ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2021 (v. 1)

Welcome (Owens)

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

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- Roy Levin
- Ursula Martin
- Erik Rau

2. Minutes from May 2021 meeting (Almstrum)

- May 17, 2021 minutes: We viewed the document together and adjusted several details, then approved the May minutes unanimously.

3. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Barb shared that the proposal for funding a second 3-year phase of the ACM Key Award Video Series has been approved.
- At this point, no other budget information has been shared from ACM.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Almstrum)

- The follow-up steps for this year's fellowship winners have been completed.
- The update of the historical spreadsheet about the fellowships is still pending.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will coordinate the update of the spreadsheet with Kim.

c. Publicity (Hutchins, Almstrum)

- For the planned call with Yan Timonovsky regarding publicity coordination and support, Carol asked whether Chuck would be willing to join the call with her and Barb. He answered in the affirmative.
- NOTE: There is now a folder in the HC Operations folder for Publicity.

d. Turing Project (Levin)

- Nothing new to report.

e. Web work, including ACM page update (Tracy, Owens)

- No updates other than adding the minutes for the first four meetings of 2021.
- For the earlier blog entries, Kim still needs help from the ACM IT group to port over the earlier content.
- The discussion of the ACM history page and the role of the History Committee is still pending.

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

- Vicki and Amanda had a meeting on Friday where they discussed next steps and how to solidify the basis.
- Outreach is one of the next important steps, so we plan to engage the SIGs that have made good progress and engage them as informal advisors (not just for static exemplars).
- Barb suggested pilot testing the Heritage work as part of the next HC workshop. Amanda reacted that the pilot testing is a good topic for one session, but not necessarily as the main topic for the entire workshop.
- Mary asked whether there will be a recommended architecture? We do not anticipate suggesting an architecture at this point, as the needs for each SIG are fairly unique.
- One tool that would be useful is a controlled vocabulary tool. While this is a massive long-term project, we can treat it as a living document and begin to build it now.

g. Global (Martin, Maheshwari)

- Sachin was able to pick up the transcripts from the interview with Prof Ramaswamy after restrictions in Delhi were lightened. He has now shortened the transcripts and gotten approval for what is there. This interview should be complete within the month.
- The perspective on Professor V. Rajaraman will be in three parts. The session on his personal life is underway. His early work on the first semiconductor computer is not yet underway; Sachin must find someone from the institute to go through the record. The third part is his more recent research in the area of pattern recognition and vision. He must find the right people and organize the process, which may take a bit longer.

- He plans to not pursue any additional work related to Professor Kohli because there is already a good body of information available.
- That will be the extent of the project. So far very little of the budget has been used, primarily for transcription and for the studio guy.
- Barb brought up the issue of where the materials will be housed once complete. One idea is the Computer History Museum. Sachin has spoken to ACM India about having the interview on their site. Vital to discuss where these interview materials will be archived; we must ensure they cannot be lost.
- ACTION ITEM: Ensure we have space on the HC Operations drive so that Sachin can upload working versions of his documents there to ensure we have the space. Vicki and Kim will support this effort.

h. ACM Award Video Series (House)
- Due to Chuck's pending move, progress on the ACM Award Video Series project is currently stalled.
- Barb reiterated that all files from the ACM Award Video Series must also be backed up and secure. Local space (Google drive) will be useful as an interim solution.
- Each file is on the order of 1G and he has about 60 interviews. The information lacks some releases and final transcripts for some interviews.
- Chuck discussed sharing disks containing all of the interviews to Amanda (CBI) and possibly Vicki. Amanda and Chuck will strive to visit this issue in July.
- The data is currently stored on three different drives in different locations, but Chuck owns all three of these, so that is a point of vulnerability.

i. Other?
- No other issues came up related to subcommittee work.

4. Annual Report
- We discussed the homework Barb had assigned, where she asked each of us to read and directly update the relevant sections of the draft annual report.
- Barbara talked about the strategy for doing updates and we discussed a few points.
- We used the last part of the meeting to discuss future plans. The ones that Barb highlighted as she looked through the draft of section 3 included the workshop, effectively housing the work from the projects (Key Awards, India Project), the Heritage projects, and website updates we have ahead.
- Section 4 highlights: What key ideas do we want to highlight for the wider community?
  - Challenges with IT issues (infrastructure, storage, archival)
    - Outward facing: how we provide access to the videos and oral histories
    - Delays in establishing the infrastructure in turn delay realizing the full value from the results the Committee has achieved in the various projects.
  - Vital to get the Heritage work rolling
  - Important to credit our ongoing projects for their successes and deep value

5. Additional business

- Barb discussed the importance of adding new committee members as well as identifying trainees to help (and eventually replace) project leaders for Turing, ACM Key Awards, and the India project.

6. Upcoming meetings
Monday, July 19, 2021, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

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