

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, January 18, 2021 (v. 1)

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### Welcome (Owens)

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

### 1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (late arrival)
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Bernadette Longo
- Ursula Martin (early departure)
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick (late arrival)
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

#### ***Not present***

- David Brock
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy

### 2. Minutes from November + December meetings (Almstrum)

- The November 16, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.
- The December 21, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.
- Vicki has updated the HC Operations folder to add a folder for agendas + minutes for 2021. She has also moved the earlier years' minutes into a separate folder.

### 3. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- We discussed the draft Roy had prepared with an announcement about use of the materials in education. Current draft included as Appendix A. Additional comments encouraged to further refine the content.
- ACTION ITEM: Barb will distribute the announcement on the SIGCSE list.
- There has been good progress with the Dana Scott interview, which is being done in shorter sessions based on Dana's wishes. There have been three so far, there will be at least one more. Roy anticipates all of the parts should be completed by June 2021.
- Ed Clark passed away in December, listed as complications due to Covid. The project never succeeded in getting an interview from Ed, so this is one we will never collect.

Fortunately, the project has interviewed his two co-winners for that award, but that is not the same story.

- Barbara asked about interviews that might be “out there” that could be adapted for the Turing website. This is related to the “Preservation Initiative”, so we returned to this point later in the meeting. Barbara clarified that she was thinking specifically about any existing interviews with Ed Clark.
- In the context of “other” sources of historical information, Ursula mentioned a project at Carnegie Mellon to collect and archive materials about their history.
- Roy asked about the status of budget planning for FY 2021-22. Mary and Erik are in process with discussions about the budget. The committee has not yet received official guidance for preparing the next budget. Among the committee’s obligations are to pay interviewers and manage the Turing project. This year, work on the video snippets represented a good chunk of the Turing project budget, some of which was reallocated from the interview portion of the budget.
- Regarding the snippets: Tom Haigh succeeded in creating 157 snippets from 35 Turing award interviews. Roy has reviewed some snippets from interviews he conducted and is impressed with how well Tom pieced together the snippets.
- ACTION ITEM: Budget update from Mary and Erik. In part, Roy needs to know about remaining funds for this fiscal year in order to develop a draft budget as the basis for planning the new year’s budget for the Turing project. This will help planning.

#### 4. Web work + Heritage Project (Tracy, Almstrum, Wick)

- Ursula provided a number of suggestions via an email, given in Appendix B, with ideas related to international issues. She visualized these ideas as contributing to the SIG Heritage white paper. She will expand on these ideas as she gets the opportunity to review the draft of the white paper.
- Amanda reported ideas from the brainstorming session she and Vicki had the previous Friday. The details of her discussion are captured in Appendix C.
- Barbara emphasized the importance of keeping the project from becoming too broad, given that it is already a large project. Vicki responded that the goal is to develop the materials that can be easily adapted to additional situations, but with the SIGs as the key focus during the development of the project.
- No other information on other web work, as Kim was absent from this meeting.

#### 5. Fellowship (Tracy, Rau)

- Fellowship proposals are due on February 15 (the same date as the next meeting).
- ACTION ITEM: Kim and Erik need to provide an update on status of the Fellowships.

#### 6. International (Martin, Maheshwari)

- No activity reported beyond Ursula’s list of suggestions for the SIG Heritage project.

#### 7. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- An updated version of Chuck’s presentation from last month is located in Appendix D (with the PowerPoint file stored in the directory for the minutes).

- The key page regards the proposal for continued work during the 2021-2022 budget cycle. He recommends a second phase for the project, which would span three more years and result in an additional 72 interviews, with 48 of those more “recent” (award granted 2014-2023). Chuck proposes to continue as the project leader, with the same level of funding and the work to begin in January 2022. The budget is negotiable, as he feels the most important point is to continue this work and avoid having a 1-year gap.
- The committee members voted on this proposal and it carried unanimously.
- ACTION ITEM: Mary and Roy will develop a proposal for this as another special project to support the next phase of the ACM Award Video Series project.

