

Annual Report

July 2011 – June 2012

Submitted by

Helena Mitchell, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CACP is a policy research center that focuses on issues that influence cutting edge advanced communications technologies. It operates as an impartial, fact-based expert on assessing regulatory issues, identifying future options and developing a clearer understanding of the every changing technology landscape. Areas of expertise include wireless communications and platforms; the needs of vulnerable populations including people with disabilities; emergency alerts and communications; innovation in local government, new communications modes such as virtual worlds, social networking, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and technology shifts. CACP collaborates with government, industry and academia at the international, national, state and local level.

Within this document CACP has encapsulated highlights of the past year's efforts from our researchers and technical staff. It is critical to note that during this reporting period five solid months were devoted to a major refunding effort. This included the creation and review of more than 35 project proposals which were reduced to seven projects in the final submission. In order to create a highly competitive document of over 150 pages, not including several dozen pages of appendices, the following areas while robust do represent a reduction in normal productivity of the center. The report is divided into five areas: Instruction and Appointments (pg. 2); Research and Creative Scholarship (pg. 2); Presentations, Academic & Community Activities (pg. 9); Sponsored Funding (pg. 15); Memberships, Board Memberships & National Recognition (pg. 16).

This year there were more than 32 publishing activities; 16 conference presentations with attendance estimated at 2400 people; active participation in 4 academic committees; 7 student assistantships or advisory roles by faculty of CACP; and over 16,250 website hits. Sponsored research was funded at \$1.323M. Exceeded 350 meetings with external/internal organization and or their representatives.

INSTRUCTION & APPOINTMENTS

Helena Mitchell, Ph.D.: Principal Research Scientist, School of Public Policy
Adjunct Faculty, Oklahoma State University

Advising: DeeDee Bennett, Dissertation Committee, Oklahoma State University
Sophia Craig, Master's academic advisor, University of British Columbia

Paul M. A. Baker, Ph.D.: Sr. Research Scientist, School of Public Policy

Advising: Christina McMillian, Masters Student
Marshall Sims, Undergraduate Student
Keith Bujak, Ph.D. Candidate

James White, Ph.D.: Sr. Research Scientist, School of Public Policy
Visiting Professor, Journalism and Media Studies Center, University of Hong Kong

Advising: Braeden Benson, Undergraduate Student
Dana Jones, Masters Student

Nathan W. Moon, Ph.D.:

Advising: Graduate Research Advisor Shixuan Wu, Masters Student
Christina McMillian, Masters Student

Course: Summer 2011 HTS 2013 Modern America

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings (refereed) (10)

Nathan W. Moon and Paul M.A. Baker. (2012). "Assessing Stakeholder Perceptions of Workplace Accommodations Barriers: Results from a Policy Research Instrument," *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 23(2): 94 - 109. Forthcoming in Print, already published online.

Tristan T. Utschig, Nathan W. Moon, Aaron Bozzorg, and Robert Todd. (2012). "Impact of Faculty Development on Classroom Accessibility as Measured Using a Classroom Observation Instrument." *International Journal of Process Education*, 4(1): 61-78.

James White, "Who Do You Trust? Comparing People-Centered Communications in Disaster Situations in the United States and China". Co-author. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, Voll. 14-2, 2012.

Nathan W. Moon, Tristan T. Utschig, and Robert Todd. (2011). "Evaluation of Programmatic Interventions to Improve Postsecondary STEM Education for Students with Disabilities: Findings from SciTrain University." *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, 24(4): 331-349.

Baker, P.M.A., Sandulli, F.D., Rata, B.M., B.M. and López Sánchez, B.M. (2011), "Information Technology, Complementary HRM Practices and Its Effect On The Productivity Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises." *Human Resource Management* (in press).

Ward, A., Moon, N.W. and Baker, P.M.A. (2011) "Functioning, Capability and Freedom: A Framework for Understanding Workplace Disabilities." *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal* DOI: 10.1007/s10672-011-9174-2.

Ward, A., Baker, P.M.A., & Moon, N.W. (2011). Issues in workplace accommodations for people with disabilities. *Philosophy for Business* 67. Published online at <http://www.isfp.co.uk/businesspathways/issue67.html>

Forman, A.E., Baker, P.M.A., Pater, J. and Smith, K. (2011) "Beautiful to me: Identity, disability, and gender in virtual environments." *International Journal of E-Politics*, V.2 (2) 1-17.

