

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, October 21, 2019 (v. 2)

1. Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 11:00am EDT / 8:00am PDT via Zoom

2. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (minutes)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin (Turing oversight)
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Ursula Martin
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Len Shustek
- Amanda Wick
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost

Committee members not attending:

- Bernadette Longo

3. Minutes from September meeting (Almstrum)

- Accepted as is, but several small updates:
 - In Item 2, Attendance: Replaced “House” by “Owens” as the responsible person
 - In Item 6, India Oral History update: Removed empty bullet “Questions: ??”
 - In Item 12, Added link to the meeting recording

4. Status of Turing update (Levin from report)

- See Appendix 1 for Roy’s email report.
- Plan is for the Turing work to remain a part of the regular History Committee budget.
- Long-term storage question pushed ACM to finalize (Iron Mountain) with Wayne; not just for HC. This will include a process for how to add videos and other content.
- Questions
 - Where is the digital library stored (not asked) and replicated?
 - Can the Turing award videos be indexed via the digital library? YouTube appears to be the preferred place for ACM video access.
- Discussed indexing of videos; are Turing Award videos indexed? Roy does not know. Video library is being reconstructed, so status is not clear.

5. Heritage update (Almstrum, Wick)

- The Google group for SIG Heritage historians has been set up and has a few people subscribed.
- ACTION: Amanda and Vicki will begin to strategize for topics to use for seeding discussion. This will parallel updates on the website.
- ACTION: Amanda will follow up with workshop participants to encourage participation.
- ACTION: Vicki, Kim, and Amanda to talk about website set-up and preps for launching.

6. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- Have not yet been able to get all of the interviews set up, but has been making progress.
- Sachin's summary after the meeting:
 - Since the last update on the India Initiative focus has been on identifying the team to record and post process the Mr Kohli's interview. The interview will be recorded at Mr Kohli's home in Mumbai.
 - Sachin has contacted individuals who regularly use the services of teams in Mumbai for preparing promotional and other video material to identify a group to set up the equipment, record, and post-process to prepare a video stream similar in style and production quality to the ten-minute test recording and charge as per the project budget. Sachin believes this process will successfully conclude this week. If this does happen then the interview should take place in mid-November.
 - Gautam has appreciated the feedback from the History Committee and is preparing a detailed questionnaire, which will also be shared with Mr Kohli.
 - For Professor Rajaraman's interview, Sachin is inclined to use the team in Bangalore, which has recorded such interviews there for the Indian Academy of Science.
 - Sachin's first priority is Mr Kohli's interview.

7. Plan for 2020 face-to-face meeting

- Mary and Len have been in conversation.
 - If in North Carolina, best choice is March 8-9 (their spring break).
 - If at CHM in California, best possibility is April 9-10 (Good Friday weekend).
 - Which weekdays work best? Everyone seemed open to considering different options.
- Making fellowship decisions via an on-line meeting worked well for 2019, so we will again do that evaluation process during a longer Zoom meeting again, rather than at the face-to-face meeting.
- ACTION: Mary will do a "when is good" evaluation. Len will check options at CHM for March as well.

8. Fellowship (Tracy)

- In the recent past, the fellowship call has gone out in November or December, with a

deadline date of around February 15. It went out as early as September (in 2017), but most often early December. Last year the call went out in November, with a due date of April 1.

- Mary has an action to update the call to clarify several points (earlier action item).
- Timing plan:
 - Kim will distribute the call in November.
 - Deadline for submissions has been February 15. We will shift to the evening of February 16, a Sunday. “Anywhere on Earth on the day.”
 - The goal date for informing applicants of the decisions has been April 1. We decided to set this date as the first Monday after April 1.
- As mentioned under item 7, we will separate the fellowship evaluation process from the F2F. This meeting must be scheduled for late March at the latest.
- ACTION: Mary to complete update of the call for review.
- ACTION: Kim to prepare for distribution and post on the website.

9. Web work (Tracy, Almstrum)

- ACTION: Kim and Vicki to begin building up the new site starting with the old information to create a pilot. Goal is for this to be available for the November meeting.

