Re:Wireless - The Wireless RERC's Consumer Newsletter
January 25, 2017
Volume 8, Issue #1
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Connecting consumers of all ages and abilities to the research, development and outreach activities of the Wireless RERC.
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Welcome and Happy New Year!
This is the inaugural issue of Re:Wireless since the Wireless RERC received another 5-year round of funding, from October, 2016 to October 2021.   Our whole team (some new!) is excited to work on the research, development and outreach we laid out in our new proposal. Our new mission is to:

* To integrate established wireless technologies with emerging wirelessly connected devices and services for a transformative future where individuals with disabilities achieve independence, improved quality of life, and enhanced community participation and;
* Through an agenda of research, development, training and outreach activities, successful innovations will engage, connect and accelerate access to a dynamic inclusive wireless ecosystem.

Our partners (new and old) include research staff from the Center for Advanced Communications Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fcacp.gatech.edu],

the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fdisability.publichealth.gsu.edu],
the School for Social Work at the University of Texas Arlington [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uta.edu%2Fssw%2F],
Shepherd Center [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.shepherd.org]
and Deaf Link [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.deaflink.com]
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This newsletter is intended to keep you abreast of some of the latest activities in our research, development and training projects, share upcoming dates to events and conferences we'll be attending, and serve as an invitation to all our consumers to participate in surveys, workshops, focus groups or user testing projects we may have underway.

We have recently redesigned our website [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org]
so be sure to check it out. Subscribing to our LinkedIn [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fgroups%2F1854667]
and Twitter [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FCACPGT_wRERC]
feeds, and becoming friends with us on Facebook [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FWirelessRERC%2F]
are other great ways to stay informed of our progress!

Our center's newsletters, the Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) will continue to be issued monthly with content curated for a policy, industry, and research audience, while this one, Re: Wireless, will be released bimonthly with a focus on Wireless RERC news for consumers. This month, as we re-sort our mailing lists to represent these new focuses, you may receive both newsletters, or you may be receiving the TDPH or Re: Wireless for the first time.

We welcome you as a reader and hope you enjoy the newsletter! If you are not currently a Re:Wireless reader and were forwarded this newsletter, you can join our mailing list below or text WIRELESSRERC to 22828. In 2017, we look forward to providing you wireless resource materials better matched to your

interests.

Thank you for reading and enjoy the articles below!

Sincerely,

Ben Lippincott [mailto:ben@imtc.gatech.edu](Managing Editor)
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Georgia Institute of Technology Awarded $4.625 Million Grant

Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Communications Policy
(CACP) has been awarded a $4.625 million, five-year grant from the U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community
Living's (ACL) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and
Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). The grant funds the Rehabilitation
Engineering Research Center for Wireless Inclusive Technologies
(Wireless RERC). The center will create research and development of wireless
devices and technologies for a transformative future where individuals with
disabilities achieve improved quality of life and enhanced community inclusion.
The award is the fourth consecutive five-year grant given to the team of
researchers and engineers. In this cycle, CACP has expanded its partnerships
with other research universities including Georgia State University's Center for
Leadership in Disability (CLD), and the University of Texas Arlington (UTA),
School of Social Work. The goal of the Wireless RERC and its advisory board is
to accelerate access and promote inclusion to the wireless ecosystem with
disability stakeholders, the wireless industry, and government agencies. The
grant begins a new era of innovation built on 15 years of expertise in making
wireless technologies accessible. Read more about our grant award.
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3
A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Fgeorgia-institute-technology-awarded-4625-
million-grant]
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Research Brief - Observations of the 2016 National EAS Test

December 2016 - The Wireless RERC completed a study observing the 2016
nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and released a research
brief outlining findings and recommendations. EAS is a national warning system
in the United States established in 1997 by the FCC to alert the public of local

weather emergencies as well as national security incidents. The most recent
National EAS Test was conducted on September 28, 2016. Before this test, the
FCC provided key recommendations and technical requirements to broadcasters
based on the first national test in November 2011.

Read here for the full Research Brief on the Wireless RERC's
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3
A%2F%2Fwww.cacp.gatech.edu%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocs%2FRes
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Observations of the 2016 National EAS Test
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Upcoming Opportunity: Focus Groups on Wirelessly Connected Devices

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Inclusive
Technologies (WIT RERC) at Georgia Tech in Atlanta will be conducting focus
groups in Spring and Summer 2017. These one-hour focus groups will
investigate how people with disabilities use wirelessly connected devices and
appliances in their everyday lives. Technologies in which we are interested
include, but are not limited to, connected home devices (thermostats, light
controls, doorbells, outdoor cameras), smart speakers and screens (Amazon
Echo, Google Home, Samsung Galaxy View), and wearables (Google Glass,
Fitbit, Apple Watch).