Noonan, D. S., Baker, Paul M.A., Seavey, Art, and Moon, Nathan. (2011). "Where the Cathedrals and Bazaars Are: An Index of Open Source Software Activity and Potential," *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 8,(3): 273-303.

Utschig, T. T., Moon, N. W., Todd, R.L. and Bozzorg, A. (2011). "Faculty Efficacy in Creating Productive Learning Environments: Universal Design and the Lens of Students with Disabilities," *International Journal of Process Education*, 3(1): 51-64.

Books and Book Chapters (2)

Moon, Nathan W., Todd, Robert L., Morton, David L., and Ivey, Emily, have co-authored *Accommodating Students with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)*. This publication is supported by the National Science Foundation as part of the "SciTrain: Science and Math for All" project at Georgia Tech (NSF Grant No. 0622885).

Forman, A.E., Baker, P.M.A. Pater, J. and Smith, K. (2011) "Leveling the playing field: Disability and gender representation in Second Life." In Celia Livermore (ed.) *Gender and Social Computing: Interactions, Differences, and Relationships*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Papers-refereed (10), Publications-non refereed (1)

Mitchell, Helena, "Great Expectations: Keeping People with Disabilities Connected in a Wireless Future", The End of the Phone System Workshop, Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, May 16-18, 2012.

White, James, "Prospects for Employment in a Digital World", United Cerebral Palsy Conference, Washington, DC, April 25-27, 2012.

White, James, "Developing a new communications school for new social media realities" (co-authored), ISA Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2012.

White, James, "Microblogging the Public Sphere in China" (co-authored), ISA Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2012.

White, James, "Employment Prospects in a Digital World", California State University Northridge (CSUN) Annual 2012 Conference, February 25 – March 2, 2012.

Moon, Nathan W., Baker, Paul M.A., Sims, Marshall, and McMillian, Christina. Office of Educational Access and Success (OEAS), Center for Advanced Communications Policy, and Center for 21st Century Universities. (2012). "Development of Virtual Communities of Practice to Support Programmatic Efforts within University Systems." OEAS Working Paper Series #12-01. University System of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, March, 2012.

Moon, Nathan W., Baker, Paul M.A., Benson, Braeden, and McMillian, Christina. Office of Educational Access and Success (OEAS), Center for Advanced Communications Policy, and Center for 21st Century Universities. (2012). "A Review of State-Level Programs to Enhance Postsecondary STEM Education in the United States." OEAS Working Paper Series #12-02. University System of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, March, 2012.

White, James, "The Power of Digital Inclusion: Technology's Impact on Employment and the Opportunities for People with Disabilities." Washington, DC, National Council on Disability, 2011.

Mitchell, H. Bennett, D., LaForce, S. (2011). *Planning for Accessible Emergency Communications: Mobile Technology and Social Media*. 2nd International Conference, Accessibility Reaching Everywhere, presented at AEGIS, Brussels, Belgium, November 28-30, 2011. (in press)

Baker, Paul M.A., Moon, Nathan W., Bricout, John, Coughlan, Barry and Pater, Jessica, "The Persistence of Participation: Community, Disability, and Social Networks", presented at the 2011 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle Washington, September 1-4, 2011.

Technology & Disability Policy Highlights, July 2011 – present. Salimah LaForce, editor for the Wireless RERC's *Technology and Disability Policy Highlights*, (assisted by Braeden Benson, student) produced a monthly newsletter that reports on national and local public policy events, recent wireless technological advances and political activities, and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities.

