ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, May 16, 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
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance
- Vicki Almstrum
- Roy Levin
- Anna Loup

2. Minutes (Almstrum)
- February 21, 2022 minutes: Approved via email vote.
- March 21, 2022 minutes: Will be submitted for email approval once ready.
- April 18, 2022 minutes: Meeting canceled, no minutes.
- Approval process: We agreed to use email and Google document mark-up to comment on the minutes and a Google spreadsheet on the drive to collect the votes.

3. Annual report
- The annual report is due at the end of July.
- (NOTE: A rough start of the report is located in the appropriate file on our HC Operations drive; it builds on the final version of the report we submitted for 2020-2021.)
- Each committee member will contribute information related to the projects and subcommittees they work on.
- Barb clarified that while the document we submit includes personal contact information for each committee member, this information only goes to ACM staff and is not published as part of the report.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)
- Erik and Mary received and approved the expenses for Barbara's trips to SIGCSE and the 75th anniversary event.
- No other news on the finances.

b. Outreach (Hutchins)
- Carol mentioned the tweets ACM staff are distributing via their official twitter feed using the hashtag #75YearsofACM. This work is being led by Bruce Shriver. We agreed it would be good if the History Committee built a close relationship with these staff members.
- Some of the tweets and links on ACM's main page highlight ACM's historical content, including short videos of ACM presidents such as John White and Charles House, brief quizzes, and first issues of journals such as *Communications of the ACM*.
- ACTION ITEM: Carol suggested that the Committee send a thank you to ACM staff for highlighting this historical content. Barbara will prepare and send a "thank you" letter.

c. Web work, including ACM page update (Tracy, Owens)
- Vicki will work with Kim to move the approved PDF minutes onto the website.
- (NOTE: The 2022 fellowships must still be added to the website.)

d. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)
- No report on Global projects.
- Because the discussion was all related to committee membership, it is merged with the later discussions.

e. ACM Award Video Series (House)
- Chuck reported that he is nearly finished with the 72 interviews from Phase I. Some transcripts remain, but he hopes to complete this work in time for the Annual Report.
- The interviews for Phase II are underway, with ten recorded so far and four more scheduled during the rest of May.
- Chuck plans to attend the 75th Anniversary banquet in June.

f. Heritage Project + Preservation Outreach (Almstrum, Wick)
- Amanda reported that the workshop will be entirely on-line. The content of the workshop is still under development and will depend in part on the keynote speakers we secure.
- For dates, the subcommittee has identified two options based on Vicki Hanson's availability. Based on the email vote, the preferred date is September 30-October

1 because it allows more HC members to participate than would September 16-17.

- The subcommittee will hold a meeting before the next HC meeting to continue planning.

g. Turing update (Levin)

- Roy reported via email that the Turing subcommittee has worked out the details of the co-branding by ACM/CHM as well related presentation matters for oral history interviews produced under the partnership. David Brock, representing both organizations, was instrumental in making this happen.
- David explained that the details address issues such as the title screen for the videos. The branding will be identical for ACM and CHM and fully usable for both. The interview with Pat Hanrahan will serve as the test case and lead toward adopting this agreement as standard practice.
- Plans are in place for the interview with Al Aho, to be conducted by Hansen Hsu from the CHM and videographers from the CHM. It will be held in New Jersey in July.
- The interview with Judea Pearl will also take place in July in Los Angeles, with David Brock conducting the interview and the media team from CHM.

h. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Kim has received final reports from several of the earlier recipients (although some reports are short). He has added these reports to the appropriate folder in the HC Operations drive.
- Kim will follow up with fellowship recipients who have yet to submit a report.

5. Committee membership

- ACTION ITEM: Barb will share the link to the member spreadsheet that includes roll-off dates.
- It could be a good idea to add new members in time for the June meeting so they can be present when we discuss the Annual Report.
- What are our goals for the composition of the History Committee? What characteristics do we want in candidates? We must maintain a healthy, active, growing committee. It is important to consider who will rotate off of the committee so we do not end up with holes.
- We discussed several ideas for candidate sources.
  - The pool of previous fellowship awardees.
  - A PhD student as someone who is young and driven, but might have the time to participate in activities that will build up their contacts and reputation.
  - Students involved in History of Technology or archival work are more likely.
  - Geographic considerations are important, although this adds challenges due to time zone differences, for example Asia, Japan, the South Pacific.
  - Representatives from European technology museums.

- ○ ACM organizations, SIGs, and chapters — network to request names of members who are involved or interested in history, especially if the group is not yet "properly represented".
  - ○ Sister organizations, such as SIGCIS (https://www.sigcis.org/), which is is affiliated with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT).
- Troy suggested considering people who are hitting milestone birthdays, given that this is a time that people tend to reflect on their life and work, considering creating a Festschrift or other volume of collected works. Perhaps we could attract members by approaching individuals in this category.
- Our members who attend the 75th Anniversary banquet should keep their eyes and ears open for candidates and connections.
- If we make cold calls, what pitch can we make and what type of person are we looking for? Important to have an elevator pitch; Troy suggested: "Learnt something interesting and new about the ACM today? Keen to make sure that this history isn't lost? Join us!"
- Barb has collected the names that were suggested separately from the minutes.

6. Additional business
- SIG Governing Board (SGB) meeting reported by Kim Tracy.
  - ○ Recently, the SGB has been discussing the proposed policy for overhead recovery from the SIGs. In a letter signed by officers from over 20 of the SIGs, these leaders express concern about the proposed plan, which would raise SIG overhead recovery for FY23 to about 60% higher than it would be under present rules. The ACM Council was to meet later the day of our meeting, with this issue included on the agenda.
  - ○ Mary offered an example of why this policy can be very bad for SIGs. SIGGRAPH must hire contractors for some services that otherwise could be provided by ACM, which means that the SIG ends up paying double for some services. Kim mentioned that SIGCOMM faces similar challenges.
  - ○ It is possible the History Committee could be affected by this if there are adjustments to overall budget allocations within the entire ACM organization.
  - ○ The next SGB meeting will take place in early October, possibly face-to-face. Kim may not be able to attend due to a planned trip to India.
- Mary shared that IEEE *Computer Graphics and Applications* will do a special issue in July/August 2023 that includes SIGGRAPH memories. The editors will be Mary Whitton, Dave Kasik, and Chris Johnson (the co-editors of the *C&GA* Origins department). They also plan to do special issues for topics such as CHI and VIS and VR in appropriate years. She raised the issue of shared copyright.
- Note: In addition to being a downloadable file while the meeting is still going on, our Zoom chats are available after meetings and viewable while playing the recording. The Google spreadsheet with the Zoom link + password for the last few meetings is available in the HC Operations drive.

7. Upcoming meetings
   Monday, June 20, 2022, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

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