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Report from Annual Conference in Atlanta

Special Conference
Photo Section
Pages 9-12

The 38th Annual Conference and Exhibition is now another page in ACUTA history. It reads much like other conferences in many ways, but was also unique. Not only was it a half day shorter, it was also our first annual conference to be held in the spring rather than the summer. Everyone seemed to enjoy the more comfortable spring temperatures in Atlanta. For the first time we co-located the conference with another group, ITERA, whose event began Saturday and ended on Monday. They attended some of our sessions and invited us to theirs. They also enjoyed visiting the vendors in our Exhibit Hall.

Even an outside observer could tell that the ACUTA network is a warm and inviting group of individuals who benefit from each other's expertise, respect each other's capabilities, and truly enjoy each other's company. We heard that some familiar faces will soon be retiring or taking on new responsibilities on their campuses, and we welcomed about 50 first-time attendees who, we hope, will be regulars in the future.

Both campuses and individuals were recognized with awards. The ACUTA Ruth A. Michalecki Leadership Award went to Carmine Piscopo of Providence College. This year's Bill D. Morris Award winner was Patricia (Pat) Todus of Northwestern University. Recipients of the Institutional Excellence Awards were Abilene Christian University, Marquette University, and Ball State University, plus an honorable mention for Indiana University. You will be able to read more about these award winners and their projects in future issues of the *ACUTA Journal*.

Comments throughout the conference indicated that virtually everyone has felt the impact of the current economic difficulties. Those who came to Atlanta were looking for effective strategies, new answers, and fresh ideas—and they were not disappointed! Session evaluations reveal one of the highest levels of satisfaction ever with the content and variety of the educational programs.

Because many were not able to attend due to travel restrictions and budget cuts, we are offering a conference-on-a-disk that will include 8 popular sessions. (See page 2.) We hope that the months ahead will see a return to more prosperous conditions and that everyone will be able to join us next April in San Antonio for the 39th Annual Conference!

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See the Conference on Your Desktop

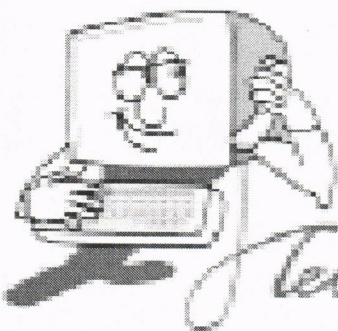
The following sessions were recorded and are offered as Windows Media files on CD/DVD:

- A Morning with Miles O'Brien
- The Road to Unified Communications at UCLA
- Users' Perspectives on Unified Communications
- Where Is Telecom in the Convergence Sea Change?
- Design and Deployment of a Campus-Wide VoIP System
- Legislative and Regulatory Issues Overview
- Navigating through the "TDM to VoIP" PBX Minefield
- Gaining Buy-In & Support for Technology Initiatives

For a member cost of \$189 or \$219 for nonmembers you can purchase a CD/DVD of these sessions in a high-quality Windows Media video format that can play right on your laptop or desktop computer. Benefits include:

- More than 10 hours of high-quality video and audio on a single CD/DVD disc
- Handouts of many of the 8 sessions included on same disc in Adobe Acrobat PDF format
- No Internet connection required for viewing video
- Portable and archivable for long-term viewing and review
- Can be copied to any portable device that accepts Windows Media video files

Order your copy today from the ACUTA eStore at <http://www.acuta.org/09video>.



Kevin Tanzillo
Dux PR
kevin@duxpr.com

Revisiting the iPhone in an Ever-Careful Way

Who would have thought when Bob Metcalfe came up with Ethernet back in the early 1970s that it would still—nearly four decades later—be the basis for so much of what we do in networking and communication? It's like the Princess phone evolving as the core of all our voice telephony today.

But then, the early 1970-ish timeframe was also when optical fiber was developed, and that has certainly served us well in the intervening years. So with a tip of the hat to Mr. Metcalfe and his fiber-optic friends, we say thanks for coming up with technologies so versatile, and with so much evolutionary potential, that we can still be marveling 40 years later about the great things we can do with them.

On that note, we'll take up the topic of one of the latest Ethernet developments, Fibre Channel over Ethernet. FCoE, as the acronym lovers know it, is one of the newest breeds of storage technologies, and even as you read this it is moving through the standards process. FCoE's purpose is to enable network convergence and cost-effective storage area network (SAN) expansion in the data center.

