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From the President

Carmine Piscopo, RCDD
Providence College

A Year in Review

It doesn't seem possible that my year as President is almost over. I must admit that it went by much faster than I thought it would, and, in a way, I have some regret that the end of my term is coming quickly. As I reflect upon the experience, I decided that my final President's Message column would be titled "A Year in Review" and would be an appropriate opportunity to describe what I consider to be the most significant accomplishments of this administration.

Since my days as Program Chair, it has been my goal to help transform the identity and extend the reach of ACUTA from its roots of being focused entirely on voice telecommunications to becoming the recognized authority on IP communications and related equipment/services regardless of the application in higher education. I have always wanted to bring more diverse content to our seminars and conferences and extend ACUTA's appeal to data and video communications professionals. I was fortunate to have witnessed first hand as those who succeeded me as Program Chair shared my vision and continued to move ACUTA's seminar and conference offerings in that direction.

I was especially proud of the success of the Summit on IP Communications held this past spring in Baltimore. The Program Committee, under the able leadership of Chair Matt Arthur and with the assistance of ACUTA's Manager of Professional Development Donna Hall, decided to try something different. With the Board's approval, and the outstanding support of professional staff members Amy Burton, Pat Scott, and Lisa Thornton, they dedicated an entire seminar to explore a single topic in-depth and interactively. The exhibit hall included hands-on vendor demonstrations, which attracted significant attention. It was even covered by a reporter from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Our strategic plan called for outreach to diverse groups. Several alliances with other associations were started with:

- American Distance Education Consortium (www.adec.edu)
- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (www.atis.org)

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NextG Networks

An advanced wireless network from NextG Networks will generate revenue, improve cellular coverage, and enable new wireless services on your campus by leveraging existing fiber.

Visit us at nextgnetworks.net
The Board of Directors met by conference call on May 3 and approved the following appointments for the Vendor Liaison Committee:

- Sharon Moore, Smith College, as Chair of the Committee
- Travis Cook, Texas Christian University
- Ron Walczak, Walczak Technology Consultants, Inc.
- Randy Burns, Compro Inc.
- Bob Fitzpatrick, AT&T

ACUTA is still exploring the possibility of reaching out to the tribal colleges. We are in the initial discovery process to identify their needs and find out if there are any opportunities for ACUTA to get involved.

ACUTA is working on a project which will identify the main components of campus emergency response plans. The document will be shared with members.

Mr. Magnussen, President Elect, is chairing the ACUTA/ATIS Hurricane Preparedness Task Force. A session on the hurricane preparedness checklist will be offered at the Annual Conference in Hollywood. This checklist may be modified and used in conjunction with member schools' disaster preparedness plans.

As suggested at the IP Summit, ACUTA is exploring the possibility of creating a University VoIP Registry. The purpose is to gather information regarding VoIP implementations, timeliness and issues at campuses. The database collected will be used to track trends as well as for the program Committee to develop programs related to VoIP.

ACUTA is developing a task force to review ACUTA's existing databases and determine how to make them more useful to members. This task force will evaluate the needed data sets, their sources, and technology requirements and recommend a strategy for enhancing ACUTA's institutional facilities/services survey instrument.
You’ve probably heard the term “Web 2.0” and had to think twice about it. Based on all our past experiences with technology, most of us hear “2.0” and think of the new version, the better one, the one that has more functionality, is easier to use, and has most of the bugs fixed.

So how, you might think, could they do a new version of the World Wide Web? Would it all shut down one weekend so the Internet Masters could install the new version? Would we need new browsers? Would our websites need to be retooled?

If any of these things are worrying you, relax. Web 2.0 is to the Internet what “new and improved, with a fresher scent” is to your laundry detergent. It may smell a little different, maybe, but if you didn’t look closely, you might never notice a change.

Web 2.0 is the shorthand term for what are considered the second generation of Web communities and usage. Think of YouTube, MySpace, FaceBook, Wikipedia, and the establishment of blogs by anyone who thinks what they have to say is of interest to the rest of us. In other words, all the ways that people use the Internet to collaborate, occasionally even productively.

If the Web used to be like a library or the shopping mall, with Web 2.0 it becomes the town square, the entertainment complex, and in many ways even the extended family. Certainly, you have seen the effect of this on campus, as the early members of the social networking generation are arriving on campus, and expecting your network to deliver the capacity to enable them to see and do all the things they want to experience on their computer.