## 8. Preservation Outreach (Longo)

- Referring back to the Turing project action item, we talked about the announcement intended for CACM and how to state it appropriately.
- The announcement Bernadette had drafted is located on our Google Drive in a folder called Preservation Outreach.
- Roy recalled from the earlier discussions a concern about the amount of material this could turn up.
- Bernadette suggested that the SIG Heritage project and other projects might provide at least part of the context for this effort. Before we publish a call for additional materials, the committee must have a strategy for how to respond as suggestions and queries arrive. Where do we direct ideas that come in? How do we accept ideas without making people feel rejected?

## 9. Podcast contributions (Hutchins)

- Carol said that budget concerns may affect her idea of creating interview kits.
- She would like to establish contact with someone at ACM with whom she can explore the library structure for audio and video materials. Seems like whatever ACM does with podcasts will be of interest in how oral history material will be handled.
- We talked about the important connection of this work with the SIG Heritage project.
- ACTION ITEM: Carol, Erik, Jeff will create a proposal document to start the conversation.

## 10. Other business

- ACTION: Vicki will work with the IT letter so it is being prepared to send to ACM HQ.
- For February, the budget and the fellowships will be two important items for discussion.

## 11. Upcoming meetings

Monday, February 15, 2021, 11:00 am EST via Zoom

## 12. Conclusion 12:00 pm EST / 9:00 am PST

## Appendix A: Draft of Turing snippet announcement for SIGCSE

**Roy shared this draft via email as Version 2 of the announcement:**

*A notice intended to be sent to SIGCSE for inclusion in their newsletter, though with modest editing it could reach the broader audience of CACM.*

The ACM History Committee, as part of its ongoing project to capture oral histories of A. M. Turing Award laureates, has augmented approximately 35 laureates' web pages with 157 short video snippets taken from their oral history interviews. These snippets, curated by Thomas Haigh, highlight the work and technical outlook of the laureates; as such, they can provide insight to educators and their students into the perspectives of ACM's most prestigious award winners. The snippets appear inline on the laureates' web pages, accessible at <https://amturing.acm.org/alphabetical.cfm>; the complete list appears at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfeDqjZu\\_8l8NvorWqyEn5g/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfeDqjZu_8l8NvorWqyEn5g/videos).

Many of the snippets can directly support (real or virtual) classroom needs, for example: Leslie Lamport explaining the bakery algorithm, Joseph Sifakis defining model checking, Martin Hellman defining public key encryption, Richard Karp explaining P and NP, Juris Hartmanis on the invention of complexity classes, Tony Hoare on quicksort, Shafi Goldwasser explaining a zero-knowledge proof, and Barbara Liskov on the Liskov Substitution Principle.

Please avail yourself of these snippets and spread the word with colleagues.

## Appendix B: Ideas for International Outreach

From Ursula Martin, Fri, Jan 15, 2:49 AM

Ursula suggested the following points for included in the developing SIG Heritage white paper to ensure attention to international activities. A number of SIGs played an important early role in the international research ecosystem, especially before the days of the ready availability of information through the internet. SIGs might watch for the presence or absence of the following in publications or in archived records:

- Early international members, especially in leadership roles
- international participation through publications, prize winners
- International participation in SIG events
- SIG representation at international events
- Representation of international research activities in publications and newsletters
- SIG role in international organisations, including the attitude of SIG leadership toward international leadership roles and issues: welcoming, hostile, confrontational, consensual, passive, proactive, neutral, US-boosterism, etc.
- International leadership, for example, building consensus around terminology or authoritative participation in standards bodies
- Involvement and/or non-involvement in political or controversial international matters: responses to guidance from US government; participation by countries regarded as enemies, etc

## Appendix C: Ideas Amanda shared about SIG Heritage

During the meeting, Amanda shared a number of ideas about the SIG Heritage project. The goal is to provide guidance to SIGs, in particular, in the process of documenting their own histories.