The idea is to move native Fibre Channel traffic over 10-gigabit-per-second Ethernet, alongside standard network traffic. In this instance, in order to meet the demands of Fibre Channel, the Ethernet is a still-in-the-works enhanced Ethernet, with greater flow control, dynamic bandwidth allocation, and better communication between end nodes and switches, designed to overcome latency and packet loss issues.

The benefits touted by FCoE's backers, most notably Cisco, are seamless extension of Fibre Channel SANs, increased IT efficiency, unified management, and overall reductions in the total cost of ownership.

Other options have their defenders as well, who say that storage technologies such as iSCSI or InfiniBand (which we wrote about here way back in July 2003) could work equally well, particularly by using the same enhanced Ethernet that is still being worked on in the standards bodies. These folks say that while FCoE might have the edge on speed and power, it would also be more expensive than iSCSI.

So if changes to your storage network are in your short- or long-term future (should your budgets permit), now is the time to begin watching these developments closely. Some of your decisions will depend on how much of your data is "mission critical," as well as your existing data center infrastructures.

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.

From ACUTA Headquarters



Jeri Semer, CAE
ACUTA Executive Director
jsemer@acuta.org

What's New with Social Networking at ACUTA?

We all know that the use of social networking tools is gaining wide acceptance in the business world, and ACUTA is no exception. We have created some new opportunities to follow ACUTA activities and network with other members via social networking tools, and we have created a new group within our committee structure to advise on how ACUTA and our members can use these tools more effectively.

LinkedIn is a social networking tool that is geared to professionals. It is designed to help its members expand and make better use of their professional networks. Member profiles essentially mirror a resume or CV, listing current and past employers, positions, consulting assignments, and other professional background. LinkedIn members have the opportunity to request references and recommendations, and they can indicate their goals in using the tool, such as new career opportunities, consulting offers, business deals, or getting back in touch with past colleagues or classmates.

We formed an ACUTA group on LinkedIn last October, with several goals in mind. We wanted to provide another forum for members to find and connect with other ACUTA members with similar interests, and allow members to ask questions and get feedback on issues. We also felt that LinkedIn would provide an opportunity to reach the younger generation of professionals who are used to communicating in virtual/online communities.

Joining the ACUTA group on LinkedIn is easy. If you don't already have a personal LinkedIn account and profile, go to www.linkedin.com and create one. Then sign in and click on the "Groups" link on the left side of your "Home" page, and select "Find a Group" in the "Groups Directory" box. You can then use the "Search Groups" option to search for and join the ACUTA LinkedIn group. The ACUTA staff will verify your ACUTA membership and approve your addition to the group.

More recently, we also created an ACUTA group on Twitter. Twitter is currently growing in popularity, allowing members to "follow" each other's current activities and share ideas via quick messages or "Tweets" that are limited to 140 characters in length. Advanced users also include Web links, photos, and other enhancements to their Twitter messages.

ACUTA is using Twitter to post informative updates on our conferences, programs, and services; new information added to our website; new resources available to members; and other updates suited to this brief format.

If you are interested in joining the growing list of ACUTA "followers" on Twitter, first create your own account at www.twitter.com. Then you can follow ACUTA by either doing a "Find People" search for "ACUTA" or by going to our public webpage, <http://twitter.com/acuta>, and selecting "Follow."

Finally, we have created a new Subcommittee on Social Networking, New Media and Web Resources with the express purpose of advising ACUTA regarding social networking tools, recommending solutions to create online communities and professional networks, and recommending Web 2.0 resources, tools and services that would be useful for ACUTA members. The subcommittee is getting started this spring, and we are actively seeking volunteers with expertise in this area.

If you have questions about joining the ACUTA LinkedIn group, following us on Twitter, or joining the Subcommittee, feel free to contact me at jsemer@acuta.org and I will make sure you get the information.

I hope you will take advantage of these new networking tools.



Important Information...
Useful Resources...
The Best in Professional Networking:
Invite a Colleague to join ACUTA today!



DC Update

Dave Ostrom

Washington State University (retired)
ACUTA Legislative &
Regulatory Affairs Committee
dave-at-home@clearwire.net

FCC Appointments

Julius Genachowski has still not been confirmed as the new chair of the FCC. Evidently the confirmation is being held up until a new republican commissioner is selected to replace former commissioner Tate. Both appointments would then be confirmed at the same time. Since President Obama finally has his cabinet in place hopefully things will start to move.

