

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, March 18, 2019 (v. 2)

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### 1. Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 8:00am PDT via Zoom

### 2. Attendees (House)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (minutes)
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin (Turing oversight)
- Bernadette Longo
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost
- Guest: Chuck House (Key People Video Project)

Committee members not attending:

- Erik Rau
- Len Shustek
- Ursula Martin
- Tao Xie (SGB rep)

### 3. Minutes from February meeting (Almstrum)

- Corrected to include Chuck House as in attendance as a guest of the committee and approved as amended.

### 4. Budget update (Whitton, House, Levin, Len, Hutchins)

- ACM reports all looked good. The budget was scheduled to go to ACM on April 1.
- Expect official approval of the budget in June.

### 5. Status of Turing project (Levin)

- Licensing of interview with Dick Karp (from the Simons Institute) is done.
- Two interviews remain, with one scheduled for the fall. The other, with Andrew Yao, is not yet scheduled due to challenges in contacting him. David and Roy will persist.
- New interviews await approval of the recently submitted budget.
- Current year award winners should be included by the end of March.

## 6. Status of Key People videos project (House)

- In Appendix 1 is the information from Chuck's email with samples from the Cisco interviews so we can have an idea of the quality of interviews via Zoom.
  - Zoom switches focus of the video based on who is talking. Discussed whether possible for questions to come from "off screen" with audio only so the video focus remains on the interviewee.
  - ACTION: This needs to be investigated. Chuck? Bernadette?
- Chuck's preparation for the interviews:
  - Has prepared a priority listing of interviews and has sent out invitations. No interviews completed yet.
  - A guideline for "getting camera ready" to send to interviewees.
  - Recommendation: Include the Zoom "how to" information in the workshop.
- Postscript: Chuck and his wife were feted as people of the year in their 7000-person town, will be featured in the local Memorial Day Rodeo Parade. Good example of being a big fish in a small sea. Their "15 minutes".

## 7. Workshop progress (Hutchins, Yost, Longo, Tracy, Whitton)

- Accepted a total 12 projects and 14 people (See Appendix 2). Seven of the committee members will participate in the workshop.
- Hotel reservations
  - Carol assumes that the hotel reservations are proceeding (these are arranged by ACM), but will check to make sure.
  - ACTION: Carol will distribute spreadsheet of attendees and expected dates for us to double check.
- Workshop content
  - Amanda and Jeff have sent a survey to the participants. The deadline for responses is 3/19.
  - Six possible workshop components (e.g. archiving, Oral History, advice on publishing), of which the schedule can include a maximum of five.
  - The schedule will include time for the participants to present their projects.
- Schedule:
  - Sunday, May 19: Arrival
  - Monday May 20
    - Workshop 9-5
    - Workshop dinner 6:30.
  - Tuesday May 21
    - Workshop 9-noon.
    - Afternoon activity for committee, perhaps the Bakkem Museum ([thebakken.org/](http://thebakken.org/)). Julie, who works at CBI, is curator at the Bakkan.
    - Committee dinner 6:30.
  - Wednesday May 22
    - Meeting 9-5 with boxed lunch
    - Lunch on Wednesday: Anyone to invite who would be interesting to have at the lunch? People from CS or ECE who would be interested.

- What for dinner? Question is then who is staying the night on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Carol assumed people would not stay for that final night). A more informal dinner?
  - Thursday May 23
    - Return home?
    - Possibility of morning work sessions.
    - Bernadette plans to remain after the meeting to do some additional research on Edmond Berkeley.
- Preparations for the face-to-face meeting
  - Barbara will need help in assembling the agenda for the face-to-face meeting, since the April meeting will focus on the fellowships.
  - The room should have computer access during the face-to-face. Possibility of 2-3 people participating via Zoom.
  - Remote link-in would allow Roy to join remotely. Suggestion was for him to prepare a video ahead of time then answer questions during the face-to-face.
  - Chuck will invite Tom Haigh and Roy will invite David Jefferson.
  - UMN has eduroam (for those that use it).
  - If anyone plans to request archival material, should email Amanda at least one week ahead so she can prepare the relevant boxes.

## 8. Fellowships (Tao, Yost)

- Proposals due 1 April. The call: [history.acm.org/public/public\\_documents/acm\\_history\\_fellowship\\_announce.php](http://history.acm.org/public/public_documents/acm_history_fellowship_announce.php)
- The next committee meeting will last two hours so we can review the fellowships and make decisions about which ones to award.
- We received 9 student (junior) applications and 4 post-PhD (senior) applications.
  - Tao has uploaded the proposals to our committee Google folder: [drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tu0g3AcAG-2HCnJUpLgeuhnMt7g01GnV](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tu0g3AcAG-2HCnJUpLgeuhnMt7g01GnV)
  - The review criteria are in the same folder: FellowshipCriteria2019.docx

## 9. Web HC-operations (Tao, Tracy, Almstrum)

- Vicki: During Spring Break trip to New York City (third week of March), Vicki will visit ACM HQ to discuss the upcoming website changes with their web operations people.
- Kim: No progress on porting the minutes so far. We should do some planning during the face-to-face meeting in May. Kim will draft a process for moving notes from draft to public status, as well as for organization of the shared drive.