Filings on Rule Makings to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. and other federal agencies (9)

Wireless RERC Comments on NIDRR Long Range Plan

On June 18, 2012 the Wireless RERC submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Education in response to their notice "In the Matter of National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Notice of Proposed Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years 2013 - 2017" [FR Doc. No. 2012-9365]. The proposed Long-Range Plan included objectives such as ensuring that research, development and other activities are balanced, especially areas including employment, community living, and health, and that supporting projects have benefits for multiple groups of people with disabilities. Wireless RERC comments highlighted that mainstream wireless technologies are allowing for opportunities to enhance independence and improve community participation for people with disabilities and may have a direct impact on the areas mentioned in the plan. Current trends demonstrate that people with disabilities utilize wireless technologies at the same rates as people without disabilities. Wireless RERC comments to the NIDRR Long-Range Plan thus suggested that certain objectives within the plan include explicit references to accessible mainstream technologies in order to impact how the objectives are interpreted by those responsible for implementation.

Impact on the U.S. Census Bureau Supplement to the Current Population Survey

On June 1, 2012 the Wireless RERC filed comments with the U.S. Department of Commerce regarding the importance of universal, affordable, broadband access for all Americans. The comments were in reply to the U.S. Census Bureau to gather additional insights into the development of the next national survey tool. Comments emphasized that any survey tool, especially the Census Current Population Survey, designed to gather data on the state of technology use in the U.S. should include questions regarding disability and accessibility. The Wireless RERC recommended a few questions for the survey and noted that gathering such data would allow for the identification of barriers to technology adoption by people with disabilities and assist organizations, manufacturers, developers, and policymakers on devising the appropriate strategies to create an accessible broadband environment.

Regulatory Impact: Wireless RERC Helps to Advance Access to Technology

The Wireless RERC's comments filed in the FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 [CG Docket No. 10-213] [WT Docket No. 96-198] [CG Docket No. 10-145] were included in the April 25, 2011 Report & Order (R&O) concerning the same and helped to inform the final rules. Specifically, the Wireless RERC recommended that text messaging functionality in social media services fall under the Commission's definition of "electronic messaging services." In the R&O the FCC concluded that electronic messaging services made available through social networking sites are covered by Sections 716 and 717.

The R&O agreed with Wireless RERC comments regarding harmonization of Section 716 and Section 255 rules based on the Access Board Draft Guidelines. "We agree with the Wireless RERC that this approach will "reduce both the potential for misunderstanding as well as the regulatory cost of compliance" and promote "the objective of consistency." In total, Wireless RERC comments were included in the rulemaking text and/or cited ten times. This is noteworthy because it advances access to wireless technologies by people with disabilities and reinforces the importance of participating in the rulemaking process.

Wireless RERC Comments on Strategic Plan for Section 508

On April 16, 2012 the Wireless RERC submitted comments to the White House Office of Public Engagement concerning the strategic plan for implementation and management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 508 establishes standards in relation to various accessibility aspects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) including functional performance; technical requirements; hardware and audio output functionality; real time simultaneous conversation via audio, text, and video; and product support and services. Comments by the Wireless RERC addressed various aspects of the plan and emphasized the need for educating employees on Section 508 compliance issues. Recommendations included educating agency procurement officers on how to assess the accessibility of equipment and software; incorporating Section 508 compliance within IT departments; offering professional development classes for installation and maintenance of assistive technology; offering quarterly webinars on Section 508 compliance; and recruiting Alternative Media Specialists to ensure the accessibility of electronic information.

Technology and Regulatory Response to the first National Emergency Alert System Test

On March 22, 2012 the Wireless RERC filed ex parte comments with the FCC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) and other policy stakeholders to supply unbiased data and evaluation to help ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to critical lifesaving emergency alerts. The comments were in regard to the first ever national test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) which was conducted on November 9, 2011. The comments were in the form of the Wireless RERC's "Report on the National EAS Test On-line Survey and Focus Group Findings". From November 2, 2011 through November 18,

2011, the Wireless RERC conducted two surveys, one prior to the November 9th national EAS test and the other following the test. Four hundred and three (403) persons with disabilities responded to the pre and post-EAS test surveys. In addition, on November 9th during the actual tests, 22 people with sensory disabilities participated in focus groups held at Public Broadcasting Atlanta (PBA). The ex parte comments reported the data, analyses and findings from the surveys and focus groups. The nationwide test of EAS revealed technical, policy and practice related challenges. The focus groups and surveys showed a number of access barriers including inconsistent use of audio, a lack of a visual alert mechanism and text crawl that was difficult to read due to size and speed. Respondents and participants with hearing loss found that the national EAS test message was not fully accessible. Some recommendations for improving the accessibility of EAS delivered over television and radio include: (1) Always provide audio and visual formats of alert content for all types of alerts (weather, Amber, presidential, free text). (2) Standardize the appearance of EAS messages. (3) Incorporate pre-recorded or rapidly assembled ASL video translation of message content. And (4) include a visual alert mechanism such as a screen flash.