Broadband for Everyone

The FCC has issued a Notice of Inquiry to gather information to be used to develop a broadband plan for the nation by next February. This plan will be finalized after the broadband stimulus funds have been allocated however given that the stimulus monies will not begin to address the whole problem the plan should be very beneficial in setting a direction for the future. The comments received as a result of this inquiry will be watched by the Legislative and regulatory affairs committee. Comments are due by June 8th.

Illegal Downloads

Most of us deal with the issue of illegal downloads, and there is an interesting development in the European Union concerning downloads. The EU is considering a telecommunications law that would separate dominant phone companies from their networks and increase coordination of broadband frequencies between countries. However, the bill also blocks government agencies from cutting off Internet service to a EU citizen. France is considering a bill to do just that by cutting service to anyone caught making illegal downloads three times in one year. Let's hope that the idea doesn't catch on here. I doubt that very many of us would want to deal with a government order to cut Internet service to one of our students.

Automated Calls and the Switchboard

On the ACUTA listserv an issue was reported about a switchboard being taken down by a large number of automated phone calls warning of soon-to-expire car warranty services. I looked into this to see if there was any recognition of the problem and found that there has been some action by state attorneys general. Some companies have been fined, although they do not acknowledge any wrong doing. I would encourage everyone to document the problem when it happens and get it reported through your legal representatives. Please include some estimate of the damages. I remember being hit by one of these "attacks" a couple of years ago where the calls were being sent to all numbers in the DID block. We took over 18,000 calls in a one-hour period and had no use of our local trunking. Unfortunately we had very little information on who was sending the calls.

The FCC has an open meeting on May 13 with an item on the agenda regarding a report and order regarding porting of wireline to wireline and intermodal transport requests. Earlier the House Energy and Commerce Committee asked the FCC to change the timing for such porting requests from 4 days to 48 hours stating that wireless carriers can accomplish ports in 2.5 hours.

DTV Transition

The DTV transition continues, and hopefully we will see the end of it on June 12. There are some reports that not enough converter boxes are available although the waiting list for coupons has been cleared. 637 stations have already converted while 927 (a little more than half) will wait until June 12th to discontinue analog programming.

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>

Board Report February

Riny Ledgerwood
San Diego State Univ.
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
rlledgerw@mail.sdsu.edu

The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met on April 18 in Atlanta immediately prior to the Annual Conference. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- The February 28, 2009 financial statements were approved.
- The March 31 membership recruitment update reports 22 new institutional members and 15 new corporate affiliate members attributable to the 2009 membership recruitment campaign, which is good progress on meeting our goals for the year.
- All of the committee chairs and the Executive Director submitted their year-end reports.
- The revised committee structure and final report of the Committee Structure Task Force were received and approved.
- A change in the Policies and Procedures was approved to allow the President the option of appointing a corporate affiliate member as chair of the Corporate Liaison Committee (formerly the Vendor Liaison Committee).
- The following committee chairs were appointed:
 1. Higher Education Advisory Panel: Patricia Todus, Northwestern University
 2. Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee: Wendell Barbour, Longwood University
 3. Publications: Dave Wirth, Princeton University
 4. Membership Experience: Jennifer Van Horn, Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. Indiana
 5. Corporate Liaison: Sharon Moore, Smith College
- Additional members were appointed to the Higher Education Advisory Panel, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee, Program Committee, and Corporate Liaison Committee.
- Buck Bayliff of PCR was confirmed as the Appointed Director-at-Large for 2009-10.
- The 2010 seminar topics were approved, with some recommendations for minor language changes to the seminar titles.
- The Board voted to nominate Walt Magnussen from Texas A&M University for the FCC Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC).
- The Board discussed plans for the 2009 Business Meeting, which will be more interactive by incorporating a Q&A session with the committee chairs, officers and Executive Director, and roundtable discussions.
- The Board approved several cost-saving strategies for the remainder of the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year. These matters will be re-visited as economic conditions continue to evolve.
- The Board approved a recommendation for remote Web access to the Summit on Unified Communications and Collaborations in Denver this July 12-15.
- The Board approved an upgrade to the ACUTA membership database software, Web site redesign and Web 2.0 software acquisition to take place between now and February 2010.
- The Board held a discussion with ACUTA's new Data Analyst Dr. Michael Bowman of Murray State University, regarding his proposed research approach.
- The Board accepted a recommendation from the Publications Committee to discontinue the 5th issue of the Journal in alternate years, after the 2009 edition.
- The Board approved guidelines for listing of webinars and audio seminars offered by ACUTA corporate affiliate members at no cost on the ACUTA Web site.
- Matt Arthur provided an update on the negotiated rulemaking status for the Higher Education Opportunity Act, focusing on the P2P file sharing rules.
- The Board conducted the annual evaluation of the Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Riny Ledgerwood
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer
Director, Communications and Computing Services
San Diego State University

