**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the COMMITTEE on Professional Ethics

For the Period: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Submitted by Don Gotterbarn

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 List of committee members, terms of office; begin with chair. As an appendix, attach the address list of the committee's members.

1.2 State the purpose to the committee -- its current charter.

The Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) is responsible to: 1) promote ethical conduct among computing professionals by publicizing the Code of Ethics and by offering interpretations of the Code including responding to queries from ACM members, industry professionals , ACM governance bodies, and other key stakeholders about the intersection of computing practice and ethical behavior reflected in the Code; 2) plan and review activities to educate membership in ethical decision making on issues of professional conduct giving teacher training workshops, other public education activities; and 3) review and recommend updates to the Code of Ethics and its guidelines.

1.3 Indicate the organization of the committee into subcommittees or other subunits; give a one-sentence description of each subunit's charter. Name the individual responsible for each subunit.

The committee functions as a committee of the whole, without any sub-units. Sub-committees are formed to provide leadership on new projects and as the need arises. Work is reviewed by a committee of the whole.

Code2018: A two year project to update the ACMs Code of Ethics. This project is being managed by a broad based task force from industry academe, representation from professional computing organizations and representatives from various ACM units including SIGs, Boards, and regional units. The task force is chaired by a 4 person executive committee from the COPE membership.

The Ethics Enforcement policy used to deal with cases involving ACM members from all over the globe is difficult to follow because it can requires direct involvement of the ACM President, Executive Director, Council, and the international members. The current Ethics enforcement policy is not consistent with other enforcement policies of the ACM such as the Plagiarism policy. COPE is drafting a revised enforcement policy which addresses these difficulties to propose to ACM Council. This project is headed by Keith Miller.

The Integrity Project: In order to help ACM members in particular and the computing community at large be mindful of professional computing ethics, and how its principles can be applied, the Integrity project will develop a variety of multimedia tools for use in schools and industry; including webinars, YouTube videos, and podcasts. This project has been outlined by the COPE Executive Committee and it is currently seeking a member of ACM to lead this project.

1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

The committee met:

September 2015 De Montfort University, Leister UK,

March 2016 Memphis at the SIGCSE Conference,

May 13-14 2016 Vancouver at the IEEE Ethics Conference,

May 24-25 University of Miami Oxford Ohio to address the Code 2018.

Multiple Skype, email, and telephone meetings occurred as the need arose.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

List all projects, of the committee or its subunits that have been active at any time during the fiscal year. Use this format:

COPE projects are of two kinds; reactive and proactive. COPE responds to concerns about behavior by individuals, organizations, or Professional Societies which are alleged to be inconsistent with the ethical position of the ACM. Issues are brought to us by individuals, internal ACM committees like the Pubs Board, and by ACM HQ. Proactively COPE engages in a variety of projects to promote professionalism and ethical behavior consistent with and supportive of the ACM’s position on professional ethics. The ACM Committee on Professional Ethics works to nurture an ethical stance by practitioners and those who employ practitioners.

On-going projects;

- Regular column on Professional Ethics- Inroads Magazine: (Gotterbarn)

- Develop draft revision of ACM Ethics Enforcement Policy which recognizes the global character of ACM membership and the breadth of issues that arise across international borders and incorporates a workable due process. (Miller)

- Maintain the ACM ethics web site as a resource (Brinkman) and provide ethics examples.

- Work with ACM committees dealing with ethical issues and respond to ethics questions submitted to ACM.

- Write articles about the Code of Ethics in SIG magazines (SIGCAS, SIGCSE) and CACM.

- ACM representative to IFIP 9 and support other relevant IFIP groups.

- Review articles about Codes of Ethics for CACM.

- Respond to teacher’s questions about using Code in class.

Completed projects;

- Provide workshop on teaching Computer Ethics and Decision making at SIGCSE Conference Memphis March 2016 (Gotterbarn. Miller, Brinkman)

- Worked on several issues with the Pubs board (committee of the whole)

- Reviewed the drafts of Computer Science Curriculum - Social and Professional recommendations.

- Worked with other computing societies nurturing ethics e.g., COPE is a Technical Co-sponsor of an ETHICS 2014 an IEEE International Symposium on Ethics in Engineering scheduled for May 2014. http://sites.ieee.org/ethics-conference/

- Provide workshop on teaching Computer Ethics and Decision making at 2nd IEEE Ethics Conference Vancouver May 2016 (Brinkman, Gotterbarn)

- Develop a Web presence for COPE that includes a website to house the Codes of Ethics and provide pointers for computing professionals to address ethical issues (COPE Technical coordinator Brinkman)

- COPE worked with two research organizations and other individuals on EU funded projects “Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT” and “Responsible Research Innovation” to help develop the “ICT Ethics Observatory”; an international resource of information, guidelines methods, techniques and curriculum materials helping to organize it in a way that will facilitate its extension beyond the EU and making it available to help improve the ethical sensitivity of members of the ACM.

