

ANNUAL REPORT
of the ACM History Committee
For the Period: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Submitted by *Chuck House, Chair*

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Membership

1.1.1 Committee members

Chuck House, Chair, *Innovascapes*, joined in May 2011

Tao Xie, SGB Liaison, *University of Illinois*, joined in May 2010

Remaining members, in reverse chronological order of joining

Ursula Martin, *Oxford University*, joined April 2017

Mathai Joseph, *ACM India Education Chair*, joined April 2017, resigned May 2018

Barara Owens, *Southwestern University*, joined December 2015

Vicki L. Almstrum, *Texas State Computer Science Dept.*, joined December 2015

Kim Tracy, *Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*, joined October 2014

Jon Bashor, *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*, joined Oct 2014, retired May 2018

Roy Levin, *Microsoft (retired)*, joined November 2012

Mary Whitton, *University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*, joined in May 2010

Tom Misa, *Charles Babbage Institute* and *University of Minnesota*, joined in December 2008 (chair July 2014-16); retired May 2018

Martin Campbell-Kelly, *University of Warwick*, joined in August 2009, retired May 2018

Len Shustek, *Computer History Museum*, joined in May 2005

Carol Hutchins, *Courant Institute Library*, joined in February 2005

1.1.2 New chairperson

Barbara Boucher Owens, Chairperson, 2018-2019

1.1.3 New members, joining May 1, 2018

Bernadette Longo, NJIT

Sachin Maheshwari (IIT Delhi)

Erik Rau, Hagley Library

Jeffrey Yost, CBI

1.2 Committee charter:

The ACM History Committee fosters collection, preservation, and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing. To this end, the committee provides guidance within the Association and carries out activities independently and in collaboration with other groups.

1.3 Organization of the committee into subcommittees:

A 4-person subcommittee (Shustek, Tracy, House, Levin) oversees the Turing Oral History Project (FY'16–). For Fiscal year 2017-18, Levin chaired this sub-committee.

A 3-person subcommittee (Almstrum, Hutchins, Tracy) is preparing a SIG Heritage proposal

A 2-person subcommittee (Almstrum, Owens) is responsible for the CEOHP project.

A 4-person subcommittee (Owens, Hutchins, Levin, and Shustek) were commissioned to select a project manager and launch the ACM Video Interview Series

1.4 Dates of committee meetings

Monthly Teleconferences:

In 2017: Sept 18; Oct 16; Nov 13; Dec 18. In 2018: Jan 15; Feb 19; March 19; April 17; May 21; Jun 18

Annual face-to-face meeting:

April 19-20, 2017 [Wilmington, DE; Hagley Library]

2.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

List all projects that were active at any time during the fiscal year. Use this format:

Title of Project Responsible Person Starting Date Funds budgeted Spent Status

Turing OH Project

all 2015 ACM funded

Developed 3-year project to do video oral-histories for all non-interviewed Turing Award winners (project awarded \$210K in ACM development funding June 2015).

Project management transferred from retiring Mike Williams to David Jefferson in July 2017. See more material under “changes during the year”

Turing Award & Website

managed by project manager Tom Haigh

all 2005 ongoing \$2.5K \$2.5K

Create webpage entries at <amturing.acm.org> for each new Turing Award winner.

Research Fellowship

all 2009 ongoing \$20K \$0K

Fund research projects: travel for collections, interviews, archive site visits.

2018 Awardees (see prior awardees, projects, and results at

http://history.acm.org/public/public_documents/acm_history_fellows.php)

Winners for 2018:

- Tomas Petracek, Kent University, U.K. (*nee* Charles University in Prague); "Documenting the History of Programming Errors"
- Frances Corry and Anna Loup, USC; "Revisiting SIGCOMM 99's Technical History of the Internet"
- Urooj Raja, University of Colorado; "Technology/Empathy Dyad within Virtual Space"

In addition, the SIG Heritage sub-committee made a follow-up grant to one of last year's awardees (see detail under SIG ART SHOW):

- Bonnie Mitchell / Bowling Green State University and Jan Searleman / Clarkson University, "ACM SIGGRAPH Art Show Archive"

History Blog

Xie 2011 ongoing \$0 \$0

Provide a forum for active discussion. Includes postings from fellowship awardees and reports on ACM HC activities. After several years of very minimal attention to this, prior minutes have been assembled and much of the committee's history is now online.

3. PLANS

3.1 Projects that will be completed or terminated in the coming year.

Festschrifts

ACM HC began interaction with Tamer Özsu, ACM Books Editor-in-chief, in early 2017 for an ACM *Festschrift* series. The ACM Turing projects will serve as initial material for Özsu's selected editors. In turn, ACM HC has re-adjusted some of our interview timing to accommodate Özsu's needs. This work has essentially been completed.

3.2 List important changes or milestones in active projects during the past year.

3.2.1 Turing Award Interviews

Project Director Change: Mike Williams retired from this project on June 30, 2017 for health reasons. David Jefferson, a long-term computer scientist retired from UCLA, now a Visiting Professor at Lawrence Livermore National Labs, replaced Mike Williams as of July 1, 2017

Status end of July 2017: ACM HC had 22 video interviews either conducted by Williams' team, or obtained from other public domain sources of the 65 Turing Awardees. Nineteen individuals are either infirm or deceased, and we have not (yet) tried to find adequate previous material to post.