Points that Amanda brought out:

- We are considering what the website will contain.
- The landing page will summarize the history of the SIGs within the ACM, including an interactive timeline with audio-visual material and textual content.
- Links to the SIG history pages, including our exemplars and descriptions of the results to date.
- The toolbox as Amanda described it has roughly five parts.
- First, a mission or manifest about what it means to participate in the SIG Heritage project? Each participating SIG would commit to a pledge, for example:
  - *Recognizing that history is important and that the history of our organization is critical to understanding the history of computing and the ACM, we pledge to document, preserve, and make accessible the historical records of our organization in collaboration with ACM and the History Committee.*
- To join the SIG Heritage project, a SIG would identify their own SIG historian. This representative would take the pledge and “join the charge”.
- Amanda will work with a few folks to create a one-pager describing what to keep, what not to keep, what does not matter, what should be transferred to an archive. Thinking of this in terms of archives, museums, and self.
- A decision tree to guide SIGs in the “should I keep this” “should I transfer this” process.
- A “submit question” form to ask questions or request consulting services.
- Bibliography of resources (starting from from the archiving workshop).
- Amanda and Vicki had reviewed some of the older SIG Heritage documents to begin deciding how to adapt it for current efforts.
- Good to begin at the 20,000ft level to ensure buy-in, then drilling into the finer points. Good to have a lever of accountability. The History Committee is working in collaboration with SIGs and other groups. Purposely broad to allow the results to be usable in as many aspects of the organization as possible.

## Appendix D: Updated report on the ACM Awards Interview Project

Chuck distributed this updated version of his PowerPoint document on January 18. The PowerPoint document is in the meetings folder for this meeting. The images here are page-by-page screenshots from the report.

# ACM Award Interviews project

## 2020 Year-end Status report and request for follow-on funding

Chuck House  
January 18, 2021

### Immediate Issue for ACM HC

- We need to file 'soon' to be part of 2021-2022 Fiscal Budget
- If we miss this cycle, there will be at least a one-year gap
- I propose a simple 'second phase' for this project, which is titled the ACM Awards Archive project

### Next phase identical to the first phase

- 72 new interviews (when completed, ACM HC will have 45% of living awardees)
- 48 of them to be 'recent' (2014-2023)
- Same project leader (Chuck House)
- Same costs (\$336,000 over 3 years)
- Costs begin January, 2022 (skewed slightly from ACM annual budget)

## ACM Award Winners (by Key Award)

Note: 72 Turing Aw

(handled separately)

Award Name	Total Awards	Living Awardees	non-Turing	ACM Int'v's 1/1/21	New awards past 3 years
• Athena Lecturer	15	13	7	3	
• Distinguished Service	50	24	11	3	
• Grace Murray Hopper	47	43	7	4	
• Paris Kanellakis	50	42	7	6	
• Karl Karlstrom	30	26	5	3	
• Eugene Lawler	13	13	0	1	
• Outstanding Contribution	50	46	14	3	
• Policy	2	2	1	2	
• Presidential	24	20	5	5	
• Presidents (elected, not awards)	38	21	6	2	
• Prize in Computing	14	14	0	5	
• Thacker	1	1	0	1	
<b>• Totals</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>63*</b>	<b>38</b>	

## ACM "shared" Award Winners (by Award)

Award Name	Total Awards	Living Awardees	non-Turing	ACM Int'v's 1/1/21	New awards past 3 years
<b>ACM/IEEE</b>					
• Eckert-Mauchly	42	26	1	3	
• Ken Kennedy	12	12	6	3	
<b>ACM/AAAI</b>					
• Allen Newell	28	22	2	4	
<b>SIAM/ACM</b>					
• Prize in CS and Eng'g	16	16	5	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Totals both pages</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>77*</b>	<b>49</b>	