10. ACM Award Video Project (House)

- Chuck’s summary of the work to date is in Appendix 2.
- The project is approved for three calendar years, starting in July, but it took until November to get set up. He used the first quarter to develop his target list of names and set up technology.
- Of the nine rough drafts, he has done snippets for two of them. Very doable process and will enhance value.
- Just about on schedule (19 for the year if the schedule holds). Earlier 2 per month, now up to 3 per month. 7 or 8 per quarter. On track to finishing the 72 budgeted interviews
- How many total hours of video so far? Running 1.5 or so hours. One ran 9 hours over 5 sessions. Fascinating set of stories, but 90 minutes is the preferred range.
- Some of the interviewees have commented they have never participated in an interview like this before. Not sure whether that is positive or negative.
- Are all of the interviews on video? How is the quality of the lighting? One interviewee could not figure out how to make the video work on their end. For another, the video was “lost”. For eight of the completed interviews, the lighting is good; for the other two the lighting is only OK. The hardest task in some interviews is to get the person to smile.
- Chuck’s snippet technique: He is able to see the transcript and can use the tool to grab the appropriate part. Len: This is different than what was planned using the tools Wayne has suggested, all tied to the YouTube channel. Len worries that having different approaches may cause technical hiccups down the road. Chuck’s plan is to consult with Wayne when he has completed more of the processing so they can adjust as needed.
- Chuck has found that nearly everyone he has interviewed has had experience with Zoom already, so that has been helpful.

11. New topics

- Lots going on in Europe, Ursula will keep her ear to the ground for people who could be good contributors to this committee.

12. Next meeting Monday, November 18 at 11am EST / 8am PST

13. Conclusion 10:55 am EDT / 8:55 am PDT

APPENDIX 1: Roy Levin's Turing Project update

date: Oct 18, 2019, 12:06 PM

subject: Turing update

On September 8, I sent the committee a sketch of a proposal for the next phase of the Turing work. (See ACM History Committee minutes from September 2019 for this sketch.) Since then, here is what has transpired/changed:

- The final interview of phase 1 (Joseph Sifakis) has been completed and David Jefferson will send the materials to ACM HQ as soon as Sifakis approves the transcript, which shouldn't take long.
- This completes phase 1, except for the three laureates whose interviews have been difficult to arrange. For FY20, we intend to proceed with two interviews of winners since 2015, probably Berners-Lee and Hinton. Depending on how scheduling goes, we may substitute supplemental interviews as noted in the email. We don't want to leave budget on the table.
- Regarding the "steady state", David will work with Wayne Graves at ACM HQ to obtain access to the archival digital storage available to ACM, after which David will store all the materials from phase 1 there.
- Pending the outcome of Tom Haigh's experiments with the "YouTube Studio" tools for creating video snippets, we will choose interviews for which snippets should be created. Exactly what happens will depend on what Tom learns in his experiments and perhaps how much budget we can allocate this fiscal year.

APPENDIX 2: Chuck House's ACM Award Archive Project Status report

As reported to the ACM History Committee meeting on October 21:

- Funding was approved by ACM Executive Council in 4th quarter 2018, for a three-year set of 72 interviews an (average of 6 interviews per quarter)
- First quarter 2019 (Jan-March), was spent organizing and sending invitations
- Second quarter (April-Jun) completed six interviews
- Third quarter (Jul-Sept) completed five interviews
- Fourth quarter (Oct-Dec) anticipate seven interviews completed—so far, one is done, four are scheduled

Of the 12 interviews completed to date:

- 10 are video, 2 are audio only
- 9 draft transcripts are completed, in editing stages
- 27 Key awards and positions are represented by the 12 interviewees to date
 - a. 9 Fellows
 - b. 8 Outstanding Contribution
 - c. 3 Karl Karlstrom
 - d. 3 Presidents
 - e. 2 Distinguished Service
 - f. 1 Allan Newell
 - g. 1 Nico Haberman (not ACM, but CRA prestigious)

Three potential interviewees have declined, two for health reasons

The transcript editor (GreenLight eXpress, <https://glxstudio.com>) allows for easy 'clip' or snippet creation; these are intended to be integrated with the ACM technology from Wayne Graves, but that work has not yet commenced.

Respectfully submitted
Chuck House
Project manager
October 21, 2019