

COMMUNITY OF USERS

The community of users that we are trying to address are people who are at a distance from their loved ones, be it family, friends, or lovers. Our device will allow these people to keep in closer contact, in a more personal way.

OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Users of current communication technology feel that the present forms of interaction can be somewhat impersonal and sporadic, especially over a significant distance. We are designing a wearable communication device that will include elements of audio, visual, and sensory interaction to address these problems. Our device will be always there, always connected, always at hand.

SCENARIOS BEFORE QUASI

Sample user: Gabe

Gabe is a freshman in college. He grew up in Syracuse, New York, but thanks to a scholarship is attending college at CalTech. The move was quite an adjustment for him, particularly since he left behind not only his family, but a close knit group of friends and his girlfriend from high school. Gabe has to contend with the typical pressures and stresses of the first year of college, as well as a significant time difference. Gabe's communication with his loved ones suffers greatly, even with current communication technology.



Scenario 1....Gabe's Mom

After waiting for half an hour in line at the campus bookstore, Gabe finally reaches the cashier. She rings up his textbooks and attempts to run his



debit card through the machine. She gives him a look and says, "You don't seem to have sufficient funds in your account." Panicking, Gabe calls home on his cell phone to get his mother's credit card number. The phone rings and rings, but no one answers. Dejected, he leaves a message on the answering machine about needing money, and walks out of the store empty handed.

Scenario 2....Gabe's Girlfriend, Nora

Gabe and Nora had been dating for about two years when he finally had to leave to go to college. She still had one year of high school left, but was planning on going to college in California as well. Gabe and Nora were very close and were used to seeing each other every day, both in the halls at school and after classes were over. Though they were far apart for a year, they promised each other to stay in contact. However, Gabe's college schedule was very erratic, and Nora had trouble reaching him most of the time.



One night, Nora was feeling very depressed, both about her parents' recent divorce the state of her own relationship. Lonely, she called Gabe, needing comfort. For once she actually reached him on the phone. She related everything that had been upsetting her that day, from her mother's new boyfriend to not having anyone to hang out with during lunch anymore. Finally, she broke down in

tears. Gabe was unsure how to respond. It sounded like she was crying, but what was he supposed to do from 3000 miles away? "It'll be ok," he kept repeating. "I just miss you so much," she replied through sobs. He wished that he could do something to comfort her. Feeling frustrated and inadequate, he instead made an excuse to get off the phone. He hated hearing her cry and knowing there was nothing he could do. Nora was left feeling even more isolated than before. Hearing Gabe's voice just made her realize just how far apart they really were. She hugged the teddy bear he had given her tightly and stared at his photo by her bedside until she fell asleep.

Scenario 3....Gabe's Friends

Gabe and his friends had known each other pretty much from kindergarten. Over the years they had gotten into more than their share of mischief, and so had a rich history of shared experiences that knit them together even more



closely as a group. Conversations between any of them were mainly made up of inside jokes, "remember when", and silly phrases. Most of the guys had stayed around

Syracuse after graduation, some getting jobs, some attending Syracuse University. Every so often Gabe would get an email from one of them, telling him about the wild party they had attended the night before, or what prank they had pulled lately. Reading their drunken messages always gave him a chuckle. But more than anything else, he missed sharing those experiences with them. The latest mail was about their karaoke experience the night before. What he wouldn't give to have seen that!

SCENARIOS AFTER QUASI

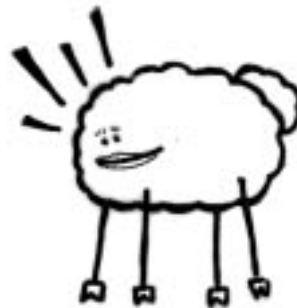
That year for Christmas, Gabe and his friends all receive Quasi Video Watches. Gabe actually doesn't mind going back to California, now that he can access his loved ones instantly.



Scenario 1....Gabe's Mom, part 2

Gabe stands in the checkout line at the bookstore yet again. He can't believe that he has to spend even more this time than last semester. Again, his card fails. Gabe resolves to buy his books online next time, but for now, he accesses his mother on the cell phone component of his video watch. He sees her shake her head when he tells her he can't afford books again this year, but she sends

him a text message of her credit card number anyway. "Thanks Mom!" he says, squeezing the wristband. This sends a squeeze to her wrist, his way of saying "I love you!"



Scenario 2...Gabe's Girlfriend, Nora, part 2

It had been a really hard day at school for Nora. Not only had she done horribly on her English test, but the swim team (which she was captain of) had narrowly lost to their biggest rivals. More than anything, she just wanted to talk to somebody. She accessed Gabe on her video watch. Just seeing his familiar face on her screen made her smile. She related the trials of her day. Gabe could see all the stress and worry on her face. He gave her wrist a little squeeze, and she broke

into a grin. "I have something for you," he said. "Hold on a second." A moment later, she heard a familiar melody start playing on her watch.



It was "their" song. "Thanks Gabe, I really needed that. You've cheered me up so much. Even though you're far away, you still feel close."

Scenario 3....Gabe's Friends, part 2

It's a Saturday night. Gabe has forsaken going out in favor of trying to finish up a huge presentation he has to give on Monday. He checks his watch. Midnight....only thirty two hours left. Just then, his friends access him on the video watch. "Dude, check this out! James is gonna swallow a live goldfish!*" Gabe uses the video capture, and watches as James does. Until about a minute later, when James



runs to the bathroom without explanation. Gabe and his friends can't stop laughing. "Good thing I recorded that, or James would never believe me when he's sober."

With this device, Gabe can not only watch or listen to events going on far away, he can interact and be a part of the experience as well. Through audio, visual, and sensory means, Gabe can make his presence felt, even far away.

*Quasi does not endorse the swallowing of live goldfish.