\*57 Individuals, some w 2+ awards

### ACM Award honorees interviewed to date

Award	\$\$\$	#	Qual	Int'v	Award	\$\$\$	#	Qual	Int'v
<b>PRIZE</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Eckert-Mauchly</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>
Thacker		100	1	1	Ken Kennedy			5	12
Hopper		35	47	41	Lawler			5	13
Athena		25	15	13	SIAM	82		63	12
		77	69	14					16
Award	\$\$\$	#	Qual	Int'v	Award	\$\$\$	#	Qual	Int'v
<b>Kanellakis</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Distinguish'd</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>
Karlstrom		10	30	25	Outstand'g C		0	49	42
Newell		20	28	22	Presidential		0	26	22
Policy		10	2	2	Prexy	0		38	18
		109	89	15		163		107	36

### ACM Awards that this project does not include

<b>Turing</b>	<b>\$1 M</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>CSTA Hi School</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Covered by ACM HC Turing interviews					<b>Cutler/Bell</b>				
<b>SW Sys</b>	<b>\$35K</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Bell HPC</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
~1.9K/ea					~0.5 ea				
"Teams" Might be worth inclusion later					<b>IPC Fellow</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
					<b>PhD Dissert</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
					young researchers, no established career				
<b>SIGs</b>	<b>varies</b>	<b>~800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FELLOWS and Distinguished MEMBERS</b>				
SIG Awards project will cover this area									



# How do you prioritize?

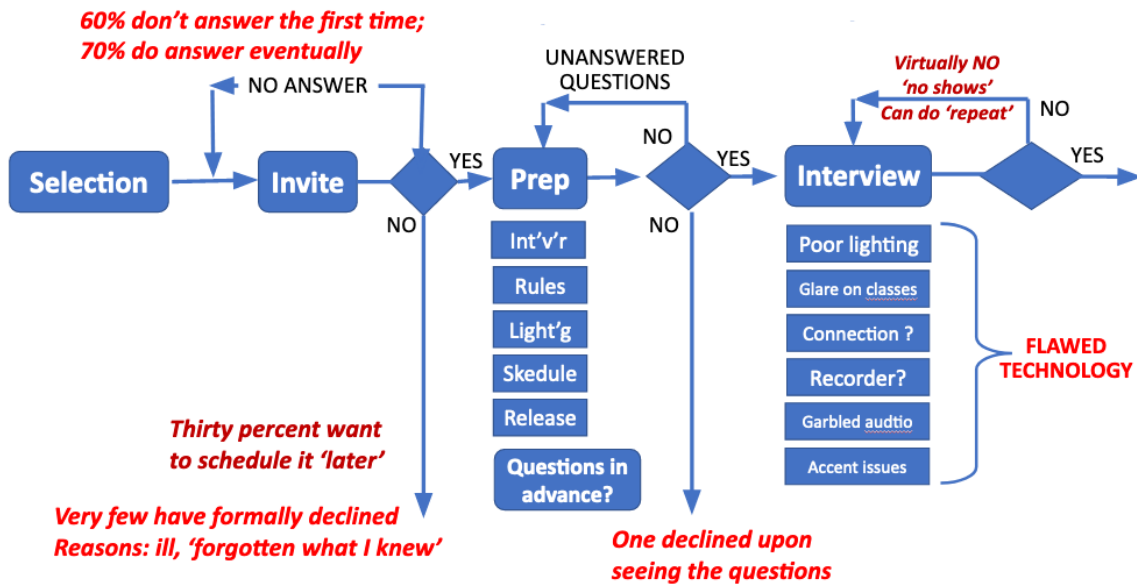
- Age (have to hurry with some of these folk)
- “Value” of the award (\$\$\$)
- Individual vs. group

431 awards  
 332 ‘candidates’  
 263 true Candidates  
 54 interviewees (77 awards)