Regulatory Impact: Wireless RERC Influences EAS Final Rules

On January 10, 2012 the Wireless RERC was cited seventeen times in the FCC's Fifth Report and Order (R&O) "In the Matter of Review of the Emergency Alert System (EAS)" [EB Docket No. 04-296]. The R&O revises and implements rules contained in Part 11 of the EAS rules regarding how Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) messages are processed by EAS participants. The Wireless RERC comments addressed the accessibility of the EAS and were quoted extensively concerning the FCC's requirements of enhanced CAP text. It is important to note that the Wireless RERC comments had a part in the FCC reversing its position concerning the presentation of a CAP message's enhanced text. Initially, the FCC did not require the presentation of the enhanced CAP text but as explained in paragraph 73 of the R&O, EAS participants must now provide the text if the message initiator includes the text in a CAP message. Enhanced CAP text is important in order to provide additional description for persons with hearing limitations. The Wireless RERC was also cited in the FCC's decision to retain the 8 second EAS two tone attention signal. The RERC comments stated that the proposed three bursts of digital signal is both too short and not loud enough for hearing impaired people, and that the public has been familiar with the 8 second attention signal since 1975. The FCC thus ordered stations to retain the use of the 8 second attention signal as an audio notice of EAS alerts.

Wireless RERC Comments on Next Generation (NG) 911 Rulemaking

On January 10, 2012 the Wireless RERC filed reply comments with the FCC in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "In the Matter of Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications" [PS Docket No. 11-153] and the "Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment" [PS Docket No. 10-255]. The reply comments responded to a number of issues including, interim use of text-to-911, prioritization of calls during major emergencies, long term deployment of NG911 text and multimedia applications, and state or regional implementation of NG911. Data

collected from State Equipment Distribution Programs in combination with the 2010-2011 Emergency Communications Survey conducted by the Wireless RERC indicates that not only is there a transition from TTY (Teletypewriter) to text-capable mobile phones, but that people with disabilities consider text messaging an accessible option to contact emergency services. Thus, reply comments by the Wireless RERC emphasized the need for an interim text-to-911 solution for those persons with hearing and speech impairments as well as the incorporation of both text messaging as well as Real-Time Text (RTT) as features of a NG911 system. In regards to long-term deployment of NG911, the Wireless RERC stressed the importance of a video calling solution in combination with Real-Time Text, delivery status notification, and session persistence. In addition, reply comments call for a phase out of TTY use in transition to NG911. In regards to prioritization of calls during an emergency, the Wireless RERC indicated that during an emergency, persons with disabilities have different needs than the general public and often need to rely on a personal support network during the emergency. The implementation of prioritization of calls would eliminate contact between people with disabilities and their support networks during an important time.

Wireless RERC Comments on Advanced Communications Technologies Rulemaking

The Wireless RERC filed comments on October 7, 2011 with the FCC in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking In The Matter of Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* [CG Docket No. 10-213] *Amendments to the Commission's Rules Implementing Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996* [WT Docket No. 96-198] *In the Matter of Accessible Mobile Phone Options for People who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, or Have Low Vision* [CG Docket No. 10-145]. Some of the comments address circumstances under which manufacturers should be liable for the accessibility of third party Apps; the inclusion of text messaging functionality in social media services under the Commission's definition of "electronic messaging services"; harmonization of Section 716 and Section 255 rules based on the Access Board Draft Guidelines; and ensuring Internet browsers on mobile phones are accessible to and usable by individuals who are blind or have a visual impairment. The Wireless RERC noted that the outcomes from the NPRM would benefit both people with disabilities and industry by reducing regulatory uncertainty through the harmonization of current and proposed accessibility rules, clearly defining the technologies/services that are covered under the CVAA, and updating important sections of the rules to ensure compatibility with current advanced communications modalities being used by people with disabilities.