As Wikipedia (an appropriate source) explains it, Web 2.0 is about “the transition of websites from isolated information silos to sources of content and functionality, thus becoming computing platforms serving Web applications to end-users; an approach to generating and distributing Web content itself, characterized by open communication, decentralization of authority, freedom to share and re-use, and ‘the market as a conversation’; and enhanced organization and categorization of content, emphasizing deep linking.”

A Web 2.0 site would deliver its applications strictly through a browser, with users both owning and controlling data on the site. It would encourage users to add their value to the application as they use it, and promote social networking.

You can legitimately question whether the Web 2.0 designation should even be used, since there are really no technical or infrastructure changes to the Internet itself involved. The connecting pipes need to deliver more bandwidth, certainly, but the technology components have been around pretty much as long as the Web itself. Still, even with its shortcomings, the Web 2.0 designation itself does give us a way to describe the evolution of usage of the Internet, driven by those same people who will be all over your campuses over the next few years.

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.

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Register Now for ACUTA 36th Annual Conference
July 29-Aug. 2, Hollywood, Florida
Hundreds of your colleagues will be there.

www.acuta.org
Alltel Buyout Pending

Alltel might only be the fifth largest cell phone company, but it maintains the largest geographical footprint. Its predicted new owners—Goldman Sachs Group and Texas Pacific Group Capital (TPG)—plan to invest heavily in the wireless industry. According to Information Week (5/27/07), the buyout, which still requires shareholder approval, will take place right before the FCC prepares to auction off wide swathes of 700 MHz spectrum, giving Alltel an increased opportunity to own a significant piece of bandwidth. January 2008 is when Congress mandated the FCC to auction off 700 MHz spectrum bandwidth. Other cellular companies, such as AT&T's cellular unit, are betting heavily on Apple's iPhone, while Sprint is rolling out both 3G and wide area WiMax. The 700 MHz spectrum is expected to provide additional opportunities for development and growth in the already expanding wireless industry.

Universal Service Fund Update

The FCC has opened a "broad inquiry" into the management and oversight of the Universal Service Fund. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin stated, "[The inquiry] reaffirms the Commission's commitment to improve the management, administration, and oversight of the [fund]. It is incumbent upon us to take the steps necessary to improve the operational efficiency of the program while providing greater certainty to the recipients." (http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/about/pdf/fcc-orders/2005-fcc-orders/FCC-05-124.pdf)

Speaking at the USF by the Numbers Coalition, Chairman Martin stated that a numbers-based plan is "competitively neutral, more stable... I've long favored numbers as a substitution for revenue as a basis for contributions." ACUTA Executive Director Jeri Semer, who had presented earlier at the forum, reported to the audience that a numbers system could significantly raise the average monthly USF contribution for college/universities from $1,539 to $14,754. She also stated, "A pure numbers-based collection methodology would have major financial, technological, and social impact on college campuses." According to Communications Daily, "When a listener asked about fears that a numbers approach would send academic institutions' USF payments skyrocketing, Martin said there may be a way to ease universities' fears." I have written about this topic for the past six months, but this issue, if passed as a pure numbers-based formula without any considerations, could be devastating.

OIC Calls For Broadband Policy

The Open Internet Coalition, whose members include 54 organizations (including Amazon, Google, and TiVo), called on the U.S. government to create a national broadband policy, according to InfoWorld Daily (5/24/07). In a letter to Congress on May 24, 2007, the coalition stated that the "U.S. government needs to adopt new measures to ensure universal affordable access to broadband, net neutrality, and increased competition in the broadband market." Ben Scott, policy director for Free Press, stated, "We've got to face the fact that [U.S. residents] pay more for less bandwidth than our global competitors." This writer hopes that we not only get affordable broadband in place but that we get broadband service to all rural residential areas. Like many of you, I sit in a spot where broadband is not readily available. For those lucky enough to have broadband available, it is not affordable.

Pentagon Phone Update

According to The Telecom Manager's Voice Report (5/14/07), the Pentagon has awarded an $18.4 million VoIP design and implementation contract to General Dynamics Network System, in Needham Heights, Mass. This includes "all call processing support, multiple classes of service, priority service, required adjunct and back-office components and continued support for legacy telephony equipment," according to Daniel Busby, Vice President and General Manager for Army Infrastructure sector of General Dynamics IT.
Another Hit to the Cabling Budget:
Electrician Shortage = Higher Cabling Costs

I posted a blog on January 3, 2007, entitled “Future Proofing Your Cabling.” In that blog I discussed the issues around upgrading the cabling infrastructure and the associated costs. I have now learned that there will be another cost increase because of the predicted shortage of electricians, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

By 2014, the U.S. requirement for electrical workers will increase to more than 734,000. This is 78,000 more electricians than are currently employed in the field. In the January blog I said, “The cost to pull, terminate, label, and test each run for a small installation (48 users) for a 150 foot cable is about $100 per run. This cost will vary dependent upon the local cost of labor. Over five years with an annual labor rate increase, the cost escalates to about $155 per run for the same installation.” This statement was made before the report on the anticipated electrician shortage, and so I estimate that the cost per run will be even higher.

