ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2022

Welcome (Owens)

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

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- ac Loup
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Amanda Wick

2. Minutes (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- November 14, 2022 minutes: insufficient votes by the time of this meeting; will remind members to review and vote before the January meeting.

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- We agreed to record the specifics regarding recruitment and potential committee members in a document located on the ACM HC Operations drive under Committee Membership -> 20221114 Possible Committee Members. We will not include details about the recruiting discussions in the minutes.
- Barb assigned action items to members who would contact specific individuals to determine whether they would consider becoming a member of the HC if invited.
- Vicki noted that many individuals involved in Heritage projects do not have time to join the History Committee, but might be willing to serve on the board for Heritage Insights.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Mary asked Pat Ryan for guidance and learned that the HC budget will be similar to last year but with an inflation factor. No further guidance at this time.
- Erik was able to log in to the ACM finances system and discovered discrepancies in some accounts. It was not clear, however, what the correct numbers should be. A part of the challenge is that sometimes expenses take a long time to appear in the system.

b. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- David is working with the Turing team as he assumes the liaison responsibility after Roy. He is learning how funding works within the project. The current funding supports doing two oral history interviews per year.
- This year, the project has completed three interviews, so is very close to the budget line. The work that remains is to create the three transcripts and publish the interviews.
- David will prepare a status report for the Turing Awardee History Project once he completes several work obligations for CHM (targeted for the February meeting).
- In the near future, the Turing team will build a list of individuals to re-interview for a better experience or for supplementary information.

c. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck shared the following report:
  - The appendix of these minutes includes two screenshots of the prototype exhibit (which Chuck shared during the Heritage seminar).
  - Chuck has now collected a total of 100 interviews, with #102 scheduled for the same afternoon as this HC meeting.
  - Chuck does not plan to propose a third round of interviews. (That is, he only plans to personally collect the 144 interviews included in the first two 3-year phases of the ACM Key Awards project.)
- Planning for transition
  - Vicki suggested we should plan for the handover process so that as Chuck finishes his contributions to the project we will have a seamless transition to someone else who can continue it, similar to how the Turing Awardee series has been handled.
  - Chuck agreed and emphasized that there is still plenty to be done with the existing interviews, such as methodically extracting snippets.
  - Barb observed that now is the time to think about training an heir apparent!

d. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- No new information at this time.

e. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Wick, Loup)

- Vicki reported the following:
    - Progress after the seminar has been slow, in part due to work commitments for the three group members.
    - The process of doing the technical follow-up (recordings, Digital Library) is not yet underway, but the planning is proceeding.
    - Vicki requires further input from Wayne Graves and Craig Rodkin from the ACM Digital LIbrary team regarding the Heritage Insights title and description, setting up EasyChair, and other steps in the process.
    - Vicki tried to schedule an informal follow-up meeting in November, but this did not work out, due to insufficient lead time and busy schedules. Vicki will try again in early 2023. The purpose is to foster regular discussion of issues relevant to the Heritage project with folks outside of the HC, beginning with those who took part in the seminar,
- Vicki needs additional members for the Heritage subcommittee.
- Vicki emphasized that Heritage Insights has great potential to become a key communication medium for the History Committee.

f. Outreach and Marketing (Hutchins)

- Carol has not yet heard back from Bruce Shriver.
- ACM has started its own Mastodon instance.
    - https://mastodon.acm.org/@ACM
    - Uncertainty regarding Twitter has motivated ACM to consider alternatives.
    - The Mastodon instance has a directory of profiles that appears to include a number of industry personnel.
    - Two observations: Mastodon is generally more academic and professional than Twitter. Search on Mastodon is deficient.
    - Jeff is on mastodon.social. Earlier he had been posting a CBI image-of-the-day on Twitter, but has shifted to posting on Mastodon.
    - Troy asked whether one needs an account on every instance. Carol was not sure, but suggested that it does not seem totally necessary.
- ACM has a general email address related to social media: social@acm.org
    - We do not yet know who monitors that address.
    - Carol emailed this address asking whether ACM knows what users want from social media related to ACM, but had not yet received a response.
    - Kim proposed asking ACM what in particular they would like the HC to do with respect to social media.
- Vicki suggested that the HC develop a plan for the presence the committee should engender on social media, either through ACM channels or our own.

g. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Vicki and Mary updated the call to make it fit on a single page and ensure it was complete for the next round of proposals. Kim agreed the call was ready to go once we added a sentence that mentioned project proposals related to Heritage.
- Kim has added the call to the HC website and has distributed the notification to the usual mailing addresses.
- ACTION: Erik will send out the notification to the science and medicine communities. The Interlisp community has shown interest as well.
- Vicki recommended that we target the Heritage seminar attendees. The list of attendees can be found in the seminar planning folder under Heritage.

h. Web presence (Tracy)

- Kim has kept up with regular maintenance, such as updating the approved minutes. Nothing new.

a. DEI and accessibility issues

- Barb reached out to the ACM DEI committee but had not yet heard back.
- This work connects to many different spaces (based on geography, age, etc.). How can we engage leaders in these subgroups? Might ACM Social help us engage leaders in the subgroups that we are talking about — international groups, regional groups?
- One idea is to ask people from the identified groups to serve as advisors to the HC and at the same time boost the HC visibility. Carol observed that this could help the HC with outreach for particular groups.

b. Other?

- No other items.

5. Pending issues

a. Digital Preservation Strategy

- No decision for how to move forward with this work.

b. History of ACM webpage(s)

- No decision for how to move forward with this work.

c. Timeline idea

- No decision for how (and whether) to move forward with this work.

6. Additional business

- Barb asked for reflections for the year, resulting in the following thoughts:

- ○ Fellowships are supporting good projects and making people aware of the Committee and its work.
  - ○ Gratitude for the opportunity to help the History Committee function well.
  - ○ Hopes that the committee can again meet face to face. Mary notes that the HC is still welcome to meet in North Carolina.
  - ○ The Heritage seminar was a big success; appreciation was shown to Vicki, Amanda, and ac on the outcome so far.
  - ○ The transition of the Turing Awardee project oversight from Roy to David has gone well.
  - ○ Video clips from the Turing Award project were very useful when feeding information to obituary writers for Fred Brooks.
- HC Operations Drive audit and clean-up:
  - ○ The Secretariat proposes to review the HC Operations drive during January. Troy asked for any observations or wishes to help guide the task.
  - ○ There was general contentment with the current state of affairs: information is generally easy to find. Mary observed that old information should be incorporated in a way that keeps the drive organized and complete.
  - ○ Vicki clarified that the vision is to ensure information that predates creation of the HC Operations drive is properly incorporated. Rationalization of the Minutes and Agendas folder is an example of the type of improvement we anticipate.

7. Upcoming meetings
Monday, January 16, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT

Appendix: Example pages for ACM Key Awards Video Series

Chuck extracted two 'new' pages to illustrate the virtual tour prototype.

1. The first image is the cover page for the Athena Award.
2. The second image is the cover page for the Kanellakis Award.