## 10. New topics

- Ursula shared the following:
  - She will make a presentation at the Computer History Museum about Ada Lovelace on March 28. She offered to extend a VIP reception invite to anyone from our committee who happens to be in the area.
  - HM the Queen made Lovelace the subject of her first Instagram post: [instagram.com/p/ButJtIMnBrV/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed](https://www.instagram.com/p/ButJtIMnBrV/?utm_source=ig_embed)

- Sachan
  - Coming to workshop and face-to-face meeting thanks to committee support. He will plan his trip this week.
  - He has proposed a series of three interviews in India and wants to discuss the budget (about \$5000) and obtain approval. The funds should be managed by ACM officials in India, with Sachan managing the project.

#### 11. Next meeting April 15, 2019, 8:00am-10:00am PST via Zoom

- Important to note in the calendar that the April meeting is scheduled for two hours.
- Daylight Saving Time / Summertime in Europe begins March 31.

#### 12. Conclusion 8:51 am PDT

## Appendix 1: Samples of Zoom videos

From: Chuck House <housec1839@gmail.com> via listserv.acm.org  
to: HISTORY@listserv.acm.org  
date: Mar 18, 2019, 9:40 AM  
subject: Zoom Videos

One of the questions from our last meeting had to do with the possible quality of Zoom interviews—lighting, positioning, etc.—since these interviews are not “studio quality”

I am attaching four interview access points, for Zoom videos made for the Cisco Heritage project, for your ‘enjoyment’ I think they illustrate adequate quality for our purposes.

- Fred Baker, one of the early network pioneers, and a key leader of the IETF organization, as well as an instrumental Cisco architect. Either video works, both are the same [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q8v6b8aiqddjf2m/AADKODdDm0lgZL2\\_rBOKzQ94a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q8v6b8aiqddjf2m/AADKODdDm0lgZL2_rBOKzQ94a?dl=0)
- Keith Fox, an early Cisco executive after a long stint at Apple. Use the video copy at the far right, labelled Fox 2 copy.mp4 Start the video at 7:15 minutes <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p8up73nizy0njnz/AABpG04FWJBUUGHauRX42ZgCa?dl=0>
- Gary Kunis, the buyer from Boeing who helped put Cisco ‘on the map’ and then he joined Cisco. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/71g9w9ciukzrxqo/AAAXBBGspBSudliddpP3CJ01Qa?dl=0>
- Jim Pelkey, a paraplegic who has done many oral histories of early network pioneers (Cerf, Kahn, Kleinrock, etc) much earlier in his career (pre-accident in fact). This one is interesting because he is an invalid, who nonetheless, was able to do a good video presence. Either video file works. The first file, Pelkey A 5 29 18 copy.mp4 shows ‘getting set up’. Pelkey B 6 19 18 copy.mp4 shows ‘the second interview (less set-up time). <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wevq0bfctid3hw9/AADdcuuKAu1Pz6tCXPJc4t0a?dl=0>

Happy to answer questions on any of this.

## Appendix 2: Participants in the May 2019 SIG Heritage workshop

Workshop announcement:

[history.acm.org/public/public\\_documents/acm\\_sigheritage\\_workshop\\_announce\\_2019.php](http://history.acm.org/public/public_documents/acm_sigheritage_workshop_announce_2019.php)

ACM/IEEE Supercomputer Conference	Kevin Paul Walsh, University of California, San Diego	Persistent multimedia archive for the ACM/IEEE Supercomputer Conference
SIGCAS	Douglas C. Schuler	New SIGCAS Historian
SIGCHI	Loren Terveen, University of Minnesota	Recover and archive SIGCHI materials
SIGCOMM	Anna Loup, USC Frances Corry, USC	<i>'Capture it While You Can:’ Revisiting SIGCOMM 99’s Technical History of the Internet</i>
SIGCSE	Briana B. Morrison, University of Nebraska Omaha	Recover and archive SIGCSE materials (50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
SIGGRAPH	Bonnie Mitchell, Bowling Green State University Jan Searleman, Clarkson University	ACM SIGGRAPH Art Show Archives, Development of an Innovative Approach to Archiving
SIGIR	Donna Kathleen Harman, retired Scientist Emeritus at NIST	Grow the ACM SIGIR “museum”
SIGITE	Barry Lunt	Research area: permanent storage of digital data, including archival projects
SIGMM	B. Prabhakaran, University of Texas at Dallas	Consistent history preservation in SIGMM
SIGMOBILE	David B. Johnson, Rice University	Recover and archive SIGMOBILE materials (25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
SIGSIM	Richard E. Nance, Virginia Tech	Computer Simulation Archive
SIGSPATIAL	Hanan Samet, University of Maryland, College Park	SIGSPATIAL history, context of gathering historical data