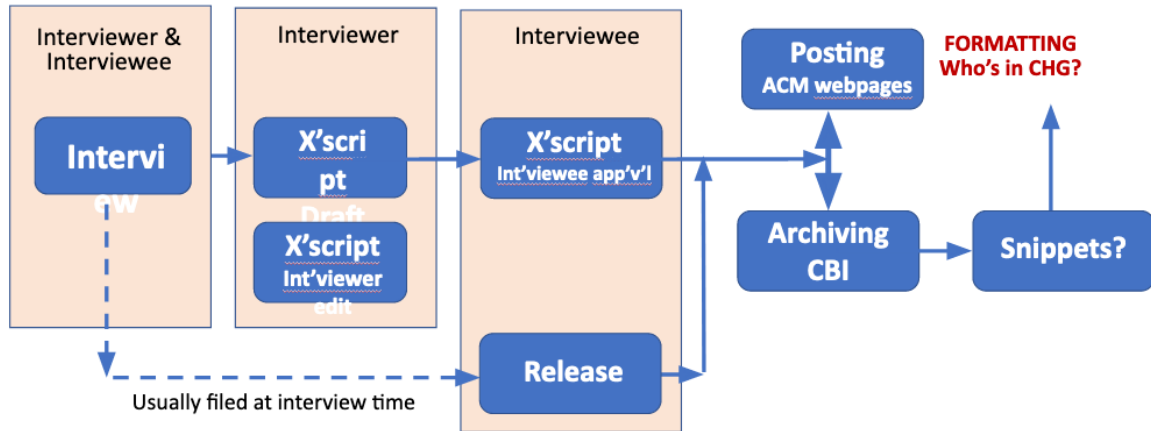
- ACM only vs. co-sponsored
- Total number of awards
- Number of extant interviews other places

- Outside ‘counsel’ (e.g. ACM ExeCom and Staff, ACM HC, friends)
- Interviewee Desire
- Interviewer preference

## The Process, once an interviewee is selected



# The Process, once a video interview exists



## Individuals

7 / 16 CATEGORIES shown here  
 47 Individuals (58 aw)  
 57 Indiv total (77 aw)

### Presidents 6/18/38

Stephen Bourne    Dame Wendy Hall  
 Peter Denning    Maria Klawe  
 Adele Goldberg    Barbara Simons

### Outstand'g Contribution 14/42/49

Valerie Barr    ~~Dame W Hall~~  
 Hal Berghel    Jack Minker  
~~Steve Bourne~~    Bill Poucher  
 Ed Coffman    ~~Barbara Simons~~  
 Tom DeFanti    Chris Stephenson  
~~Peter Denning~~    ~~Moshe Vardi~~  
 Frank Friedm.    David Wise

### Distinguish'd Svc 11/25/50

Rusina Bajcsy  
~~Hal Berghel~~  
~~Ed Coffman~~  
~~Peter Denning~~  
~~Mary Jane Irwin~~  
 Ed Lazowska  
 Michael Ley  
 Ron Perrott  
 Mateo Valero  
 Telle Whitney  
 Reinhard Wilhelm

### Athena Lecturer 7/13/15

Elisa Bertino  
 Deborah Estrin  
 Mary Jane Irwin  
 Judith Olson  
 Jennifer Rexford  
 Jennifer Widom  
 Kathy Yelick  
 Shafi Goldwasser (Turing)  
 Karen-Sparck-Jones (deceased)

### Kanellakis 7/40/49

Robert Brayton  
 Corinne Cortes  
 Piotr Indyk  
 Kurt Mehlfhorn  
 Phil Rogaway  
 Hanan Sabat  
 Moshe Vardi  
 9 Turing Winners

### Grace M Hopper 7/41/47

Pedro Felzenszwalb  
 Jeffrey Heer  
 Amanda Randles  
 Omer Reingold  
~~Jennifer Rexford~~  
 Tim Roughgarden  
 Ted Shortliffe

### KenKennedy 6/12/12

Sarita Adve  
 Francine Berman  
 Jack Dongarra  
 Jeffrey Fox  
 William Gropp  
~~Kathy Yelick~~

# Schedule & Costs

