Board Approves Slate of Nominees

The Board of Directors has approved a slate of nominees to present to the membership for election to the Board for 2015–16. 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 and can review candidates and their platforms online before casting their vote.

Each member institution has one primary representative and, frequently, several other individual (non-voting) representatives. In some cases, the primary representative does not participate as actively in ACUTA events and governance as one of the non-voting representatives and may not be as familiar with the candidates. In such a case, the primary representative may choose to designate a proxy to cast the vote for that institution. The primary representative must notify ACUTA if he or she elects to allow a proxy to vote, providing the name and contact information of the person who will be casting the ballot to Lori Dodson via e-mail at ldodson@acuta.org.

The Candidates

• President-Elect   Arthur Brant, Abilene Christian University
  Riny Ledgerwood, San Diego State University

• For Secretary/Treasurer   Jeanne Jansenius, Univ. of the South
  Jerry Krawczyk, Penn State

• For Director-at-Large
  (2 positions open)
  Scott Claverie, California State Univ., Chico
  Adrienne Esposito, Rutgers Univ.

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 Lori Dodson at 859/721-1658, or ldodson@acuta.org.

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.

If you are your institution’s primary member, please vote! You will receive instructions via e-mail very soon.

What’s on My Desk

What happens during the last weeks in the month of December 2014?

• University of New Mexico celebrates its 125th year.
• Students finish up their finals.
• Work requests and trouble tickets slow down.
• Projects are put on hold.
• Departments have special events with food, cheer and song.
• Hanging of the greens, luminaries, and other New Mexican traditions.
• The campus becomes eerily quiet.
• The hallways are empty.
• Parking…..yes, parking near your building and office becomes available.

Mark Reynolds
University of New Mexico
President 2014-15

And the Winners Are...

We recently announced that we would randomly draw three names from those who were registering for the Winter Seminar to win 50% off the room rate at the Disneyland® Hotel. Our lucky winners—all Texans, somehow!—are Jana McDonald, Texas A&M; Mary-Margaret Echevarria, University of Texas, San Antonio; and James Webb, West Texas A&M. Congratulations to these three, and we hope to see a huge crowd in Anaheim in January!
What does January 2015 bring?

- Yearly performance reviews are due.
- Football wraps up and basketball is in full swing.
- Yearly budget requests for fiscal year 2016 are due.
- Students arrive the second week with the start of the spring semester.
- Work requests and trouble tickets start up again.
- The hallways become congested and noisy.
- Parking...none near your office.

What are the priorities for the calendar and fiscal year of 2015-16 on my desk? Just to name a few:

- Ubiquitous cellular coverage strategies for years to come (Macro, small cell, metro cell, DAS, etc.)
- Upgrading the voice system to stay current with the manufacturer's support model (20,000 ports)
- Upgrade the voice mail system to stay current with the manufacturer's support model, which set the stage for MS Lync for a gateway between the legacy voice system and a dual-mode voicemail option for MS Lync versus O365 e-mail.
- Continue with the MS Lync 0365 and Premise design and strategies.
- Continued ubiquitous Wi-Fi coverage and migration to 802.1x, AC and what Hotspot 2.0 hand-off expectations.
- Upgrading the E911 system for future implementation of MS Lync.
- Upgrade of the NEC product to embrace standard SIP end devices versus proprietary.
- Fiber infrastructure enhancements with copper reduction and removal projects.
- Data Center Redesign team, from the voice perspective, for future requirements/enhancements, especially from a security perspective.
- Implementation of the “Guardian” product for the student safety campaign in February 2015

Why share these “What’s on Your Desk” reports? We are all consultants to some degree as we work through the many opportunities and challenges in higher education. As vendors provide roadmaps and suggested directions, we are key as an association. ACUTA has years of experience and many highly qualified SMEs (subject matter experts), so why not share this knowledge?

ACUTA just finished its second “Just-in-Time Training” webinar on MS Lync and its first SIP-trunking webinar earlier this year with great success. Think how easy it is to take your portfolio of information and knowledge and use the ACUTA listserv, conferences, and peer network to share this information. How do you accomplish this? If there is a project you are preparing for, working through, or have implemented, reach out to the ACUTA staff and get this on the agenda for the future, or just send your topics to suggestions@acuta.org ... IT'S THAT EASY...

I encourage you to look ahead, share with your peers, and plan for the Winter Seminar in Anaheim, California, January 25-28 as ACUTA’s Program Committee helps us stay in touch with current trends and expectations.

Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, and Safe Travels!

Arthur Brant
Abilene Christian University
branta@acu.edu

Microsoft Lync Roundtable

Following up on the Microsoft Lync Roundtable held December 4, Arthur Brant, shared with the listserv some of the quickpoll results.