There are two reasons for the shortage, according to Edwin D. Hill, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). First, the existing worker population is aging and will be retiring faster than their replacements will be trained. Second, the new high-tech demands, as cables carry more speed and power, are producing a different shortage—that of knowledge and experience.

Hill said, “The task ahead is not only to recruit and train more electricians to meet the demands of a growing industry, but to make provisions to replace current electricians who will retire.”

The electrician shortage is occurring in other countries as well: Germany, UK, Austria, Belgium, and Finland. There are an estimated 37,000 vacancies in the UK. Canada is expecting that most of the skilled trades will retire in the next 10 years. A recent survey by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry notes this is the number one constraint on business investment.

E. Milner Irvin, president of the National Electrical Contactors Association (NECA) is quoted as saying; “The predicted shortfall of electricians in the U.S. won’t be just the industry’s problem. Shortages affect all businesses up and down the line, by generally driving up the cost and driving down the quality of service.”

So what is being done in the U.S. to reduce the shortage problem? The NECA and IBEW are addressing the problem in a multifaceted approach through the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC). The NJATC is actively promoting an apprenticeship program. There are about 40,000 apprentices in 290 programs around the U.S. $100 million is committed annually to develop the electrical workforce that will be required in the future.

Students considering a career as an electrician can go to www.electrifyingcareers.com for more information. This site describes 60 different types of jobs available. There may also be recruitment overseas for U.S. opportunities. Australia is already sending out recruiters to encourage skilled electricians to immigrate.

All of this means that the future costs for cabling and its installation will increase faster than expected. The shortage problem may not manifest itself in the next year or two, but it will be coming soon. The ROI and TCO calculations for the deployment of new technologies in IT and telecom will have to anticipate the rising costs. I suspect that the cabling costs for installation will rise quite a bit faster than the inflation rate overall. Be prepared to pay a bigger bill than expected.

The cabling upgrade issue is not important to the IP phone since category 5 cable will support the vast majority of IP phones and PoE. Gigabit IP phones exist for the gigabit PC connected to the IP phone so that the IP phone does not restrict the bandwidth of the PC. In this latter case, the cabling will have to be upgraded to category 5e or 6 to meet the bandwidth required and the cost of this upgrade will continue to rise with the installer shortage.

Except for the final paragraph, this article was published at www.voiploop.com 3/26/07. Used here with permission.
In the spring of each year, Student Monitor of Ridgewood, NJ, conducts extensive research into how students are using communications technology on campus. ACUTA eNews is pleased once again to feature selected results of the 2006 survey. We appreciate Student Monitor's assistance as we strive to provide the most useful and up-to-date information. If you would like to know more about the survey, contact Eric Weil, managing partner at Student Monitor (weil@studentmonitor.com).

Cell Ownership

Cell ownership is highest among females and students in the North.

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Have you been to the ACUTA website recently and checked out all the resources available? Here is a sample of what has been added recently.

- **36th Annual Conference**
  Register online for ACUTA's 36th Annual Conference and Exhibition at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida, July 29-August 2. Get full information from a link on our homepage at http://www.acuta.org or by going directly to http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce07.cfm The full agenda and session abstracts can be viewed at http://www.acuta.org/Conferences_SQL/Agenda.cfm?id=79. A list of companies that will be exhibiting at the Conference can be viewed at http://www.acuta.org/members/sce07.cfm

- **RFI / RFP Web Page**
  View current RFI/RFP documents at http://www.acuta.org/?1683. If you would like to submit a document, you can do so by emailing it to afuehrer@acuta.org. Acrobat PDF documents are preferred, but other Microsoft documents are acceptable.

- **ACUTA Listserv**
  The ACUTA Telecom listserv has been active this past month covering a variety of topics including: Outsourcing Network Services in Residence Halls; Emergency Notification Systems; ACD Systems.

