

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, March 15, 2024

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### Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT / 9:00am PDT via Zoom
- We began with informal introductions.

### 1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)
- Brett Becker (guest, computing curricula)
- Kim Tracy

#### ***Not in attendance***

- David Brock (late arrival, interviewing Ken Thompson)
- ac Loup
- Andrew Meade McGee

### 2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- January 16, 2024 minutes approved via email and have been posted.
- February 16, 2024 minutes still in process.
- February 28, 2024 minutes still in process.
  - We discussed having Vicki try using YuJa (a tool available to her through Texas State University) to auto-transcribe the F2F meeting.
  - Carol provided notes for the morning portion. She intends to go through the second part of the recording to create notes for the afternoon portion.

### 3. Feedback from Face-to-Face meeting

- The in-person participants from the committee included Barb, Jeff, Jonathan, Carol, David, as well as one of the committee's consultants, Chuck.
- The remote participants for parts or all of the meeting included Sachin, Vicki, Troy, Andrew.
- While the hybrid format worked, it is important for in-person participants to be mindful of the remote participants and ensuring that the format works well for them as well.

- In-person participants had very positive feedback about the equipment in the room, as well as about the food.
- The participation by ACM staff was valuable and it was very positive that Pat Ryan could participate in much of the meeting.
- We discussed whether to do another F2F in the last half of 2024. Chuck suggested that might be sooner than needed, although it is essential to get some of this work moving forward.
- Vicki proposed the idea of holding sub-committee meetings in a face-to-face format. Barb responded this should become a routine practice.
- Our new adviser, Brett Becker, is open to attending a face-to-face meeting at some point. Barb requested that he and Vicki strive to meet during SIGCSE Technical Symposium (March 20-23) and should meet to talk about Heritage.

#### 4. ACM Volunteer Pages project (follow-up to Hanson's visit)

- No further discussion.

#### 5. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- Advisory position description still pending edits (action item Vicki).

#### 6. Brief updates on committee work

##### a. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- The HC had previously approved a \$10k expenditure to support work to evaluate the look and software feasibility for Chuck's Virtual Hall of Fame proposal.
- Chuck is grateful for the HC's interest in this project and was very happy he had the opportunity to meet with Bruce Shriver in conjunction with the February 28 F2F meeting and discuss how the ACM Key Awards interviews will be transferred and hosted.

##### b. Fellowship (Tracy)

- In an email he sent to the HC on March 12, Kim reported that the subcommittee for Fellowships (Andrew, Jeff, David, Kim) had met to discuss the 14 proposals received by the deadline.
- After review, the subcommittee agreed that several of the proposals were quite strong, with many proposals having direct and strong connections to ACM history.
- The subcommittee recommended funding the following five proposals, which would exceed the regular budget (\$16K) by \$3,244.73. It was moved and approved to fund all five proposals, with the excess coming from the Heritage budget.
- The approved proposals:
  - "Securing the System: Computer Hackers, Professional Experts, and Political Order, 1963-2013," by Jacob Bruggeman, \$4,000

- "From Data Archives to Social Science Computing: Tracing the Development of ACM SIGSOC to SIGCHI, 1969-1982," by Amelia Acker, \$4,000
- "The 1984 ACM 'Risks to the Public' Statement," by Devin Kennedy, \$2,544.73
- "The history of Computer Science in Africa: the pioneers and their impact," by Alain Tchana, \$4,000
- "From Computing Centers to Computer Science: The Political Economy of American Universities and the Rise of Computing, 1930-1990," by Sam Franz, \$4,700.
- Emails will go out from Barb to all of the candidates before the end of March.

#### c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)

- We learned that Darren, our ACM HQ contact for finances, has passed away. We send our condolences as a committee, as well as our gratitude for his guidance over the years.
- David reported that he had mailed the committee the proposed FY24/25 budget on March 3. It contains the version that was approved during the F2F meeting on February 28.

#### d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- No discussion of this topic at this meeting.

#### e. Secretariat

- No discussion of this topic at this meeting.

#### f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup, Grudin, Meade)

- Vicki reported that the various aspects are trundling along, including collecting permissions, processing the video, and publishing in the DL. The meeting that Jonathan, Andrew, and Vicki had with Craig Rodkin during the February 28 F2F meeting was very useful.
- Barb will contact Tim Bergen, the executor of Jean Sammet's will and request that he approve the release of Sammet's interview for the CEOHP collection.
- Vicki reminded everyone of the idea of creating a super index of all ACM oral histories. There are many oral histories "out there", including from SIGCHI, the supercomputing recordings, CEOHP, the Turing Award series, and Key Award series. Carol suggests that we should prioritize indexing interviews from ACM. Vicki visualizes having a way to choose a particular person and see all their associated interviews.
- Jeff mentioned that the SIGCHI interviews were done in partnership with the Charles Babbage Institute and ACM.
- Chuck noted that the DL uses stats and traceability with publications. Creating something similar for interviews would be ideal.
- Troy wondered whether we could even use the DL directly? An interview (eg) conducted by David with Ken Thompson could appear in the DL with those two as authors. Then we can hook into all the DL functionality.

### g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Barb raised the question of how the HC can get all the various ACM global aspects hooked into our efforts.

### h. Outreach, Marketing, Web presence (Hutchins, Tracy)

- Carol is going to talk to Jeff regarding his network reach. She theorized that it is possible the increase in the number of fellowship submissions was due to Jeff's outreach efforts. Barb wants to get a sense of his network links and asked whether he could put something on the drive to illustrate this.

### i. DEIA follow-up

- No discussion of this topic at this meeting.

### j. Computing curriculum

- Brett Becker introduced himself briefly. He is from NJ, lives in Dublin, teaches in China, and is currently vice-chair of SIGCSE. See this site for more background and his research interests: <https://www.brettbecker.com/>.
- Brett is serving on the Steering Committee for the CS 2023 ACM/IEEE Computer Society/AAAI International Task Force for the revision of the ACM/IEEE\_CS Computer Science Curricula 2013. In particular, Brett chairs the subcommittee on Society, Ethics, and Profession (SEP). He can be reached at [csedcsed@acm.org](mailto:csedcsed@acm.org).
- The current draft of the curriculum is the final draft (see <https://csed.acm.org/>).
- The history knowledge unit is located in the SEP knowledge area. The steering committee was very supportive of having history topics represented in the overall curriculum, with an increase compared to the 2013 curriculum.
- The overall curriculum includes about 230 hours total, of which 31 hours are in the SEP knowledge area. The SEP knowledge area includes 2 hours related to history, with one core for all and the second core for situations with a deeper dive on SEP. The history topic is structured around eras.
- There are 17 knowledge areas. A knowledge area is not equivalent to a course. Each knowledge area includes an SEP knowledge unit within it. Several of the SEP knowledge units specifically mention history.
- Brett will circulate his prepared material via the committee listserv.

### k. Other?

- The HC has learned about a project by Grady Booch. Grady has expressed interest in finding ways the ACM and the HC can support this project. The project already has involvement by the IEEE. His project is a documentary, *Computing: The Human Experience*, a multi-part transmedia documentary that takes the viewer on a journey across the intersection of computing and what it means to be human. Grady's website about the project is at <https://computingthehumanexperience.com>.

## 7. Pending issues

- No discussion of pending issues at this meeting.

## 8. Next meetings

- On Zoom Friday, April 19, 2024, at 12:00 noon EDT

## 9. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT