ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2021 (v. 1)

Welcome (Owens)

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

1. Attendees (Owens)

- David Brock
- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Carol Hutchins
- Ursula Martin
- Mary Whitton
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest) — left early

Not present

- Roy Levin
- Sachin Maheshwari

2. Minutes from January and February 2021 meetings (Almstrum)

- January 18, 2021 minutes: Accepted
- February 15, 2021 minutes: Accepted

3. Committee membership changes (Owens)

- Barb says that we have two vacancies in the committee, that we need not fill both.
- Barb pointed out we should strive to balance committee membership with respect to backgrounds: ACM community; Computer History community; academic; non-academic; international; gender. The goal of this balance is to ensure a broad range of viewpoints.
- Kim brought up the question whether there are other museums and institutions that could have candidate members for our committee.
- The annual report lists the year that each member joined and the time remaining in their position.
- Vicki added a folder in the ACM Operations drive for membership, where we can build our history of membership and any discussions of potential members. Kim has a page on the website that shows the
- ACTION ITEM FOR ALL: Look within and beyond our respective communities to consider potential members who can strengthen the committee's membership.

4. Budgets, finanances (Whitton, Rau)

- We are in a waiting period to hear back about the budget.
- Mary distributed the document "HistoryComm_FY2022_BudgetRequest.pdf" (located in the folder ACM-History Operations /Finances/FY2022).
- Barb thanked Mary, Erik, Roy, and Chuck for their work in preparing and submitting the budget and supporting materials.

5. Fellowship (Tracy, Rau)

- Mary mentioned that the fellowship awards under discussion will be paid out of the FY2021 budget (this year's money).
- Kim explained the process used by the fellowship subcommittee and how they developed the rating sheet with each member's "top five". The criteria included relationship to ACM, potential for success, and value of the contribution.
- Kim reviewed the five awards the committee recommends:
- We discussed how the fellowship relates to the Heritage project and the budget. Erik explained the current distribution in the proposed budget.
- The committee voted to approve these five projects.
  - Don Gotterbarn, East Tenn. State (emeritus), ACM role in evolving the understanding of computing professional responsibility ($2,700)
  - Zach Loeb, Univ. of Penn., Y2K Oral History ($3,970)
  - Bonnie Mitchell, Bowling Green St. Univ, and Jan Searleman, Clarkson University, SIGGRAPH History Online Archives, design and development ($4,000)
  - Kanyinsola Obayan, MIT, Surulere technology cluster (Nigeria) ($4,000)
  - Gloria Townsend, DePauw Univ., ACM-W history ($1,455)
- ACTION ITEM: Kim will organize preparing letters for both the recipients and the non-recipients. Barbara had prepared a template and shared it with the subcommittee.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will coordinate with Kim to update the historical information.
- Carol shared that the subcommittee noted points they plan to update on the 2022 call.

6. IT Support letter (Almstrum)

- This is still pending for a variety of reasons, hopes there will be a draft to distribute before the next meeting.
- Vicki thanked Carol for sharing the report from the Digital Library task force, which provides some ideas for how to word and support our message.

7. Web work (Tracy)

- Kim has kept up with the regular maintenance work on the website.
- He has not heard back from ACM IT regarding material he still needs to import from the old site.

8. Heritage Project + Preservation Outreach (Almstrum, Wick)

- The White Paper is still in process. Vicki has been considering how to restructure the project and expects to continue the work from a different point of view.

- Amanda has gathered some resources, including two flowcharts she developed for the SIGGRAPH webinar she presented at later in the week after our February meeting. These will become a part of the SIG Heritage "tool kit".
- Mary asked when the SGB will meet again and how we are keeping them engaged. Kim, who is our SGB representative, answered that there has not been a meeting recently. Mary's concern is to keep the SIG chairs informed about the SIG Heritage work.

9. International (Martin, Maheshwari)

- Ursula questioned having a separate agenda item or committee called International, given that we should strive to include the international perspective essentially in all of our projects. The main reason we added "International" as a separate point was to ensure that we do not miss this aspect. A key goal was to avoid being US-centric.
- Vicki mentioned participating in the session "Improving Geographic Diversity at the SIGCSE Technical Symposium". SIGCSE has shifted in the past few years to the term "Global", rather than "International", when they discuss participation.
- We agreed our committee will use the term "Global" rather than "International".
- We pondered over what the ACM is doing, given that the issue is not specific to the History Committee.
- Erik described efforts by SHOT to reach out to other regions, such as Asia and South America. The project included innovative approaches for regional outreach, organized by the main organization rather than by subgroups.
- David Brock offered to assist with outreach efforts.
- ACTION ITEM: Carol and Ursula will dig further into how to research global efforts within ACM.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will share information from the SIGCSE session on geographic diversity when she gets it.

10. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Roy and Chuck completed the proposal to continue funding of the ACM Award Video Series project. This was part of the Committee's budget submission.
- Issue discussed briefly during the minutes: Where are the materials from Chuck's work located? Vicki suggested that the working documents be placed in an appropriate folder on the ACM Operations drive. Chuck reminded us that the project artefacts will eventually go to the Charles Babbage Institute (via Amanda).

11. ACM History page (acm.org/about-acm/acm-history) (Almstrum)

- One follow up action was to see about removing the incorrect attribution to the History Committee on this page. The second follow-up action was to discuss how to ensure that the ACM site includes an accurate and complete history in the style our committee would recommend.
- ACTION ITEM: Mary will send a paragraph to Barb regarding the SIGGRAPH approach.
- ACTION ITEM: Barb will reach out to ACM Leadership (Vicki Hanson and Cherri Pancake, the president and vice-president of ACM) regarding this issue.

12. Podcast contributions (Hutchins, Rau, Yost)

- Carol referred back to the Publicatations Task Force report and their recommendations for the Digital Library. What struck Carol as most important issue for our History Committee projects is findability within the Digital Library.
- A second issue is whether it makes sense to consider doing podcasts. ACM has Byte-Cast; would there be a way for the History Committee to piggyback onto this effort and mutually benefit.
- Barbara mentioned that one of the approved fellowship proposals is about doing podcasts. Vicki mentioned having just heard a SIGCSE Symposium "morning coffee" interview with the person doing the CS Education podcast.

13. Additional business

- Follow up on the draft flyer for the Turing video clip project
  - Prototype flier (PNG image) is included at the end of these minutes. The draft PowerPoint is in the Turing folder on the ACM Operations drive.
  - Ursula shared ideas in an email, for example, to add it on appropriate website(s).
  - Another idea would be to distribute the information via Twitter, etc., particularly if done by someone with many followers as the "grandfather tweet".
  - ACTION ITEM: Kim will set up a page on our website and will create a blog entry.
  - ACTION ITEM: Carol and Vicki will consider how to come further with the material. This may simply be recognizing a need to develop a publicity strategy.
- Google drive organization
  - Kim and Mary are exploring the operations folder and converting this to a shared drive. SIGGRAPH does this, so Mary has experience with this.
- Jeff, Amanda, Erik, and David shared re-opening status for their institutions (CBI, Hegley, CHM).

14. Upcoming meetings
Monday, April 19, 2021, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

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

Video Clips of Turing Laureates
For (Virtual) Class Use

The ACM History Committee invites educators and students to augment course content in CS education with a new resource: short video segments from interviews with A. M. Turing Award laureates. These video clips were curated by Thomas Haigh and are taken from longer oral history interviews with the laureates.

Each clip highlights the work and technical outlook of the laureates, providing insights into the perspectives of ACM's most prestigious award winners. Many of the clips can directly support instructional goals, 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
- Barbara Liskov on the Liskov Substitution Principle.

Currently, 157 clips drawn from interviews with 35 laureates are available. Each clip is two to eight minutes in length.
The complete set of clips can be found on the YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/c/TuringAwardeeClips/videos.

Clips for a particular Turing laureate are embedded in the laureate's webpage, which in turn is linked from the full list of laureates at
https://amturing.acm.org/alphabetical.cfm.

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