 3Com Corporation: Upgrade Network Switches and Save up to 25%
- PosTrack Technologies: Study Abroad Program Offer
- Send Word Now with an offer of a 30-day free trial
- PowerDsine with a 35% off offer
- Callisto Communications with 9 different deals

All of these are available *exclusively* for ACUTA institutional members.

We will add new offers from ACUTA corporate members as they are received and will note new submissions each month in the ACUTA eNews. If you would like to be notified each time a new discount or deal submission is posted, please email aburton@acuta.org.

The new Special Deals and Discounts from ACUTA Corporate Members webpage is just one more free benefit of your ACUTA membership. If you have any questions about this or any of the other membership features, please contact Amy Burton at aburton@acuta.org or 859/278-3338 x240.



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- Winncom Technologies

PAETEC Provides Calling Service

For the second year, PAETEC has been selected as the official service provider for ACUTA's internal committee conference calls. This system makes our calls secure and facilitates proper accounting procedures. We thank PAETEC for working with us to provide this service and help us serve our members efficiently.

Info Links

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

Randy Hayes
University of Northern Iowa
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- GIT - Limitations of 3rd Party EAS Over Cell Text Messaging:
http://3gamericas.org/PDFs/Characterizing_the_Limitations_of_3rd_Party_EAS-Traynor_Sept08.pdf
- CDF - Internet World Project....Press Release/Highlights:
<http://www.digitalcenter.org/WIP2009/WorldInternetProject-FinalRelease.pdf>
- Common Cause - Montana Rural Telecom Services:
<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7Bfb3c17e2-cdd1-4df6-92be-bd4429893665%7D/CITIZENPOLITICALFRANCHISEMENTANDINFORMATIONACCESS.PDF>
- USCC - U.S. Cyber Security/Other Issues with China 2008:
http://www.uscc.gov/annual_report/2008/annual_report_full_08.pdf
- CTG - Interoperability for Government Leaders:
http://www.ctg.albany.edu/publications/reports/government_worth_having/government_worth_having.pdf
- Symantic - Report on the Cyber Underground Economy :
http://eval.symantec.com/mktginfo/enterprise/white_papers/b-whitepaper_underground_economy_report_11-2008-14525717.en-us.pdf
- Digital Youth Research - Living/Learning with New Media:
<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/report>
- FCC OIG - USF Assessment of Low Income Program:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287304A1.pdf
- FCC OIG - USF Statistical Analysis of Schools & Libraries Fund:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287307A1.pdf
- FCC OIG - USF High Cost Fund Statistical Analysis 2007-2008:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-286971A1.pdf
- FCC OIG - Semi-Annual Report to Congress on FCC:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287056A1.pdf
- Nemertes - Why Architectural Limitations will Fracture the Net:
http://www.nemertes.com/internet_interrupted_why_architectural_limitations_will_fracture_net
- Strategy Analytics - Int'l Tariff Analysis(twice/ month; Reg Req):
www.strategyanalytics.com/default.aspx
- ITU - Trends in Telecom Reform...Six Degrees of Sharing:
http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/reg/D-REG-TTR.10-2008-SUM-PDF-E.pdf
- Free Press - 2009 Media and Tech Priorities:
<http://www.freepress.net/files/2009techpolicy.pdf>
- NCPP - Measuring-up 2008....Report Card on Higher Education:
<http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/print/NCPPHEMUNationalRpt.pdf>
- AppTrigger - Cell Users Treat Phone Features Like its 2003:
http://www.appttrigger.com/downloads/UK_Mobile_Services_Results_20080122.pdf
- NECA - USAC USF Quarterly Contribution Base Mechanism:
http://www.neca.org/wawatch/wwpdf/120308_1.pdf
- ISACA - Top Business/Technology Issues Survey:
<http://www.isaca.org/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=43977>
- FBI - Copper Thefts Threaten Critical U.S. Infrastructure:
http://www.fbi.gov/hq/majorthfts/coppertheft_120308b.htm
- Illinois - Emergency Prep Tips for those with Functional Needs:
<http://www.ready.illinois.gov/before/specialneeds.htm>

Welcome New Members

ACUTA NEWS, Vol. 38, No. 1

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Institutional Member

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. T1

William E. Terry (845/758-7495)..... wterry@bard.edu



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Check It Out: Press Releases Job Postings RFIs/RFPs

The ACUTA website is a useful tool for communicating with other members, whether you've got some exciting news to share, a position to fill, or a project for which you need a vendor. Check the website for the latest postings frequently. Here are items that have been posted since our last eNews.

PRESS RELEASES

- Mohawk Announces the Addition of Ironwood Associates to Their Sales Force
- Roger Northrop Named Director, Business Development at Mutare Software
- Pacific University is First to Integrate Facebook and Twitter into e2Campus Emergency Notification System

JOB POSTINGS

- Engineer, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD.

RFIs/RFPs

No new RFIs/RFPs have been posted since the December eNews

SPECIAL DEALS!

- 3Com Corporation: Upgrade to 3Com Energy Efficient Switches
- 3Com Corporation: Upgrade Network Switches and Save up to 25%
- PosTrack Technologies: Study Abroad Program Offer
- Send Word Now: Emergency Notification - Free 30-Day Trial
- PowerDsine 2009 Grant Program: 35% Discount for ACUTA Members

