

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, May 17, 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)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Mary Whitton
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

#### ***Not in attendance***

- Vicki Almstrum
- Ursula Martin

### 2. Minutes from March and April 2021 meetings (Almstrum)

- March 15, 2021 minutes: Approved unanimously.
- April 19, 2021 minutes: Approved unanimously.

### 3. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Still no new information. ACM has been busy with a number of pressing issues, so this has resulted in delays in this process.

### 4. Fellowship (Tracy, Almstrum)

- Fellowship follow-up tasks for the 2021 round are all completed.
- Mary and Erik will follow up to ensure that the checks have been written.
- Fellowship history work still pending.

### 5. Publicity (Hutchins, Almstrum)

- Carol suggested having Vicki or another committee member join for a phone call with a person at ACM regarding processes related to publicity. Barb indicated she was willing to be part of this call.

- Barb suggested that the questions we have regarding ACM History vs. ACM History Committee site might be part of this discussion.
- ACTION ITEM: Carol will set up this call.

## 6. Turing Project (Levin)

- The Dana Scott interview has been completed and the video and transcript have been edited. Roy and David still want to add information about other parts of Dana Scott's career, in particular related to computing-related portions of his career (the current information focuses mostly on Dana Scott's work in math and logic). Roy is continuing to pursue this, possibly with help from Moshe.
- Roy reminded the committee of the effort to recruit a trainee who can work with David and eventually take over as the Turing project coordinator.
  - The required skill set:
    - This is primarily a managerial role and far from being full-time.
    - Needs some technical knowledge while editing the transcripts, tracking down names mentioned in the , dealing with semantic errors.
    - Geographic locality is probably not an issue.
    - The person should commit to a longer period of time (greater than one year), given the training that is involved.
  - Discussion gave rise to several suggestions for how to find the trainee:
    - Roy + Erik: recruit a past student or intern from one of the archives.
    - David: Send out request via SHOT's SIGCIS (<https://www.sigcis.org/>) list.
    - Jeff: look at outstanding recipients of the History Committee's fellowship.
    - Barb: Recruit from within ACM's SIGs; suggested Kim could talk directly to SIG chairs during a future Council meeting.
    - Chuck: Consider recruiting a past member of the History Committee.
- Roy discussed the recent controversy around the Turing Award winners for 2021. Tom Haigh and Roy have started to plan the information that will appear on the Turing website. ACM and the Awards Committee are also discussing a plan for how to deal with similar issues in the future.

## 7. Web work (Tracy)

- No actions to report other than the concerns already captured in point 5 (Publicity)

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

- Amanda reported that she and Vicki will continue work with the Heritage project after the end of the semester.

## 9. Global (Martin, Maheshwari)

- Sachin reported that the COVID situation in India is slowing down the progress.
- Due to the heavy accents in the recordings, automatic creation of the transcripts did not work well. He discussed a strategy for going through the transcripts and correcting them.

## 10. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- The project would benefit from finding someone to work with Chuck.
- The process includes correcting output from the automatic transcription program before giving the transcript to the interviewee to review.
- All of the video files and transcripts are ready to send to the Charles Babbage Institute for archival processing. Chuck will work off-line with Amanda to move this process forward.
- CBI agreement / Release Form
  - Barb asked whether there must be an agreement with CBI.
  - Amanda replied that CBI must receive a release form for each interview.
  - Chuck shared the form he has used (see image with blank example of the form in Appendix A).
    - This is the same form that CBI uses with SIGCHI.
    - Two comments via email from Tom Haigh:
      - Should “the Center” in the last paragraph be ACM?
      - It could be good to state explicitly that the interviewer (i.e. Chuck in this case) is also waiving rights by signing. That is covered in Chuck’s contract with ACM.
  - Chuck reported that he has releases for about 80% of the interviews.

## 11. Additional business

- Where do we stand with respect to holding a workshop and even the F2F meeting?
  - Mary has offered to host either or both of these.
  - The timing will probably be 2022.
  - Do not yet have a topic, could be oral history, where a good deal has changed compared to 5 years ago when the History Committee did their most recent workshop on this topic. It could be a workshop in the real sense, where participants are also sharing their experiences.
- Committee meeting schedule for after June (only scheduled through June right now)
  - Kim will set up a new set of Zoom sessions to ensure it is set in everyone’s calendar, even if we decide email reports are sufficient.
  - Roy suggests that because we all have many activities underway, a set meeting time is useful for doing status checks and encouraging progress.
- The final portion of the meeting was an open-ended question to explore activities that the committee members personally think about and find motivating. We will capture this brainstorming in a document separate from the minutes.
- The History Committee’s annual report is due in July.

12. Upcoming meetings

Monday, June 21, 2021, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

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

Appendix A. Example Oral History Release Form (image only)

ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) ORAL HISTORY RELEASE FORM

In consideration of the commitment that ACM has made toward preserving and recording the history of ACM Awardees, I/we \_\_\_\_\_, the family, heirs or assigns of the interviewee, hereby donate in form and content any and all rights in and to the video and audio recordings recorded interview(s) given on \_\_\_\_\_.

I/we represent and warrant (i) that I/we have the authority to grant the above rights to the interview; (ii) that this agreement does not conflict with or infringe upon the rights of any third party; and (iii) that no rights to this Material, for any purpose whatsoever, have been granted to any third party.

ACM shall have the right to use, reproduce, distribute, and give access to this Material for any purpose whatsoever and may use the interviewee's name and/or likeness in connection therewith. All permissions and releases granted herein shall be effective in perpetuity and, unless otherwise stipulated, extend and apply to the Center and its assigns and successors.

INTERVIEWER (ACM representative)

INTERVIEWEE

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signature date

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