ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2020 (v. 2)

1. Welcome (Owens)
- Meeting began at 11:00am EDT / 8:00am PDT via Zoom

2. Attendees (House)
- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Bernadette Longo
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Ursula Martin
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost

Guests
- Charles House

3. Minutes from April meeting (Almstrum)
- No corrections. Version 3 accepted.

4. Finances (Whitton, Rau)
- We expect to have funds remaining from this year's budget.
- Roy recommends that we repurpose uncommitted funds to cover additional work by Tom Haigh to complete additional snippets. Roy moved that we authorize Tom to invoice us for any snippets he completes between now and the end of this fiscal year (30 June) and invoice us in the current fiscal year. Erik seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Roy discussed other tasks for which Tom Haigh has responsibility, ensuring creation of the biographical webpages for new Turing Award winners, as well as editorial work on the website. Tom's work for about the past five years has been based on a letter of agreement with the Committee. In the beginning, the editorial stipend was based on the assumption that there would be one winner per year. The trend, however, has been multiple Turing Award winners per year. Tom has suggested that the fee should vary based on the number of winners per year. Roy recommends that we should update the letter of agreement to formalize this proposal. Up to now, the fee for editorial work and

commissioning the profiles has been $2500 per Turing Award. (If Tom writes the bio himself, there is no additional remuneration; if someone else writes the bio, then there is an additional honorarium for them.) Roy moved to update the agreement with Tom to include an additional $1000 for each additional Turing Award winner in a particular year. We must also decide whether to begin this immediately for the current fiscal year. Roy moved to adjust the memo of agreement with Tom Haigh to be a sliding fee, based on $2500 per Turing Award year and increasing by $1000 for each additional individual in a particular year. Bernadette seconded. Passed unanimously.

- Barbara brought up. Roy explained current technical challenges and what Tom is striving to change in collaboration with the ACM HQ IT individuals. Tom is also working toward an official YouTube channel for the snippets.

5. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- Roy: Tom is working with ACM to successively improve the set-up with the snippets.
- Barb has raised her concerns about navigability of the Turing website, including difficulties in locating the snippets as well as the list of interviews. Barb recommends that the Committee direct a note of concern to ACM IT, emphasizing that this is a high priority for ACM. Roy explained the communication process Tom Haigh has followed and some of the limitations. Roy will follow up on this.
- Bernadette brought up the Diffe interview as a good example for how the snippets will be presented. Several others pointed out different ways to navigate the website. It is not currently possible to see all of the interviews and different ways of looking at it (chronological, alphabetical, etc.) Currently must go to each interviewee to find the interview.
- Getting the interviews uploaded is another challenge. ACM has had a disk with about 15 interviews since November. The current plan seems to be to send the disk to the company doing the storage. Roy feels that the back channel is the most effective approach and working through a cascade of problems.
- The Fred Brooks interview has been completed and edited. David Jefferson has the video in hand and the transcript is nearly finished. The next step will be to give it to ACM HQ IT to upload.
- The interview with Dana Scott has been set up. It will be recorded remotely. No date set, but expect it will take place during the summer.
- David Brock confirmed that the agreement between CHM and ACM HQ has been finalized.
- Tom Haigh had sent an email summarizing the status of the snippet work:
  - He has posted snippets for the Adleman profile, which completes snippet production for the six profiles authorized from the current FY budget.
  - He has drafted the profiles for the three 2018 winners (deep learning) and obtained some informal reviews from specialists in the area. His next step would be to revise based on their comments and send to the awardees for approval.

6. Covid-19 Planning

- Barbara brought up our next workshop and whether it will be face-to-face or all on-line. How we do the workshop will depend in part on the content. One idea of a potential theme was Oral Histories in the Days of Covid-19.
- Roy shared the practice of having recorders at both ends on an on-line interview in addition to recording it via Zoom. The recording function on a smartphone can serve this purpose.
- Erik suggested beginning to looking at presenters from institutions such as Columbia University or OHA mid-Atlantic for remote consultation. Mary Marshall 's name came up. Baylor, Berkely, and UCLA all have programs.
- The pandemic is clearly changing the way conferences in various disciplines are being conducted.
- Chuck feels there were technical challenges with about 10% of the interviews. One interview of about 9 hours was phone only.
- Thinking about workshop content:
  - Mary: Most of the attendees would probably be absolute novices in terms of doing an oral hstory. Topics could include the mechanical stuff and how to set the questions.
  - Ursula is working with the Bodleian Library in Oxford on oral histories. They too want audio backup using a high quality machine (not an iPhone), to be certain they are collecting an archival quality recording
- Talked about creating a "loaner" kit. Any such collection of physical items would have to be quarantined for a certain length of time between borrowers.   Mary Marshall Clark has talked about equipment at our workshop a couple of years ago. It was high-quality and pricey, so it would be necessary to share. And disinfect!

7. Heritage update (Almstrum, Wick)

- No progress to report at this meeting. The intention is to create the White Paper, which will serve to structure the effort in terms of both tasks and the website.

8. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- Interview planning for Professor V. Rajaraman
  - Professor Hehas agreed to be interviewed remotely. He has agreed to be interviewed by Professor Pankaj Jalote, whom he knows personally and who has had a professional life similar to his. Pankaj has also agreed.
  - Professor Rajaraman would prefer if major themes and specific issues to be touched be made known to him possibly in the form of specific questions.
  - Pankaj and Sachin are now working on the list of questions.
- Another issue he must work out is to identify the platform that works best in the Indian environment.
- Sachin's assessment is that they should be in a position to record the interview with Professor Rajaraman sometime in late July.

9. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Appendix A gives Chuck's summary of the statistics for the interviews collected to date (37 of 72 commissioned for the 3-year project).
- The tool Chuck is using makes it straightforward to extract snippets and stitch together stories.
- Barbara brought up the question of backing up the interviews. Chuck has three separate copies and the tool with the snippet tools has copies of all of the video (not the audio). Barbara wondered whether either the CHM or Babbage would be a good place to keep back-up copies. Chuck will pursue this question and report back.

10. Web work (Tracy)

- Minutes for 2020 and 2019 are now available on the website. Kim used a stack model so the newest items are on top. This provides a starting structure.
- Kim would still like to receive additional feedback about the site in order to guide future refinement.
- Once the Turing videos are available, would like to also highlight them on the HC website.

11. Subcommittee roles

- Barbara had circulated a spreadsheet that listed initial sub-committee roles for 2020-2021.
- Appendix B gives the final sub-committee assignments after discussion.
- Two questions:
  - Will Len Shustek remain involved as a guest on any of these sub-committees?
  - Are we missing any other roles or sub-committees?

12. Upcoming meetings
Monday, June 15, 2020, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom
Monday, July 20, 2020, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

13. Conclusion 12:00 pm EDT / 9:00 am PDT

Appendix A Status of the ACM Award Video Project, May 18, 2020

Reported orally at the meeting by Chuck House. Numbers amended slightly in the version emailed for inclusion here in the minutes.

- By end of May, 37 interviews will have been conducted (out of 72 commissioned)
- The project is on schedule for this 3-year project, although none of the material has yet been turned in to Wayne Graves at ACM.
- Still missing interviews with awardees of the ACM/IEEE Eckert-Mauchly, ACM Lawler, ACM Thacker, ACM Policy, and ACM Prize awards.

Statistics for the 37 interviews conducted to date:
- 34 ACM Fellows (awards.acm.org/fellows)
- 11 NAE members (National Academy of Engineering, nae.edu/MembersSection.aspx)
- 1 NAS member (National Academy of Sciences, nasonline.org/about-nas/membership/)
- 13 IEEE Fellows (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, ieee.org/membership/fellows/)
- 10 CRA awardees (Computing Research Association, cra.org/about/membership/)
- 4 SIAM Fellows (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, siam.org/prizes-recognition/fellows-program)
- 7 Anita Borg awardees
- 10 ACM Outstanding Contribution awardees (awards.acm.org/outstanding-contribution/)
- 6 ACM Athena Lecturer winners (women.acm.org/acm-w-athena-lectures/)
- 6 ACM Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice awardees (awards.acm.org/kanellakis)
- 5 ACM Ken Kennedy awardees (awards.acm.org/kennedy)
- 5 SIAM/ACM Prize in Computational Science and Engineering winners (awards.acm.org/computational-science)
- 5 ACM Distinguished Service awardees (awards.acm.org/distinguished-service)
- 5 ACM Past Presidents (acm.org/about-acm/past-presidents)
- 2 ACM/AAAI Allan Newell awardees (awards.acm.org/newell)
- 2 ACM Presidential awardees, one of them twice (awards.acm.org/president)
- 1 ACM Karl Karlstrom Outstanding Educator winner (awards.acm.org/karlstrom)
- 1 ACM Grace Murray Hopper winner (awards.acm.org/hopper)

Appendix B HC Committee sub-committee assignments for 2020-2021

- Turing Oversight
  - Chair: Roy Levin
  - Members: David Brock
  - Contractors: Tom Haigh, David Jefferson
- SIG Heritage
  - Chair: Vicki Almstrum
  - Members: Carol Hutchins, Kim Tracy, Amanda Wick
- Finance
  - Chair: Mary Whitton
  - Members: Erik Rau
- Fellowships
  - Chair: Kim Tracy
  - Members: Bernadette Longo, Ursula Martin, Erik Rau, Mary Whitton, Jeff Yost
- History of Fellowships
  - Chair: Vicki Almstrum
  - Members: David Brock, Ursula Martin, Erik Rau, Kim Tracy, Jeff Yost
- ACM Key Awards Video project
  - Chair: Carol Hutchins
  - Members: David Brock, Mary Whitton
  - Contractor: Chuck House
- India project
  - Chair: Sachan Maheshawari
  - Members: David Brock, Ursula Martin
- Website
  - Chair: Kim Tracy
  - Members: Vicki Almstrum, Bernatdette Longo, Amanda Wick