Our focus groups seek consumers with disabilities who are users of these and
other similar devices. We will discuss the use, usability, and accessibility of
wireless devices and services. We are interested in which features make these
products important, useful, and useable, and which features make these products
difficult to use or not useful.

Focus groups will last for one hour and take place at the Georgia Tech campus in
Atlanta. If you are interested in participating in Spring or Summer 2017, please
e-mail Nathan Moon at nathan.moon@gatech.edu
[mailto:nathan.moon@gatech.edu] to be added to our recruitment list.
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Wireless RERC Principal Investigator, Helena Mitchell, named to the FCC's Disability Advisory Committee

On September 6, 2016, The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the FCC announced the anticipated renewal of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) and solicited applications for membership for the DAC's second term, which runs from December 30, 2016, through December 29, 2018. After careful consideration of all applications and nominations for membership received, 37 organizations and individuals were selected as members of the DAC for its second term. The membership consists of a diverse and balanced mix of viewpoints from organizations representing individuals with disabilities, the communications and video programming industries, the public safety industry, trade associations, academics, researchers, and other stakeholders. Read the Public Notice to see all of the names and organizations selected to the DAC.
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Ftransition.fcc.gov%2FDaily_Releases%2FDaily_Business%2F2017%2Fdb0105%2FDA-17-19A1.pdf]
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2016 SUNSpot # 01 - Data analysis from our Survey of User Needs

At some point you may have taken our cornerstone survey, the Survey of User Needs (SUN). This survey tracks the use and usability of wireless technology used by people with disabilities. We created "SUNspot" to share some of the latest findings from ongoing data collection for our Survey of User Needs (SUN). We launched the first version of the SUN in 2001. The current version (Version 5) was launched in 2015. Data collection was conducted through 2016.

The data reported here are preliminary results. Over 1300 people have completed the SUN questionnaire. 2016 SUNspot (01) addresses the following question related to ownership of wireless devices by adults with disabilities:

* Do people with disabilities own wireless devices (regular phones, smartphones and tablets) at the same rates as the general population?

Read here for full analysis of the 2016 Sunspot (01) - Wireless Device Ownership by People with Disabilities
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3

[A%2F%2Fwirelessrerc.org%2F2016-sunspot-01-wireless-device-ownership-people-disabilities]

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Text-to-911 and NG911 Policy Study

November 2016 - The Wireless RERC published a research brief [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Ftext-911-and-ng911-policy-study]summarizing] the results of a study of 9-1-1 policies at the state and local levels in relation to text-to-911 and next generation 9-1-1 (NG911) deployments in the United States. The brief is a high-level summary of state emergency communications offices and public-safety answering point (PSAP) policies regarding text-to-911 and/or NG911 as it relates to people with disabilities' access to emergency services. The purpose of the study was to identify the extent to which content regarding individuals with disabilities was included in state and local text-to-911 and NG-911 policies.

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AppFactory releases beta version of EyeRemember on Android Wear smartwatch

This app [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wirelessrerc.org%2Fappfactory-releases-beta-version-eyeremember-android-wear-smartwatch] is a follow-on version to the EyeRemember for Google Glass project. It is an electronic external memory aid for people with mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) to remember people in their community, using Bluetooth low energy (BLE) beacons. The app allows the user to associate photos, background information and notes with BLE beacons worn by members of the user's community. When the person wearing a beacon comes in proximity, the smartwatch of the person with mTBI will alert the wearer of that person's presence and will automatically display that person's information. For more information on this app, please contact John Morris at 404-367-1348.

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Save the date!

Upcoming conferences include:
* January 17 - January 21, 2017 - Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atia.org%2Fconference%2F]
* January 19, 2017 -
CanUFashoinIt [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goethe.de%2Fins%2Fus%2Fatl%2Fver%2Fen16084150v.htm](Wireless RERC staff in attendance)
* February 27 - March 4, 2017 - 32nd CSUN Assistive Technology Conference
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.csun.edu%2Fcod%2Fconference%2F2017%2Fsessions%2F]
(Wireless RERC staff in attendance)
* March 27, 2017 - Healthy Environments and Active Living (HEAL) Open House
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.healatgt.gatech.edu](Wireless RERC staff in attendance)
* October 33 - October 28, 2017 - American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine (ACRM) 94th Annual Conference
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zricrizab.0.0.xhbu8wdab.0&id=preview&r=3&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.acrm.org] (Wireless RERC staff in attendance)
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The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wireless Inclusive

Technologies (Wireless RERC) is sponsored by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under grant number #90RE5025-01-00. The opinions contained in this website are those of the Wireless RERC and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or NIDILRR.

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