Comments from the Wireless RERC on the Accessibility & Effectiveness of EAS alerts

On July 19, 2011, the Wireless RERC filed comments in response to the FCC's Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking In the Matter of Review of the Emergency Alert System [EB Docket No. 04-296]. As a result of EAS field trials conducted by the Wireless RERC, recommendations included the need for presentation of alerts in both audio and visual formats and retaining the eight second EAS audio attention signal. Comments also recommended the mandatory filing of state and local EAS plans to include information on how to address the needs of people with disabilities. A recent review of 108 state

and local EAS plans revealed that only one state plan addressed the needs of people with disabilities; one local plan provided procedures for sending text; and one local plan provided a note on captioning.

PRESENTATIONS, ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Institute Committees

Helena Mitchell (4)

Faculty Senate - Chair, Academic Services Committee, 2010 - Present. Elected position.

Faculty Senate - Committee on Use of Institute Facilities

Faculty member - Access Technology group, GT Broadband Institute, 2008-present.

Policy@Tech - Executive Committee

Presentations

Conference Presentations (16)

DeeDee Bennett, "Evidence-Based Best Practices for Disability Issues", Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado, July 14-17, 2012.

Nathan W. Moon, "Digital Inclusion and Employment Opportunities for Americans with Disabilities: Findings from a Policy Delphi Study." RESNA 2012 Conference, Baltimore, MD, June 28-July 3, 2012.

Helena Mitchell, "Great Expectations: Keeping People with Disabilities Connected in a Wireless Future", The End of the Phone System Workshop, Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, May 16-18, 2012.

James White, "Employment Prospects in a Digital World, Annual United Cerebral Palsy Conference, Washington, DC., April 27, 2012.

Paul M.A. Baker, Nathan W. Moon, & James White, "Digital Technologies and the Employment of Americans with Disabilities: Findings from a Focus Group Study." NARRTC Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA, April 26, 2012.

Helena Mitchell, "Strategies Regarding Accessible Alerts and Warnings", FEMA Think Tank on Strategies and Approaches for Incorporating and Integrating Disability Related Access and Functional Needs Issues and Concerns into Emergency Management Actions/Activities, March 22, 2012.

Nathan W. Moon, "STEM Enhancement Programs: The National Context," Presentation at Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, March 9, 2012.

Nathan W. Moon, "USG STEM Initiative: Overview and Lessons Learned," Presentation at Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, March 9, 2012.

Frank Lucia, "TV, Radio, Mobile Alerting for Weather Emergencies: And the Winner is...", 66th Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference, Charleston, SC, March 5-8, 2012.

Helena Mitchell, testimony regarding the U.S. Access Board's Second Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (2nd ANPRM) [Docket No. 2011-07 or RIN No. 3014-AA37], 27th Annual CSUN Conference, February 25-March 2, 2012.

James White, "Prospects for Employment in a Digital World", California State University Northridge (CSUN) Annual 2012 Conference, February 25-March 2, 2012.

Helena Mitchell, DeeDee Bennett, Salimah LaForce, (2011). "Planning for Accessible Emergency Communications: Mobile Technology and Social Media". 2nd International Conference, Accessibility Reaching Everywhere (AEGIS), Brussels, Belgium, November 28-30, 2011.

Helena Mitchell, panelist, Broadband 2020 Symposium, Global Learning Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, October 26, 2011

Paul M.A. Baker and Jessica Pater, "Social Learning, Social Media, and the Aging," AOIR12, Seattle WA, Oct 10-13, 2011.

Helena Mitchell, "Providing Accessible Alerts to People With Disabilities", FEMA Getting Real II, Arlington, VA, September 12-15, 2011.

CTIA-The Wireless Association hosted its annual conference from May 8-10, 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Wireless RERC held its Accessibility Summit entitled, "Ready, Set, Go!: Near and Long-term Strategies to Implement New Federal Accessibility Requirements," on May 9, 2012. The Summit included a discussion with a representative from the FCC, wireless industry, consumer advocacy, and academia on what the wireless industry needs to do now and in the future to be compliant with the 21st Century Video and Accessibility Act (CVAA) and take advantage of new market opportunities. Panelists included Rosaline Crawford, FCC; Adrienne Biddings, Google; Susan Mazrui, AT&T; Paul Schroeder, American Foundation for the Blind; Andrew Phillips, National Association of the Deaf; and John Morris, Wireless RERC.

