

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, October 19, 2020 (v. 1)

1. Welcome (Owens)

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

2. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Bernadette Longo
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick

Not present

- Ursula Martin
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

3. Minutes from September meeting (Almstrum)

- Minutes accepted without changes.

4. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- Tom is making great progress with the snippets. He reported in an email on October 15 that he had completed another four interviews (Reddy, Rabin, Knuth, and Tarjan), leaving eight with videos but not snippets. He is hopeful he can complete the snippet work this calendar year. Tom reports that viewership has ticked up slightly – 1,243 views in the last 28 days.
- The retrospective talk by Allen Newell is now posted and Tom has extracted several snippets, which are on the website. Roy suggested that the first snippet can be of special interest.
- The long-delayed interview with Dana Scott is now underway and is being done in several segments. The interviewer (Gordon Plotkin) is in Edinburgh, while Dana is in Berkeley. At this point, it is unclear how many sessions this will include. This interview is the last of the Phase 1 interviews Roy expects.

- Phase 2 of the project began with the previous year's budget. This included a line item for conducting two or three interviews in the traditional manner. ACM has indicated they want the History Committee to continue developing these interviews, but that the work will now be part of the Committee's annual budget, rather than a special project.

5. New Project: Preservation Outreach

- We discussed the call for materials in the context of the Turing project and the ACM Awards project. Last month we had an action item to produce a call for relevant materials to post in CACM. Roy produced a draft prior to the meeting, which led to a good deal of discussion on the HC mailing list.
- Need to come up with a good name for this project.
 - ACM Award Winners Missing Gems?
 - Preservation Outreach? (For now at least, we will call this project by this name.)
- For the ad itself
 - Must decide the format. A box ad? A shorter or longer article?
 - Carol suggested looking in CACM for announcements with a similar flavor.
 - Roy pointed out that this is analogous to a call for papers.
 - We are only seeking information, not the collections themselves. A concern is that many "one off" ideas could come in.
- Need to be prepared for the responses, so a targeted request might be the smarter strategy. Important that the wording of the ad does not promise more than we are able to deliver.
- Through discussion, we came up with the following ideas:
 - Describe what we want
 - Provide a way for individuals to submit information regarding what they have
 - HC vets offers, responds appropriately: Thanks but no thanks; send on to so-and-so; etc.
 - Clear that there must be selectivity. We are seeking material that is unique.
 - Later, could distribute an announcement via SIG newsletters to cast the net more widely.
 - Further down the road, we could also design a widget to share with other organizations (such as SIGs) for their websites.
- Barbara's recap: A two-pronged approach.
 - A teaser with no promises for CACM
 - As we better understand what we really want, refine the description.
- Amanda: Looking down the road, we must consider how to fund the processing of collections and ensure that appropriate and qualified people are available. At many institutions (such as CBI), collections are not being accepted right now due to COVID.
- ACTION: Bernadette will develop a 30-word call and circulate.
- ACTION: Amanda, David, and Erik will discuss options for the back-end processing, as they have the most experience judging what is of interest.

6. Web work (Tracy, Almstrum, Wick)

- ACTION: Vicki is collecting concerns regarding help we need from ACM IT. Roy and Kim will share information and Vicki summarize in a draft document, which will then be circulated for comment and next steps.
- While discussing the Preservation Outreach Project, David suggested creating a webpage as the Preservation Outreach home and status indicator. Everyone should be considering ideas for the information that should appear on this page so Kim can begin fleshing out a page for the History Committee website.

7. Fellowship follow-up and call (Tracy, Rau)

- ACTION: Kim will ping Mary for the updated call. The content should be similar to the one we distributed in 2020. The primary change is to make clear required follow-up and deliverables.
- The call will go out in late November.
- ACTION: Fellowship committee must go through the materials regarding current award winners and consider follow-up actions.

8. International (Martin)

- Deferred.

9. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- Sachan reported that there has been progress. An additional recording session has been completed. He plans to share what he has within a few days. He anticipates two more sessions at this point.

10. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Deferred.

11. Upcoming meetings

Monday, November 16, 2020, 11:00 am EST via Zoom

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