We asked participants where they were with a Microsoft Lync roll-out. The majority (30%) were talking with others & accessing the feasibility of a MS Lync roll-out. Second to this response (26%), were those “testing the waters” with a limited pilot.

We also asked what most interested folks about Microsoft Lync. 43% of respondents indicated the “cohesion with Microsoft products” most interested them. 30% indicated the “unified communication feature set” most interested them, while 26% said the “potential as a PBX replacement” was most interested them.

Finally, we asked about obstacles that hindered Microsoft Lync adoption at their institution. 36% of respondents said “product maturity” was the obstacle, followed by 32% who said “project scope” was the obstacle.

Here is a link to the recording of this Roundtable .... http://www.acuta.org/stream/wc120414.htm

Thanks to everyone who participated in this Roundtable. Speaking on behalf of the ACUTA Program/Content Committee, we look forward to future Roundtables.

Arthur Brant, Chair, ACUTA Program & Content Committee Abilene Christian University
What’s on Your Desk?
Andrew Nichols, Unified Comm. Service Manager, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I have a lot of things on my desk ranging from project files to vendor escalation documents, to the fall, 2014 ACUTA Journal. I could talk about those and how they impact me, but I had an experience last week that I’d like to talk about instead.

First, a little context. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hired Mark Henderson as academic CIO in August, 2014, following the retirement of Paul Hixson who worked at the University for over thirty years and was CIO when the University received the ACUTA Award for Institutional Excellence.

The campus has an existing strategic plan for IT, which we all use to guide us in our IT decision making. What separates one person from another is the lens through which the IT strategic plan is interpreted. Mark comes to the University with experience in higher education (public and private) as well as private industry. He has no history at Illinois, and just as important, has a different history that informs his points of view. The context and combined voice that the IT strategic plan contains, along with the perspectives offered from new leadership, provide a unique opportunity for change.

After a 90-day listening tour during which Mark met with campus leadership, campus groups, and each staff member of the campus IT group, Mark reported back to the campus IT group. It was clear that Mark used his past successes, the IT strategic plan, and feedback from campus to inform his vision of the academic computing environment at Illinois.

The timing of the vision statement is appropriate to the notion of “in with the new” that attaches itself to the beginning of every calendar year. Personally, I enjoy change because I believe it is our best opportunity for the greatest improvement. I know that’s not a unanimously shared opinion, but I’m looking forward to starting anew next year—after a week of warm weather in Florida, of course.

Bring Sessions to Your Desktop or Tablet

ACUTA streams select sessions from its seminars and Annual Conference to your iPad, Android tablet, or Windows or MAC computer. The session streaming also includes synced presenter slides that advance automatically with the presentation. You may navigate within the presentation to any slide or point in time of the video, as well as resize the viewing window to zoom the slide or video as needed.

Sessions from the Fall Seminar in Boston are available at the ACUTA Store.

Track 1. Trends in Service and Technology Delivery
Track 2. Securing Our Connected Environments

If you couldn’t attend the seminar, we hope you will see this convenient offering as one more reason to continue to make ACUTA your “go-to” resource for professional development.

The videostreaming is available free to attendees of this event as a part of your registration fee. Others may purchase the videostreaming through the ACUTA store for the low price of $149. Once your order is received, you will receive an email with the videostreaming links.
The Board met via conference call on December 9 and approved the following:

- September 2014 Financial Statements
- Strategic Plan – November Dashboard 2014
- Monthly Committee Agenda, Minutes and Reports
- Membership Report – November Dashboard 2014
- Change the ACUTA listserv name to ACUTA – acuta@community.acuta.org with a completion date in mid-February 2015

Proposed Candidates for Consideration for ACUTA Board:

1. President Elect
   a. Riny Ledgerwood, San Diego State University
   b. Arthur Brant, Abilene Christian University
2. Secretary/Treasurer
   a. Jerry Krawczyk, Penn State
   b. Jeanne Jansenius, University of the South
3. Director-at-Large
   a. Adrienne Esposito, Rutgers University (Running for second term)
   b. Chris Megill, The George Washington University
   c. Scott Claverie, California State University-Chico

Create a Task Force consisting of 3-5 Past Presidents to look at the existing ACUTA governance and the overall structure and process for efficiency and relevance and present their recommendations to the board at the 2015 annual conference in Atlanta.

We completed the second Rapid Response Roundtable discussion on the topic of Lync. There were a total of 46 people registered and 32 participated, which was a great success.

We are continuing to work with AMP, a marketing firm, to assist us with our marketing efforts to increase membership and attendance at ACUTA events.

