

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, July 18, 2025

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### Welcome (Tracy)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm ET / 9:00am PT via Zoom

### 1. Attendees (Tracy)

- Kim Tracy (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Meenakshi D'Souza
- Jonathan Grudin (left early for an appointment)
- Dave Kasik
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Barbara Boucher Owens (left early for a flight)
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost

*Not in attendance*

- Mara Mills
- Dag Spicer

### 2. Introductions of committee members

- Meenakshi introduced herself to the committee and described her background and project interests. She is president of the ACM India Council and teaches at IIT Bangalore.
- We went around the remaining members who were present and each introduced themselves. Kim added introductions for the two missing members.

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

- Minutes for February 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16, 2025 had sufficient votes and are all approved. These four sets of minutes are ready to be posted on the website.
- Minutes for the F2F meeting on June 13 and the regular June 20 meeting are still in progress.

### 4. Annual report initiation (Tracy)

- Kim reported that the deadline is August 15 (earlier than last year by two weeks).
- The Secretariat will draft the report and the Chair will do final editing and approval.
- Vicki has created a skeleton and made initial notes. The Secretariat will send the relevant sections to the respective owners, though anyone can go in and make changes.
- A key task for everyone is to check the contact info appendix (which is a separate document).

- We will need to brainstorm together to create the lists of things we're excited about, as well as the things we're concerned about. Vicki pointed everyone toward the document's location in the Annual Reports folder on the HC Operations drive.
- Vicki and Troy will start the report, using the meeting minutes to provide content.
- Troy suggested we should request that the deadline be set a few days after August 15, as that is the date of our next HC meeting and will give us the chance to discuss and finalize the report. Kim will confirm this change with Pat.

## 5. Project team reports (Tracy)

- Preservation and inclusion of OH videos into DL; getting value from them (Astarte, Tracy)
  - Troy had talked to Tom Haigh about the strategy for moving forward with this work and has also discussed this with Pat Ryan. A key concern is that the video quality must be adequate. Once the quality is verified, the next steps will be to work toward how best to upload and share.
  - The question came up of whether we have received all of the material from Chuck for the ACM Key Awards interviews. Kim reported that he has talked to Chuck, who has promised to clean up the work and deliver it all to Kim.
  - Vicki reminded us about the contractor we used for the Heritage seminar recordings. It could be a good strategy to engage him for some of this final preparation.
- ACM Heritage (Almstrum, Grudin, Kasik; Barb advisory)
  - Vicki discussed progress with *Heritage Insights*. Craig Rodkin has set up a staging area with the seminar files (recordings, transcripts). The target publication date for this premier release should be September.
  - Vicki has been thinking about future issues of *Heritage Insights*. One idea is to collate and publish collections of articles related to ACM and SIG history in *Heritage Insights*. Another issue could include pieces from past Fellowship recipients. Future HC workshops and seminars also offer publication opportunities.
  - Jonathan and David are working on expanding the SIG history effort to include how as some grow they form subcommunities with conference series supported by the parent, just as ACM began sponsoring SIGs. This process that reflects the specialization in other fields would make a great dissertation topic. Jonathan reported that SIGCHI is considering whether to discontinue its large conference, just as NCC and the ACM Annual Conferences eventually were discontinued.
  - We discussed the idea of creating a map of SIG-sponsored conferences over time.
- CS History and disability connections workshop/symposium (Mills, Yost, McGee)
  - Jeff reported that he believes that Mara is making good progress with developing an event/meeting next year. It would be a 1-2 day event at NYU in collaboration with CBI as well as the HC. Meenakshi expressed interest in participating in the planning group.
  - John asks about the status of the planning, such as who will be invited as speakers. Jeff believes Mara has some speakers in mind, and we know she has a very good network for this topic.

## 6. Ideas for next F2F (Tracy)

- A good goal is to combine our F2F meetings with other relevant events.
- It is a good strategy to have one F2F meeting every year, alternating between ACM HQ and elsewhere. For the coming year, some of our ongoing ideas seem connected to ACM HQ business (Heritage, videos), so it would be useful to connect with individuals there.
- Andrew suggested a joint meeting in tandem with the event Mara will host at the Center for Disability Studies at NYU.
- Other future venue ideas: CBI in Minneapolis, something academic; ACM conferences (anniversaries, history-focused, other)

## 7. CHM connections from visit (Tracy)

- Deferred until Dag is able to participate.

## 8. Updates on committee work (brief)

### a. Turing Project (McGee, Spicer)

- Andrew had a meeting with Tom and the CHM. The CHM is the copyright holder for some of the video interviews, so we must establish a memorandum of understanding between the ACM and the CHM (or whichever copyright holder is relevant). Troy asked which videos are affected by this joint CHM-ACM issue. It is not clear whether this is the entire video interview set or a subset. Is the concern primarily about a credit shown on the interview title cards or something deeper? ACTION ITEM: Andrew will draw up a proposal.
- To help illustrate the issues, Andrew shared an email with discussion regarding credits on the cover page of the Edward Feigenbaum interview.
- John suggests adding “Supported by the ACM HC” to ensure the committee is credited. This will help the HC build a brand with all activities completed done with sponsorship or leadership by the ACM HC.
- Vicki points out that the HC does have a logo now, which can be used for events and activities. John suggested we introduce a strategy to track when and where the HC is highlighted.
- Kim asked whether there are plans yet for interviewing the most recent award winners. Andrew said there is an expectation for interviewing the new awardees, but no plan as yet.

### b. Finances (Astarte)

- Discussed current status for completing the previous fiscal year budget.
- During 2024-2025, the HC underran its budget considerably.
- Hotel costs in New York might be expensive. Vicki notes that employee programs can afford less expensive accommodation costs than the rates ACM is able to secure.

### c. Secretariat, web presence (Almstrum, Astarte)

- The work toward the annual report should help the Secretariat pursue earlier follow-up tasks and ensure that the HC Operations drive is ready for the upcoming year.

### d. Computing curriculum (Tucker, Almstrum, Tracy)

- John has been developing ideas for how to use material objects in computing education (a bit of a manifesto).
- John wondered whether there is a curriculum committee within ACM, what are they doing now, and how we can ensure the HC is involved with their work. In response, Meenakshi shared this link:  
<https://www.acm.org/education/education-governance>
- John mentions that he is reading the 1967 report on “Computers in Higher Education” (known as the [Pierce Report](#)). Shall we revisit questions of how we educate? These are historically recurring questions.
- ACTION ITEM: John will set up a meeting for the curriculum subcommittee to do additional planning for this area.

### e. Other

- We discussed the project work Meenakshi has in mind to collect interviews with Indian women in technology. With Meenakshi on board, could we expand the India oral history project? The possibility of making this a development fund project could help provide the money to conduct and process the interviews.
- John suggested that Kim or someone else in the HC write an article for CACM to highlight the work of the HC, perhaps as a recurring column in CACM. (John observes: It would make a nice flag-waving exercise!) Tom Haigh already writes for the ViewPoints column in CACM (see his author page to sample this work: <https://dl.acm.org/profile/81100393627>).
- Dave and Mary Whitton work with the *IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications* to edit a column on Origins, which highlights accomplishments of people in Computer Graphics. CACM could benefit from something along these lines.
- Jeff mentioned that one of the HC fellowship recipients has been conducting research at CBI the past two weeks.

## 9. Additional issues

- No additional issues.

## 10. Next meetings

- August 15, 2025, 12 noon Eastern time

## 11. Conclusion 13:07