FREE Cabling Resource Guide

Frank Bisbee, President of Communication Planning Corporation (www.communicationplanning.com) and editor of HOTS (Heard on the Street) at www.wireville.com, has generously made available to ACUTA members at no cost a Cabling Resource Guide.

The disk contains 22 folders with Word and Excel documents in each folder with titles such as Installing Technology Today, Building Survey, Sound Systems and Security, Infrastructure and Support Hardware, Equipment Room, and more.

John Higgins, RCDD, President of The Skyline Group, reviewed the guide and had these comments: "We have found the information provided on the disk to have the right approach for outlining a plan to start a telecommunications infrastructure project with pertinent information including definitions of specific tasks, forms for use of these tasks and a step approach to completing the design of the project."

If you would like a copy, please send email with your name, mailing address, and phone number to ACUTA Communications Manager Pat Scott (pscott@acuta.org).

Another Great Conference, More Terrific Prizes!

Besides the excellent educational opportunities and the great professional networking and the fabulous exhibit hall, one of the many good reasons to attend ACUTA events is the likelihood that you'll take home a fantastic prize! Below are the winners of the prizes from the Treasure Chest at the end of the Conference. Gifts were donated by our generous vendors, named in parentheses in each entry.

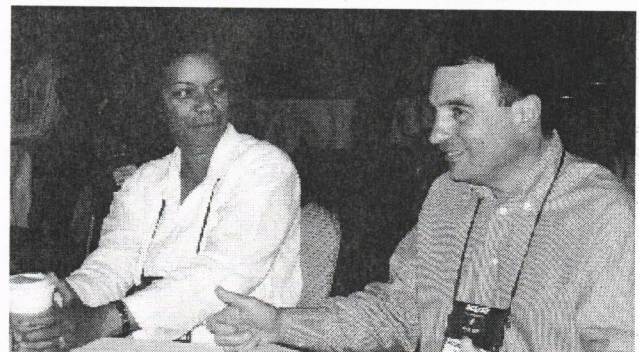
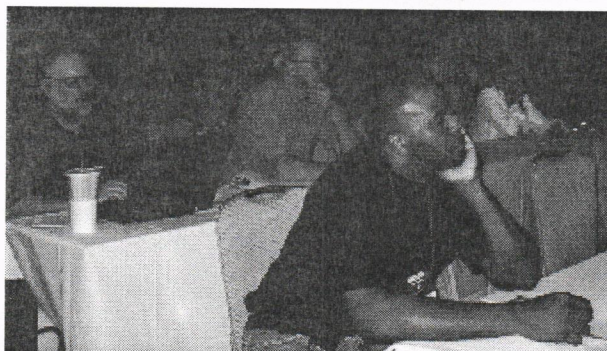
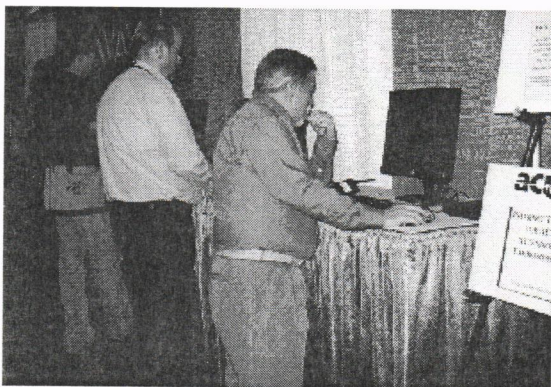
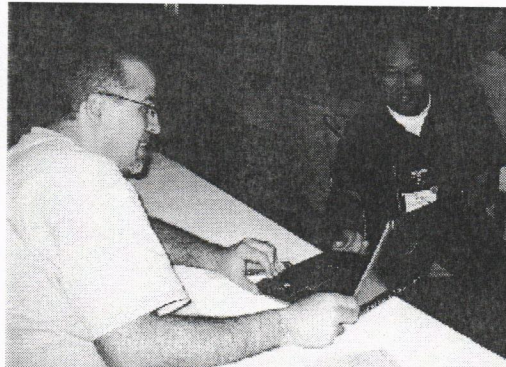
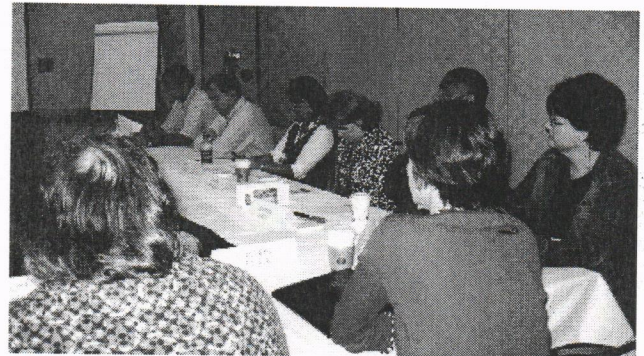
- **Robert Whelan, Northeastern University**
Computer Headset (Telecom Technology Resellers)
\$50 Best Buy Gift Card (Cooper Notification)
\$100 Amazon Gift Card (Compco)
- **Michael Williamson, Springfield College**
Computer Headset (Telecom Technology Resellers)
\$100 Best Buy Gift Card (Interactive Intelligence)
\$50 Starbucks Gift Card (Cortelco)
- **Matt Fleming, Liberty University**
Jawbone Headset (Fujitsu Network Communications)
\$100 Best Buy Gift Card (Matsch Systems)
iPod Shuffle (Trapeze Networks)
- **Mark Reynolds, The University of New Mexico**
Computer Headset (Telecom Technology Resellers)
\$100 Best Buy Gift Card (Matsch System)
iPod Shuffle (Mutare Software)
- **Calvin Bonaparte, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University**
2-Way Radios (Motorola)
iPod Shuffle (WTC Consulting, Inc.)
- **Jeanne Kellogg, Colgate University**
SIP Phone (Aastra)
\$50 Starbucks Gift Card (Cortelco)
- **Jill Devine, Neumann College**
Portable DVD Player (e2Campus)
- **Keith Hastedt, University of Wyoming**
Nintendo Wii Game Systems (OutPost Sentinel)
- **Kaye Davis Libby, Purdue University**
One Complimentary Registration to the 2010 Annual Conference in San Antonio (ACUTA)

Fresh Ideas ACUTA '09

Atlanta

38th Annual Conference & Exhibition
April 19-22, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia

The highlight of the year for ACUTA is the Annual Conference. It brings good friends together, offers opportunities for the best in professional networking, and provides the latest about information communications technology and its application on campus. In general sessions, breakouts, focus groups, the Forum, the Exhibit Hall, and conversations that happen spontaneously wherever you are, every day is value packed with just what you need to meet today's challenges.



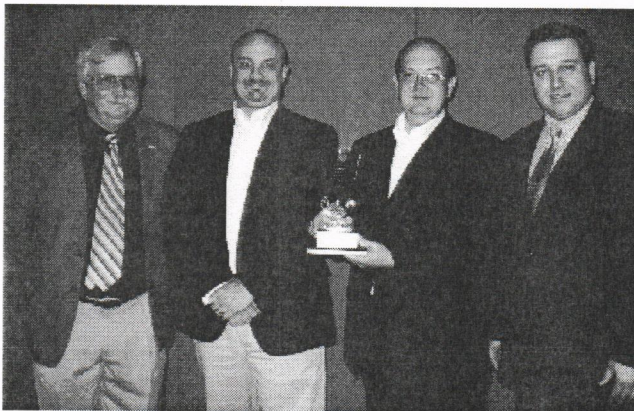
Recognizing Excellence

The award for Institutional Excellence in Information communications Technology is ACUTA's most prestigious award for institutions. Winners are selected on the basis of the information communications technology department's contribution to and support of the mission of its institution. This year's winners were Marquette University, Ball State University, and Abilene Christian University, plus an honorable mention to Indiana University. ACUTA thanks PAETEC for sponsoring this award and the luncheon at the Conference.

Marquette University



Ball State University



Abilene Christian University

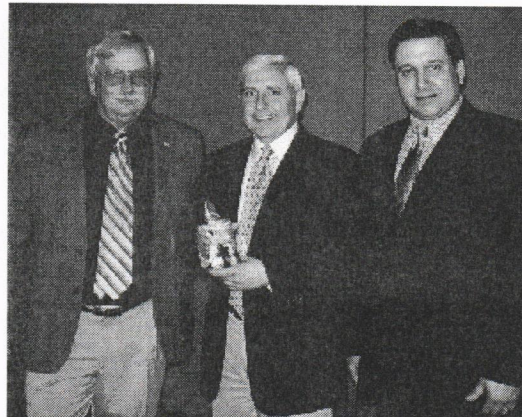


Indiana University

The Bill D. Morris Award was awarded to Pat Todus of Northwestern University.



Carmine Piscopo of Providence College was honored with the ACUTA Ruth A. Michalecki Leadership Award.

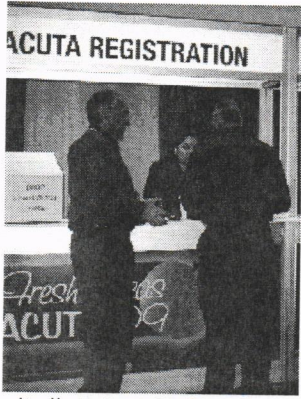


Outgoing President Corinne Hoch handed the gavel to incoming President Buck Buchanan.

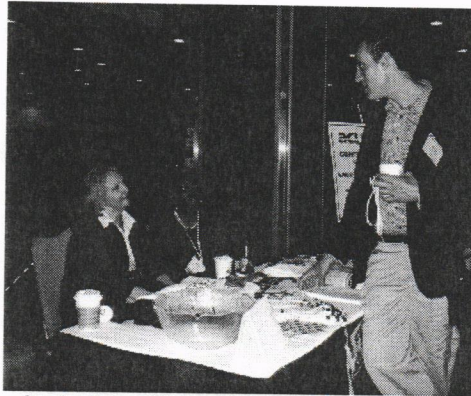


Special Occasions

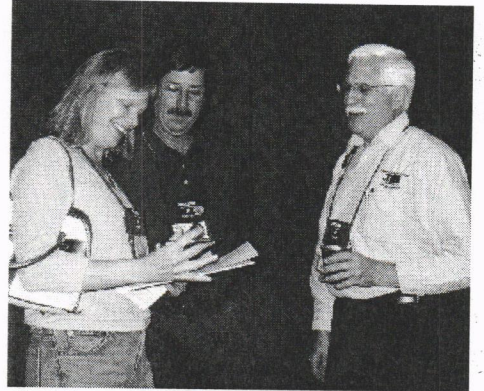
From the moment you register till you board the plane home, there are many memorable moments at ACUTA events. Conversations with old friends or new acquaintances, brainstorming with peers from other campuses, enjoying some fun at the banquet or other venues...the networking couldn't get any better than this.



It all starts at Registration!

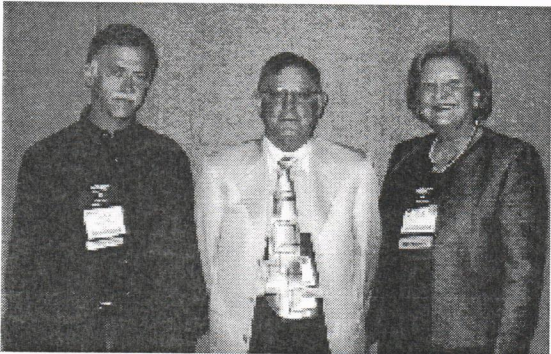


Our host for this event was Emory University.



First-time attendees get acquainted with Board members, committee chairs, state/province coordinators and staff at an orientation Sunday evening.

