

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, August 16, 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
- Roy Levin
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost

2. Minutes from July 2021 meeting (Almstrum)

- July 19, 2021 minutes: Approved unanimously.

3. Annual report 2020-2021

- We completed the 2020-2021 annual report from the Committee to ACM ahead of the requested submission date (which was delayed compared to earlier years).
- The later due date allowed plenty of time to polish and strive for consistency. The final version was submitted to ACM by Barb and is in the appropriate HC Operations folder.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- No budget information from ACM yet.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Almstrum)

- Kim believes the status is current for all of the award winners for 2021.

c. Publicity (Hutchins, Almstrum)

- Carol has contacted Yan Timonovsky about a meeting, but no reply yet.
- We agreed that the committee must be deliberate in planning publicity for the committee's work and how it fits with overall ACM efforts.
- Vicki pointed out the importance of giving carefully selected highlights at the end of the annual report as well as in the information that Kim takes to the SGB meetings.

d. Turing update (Levin)

- As the Turing development project ends and the work is consolidated to continue as a regular project of the committee, Roy suggested we use the name "Turing Award History Project".
- No new interviews due to travel constraints. Most of the current work has been focused on completing the Dana Scott interview. Roy must contact David Brock regarding the involvement of the Computer History Museum.
- Franny Corry has agreed to accept the position as trainee for the Turing project. She, Roy, and David are negotiating the contract and how they will collaborate.

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

- The ACM-level website follow-up is still pending (ACM page about history and pages about our committee).
- Kim has already done the updates mentioned in the July minutes.
- Roy's question: What is the plan for replacing the ACM Content Management System? No information. Vicki pointed out that this would probably not affect much of the History Committee's work. The Turing Award pages would be directly affected given the way they are organized today.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will follow up with ACM IT to ask these and other questions.

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

- Vicki has made significant progress in porting the CEOHP project to the ACM WordPress to create a Heritage Exemplar. This has provided experience that will guide the process of setting up other Exemplars and the overall Heritage website.
- Amanda has made progress in setting up the strategy for the tools we will include as part of the Heritage toolkit.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Carol wants information from ACM regarding global initiatives and how these can affect our committee's work, for example the centers outside of North America (Europe, China, India). What is the status of these entities?
 - The SGB meetings are not addressing global activities at this point.
 - ACTION ITEM: Carol and Barb will research what is happening here.
- Status of India project:

- Sachin reports that in the past month, there has been progress in identifying the person who collaborated with Professor V. Rajaraman in the 1960s; this person will summarize the work from that time.
- Sachin consulted with Vicki about file naming and how to store the files.
- He has a problem transferring the data because it does not show up as being on the shared site, it uses his personal space. He needs to figure out how to overcome this. ACTION ITEM: Kim will assist Sachin with this set-up.

h. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Chuck realized that he was using a personal account for the transcription work with Greenlight Express (GLX) rather than a professional account. Switching to the professional account provided a larger set of richer features.
- Chuck will send a thumb drive with all the video and audio (69 interviews with 62 people) to Amanda, Barb, and Vicki.
- He offered to send a few selected transcripts with committee members.
- Chuck is pleased that he has made considerable progress on the project over the past weeks.
- Vicki mentioned her use of categories on the rehosted CEOHP interviews to make it easy to generate pages that highlight interviewees who are recipients of the various awards.
- Chuck asked about cross-indexing all of our interviews. Erik explained that at Hagley they do some of this, so Chuck will look at their solution. David explained the mechanism they use at the Computer History Museum to search across oral history transcripts (assumed to be in PDF). The system at CBI is good at this.

i. Other?

- Amanda (Charles Babbage Institute) and ACM are going to revisit the agreement for archival of ACM materials and see what needs to be revised.
 - The discussions should include the other points the History Committee has discussed, including the need for a repository for oral histories, whether it be CBI, CHM, Hagley, or another library.
 - If the interviews are incorporated into CBI's current system, this would provide a good, searchable collection. NOTE: We will return to this at next month's meeting when our committee members from CBI are present.

5. Workshop planning (Whitton, Almstrum)

- Due to changes due to Covid, we agreed an on-line workshop is probably the best choice of formats, but that we do not yet need to commit.
- Our budget includes a F2F meeting. This would require a good deal of work by the host (Mary at Chapel Hill).
- Suggestion: decide a date for a F2F meeting / workshop and plan toward it until a drop-dead date. At that point, go to the fallback position of an online committee meeting and workshop.

- We will schedule the workshop for late May or early June. Mary will check availability at Chapel Hill to let us know a possible schedule if we meet in person.
- Workshop topic(s): We anticipate that the workshop will focus on issues relevant to the Heritage Project. We will begin with suggestions from Amanda, Vicki, and the rest of that sub-committee (Carol, Kim, and Judith).
- All planning must be flexible so the workshop can be either on-line or in person.

6. New member discussion and invitations

- Judith Bishop was nominated for committee membership (Carol nominated, Kim seconded). The committee members who were present voted unanimously to accept this nomination.
 - Barbara will contact Judith to welcome her to the committee.
 - Kim will add Judith to the Committee's mailing list and the HC Operations drive.
 - Kim will update the membership list on the website to add Judith.
 - Vicki will contact Judith to get her involved in the Heritage work immediately.
- For the other candidates: Vicki and David will follow up to gauge interest.

7. Additional business

- Roy and Chuck expect to be absent from the September meeting.

8. Upcoming meetings

Monday, September 20, 2021, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

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