The Board is continuing to review our service offerings and program contents to stay relevant for our membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Riny Ledgerwood
Secretary/Treasurer
San Diego State University
rledgerw@mail.sdsu.edu

Billionaire Alums

Twenty-five billionaires obtained their bachelor’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, making it the top university in the world in terms of number of billionaire undergraduate alumni according to this year’s Wealth-X and UBS Billionaire Census.

Sixteen out of the top 20 billionaire schools are in the United States. India’s University of Mumbai has the most billionaire graduates of any university based outside the U.S.

The top 5 schools with the most billionaire undergraduate alumni:

1. University of Pennsylvania 25
2. Harvard University 22
3. Yale University 20
4. University of Southern California 16
5. Princeton University 14

Get Your Logos Here

ACUTA school and corporate member logos can be used to identify you and your institution as an ACUTA member. They can be used on press releases, e-mail signatures, websites, marketing materials, and more. Please email Amy Burton (aburton@acuta.org) to request your logo.
Randy’s Top 10 Info Links

Frequently, vendors, associations, governmental bodies, and others provide white papers and other informational documents that 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.

- AFEE – Equity Regarding Broadband in Schools: http://99in5.org/resources-news/equity/
- Horrigan – Consumers and TDM-IP Transition: https://www.publicknowledge.org/assets/uploads/blog/Consumers.IPTransition.FINAL.pdf

Plan now to attend the Winter Seminar to be held at the Disneyland Hotel January 25–28. Find complete details at www.acuta.org/ws15. For this seminar, the Program/Content Committee is planning interesting sessions relevant to our two tracks:

**Track 1: Exploring Identity & Access Management Strategies**

**Track 2: The Ever-Evolving Realm of Mobility**

**Think Anaheim!**

3. Tell your colleagues both on your campus as well as on campuses near and far that you are going and invite them to attend as well.
4. Use #acutawinter15 on Twitter and Facebook to further spread the word and join the online conversation.

**Register Today!**
www.acuta.org/ws15

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” ---Alvin Toffler
VoLTE Plus Wi-Fi

by Gary Audin

Calling over Wi-Fi delivers better call quality and reduced cell-phone charges when using mobile devices. Many employees use mobile phones to make and receive business calls even when they are working inside company offices. Inside many commercial buildings and in certain remote offices, cell network coverage is uneven, thereby producing poor call quality. It is much cheaper if those calls can be carried over Wi-Fi rather than paying for cellular minutes. Calling over Wi-Fi delivers better call quality and reduced cell phone charges. Voice over Wi-Fi calling is a technology that allows cellular packets from the cell phone to be transferred to a carrier over the Internet. The call is injected back into the cellular network as if the call has been transmitted over the air. The proliferation of public Wi-Fi access points from libraries, coffee shops, airports, restaurants and many more, stimulates the use of voice calls over Wi-Fi networks connecting over the Internet.

An Interview with Curtis Peterson

Curtis Peterson has more than 20 years’ experience managing information technology and carrier-scale data and packet voice communication networks. He has been a pioneer in VoIP services and has been developing, launching, and operating Class 4 VoIP and customer-facing hosted PBX systems since 2002. Currently, he serves as the VP of Operations at RingCentral. RingCentral provides a cloud-based Enterprise class communications solution for voice, fax, text, Web meetings, and HD video conferencing without the need for a physical PBX in the office. It provides high quality reliable business communication services.

In a recent interview with Peterson, he replied to a series of questions relating to the combination of cell phones, VoLTE, and Wi-Fi networks:

What is VoLTE?

Voice over Long Term Evolution (VoLTE) helps carriers around the world to deliver a next-generation service architecture based on IP multimedia subsystem (IMS). All the communications are IP-based (packetized voice and data) which allows the carrier to offer the same services over mobile and fixed broadband.

How does VoLTE relate to the Wi-Fi networks?

Wi-Fi can be one of the access mechanisms using the VoLTE services. Calls over Wi-Fi use the local Wi-Fi network for access, not the carrier's cell network. The same set of services can be accessed by the user using Wi-Fi or a 4G/LTE access. The user does not encounter any differences whether on Wi-Fi or cell network access.

What is driving the adoption of VoLTE over Wi-Fi networks?

The ability to access the same set of communication services through different transport technologies such as 4G/LTE and Wi-Fi. For VoLTE, the voice is completely packetized and IP-based. It uses the latest sideband codecs such as Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband (AMR-WB). AMR-WB delivers improved speech quality due to a wider speech bandwidth of 50 to 7000 Hz—about twice the bandwidth of a PSTN call.

Do you need an application for this?

VoLTE is based on 3GPP standard. As long as the voice client is based on the standard, it can use VoLTE. But most VoLTE providers have specialized handsets, such as iPhone and Android devices that they sell through distribution channels such as AT&T and Verizon.