3. PLANS

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

- Provide workshop on teaching Computer Ethics and Decision making at SIGCSE Conference Seattle March 2017

- Run a Session at SIGCSE 2017 soliciting input to Code 2018

- Present the Code 2018 Project at the international CEPE/ETHICOMP 2017 conference.

- Develop draft revision of ACM Ethics Enforcement Policy to better recognize the global character of ACM membership and the breadth of issues that arise across international borders and incorporate a workable due process.

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

- Code 2018 – Present a draft of the updated code to the ACM Council.

- Code 2018 – Print one draft of the updated ACM Code of Ethics and review and incorporate international feed-back in a second revision.

- Complete a preliminary redraft of the Enforcement Policy.

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

- Explore the possibility of a student Computer Ethics Case study competition were students write an extended case using the Code in situations typical of the ethical decisions of computing professionals.

-Develop and publish a set of illustrations of the Code being applied to Internet issues of professional conduct and ethical decision making.

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

* The committee has 10 members. Three are from outside the USA and four are women. COPE’s mission is to support professional conduct rather than to develop advanced philosophical concepts about ethics; so accordingly, in addition to an age and geographic balance we are also concerned to have a significant representation of computer scientists, IT practitioners, and some philosophy skills. Anthony Lobo, is manager of Business Ethics for Tata Consultancy Services’ for thousands of IT workers. He also regularly teaches computer ethics at a Mumbai University. Bo Brinkman has had years of experience in software development before earning his CS degree from Princeton. Like others on the committee he has done recognized work in technical computer science and in professional ethics.
* We continue to identify potential members of COPE by participation with other national and international IT Ethics organizations such as work with ACM SIGCAS, IFIP, CEPE, ETHICOMP, and the BCS.

4. COMMENTS

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

Please provide a brief (paragraph) summary of one or two of your activities that would be of interest to the broad ACM community (or provide a link to a write-up of such information).

The two project below have been written up in an articles in September 2016 CACM, the September SIGCAS Newsletter, and in a column in December Inroads.

Integrity Project <http://ethics.acm.org/>   
Code 2018 <http://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/code-2018/>

# **APPENDIX**

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects.

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

Address: 3 Red Oak Circle Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423 929 0660

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Email: [don@gotterbarn.com](mailto:don@gotterbarn.com), chair@ethics.acm.org

Responsibility within the Committee: chair, ex officio member all committees

Name: Florence Appel

Address: Computer Science Saint Xavier University

Phone: 630-650-8995

Fax:

Email: appel@sxu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to several sub committees

Name: Bo Brinkman

Address: CSE Dept. , Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056

Phone: 513-907-7165

Fax:

Email: Bo.Brinkman@muohio.edu.

Responsibility within the Committee: Technical Coordinator: Web, Twitter, Youtube Channel

Name: Karla Carter

Address: Bellevue University, 1000 Galvin Road S, Bellevue, NE 68005

Phone: 402-557-7550

Fax:

Email:  [karla.carter@bellevue.edu](mailto:karla.carter@bellevue.edu)

Responsibility within the Committee: new member work with web development and social media.

Name: Francis Grodzinsky

Address: Co-Director [Hersher Institute](http://www.sacredheart.edu/pages/418_the_hersher_institute_for_applied_ethics.cfm?searchterm=hersher_institute) of Ethics, Computer Science, Sacred Heart University, New Haven CT.

Phone: 203 371 7776

Fax:

Email: grodzinskyf@yahoo.com

Responsibility within the Committee: co-ordinate gathering of cases.

Name: Anthony Lobo

Address: Ethics Division, Tata Consultancy Services, Mumbai - 400096, Maharashtra, India

Phone: +91 22 67781177

Fax:

Email: anthony.lobo@tcs.com

Responsibility within the Committee: working on Hindi translation of the Code, contributing case studies

Name: Keith Miller, Orthwein Endowed Professor for Lifelong Learning in the Sciences

Address: UMSL, Mailstop 100 MH, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121

Phone: (217) 206-7327

Fax:

Email: [millerkei@umsl.edu](mailto:millerkei@umsl.edu)

Responsibility within the Committee: Web content sub-committee chair, Enforcement revision Committee chair

Name: Denise Oram

Address: Centre for Applied Internet Research (CAIR) U of Wales, NEWI, Wrexham, North Wales

Phone:

Fax:

Email: [d.oram@glyndwr.ac.uk](mailto:d.oram@glyndwr.ac.uk)

Responsibility within the Committee: contributes to several sub committees

Name: Simon Rogerson

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Phone: + 44-116-257-7475

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Email: [srog@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:srog@dmu.ac.uk)

Responsibility within the Committee: working on web content contributing ethics columns written for professional computing journals.

Name: Marty J Wolf

Address: Math and CS Department, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN 56601

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Responsibility within the Committee: Vice Chair ad hoc member of all committees, function as chair in chair’s absence.