

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, March 21, 2022

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT / 9:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

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

Not in attendance

- Vicki Almstrum

2. Minutes (Almstrum)

- November 2021 minutes: approved on-line and have been finalized.
- December 2021 minutes: No meeting, so no minutes.
- January 2022 minutes: approved on-line and have been finalized.
- Anna reported that Vicki has updated the 2021 minutes folder.
- We discussed whether it would suffice to move discussion and approval of the minutes on-line. It was agreed this was a good use of email, as well as of meeting time.
- February 2022 minutes: Approval to take place on-line, will be reported in the April minutes.

3. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- After the History Committee approved the budget in February, Eric and Mary forwarded the budget to ACM Headquarters (Pat Ryan).
- Travel for the Committee chair

- In 2021, a budget item for the chair's travel to the SIGCSE Technical Symposium was changed after the conference was offered on-line only. Barb requested reallocation of those funds to cover her hotel at the 2023 SIGCSE Technical Symposium, where most of her activities will be related to history work.
- Barb requested support from the History Committee to attend the ACM 75th anniversary events. Participants agreed to this request.
- Mary asked Barb to provide budget estimates for both trips. The current year's budget will cover these expenses.

b. Outreach (Hutchins)

- Carol mentioned a tweet posted by ACM HQ about efforts to collect facts relevant to the 75th anniversary ("Did you know ...?"). She encouraged anyone with ACM-related facts to share these with HQ and shared a screenshot of the tweet, which is included at the end of these minutes in Appendix A.

c. Turing update (Levin)

- Roy had nothing new to report about the Turing project, but was scheduled to meet with David Jefferson in two days, which might provide new information about progress on the project.
- David Brock reported progress in scheduling the interview with Judea Pearl in late July. He will also conduct the interview.

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

- Kim reported that all of the minutes for 2021 have been posted on the website.

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

- Amanda reported that she, Anna, and Vicki had met to talk about the workshop.
- The workshop will take place in the fall. The timing will be finalized based on speakers availability, including Vicki Hanson for the opening welcome. Goal dates 9/17-18 or 9/30-10/1.
- Working title: "Capturing SIG Heritage".
- The workshop will serve as a "listening" opportunity to better understand issues and topics that interest the target community, which can help us design in-person workshops that will come later.
- We are planning for a 1.5 day virtual online event. For platform options, Anna is connected to a technical consultant who can guide our choices.
- Amanda mentioned the Just Code symposium that Jeff Yost organized as a very successful event on a stable platform. Jeff explained that Just Code was a webinar that allowed 200+ attendees. It provided little interaction beyond people sending comments/questions via moderators. The latest SIG-CIS meeting was more interactive and used standard Zoom conference style. The primary concern is that with many participants there can be many technical glitches.
- Proposed format

- The first day will include keynotes, followed by moderated panels with archivists and curators, directed talks about SIG projects, and general topics in the field.
- The second day will include a casual “fire-side chat” as a less formal keynote, to warm up participants for interactive group activities.
- The keynote and fireside chat speakers will highlight the importance of capturing hidden SIG heritage as well as other histories of computing, with an emphasis on diversity in the ACM global community.
- Anna has drafted our “first stage” call, which will be used to recruit participant-presenters. The “second stage” call will recruit other participants once the program is finalized.
- We discussed target audiences we might consider for the call.
 - Projects such as ACM-W and other ACM projects are very appropriate for this seminar. The work generalizes to components of ACM, including SIGs.
 - Troy asked whether the focus will be SIG people or whether we will include historians/scholars. They pointed out that engaging each might require different approaches, even if there is an intersection between these groups.
 - Anna mentioned SIG-CIS as one target audience. Jeff Yost asked whether the title should include “history” to better appeal to the SIG-CIS crowd.
 - Another appropriate target group could be FAccT (Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency), which includes sociologists, STS people, and work related to race and gender.

f. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Sachin’s progress with the India Oral History Project has been focused on the retrospective interviews about Dutta Majumder.
 - Sachin has arranged to interview Dutta Majumder’s eldest daughter about his early life.
 - Sachin has identified one of Dutta Majumder’s first PhD students who can address his research post-1970.
 - Sachin is still looking for someone who can address Dutta Majumder’s semiconductor and hardware design work during the 1960s. Sachin will seek Mathai Joseph’s help with this.
- Barb suggested that Sachin discuss the project design with David B. and Chuck. Because Sachin’s overall project is a prototype for this type of work in India, it is important to consider ways to make the project work as effectively as possible.

g. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Chuck has achieved a major milestone. He took on the ACM Award Video Series project 3 years ago, with the first interview collected on April 17, 2019. He had planned to complete 72 interviews within three years — and he has! He is optimistic that all of the transcripts will be completed by May.

4. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- The Fellowship Subcommittee has selected five of the proposed projects for funding as long as the budget can be adapted to fully fund all five. After discussion, it was agreed to reallocate funds from other parts of the History Committee budget and to fund all five of the recommended projects.
- The History Committee agreed to fund the following five projects for 2022:
 - Ruth Lennon and Rukiye Altin — ACM-W Europe history: The origins and advancement of the ACM-W Europe
 - Bonnie Mitchell and Jan Searleman — Archiving the history of ACM SIGGRAPH communities and activities
 - Daniel Pillis — 3D Object/Artifact Archive
 - Eric Rawn — Investigating the intellectual history of computing and HCI research in the 1970s and 1980s: How philosophy helped define the personal computing era
 - Huixin Tian — Asian migrants and employment in the ICT industry
- The Fellowship Subcommittee will produce draft letters that Barb can distribute in her role as History Committee chair.

5. Additional business

- Barb emphasized the need to recruit new HC members as soon as possible
 - The goal is a robust but diversified committee. We can fill up to three spots.
 - The participants discussed whether potential members must be ACM members. Troy pointed out that individuals from some communities of interest (such as history or archival) may not be ACM members. The discussion considered different situations, pros, cons, and organizational requirements. ACM membership need not be a precondition, but it was agreed that potential History Committee members should be encouraged to become ACM members.
 - The participants also discussed geographic and career stage considerations.
 - Everyone is to send suggestions to Barb for consideration.

6. Upcoming meetings

Monday, April 18, 2022, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

7. Conclusion 1:07 pm EDT / 10:07 am PDT

Appendix A ACM Tweet regarding 75th anniversary celebration

17m • 2/23/22 • 09:27



Association for Co... @TheOfficialACM

The answer is B! Did you get it right?
Stay tuned to our next [#75YearsofACM](#)
poll, coming soon!



Association for Computing Mach...

As we celebrate [#75YearsofACM](#) , we'll be sharing fun facts about its history in a series of polls.

13 papers were presented at the first ACM conference in December 1947, covering the cutting-edge topics of that time. Which of the following topics was NOT presented there?

1w • 2/15/22 • 09:35

19m • 2/23/22 • 09:25