Dissemination Activities – Items in this section have not been counted in other categories.

Public Policy Luncheon series: Hosted by CACP and the Federal Communications Bar Association since 1996. It brings together regulators, legislators, telecom experts, attorneys and diverse constituencies to discuss "hot topics" in telecom policy that affect Georgia and the nation. Events held in FY' 12:

May 21, 2012, the CACP and FCBA co-sponsored a luncheon entitled: "The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) of 2010: Compliance and Opportunities for the Telecom Industry, Manufacturers and Individuals with Disabilities". Panelists were Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, Federal Communications Commission; Matt Gertz, Counsel, External and State Affairs, CTIA-The Wireless Association; Julie Kearney, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Electronics Association. Ronnie London of Davis, Wright and Tremaine, Washington, DC served as moderator.

July 29, 2011, "Universal Service – A Fall 2011 Preview". A look at how the FCC planned to tackle important reform issues dealing with the three largest programs within the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF): High-Cost; Lifeline/Link-Up; and E-Rate was the focus of the luncheon. Cox Communications co-sponsored the event along with the FCBA and CACP. Panelists were Bridget Duff, Principal, Broadband Educational Consultants; David Baker, Managing Director, Sapronov & Butler Government Affairs, and Jose Jimenez, Cox Communications.

Social Media

Accessible Technology Policy Group (ATPG) was established on and LinkedIn currently has approximately 485 members and over 150 active discussions during this year. ATPG is focused on policy development and exchange of information related to e-accessibility and inclusive design.

Inclusive Digital Media Network (IDMN) on Facebook has 45 members. IDMN is designed to explore online/social media applications in support of e-accessibility.

The CACP Facebook page has 175 members. The page was designed to share CACP news and events, as well as, post relevant technology policy news items with a human interest appeal.

The CACP Twitter feed (@CACPGT) has 330 followers. The CACP Twitter feed's purpose is to share CACP news and events, as well as, post relevant technology and policy news items.

BCS-The Chartered Institute for IT, U.S.A. Southeast Regional Group

CACP is the U.S.A. Southeast Regional Group headquarters for BCS, an international organization with more than 70,000 members worldwide, 16 international sections and over 45 specialist groups including BCS women, young professionals, education, and IT security. The SERG is comprised of members from GA, FL, AL, TN, AR, NC and SC. CACP held a number of officer positions in the SERG including chair and secretary. This year it held eleven events on ICT international and domestic issues which are noted below:

- PubQuiz, September 2011
- Ga Tech's Graduate Women's Reception, September 2011

- Women's Leadership Conference, November 2011, Women's Resource Center
- IT Social Hours, January 2012 and March 2012
- Two Tabling events in the GT student center
- BCS Women Poster Competition, March 2012
- Pilot launch of the USA member survey

Two major events are further discussed:

Turing @ Tech, April 19-20, 2012. Turing@Tech a series of events to commemorate the centenary of mathematician and computing pioneer Alan Turing's birth, was a great success. Sponsored by the Southeast Regional Group and CACP, the celebration included a film showing, a symposium and a luncheon. Turing@Tech kicked off with a viewing of "Breaking the Code" on Thursday, April 19, 2012. Faculty and students from Georgia Tech and Emory University turned out to view this film adaptation of Hugh Whitmore's award winning play about Alan Turing's years at Bletchley Park during World War II.

On Friday, April 20, 2012, Turing@Tech culminated with a symposium and luncheon that drew attendees from colleges and schools within Georgia Tech, Furman University in South Carolina, as well as the public from the Atlanta area. The panel discussion was moderated by Georgia Tech doctoral candidate Irina Nififorova, and it included Professor Kevin Treu from Furman University, Mr. Neil Kimber from Fiserv and Fellow of BCS, Professor Ian Bogost from Georgia Tech, and Emory University graduate student Alan Gould. Each panelist discussed Alan Turing's legacy and his influence on their body of work, as well as his impact on mathematics, computer science, cryptography, robotics and developmental biology.