What device OSs are supported?

Android, iOS, and Windows phones are the leading devices that support VoLTE. VoLTE is an application running on these phones connecting to the carrier's IMS network.

Take me through a call passing through VoLTE and the Internet.

First the VoLTE phone connects to the wireless data network (Wi-Fi) through 4G/LTE. This assigns the device an IP address. After that, it uses SIP/RTP protocols to establish a call through the carrier's IMS network.

The call flow can be the same once the IP address is assigned to the device either through Wi-Fi or some other access mechanism. The main difference is that the voice packets flow through the public Internet infrastructure without any Quality of Service applied to it.

For VoLTE, it is dedicated network with QoS applied for voice traffic so that the user can expect better call quality end-to-end.

What are the business benefits?

For the carrier, compared to the existing mobile voice network where carriers use dedicated radio resources per call, using packetized voice helps them share the channel with other users. So the bandwidth usage is more effective and reduces the cost. There can be new services that can integrate packetized voice and data. For the users, it provides greater coverage for the services and also access to broader and richer set of services.

What are the consumer benefits?

Since VoLTE uses some of the latest codecs such as AMR-WB, customers get much better quality voice in addition to the general benefits of VoIP.

What are the barriers to broad implementation?

This is a big investment for the carrier, and it cannibalizes the existing GSM/CDMA-based voice infrastructure. It also involves huge initial capital investment to provide a scalable IMS solution. There is no doubt that voice calls accessing the Internet and carrier networks will grow. The use of Wi-Fi access actually helps the existing cell carriers because the call does not cause congestion over the cell networks when placing a call.

This article was taken from the October 24, 2014, NoJitter.com site, with permission from the author. www.nojitter.com provides a wealth of information for IT/telecom professionals.

If IT wants to stay relevant, we’re going to have to find a way to leverage our deep understanding of technology to a new environment, working with other parts of the organization and relying on influence and expertise instead of gatekeeping and rigid rules.

(Source: Fredric Paul, “Is Enterprise IT More Difficult to Manage Now than Ever?,” Network World, December 12, 2014. http://www.networkworld.com/article/2859157/careers/is-enterprise-it-more-difficult-to-manage-now-than-ever.html?print=news%3Dnetworkworld_daily_news_alert&print=ig_eid%3Dad1ea23633e5b859df2f77ff67df07ab17e%23tk.NWWNLE_nlt_daily_pm_2014-12-12&siteid=&phint=tpcs%3D&print=ig_eid%3Dad1ea23633e5b859df2f77ff67df07ab17e)
Welcome New Members

Institutional Member

Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, T5 .......................................................... www.montgomerycollege.edu
Carl Whitman, VP of Instructional & Tech/CIO (240)/567-3088
carl.whitman@montgomerycollege.edu

Check It Out

Press Releases, Job Postings, & Corporate Webinars

The ACUTA website lets you communicate with other members—share some exciting news, fill a position, or find just the right vendor. Check the website for the latest postings frequently. Here are items that have been posted since our last eNews.

PRESS RELEASES: www.acuta.org/pressroom
Send press releases to Amy Burton (aburton@acuta.org)

JOB POSTINGS: www.acuta.org/jobs
Help your colleagues who are looking for work! To send job postings, go to www.acuta.org. Click on one of the jobs listed there and you will link to the jobs listed now and a link where you can post a job:
• Wireless Systems Specialist, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
• Telecommunications Engineering and Construction Manager, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA
• 3 Positions, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL: Telecommunications Services Specialist; Network Security Specialist; LAN Infrastructure Technician
• IT Contract and Vendor Management Coordinator, Miami University, Oxford, OH
• 4 Positions, University of Maryland, College Park, MD: Network Operation Center Junior Engineer; Assistant Director, Network Infrastructure and Services; Network Integration Software Engineer; Junior Network Engineer
• Unified Communications Engineer, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
• Cyberinfrastructure Engineer, University of Alabama Huntsville, Huntsville, AL
• 4 Positions, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX: Network Engineer-Enterprise Network Engineer II; Project Manager; Senior Software Engineer; Systems Administrator II

FREE WEBINARS HOSTED BY ACUTA CORPORATE MEMBERS:

www.acuta.org/corporatewebinars
Many free webinars are available through ACUTA Corporate Members. Check the website at www.acuta.org/corporatewebinars to see what is currently available. (Corporate members: e-mail Amy Burton at aburton@acuta.org to get your free webinars listed.)

Happy Holidays from the ACUTA Staff

Corinne, Aaron, Amy, Lisa, Lori, Michele, Pat, Sandi, & Tom