  If you are not one of the more than 1,200 users subscribed to this excellent member benefit, sign up today at http://www.acuta.org/telecom/subscribe. Already subscribed but want to search past discussions? Reading and searching the Web-based archive is easy. Just go to http://www.acuta.org/telecom and enter the email address and password you subscribed with.

  If you have any questions, please contact me at afuehrer@acuta.org
Add value to your conference experience by attending a preconference seminar for an in-depth look at a topic of special importance to your campus. This year, we are offering three topics on Sunday, July 29. (Registration fee: $129)

- **Building an Infrastructure for Converged Communications**
  
  Jason R. Krauskopf, RCDD, Dir. of Enterprise Solutions at Superior Essex

  Using industry standards (TIA and IEEE) and practical experience, this interactive seminar will address the impact and considerations of the convergence of voice, data, video, power, and security on the communications infrastructure. Learn more about 10G BASE-T (copper and fiber), PoE+, IP security, wireless, data centers, and power management.

- **Preparing Financially for Tomorrow’s Technologies**

  George Denbow (Asst. Dir., ITS - Admin., The Univ. of Texas at Austin)

  This introductory course on cost analysis uses actual spreadsheets prepared for the UT ITS operation. Denbow will use Excel to demonstrate how UT gathers information, interprets it, and creates a financial analysis which can be used by upper management to secure long term funding for ITS services. He will cover payroll costs, labor rates, direct expenses, and indirect overhead.

- **A Checklist for Implementing VoIP**

  Walt Magnussen (Dir. of Telecom, Texas A & M; Dir., VolP Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center)

  Magnussen will discuss the fundamentals of VoIP, signaling protocols, and implementation issues; offer in-depth discussions about infrastructure requirements, VoIP security issues, network management software, carrier offerings, and business cases including total cost of ownership considerations; and review some popular options such as carrier-hosted solutions, vendor CPE solutions, and open-source solutions. VoIP-specific issues such as E-911 and CALEA will be explored.

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**Info Links**

Randy Hayes
University of Northern Iowa
randal.hayes@uni.edu

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.

- Latest OECD Rankings on Global Broadband Penetration:
  
  http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34223_38446855_1_1_1_1,00.html

- Paper on OECD and ITIF Broadband Rankings:
  

- President’s Task Force Strategic Plan to Combat Identity Theft:
  
  http://www.idtheft.gov/reports/StrategicPlan.pdf

- Track Federal Legislation:
  
  http://www.washingtonwatch.com/

- NASCIO Transforming Government Via Change Management:
  
  http://www.nascio.org/publications/

- The State of Homeland Security 2007:
  

- Center for Social Media Study on Students & Copyrights:
  
  http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/resources/publications/the_good_bad_and_confusing/

- Executive Discussion on Students & Copyrights Study:
  
  http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/resources/publications/unauthorized_the_copyright_conundrum_in_participatory_video/

- IIA Broadband Fact Book:
  

- Pew Typology of ICT Users: [Some stats will surprise you!]
  
  http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/213/report_display.asp

- ADA Best Practices Toolkit for State & Local Governments:
  
  http://www.ada.gov/pca toolkit/toolkit main.htm

- Pew Internet Survey “Social Networking Sites and Teens”:
  

- Survey on “Cutting the Cord” by Center for Disease Control:
  
What Every Institution Should Know About IP-Video and the New Federal Rules Governing Discovery of Electronically Stored Information

In the IP-video portion of this audio seminar, speakers Brendan Carr and Nicholas Holland, attorneys at Wiley Rein LLP, will discuss many of the regulatory issues that colleges and universities should consider when deploying IP-video or entering into contracts with providers of IP-video services. The speakers will discuss whether colleges and universities need to obtain cable franchises to offer IP-Video services and the regulatory obligations that would flow from offering a cable service. In addition, they will identify arguments that institutions could make that may lessen their regulatory obligations and thus increase their freedom to deploy IP-Video services.

In the portion of the seminar focusing on electronically stored information, the speakers will discuss a series of newly adopted federal rules that will dramatically affect institutions' obligations to store and retrieve electronic information, including e-mails, computer and network activity logs, cache and temporary Internet files, digital recordings, spreadsheets, and telephone logs. Colleges and universities will need to become familiar with the new rules governing electronically stored information (ESI) and take appropriate action; failure to comply with the new ESI rules could subject an institution to significant monetary sanctions or result in considerable forensic accounting costs.

Registration fee ($89 for ACUTA members; $129 for non-members) includes registration for your site with no limit to the number of people who can participate on your speaker phone and one Internet connection. Seminar handouts will be available on the ACUTA website as a PDF document prior to the seminar. The toll-free dial-in telephone number (U.S. and Canada only) will be provided in your confirmation email.

