ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2022 (v. 1)

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EST /9:00am PST via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Anna Loup
- Amanda Wick

2. Committee membership

- Judith Bishop resigned from the committee in early February. Judith explained to Barb that she felt she had not found a clear role within the committee.
- ACTION ITEM FOR COMMITTEE: consider new committee member recommendations

3. Minutes for November 2021, January 2022 meetings (Almstrum)

- November 15, 2021 minutes: Approved via email. The October and November 2021 minutes have gone to Kim to post on the HC website.
- January 17, 2022 minutes: Several members noted changes. Approved by 11 of 13 members based on the summary of email votes.
- NOTE: For the February minutes, we had no note-taker and the minutes were created using the Zoom recording.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Erik discussed past and current budgeting for the Turing project. Roy verified Erik's interpretation of that part of the budget and anticipates that as we emerge from the post-pandemic activities, the Turing project should reach a "steady state" of no more than three interviews and snippets per year, with a budget of $8K - $10K each (video crew plus honorarium, which varies). The new arrangement with the Computer History Museum means CHM will be picking up part of the budget, with the History Committee responsible for covering travel. Roy suggested we should build up historical information about the budget, given that the rules have changed several times the past few years.
- The main concern for the budget is to ensure that the History Committee has sufficient funding to cover the projects we want to pursue. The budget categories must match the projects.
- Erik and Mary do not yet have consistent access to the budget information they need for planning and follow-up.
- Mary summarized the overall budget for this year compared to past years.
- We agreed that when our contractors invoice ACM, they should include the budget committee to support the committee's monitoring responsibilities.
- The committee members who were present unanimously approved the new budget. Erik will send it to Pat Ryan with a copy to Barb as committee chair.

b. Outreach (Hutchins)

- ACM 75th anniversary ideas
  - Carol reminded us of an email message from Pat Ryan to the committee dated January 28. Pat had explained marketing actions in conjunction with ACM's 75th anniversary, in particular the snippet work. Pat had shared, "During the year, we'll celebrate moments from ACM's history through a variety of social media campaigns and we'll look to the future of computing during a special conference in June. Throughout the year, we'll highlight significant moments during the evolution of the organization and milestones in its development."
  - We discussed whether any results from the SIG Heritage work can contribute to these activities, given the importance of the SIGs to the organization.
  - We discussed ideas for how to also address results from ACM's practitioner (non-academic) base as well as the many international activities.
- Mary raised the idea of having each SIG do a blog post, a deeper discussion than on their web pages, about who they are and what they do. This should be shared with Pat.

c. Turing update (Levin)

- A recent email from Tom Haigh asked about the Turing profiles. Roy clarified that the profiles are compact summaries of the technical achievements of the awardee, with a focus on the work recognized by the award, rather than biographies. The profile should not cover the awardee's life outside of that work, even in cases when the awardee was involved in a controversy that was widely known and discussed. That information would be relevant if there is an oral history interview, which should be more comprehensive. Roy will confirm this view with Pat and pass along the instructions to Tom.
- Erik offered information about a Baltimore-based company the Hegley has worked with. The company sets up recording services anywhere in the country.
- Carol asked about the Dana Scott oral history. Roy reports they collected 3 or 4 segments via Zoom. David Jefferson is creating the edited video and there is work underway to make this interview more complete.
- Roy and David reported about upcoming Turing interviews, with several are in the works for June.

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

- Kim reported that the Committee's Google Drive space has been increased to one terabyte. He recommends moving videos from History Committee projects into that space as soon as possible.
- Roy has discussed long-term storage of the raw video files, which cannot be uploaded to the Google drive space. Adam Greenberg at ACM headquarters is ready to set up a process for the Turing project on cold storage as soon as David and Frannie are prepared to start this. The challenge is getting the bits delivered (it is not practical to deliver via the internet).
- Chuck's project files can be uploaded into the Google Drive storage. Roy suggests sending a thumb drive to Adam Greenberg.
- Mary asked whether this process will be standard across ACM. Roy hopes this will be the case, with a workable process in place soon. Mary suggested including the SIGGRAPH IT person to help plan with ACM IT regarding storage.
- Barb asked about how well this type of material fits the requirements for digital preservation. Jeff has the sense that it does, but that Amanda is the person who can best answer this. Erik recommends that the process include doing checksums on the file to watch for the start of any degradation before it becomes a problem. The U Minn libraries have a strong infrastructure for digital preservation and partner well with CBI.
- Barb suggested that we establish a subcommittee for planning toward ACM's overall digital preservation strategy.

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

- Barb shared the workshop planning link that Vicki had provided earlier.

- The committee agreed with the recommendation to schedule the workshop during the fall.

f. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Sachin reported that he has not made much headway in arranging the retrospective interviews about Dutta Majumder. He is rethinking the strategy for engaging possible participants. He proposes to create an exemplar and believes that additional contributions can emerge from this.

g. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Chuck reports that all 72 interviews of the first phase are completed and the transcripts are in progress. This work should be completed by the 75th anniversary celebration.
- Chuck expects to start with the second phase interviews in June.
- Chuck emphasized the importance of this type of work after seeking information about someone "behind the scenes" who had passed away; it was difficult to find people who would be able to share memories. This gives additional incentive for projects such as this one so people remember.

5. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Kim reported that the Committee received 11 history fellowship applications this year, all of which appeared to be complete and sound.
- He will convene the subcommittee in the near future to evaluate the applications and recommend to the History Committee the ones we should consider for funding.

6. Additional business

- Barb shared that ACM has contracted Gloria Childress Townsend to write a book about ACM-W, including several women who have worked in various roles within ACM. This should be completed in June.
- Mary recommended Tom's recent article in CACM:
  - Becoming Universal, the Historical Reflections Column by Thomas Haigh
  - *Communications of the ACM*, February 2022, Vol. 65 No. 2, Pages 25-30
  - DOI: https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3506578

7. Upcoming meetings
Monday, March 21, 2021, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

- NOTE: Daylight saving time starts in the USA on March 13, but not until March 27 in Europe.

8. Conclusion 1:07 pm EST / 10:07 am PST