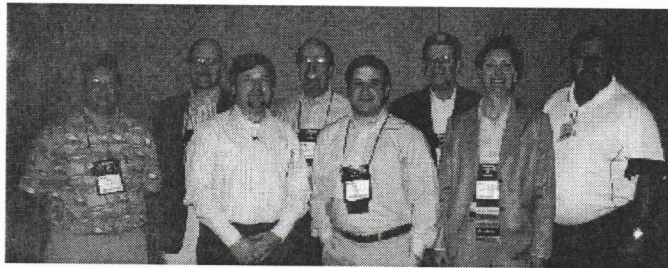
Some Celebrated Anniversaries



Dave Barta and Tony Mordosky (20 years); Pat Todus (25 years)

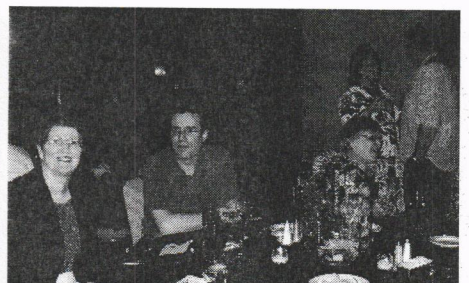
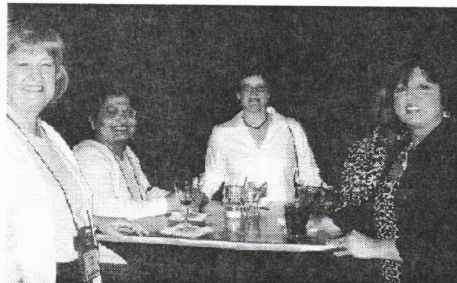
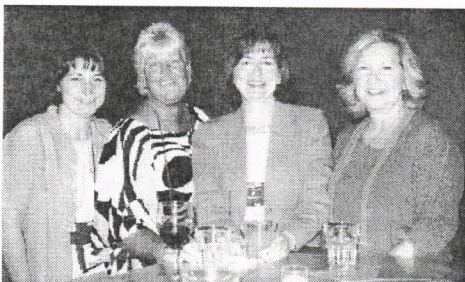


15-year members



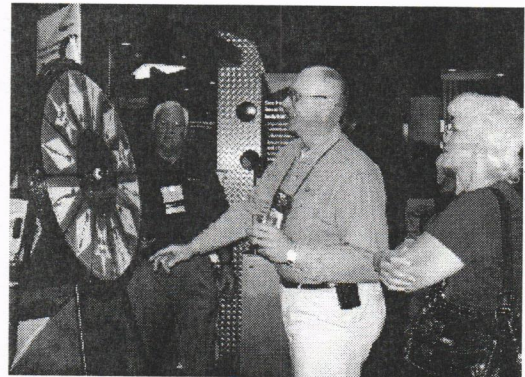
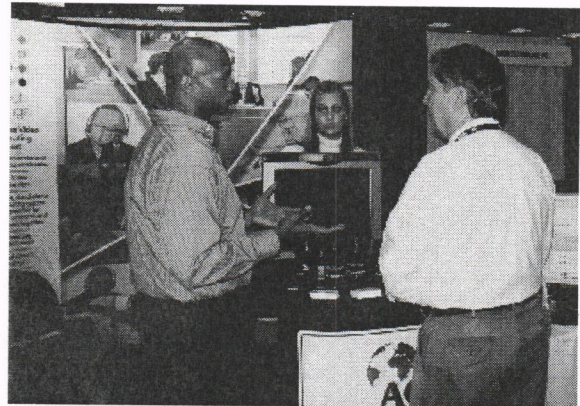
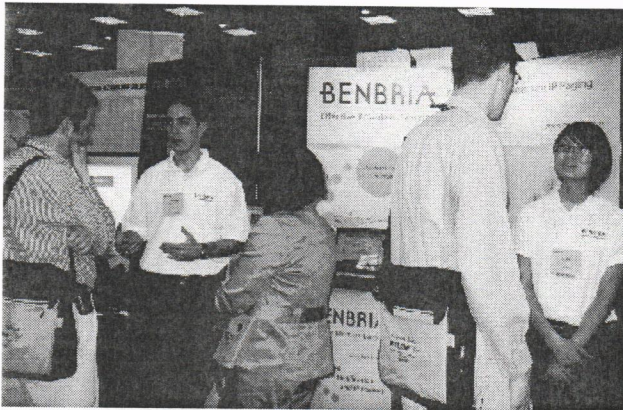
5- and 10-year members

Everyone enjoyed the good company, entertainment, wonderful meal and the terrific band at the banquet.



Everyone's a Winner in the Exhibit Hall

From the latest information about new technologies to the giveaways by the vendors and the fabulous prizes in the daily drawings, everyone takes something back to their campus from the Exhibit Hall.



In our second annual booth competition, giveaways from Aruba Networks and Aastra were voted the favorites, and the Telecom Technology Resellers and Verizon booths were the most popular.