A CD-ROM with an archived version of the web seminar may also be purchased online at: http://www.acuta.org/dynamic/store/store.cfm?CategoryID=87&do=list.

Please direct questions regarding content to Donna Hall, ACUTA Manager of Professional Development, dhall@acuta.org or phone 859/278-3338 x231. For questions regarding registration, contact Amy Burton, aburton@acuta.org, 859/278-3338 x240.

If you weren’t able to participate in the May 30 Web Seminar on Emergency Communications, you might want to purchase the CD-ROM. It is now available through the ACUTA eStore at http://www.acuta.org/dynamic/store/store.cfm?CategoryID=86&do=list.

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ACUTA Events Calendar

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<td>Track 2. Business Continuity Planning &amp; Disaster Recovery</td>
<td>Track 2. User Communications &amp; support</td>
<td>Track 2. Staffing in a Converged World</td>
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Welcome New Members

Corporate Affiliate Members

GOLD MEMBER

Fujitsu Network Communication, Richardson, TX .......... http://us.fujitsu.com/telecom
Manuel R. Robinson, Market Development Mgr.; 972/479-2577

Fujitsu supports the ever-increasing requirements of the educational community through conducting ground-breaking research, providing innovative scalable optical platforms, and comprehensive professional services for critical on-going maintenance. For more information, visit http://us.fujitsu.com/telecom.

COPPER MEMBERS

Canoga Perkins, Chatsworth, CA .................................. http://www.canoga.com
Bill Mingo, Regional Sales Manager; 718/852-8881

Canoga Perkins designs and manufactures specialty optical transport products for the telecommunications industry. We are product and applications experts in the niche markets that we serve, partnering with our customers to deliver real-world solutions that are practical, cost-effective and reliable.

Steven Suye, Area Sales Manager; 303/723-2107

EchoStar Communications Corp., through its DISH Network satellite TV service, is one of the largest pay-TV providers in the U.S. delivering domestic and international programming to 13.4 million subscribers including university residential halls and classrooms at an affordable price.

NewPath Networks, Seattle, WA ............................. http://www.newpathnetworks.net
Mike Kavanagh, CEO; 206/550-3858

NewPath Networks designs, develops and operates fiber-fed wireless carrier networks using a distributed antenna architecture to improve signal strength and network capacity. NewPath offers a single-source solution for multiple carriers and technologies, with no capital costs and no tower build-out.

Telcom & Data, Inc., Chicago, IL .............................. http://www.telcom-data.com
Ricardo Trinidad, President; 800/335-0229

Telcom & Data is a custom solutions provider for audio conferencing, Web conferencing and emergency notification systems. Our Web-based solutions deliver cost-saving, in-house conferencing communications with diverse, unified emergency notification services.

USA Mobility, Alexandria, VA ............................... http://www.usamobility.com
David Matthews, Marketing Manager; 972/801-0362

USA Mobility is a leading provider of mass notification solutions to colleges and universities. We provide emergency group messaging to faculty and students. Additionally, we offer wireless technologies such as pagers and cell phones.

Check It Out: RFI/RFP Page on ACUTA Website

Have you taken advantage of our new RFI/RFP page? Members who have an active account password may post or view new and active RFIs and RFPs. For school members this is the perfect avenue to include ACUTA corporate members in your search for new providers. For corporate affiliates, this is a great tool for introducing your company to potential new customers.

To submit RFIs and RFPs for any new product or service, simply email your document to Aaron Fuehrer at afuehrer@acuta.org as a PDF, Word, or Excel file.

The RFI/RFP documents will be in Acrobat PDF format and viewing will require an ACUTA Web account password. If you are not sure if you have an account password, go to http://www.acuta.org/myacuta.

The RFI/RFP page is available at: http://www.acuta.org/?1683.

New RFIs and RFPs will remain on the website for 60 days, after which time they will be archived in our online Resource Library (unless otherwise instructed) so that they are available for future reference as examples. In addition to noting all new submissions in the ACUTA eNews, we are also offering e-mail notification to any member who would like to be notified personally when a new submission is posted. Send your e-mail address to Amy Burton at aburton@acuta.org to be included in this e-mail notification.

Recent Postings:
- ITG TCOM Business Tool RFP: Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR
- Campus TV Services RFP: Union College, Schenectady NY
- RFI for Improving Cellular Coverage: Smith College, Northampton, MA