Twelve individuals are "on hold" pending further search for prior materials, or have declined to be interviewed. A final 12 await scheduling.

Status end of July 2018 for 42 living laureates:

1. 9 have videos on ACM site
2. 6 have completed video in David's archive that are not on the ACM site (5 of which ***are*** online on CHM, however)
3. 11 have video awaiting final editing and sign-off
4. 15 have no video (yet), of which 6 of those have transcripts of older, audio-only interviews at CHM

All told, 17 interviews (6 video, 11 text-only) are online at CHM but not at ACM. CHM has generously offered to allow those interviews to be available by permission for the ACM Turing Interview series.

Funding is adequate to continue this project for 2018/19.

3.2.2 CEOHP project

Barbara Owens and Vicki Almstrum spearhead this activity, begun independently of ACM HC, but they have joined our Board. Much discussion about next steps to make the 34 existing interviews more publicly available, and to rejuvenate the momentum. This is anticipated to become a portion of the SIG Heritage program, to be run jointly with SIGCSE.

3.2.3 ACM SIGGRAPH Art Show Archive Project:

Bonnie Mitchell and Jan Searleman received a 2017 ACM History Committee Fellowship of \$8000 and funding of \$8000 from ACM SIGGRAPH to support continued development and content entry for their archive.

Based on their accomplishments in 2017, the new SIG Heritage project (led by two members of the ACM History Committee and funded by that committee) has awarded Bonnie and Jan a 2018 grant of \$8000 to support their continuing work on the website. This project was chosen as the first to be funded as developing a prototype open-source infrastructure for capturing SIG histories that can be shared among the SIGS.

Content & Page views: The year-end report to the ACM History Committee lists what types and how many items have been entered plus usage statistics. April—30 days: 2318 users; 4208 page views. C.f <http://digitalartarchive.siggraph.org>

3.3 List new projects or programs which are proposed or contemplated.

3.3.1 ACM Video Interview series

There are several hundred award winners of a number of prestigious ACM awards, such as the Distinguished Service and Outstanding Contribution awards, the Paris Kanellakis award, the Grace Murray Hopper award, and the Karl Karlstrom award. Shared awards with other professional societies include the Allan Newell award and the Eckert-Mauchly award.

The primary purpose of this project is to develop a set of research-quality career interviews for a moderate subset of these ACM Award winners. Success with the Turing Award Heritage project inspired this project, with some modifications. The interviews will be career focused, and less ethnographic, conducted via recorded video-teleconference, which greatly reduces costs of travel and studio time. Intended length of these interviews is 1½ hours. A written transcript will be produced, along with the recorded video record. The transcript will be linked to the ACM Award website, similar to the Turing approach.

We have preliminary approval from ACM's EC, and a sub-committee of Barbara, Mary, Roy and Len are drafting the job description, with the expectation that a project manager will be selected in the summer quarter, and work begins in the fall.

3.3.2 SIG Heritage project (*Owens, Almstrum, Tracy*)

Barbara presented a brief presentation about the SIG Heritage project at the SGB meeting on March 22: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19-mSYHiuUBqGm32Rt1z8rGAZysTbSKaKamRuA0KQ-60/edit?usp=sharing>

Vicki then presented the evolved notion of "Hosted Projects" for the Committee, with CEOHP as a specific example. She also talked about the new WordPress option that ACM IT is developing. This presentation is located here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wGEwV9oAeGz8iCFL7N4x6d_FleNJUQ2l3paOYRy5rA0/edit?usp=sharing

The idea is that each SIG should consider their own history in terms of artifacts, archival material, and histories of key members. This can be facilitated by creating a standing SIG Archivist or Historian position, and those selected will be offered training materials and workshops by ACM HC such as those outlined in our previous work of the past three years. The proposal met with enthusiasm, and work was done this year to implement a pilot program.

SIG Chair co-ordination: Barbara Owens and Tao Xie

Website: Vicki Almstrum has taken on the task of building a WordPress website presence to begin this program in 2018/19

Workshop: Carol Hutchins has taken the task of preparing a SIG Historian workshop, to be held late spring 2019 at the Charles Babbage Institute, hosted by Amanda Wick and Jeffrey Yost. The focus will be assisting new SIG 'historians' to get started on SIG history collecting; broader attendance is encouraged.

SIG Heritage Fellowships: See SIGGRAPH Art Show above as a prototype; managed by Mary Whitton

3.4 **List details of plan to increase the diversity of the committee membership**, with respect to younger members, wider geographic representation, and a better balance with respect to industry/academia, gender, and other under-represented groups.

The four retirees this year are all older males, three from the US. The four replacements are, on average, fifteen years younger; they include a woman, one international member, and two history institutional representatives.