The Brunch & Learn, IT's for you too: the female dynamic in information technology education and careers held on February 7, 2012 was a great success with the attendance of students, faculty, staff, and professionals throughout the greater Atlanta area. The event was co-hosted by the **Southeast Regional Group** and the Center for the Study of Women, Science and Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The three guest speakers from Georgia Tech were Rénu Kulkarni, Dr. Cheryl Leggon, and Elle Creel who provided a basis for a lively discussion. Dr. Cheryl Leggon, a prominent leader in research of minority women in science and engineering, discussed the dichotomy of female underrepresentation in the technology industry despite the fact that "tech companies with more women managers have a 34% higher return on investment." Rénu Kulkarni, the Founder and Executive Director of FutureMediaSM celebrated female role models in IT such as Sheryl Sandberg, COO Facebook, and Padmasree Warrior, CTO Cisco. Elle Creel, the undergraduate student body president at the Georgia Institute of Technology, wrapped up the talks with her own experience as a young woman in a male dominant institute. She ended with advice on taking up not just female mentors, but male mentors as well, in order to maintain a balanced perspective of the scientific workforce and benefit from both points of view.

Collaborations & Meeting Presentations

Helena Mitchell

Collaborations with Georgia State University, Syracuse University, Emory University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, Oklahoma State University, SUNY at Brockport, and Gallaudet University.

Collaborations and meetings with the U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA, FEMA, IPAWS, FCC, Georgia Department of Labor, Public Broadcasting Atlanta, WGBH National Center for Accessible Media, and Atlanta Public School district office.

Collaborations with GACHI, NACCHO, Savannah Council on the Blind, Wheeled RERC, Workplace Accommodations RERC, RERC on Assistive Communications Technology.

Collaborations with Research In Motion (RIM) – Blackberry, CTIA, Nokia, Sprint, AT&T, Microsoft, and NPR.

145 technical assistance/outreach meetings not reported already. Meetings included external and internal discussions on possible collaborations; grant opportunities; public safety issues for people with disabilities; vulnerable populations and wireless technology intersections; and topics regarding national public policy agendas in advanced technologies.

Paul M.A. Baker

Reviewer, State and Local Government Review.

Reviewer, International Journal of Public Sector Management (IJPSM).

Reviewer, Information, Communication, and Society.

Reviewer, Electronic Journal of Sociology.

Reviewer, International Journal of Cases on Electronic Commerce.

Reviewer, Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences (HICSS-38) Conference.

Reviewer, International Journal of Electronic Government Research.

Collaborations with Syracuse University/BBI, Temple University, UMass-Amherst, Virginia Tech, University of Pittsburgh, NC State, Gallaudet University, Central Florida University.

SEDBTAC RERC Technology Transfer, AAC-RERC, Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions.

86 technical assistance/outreach meetings not reported already. Meetings included discussions on possible collaborations; grant opportunities; current research projects. Contacts occurred with both external and internal entities.

James White

Collaborations with international universities that included University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Shantou, Birkbeck, University of London, Toyo University, and University of Tokyo.

48 technical assistance/outreach meetings not reported already. Meetings included discussions on possible collaborations; grant opportunities; current research projects. Contacts occurred with both external and internal entities.

Nathan Moon

Chair, Government Affairs Committee, RESNA

Reviewer, *Management Research Review*

Reviewer, *SAGE Open*

45 technical assistance/outreach meetings not reported already. Meetings included items necessary to fulfill research objectives; discussions on possible collaborations and grant opportunities. Contacts occurred with both external and internal entities.

Salimah LaForce

32 technical assistance/outreach meetings not reported already. Meetings included discussions on possible collaborations; grant opportunities; public safety issues for people with disabilities; vulnerable populations and wireless technology intersections; and topics regarding national public policy agendas in advanced technologies.

SPONSORED FUNDING

Active (9)

Helena Mitchell, Ph.D., Co-PI, RERC on Wireless Technologies, U.S. Dept. of Education/NIDRR, Recompete Grant, **\$4,750,000**, 10/2011 – 9/2016. **\$950,000** for fiscal year 10/11 – 9/12.

James White, Ph.D., P.I., National Council on Disability, "Effective Communications for People with Disabilities: Before, During and After Emergencies", **\$50,000**, 5/1/12 – 3/31/13.

Paul M.A. Baker, Ph.D., P.I., Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, "USG STEM Initiative: Policy and Programmatic Support Project", **\$150,000**, 7/11 – 8/12.

Paul M.A. Baker, Ph.D., P.I., Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, "Evaluation of USG STEM Initiative", **\$40,000**, 7/11 – 8/12.

Paul M.A. Baker, P.I., Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, "External Evaluation of USG STEM Initiative", **\$60,000**, 7/11 – 8/12.

Nathan Moon, Ph.D., Lead Evaluator and Co-Principal Investigator for SciTrain University, a project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (PI: Robert Todd, CATEA), **\$12,000**. 7/11 – 9/12

Nathan Moon, Ph.D., Project Manager and Co-Investigator for a supplemental grant for SciTrain, a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation (PI: Robert Todd, CATEA), **\$12,000**, 7/11 – 6/30/12.

Paul M.A. Baker, Project Director, U.S. Department of Education, Workforce Accommodations RERC, **\$20,000**, 10/11 – 9/12.

James White, Ph.D., Research Director, Southeast Disability and Technical Assistance Center, Syracuse University/CATEA. **\$29,968**, 11/10 – 11/11 (NCE request approved).

MEMBERSHIPS, BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Helena Mitchell (11)

Member, Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults, 2011-Present.

Chair, Southeast Regional Group, USA Section, BCS-The Chartered Institute for IT, March 2010 – Present

Member, NENA Accessibility Committee, 2010-Present.

Faculty Member, Access Technology Group, GT Broadband Institute, 2008 – Present.

Invited Member, National Emergency Preparedness Coordinating Council,

Emergency Governance Workgroup, Washington, DC, 2007 – present.

Member, Southern Technology Council, Southern Growth Policy Board, 2004-present.

Board of Directors, Public Broadcasting Atlanta (WPBA-TV/WABE-FM), 2004-present.

Advisory Board, Government Technology Conference SE, 2002 – present.

Board of Directors, Georgia Radio Reading Service (GaRRS), 2001 – present.

Education and Outreach Committee, Georgia Tech/Emory Center for Engineering of Living Tissues, 2000 – present.

Member, Broadcast Education Association, Judge, Law & Policy Division, 2009-Present.

Paul Baker (13)

Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, NARRTC (formerly National Association of Rehabilitation Research Training Centers), 2010 – present.

Member, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) 2010 – present.

Principal, VGT (The Virtualities Group), 2008 – present.

Editorial Board, *Assistive Technology Journal*, 2006 – present.

Editorial Advisory Board, *International Journal of Cases on Electronic Commerce* (IJCEC), 2007 – present.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 2008 – present.

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Community Informatics*, 2009 – present.

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Work Innovation*, 2008 – present.

Ex-Officio Member, Board of Directors, RESNA, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, 2009 – present.

Member, American Political Science Association; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), 1997 – present.

Member, BCS-The Chartered Institute for IT, 2009 – present.

Member, International Communications Association, 2009 – present.

Member, Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA):
Government Affairs Committee, 2009 – present.

James White (2)

Member, International Studies Association, International Communication Section,
2004 – Present.

Associate Member, Center for Global Media Studies, Edward R. Murrow School
of Communications, Washington State University, 1998 – Present.

Nathan Moon (2)

Member, American Association for the History of Medicine, 2004 – Present.

Member, American Evaluation Association, 2010 – Present.

Jacqueline Herndon (1)

Member, International Society of Research Administrators, 1993 – Present.

Salimah LaForce (4)

Secretary, Southeast Regional Group, USA Section, BCS – The Chartered Institute
for IT, March 2010 – Present.

BCS Women Coordinator, Southeast Regional Group, USA Section, BCS – The
Chartered Institute for IT, 2011 – Present.

Member, GA Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities
and Older Adults. 2011- Present

Volunteer, Henry Grady High School Writing Center, 2010 – Present.

Kenneth Bernard(1)

Young Professional Coordinator, Southeast Regional Group, USA Section, BCS-
The Chartered Institute for IT, March 2010 – Present.