Six out of 13 current members are female. The geographic distribution includes three international members and representative geographical coverage from across the U.S. The committee seeks more Asian representation. Half of the members are academics, one works as a librarian in a university institute, and three direct museums or historical institutes; three have extended careers in industry. The committee has strong SIGPLAN, SIGCSE, and SIGGRAPH connections.

4. COMMENTS

List any comments you wish brought to your Board's or Council's attention.

4.1 The ACM History Committee mobilizes the members' expertise to advise ACM and associates on how to properly handle historical documents, interviews, and information. In 2016, we responded actively to ACM president Alexander Wolf's request to evaluate possible international research projects in history of computing. We recommended that, if ACM wishes to fund *international* historical projects, that it create an open call for proposals and an appropriate means to evaluate and fund them. ACM HC would be willing to serve in that capacity. One of our three fellowships this year was to a European historian who subsequently changed his institution from Prague to the U.K.

4.2 Issues

4.2.1 We need to understand the detailed video accession process better with ACM HQ. The next step is to get in touch with the right person at ACM to arrange for upload of the Turing category 2 (above) videos and to alert HQ of the need to upload category 3 videos as they are completed, perhaps with some batching. Working better with ACM HQ and IT will help the throughput for this project.

4.2.2 Keeping track of the myriad projects via email has proven difficult at best; Roy Levin led the creation of a G-Drive communication capability for the committee, in co-operation with ACM HQ IT. This provides the ACM HC an indexed repository for our growing list of projects.

APPENDIX

Address list of all committee members:

Almstrum, Vicki L.

Address: *Texas State Computer Science Dept.*

Phone:

Email: almstrum@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: CEOHP representative

Bashor, Jon

Address: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Berkeley Lab Computing Sciences; One Cyclotron Rd 59R3022B; Berkeley, CA 94720

Phone: 510-486-5849

Email: jbashor@lbl.gov

Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large, retiring May 2018

Campbell-Kelly, Martin

Address: Department of Computer Science, University of Warwick; Coventry CV4 7AL; United Kingdom

Phone: +44 2476523193

Email: m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk

Responsibility within the Committee: Historian; retiring May 2018

House, Charles (Chuck)

Address: Innovascapes, 37997 Millwood Drive, Elderwood, CA 93286

Phone: (805) 570-6706

Email: housec1839@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Chair (2016-2018)

Hutchins, Carol

Address: Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Library; Warren Weaver
Hall, 12th Floor; 251 Mercer Street; New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 998-3314

Email: hutchins@nyu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: ACM Pub Board representative

Joseph, Mathai

Address:

Phone:

Email: mathaijos@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large; retiring May 2018

Levin, Roy

Address: formerly Microsoft Research Silicon Valley

Phone: 650.323.1290

Email: Roy@Levin.net

Responsibility within the Committee: Turing OH project sub-committee chair

Longo, Bernadette

Address: 110 Mohawk Trail, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055

Phone: 651-335-4516

Email: blongo@njit.edu

Responsibility within the committee: Member at large, new May 2018

Maheshwari, Sachin

Address: Honorary Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian
Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, India

Office Phone: +91 11 2659 1283

Email: snm@cse.iitd.ac.in

Responsibility within the committee: Member at large, India new May 2018

Martin, Ursula

Address: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/people/ursula.martin>

Phone:

Email: uhmmartin@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large

Misa, Tom

Address: formerly Charles Babbage Institute; 211 Andersen
Library; University of Minnesota; Minneapolis MN 55455

Phone: (612) 624-5050

Fax: 612 625-8054

Email: tmisa@umn.edu

Committee Responsibility: Former Chair (2014-16); retiring May 2018

Owens, Barbara Boucher

Address: Southwestern University (emerita)
708 Greenwood Ct.; Georgetown, TX 78628
Phone: 512-876-7240 (mobile, doesn't work at her rural home)
Fax: (512)863-1535
Email: owensb@southwestern.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: 2018 chair

Rau, Eric

Address: Hagley Museum & Library, P.O. Box 3630, 298 Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 19807
Phone: 302.658.2400, ext. 344
Email: erau@hagley.org
Responsibility within the committee: Hagley liaison, new May 2018

Shustek, Len

Address: Computer History Museum; 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd;
Mountain View, CA 94043
Phone: (650) 810-1010
Email: len@SHUSTEK.COM
Responsibility within the Committee: CHM Liaison

Tracy, Kim

Address: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 5500 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, IN 47803-3999; Room: Moench D216
Phone: 812.877.8343 | Fax: 812.872.6060
Email: tracy@rose-hulman.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: Turing OH subcommittee

Whitton, Mary

Address: Department of Computer Science; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; 232 Brooks Building, CB #3175; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3175
Phone: (919) 590-6150 919-260-6263 (cell) Fax: (919) 590-6105
Email: whitton@cs.unc.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: SIG representative

Xie, Tao

Address: Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: 217-244-5931
Email: taoxie@illinois.edu
Responsibility within the Committee: SGB representative

Yost, Jeffrey

Address: Charles Babbage Institute; 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612 624 5050
Email: yostx003@umn.edu
Responsibility within the committee: CBI representative, new May 2018