**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the ACM History Committee

For the Period: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Submitted by Barbara Boucher Owens. chair

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Barbara Boucher Owens, Chair 2018-, Southwestern University, joined December 2015

*Members, in reverse chronological order of joining*

David C. Brock, Computer History Museum, joined May 2019

Amanda Wick, Charles Babbage Institute, joined May 2019

Sachin N. Maheshwari, IIT Delhi, joined July 2018

Jeffrey Yost, Charles Babbage Institute, joined July 2018

Bernadette Longo, NJIT, joined April 2018

Eric Rau, Hagley Museum, joined April 2018

Ursula Martin, Oxford University, joined April 2017

Vicki L. Almstrum, Texas State University, joined December 2015

Kim Tracy, Rose Hulman, joined October 2014

Roy Levin, Microsoft (retired), joined November 2012

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

Len Shustek, Computer History Museum, joined May 2005

Carol Hutchins, Courant Institute Library, joined February 2005

*Members who rotated off during report year (in reverse chronological order of joining)*

Mathai Joseph, ACM India Education Committee Chair, joined April 2017

Jon Bashor, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, joined October 2014

Chuck House, Chair, Innovascapes, joined May 2011 (Chair July 2016-18)

Tao Xie, University of Illinois, joined May 2010

Martin Campbell-Kelly, University of Warwick, joined August 2009

Tom Misa, Charles Babbage Institute and University of Minnesota, joined December 2008 (Chair July 2014-16)

*1.2 State the purpose of the committee*

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 Subcommittees*

Turing Award Oral History Project — 4-person subcommittee (FY’16–): Shustek, Tracy, House, Levin. For fiscal year 2019-2020, Levin chairs this sub-committee.

SIG Heritage Project — 3-person subcommittee: Almstrum, Hutchins, Tracy

Fellowships — Tracy as coordinator

CEOHP project (SIG Heritage exemplar) — 2-person subcommittee: Almstrum, Owens

ACM Key Award Winners Video Series — 4-person subcommittee: Owens, Hutchins, Levin, Shustek (commissioned to select a project manager and launch project)

Budget — Whitton as coordinator

Web — 2-person subcommittee: Tracy, Almstrum (reactivate History blog, convert site to WordPress)

*1.4 Dates of committee meetings.*

Teleconference

2018-09-17, 2018-10-15, 2018-11-19, 2018-12-17 (no quorum)

2019-01-21, 2019-02-18, 2019-03-18, 2019-04-15, 2019-06-11

Face-to-face meeting

2019-05-21 and 22

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:*

Title of Project Responsible Starting Status Funds Funds

with one or two Person Date Budgeted Spent

line description

**DEVELOPMENT FUND SPECIAL PROJECTS (2)**

**Title: ACM Key Award Winners Video Series  
(Development Fund Special Project)**

Description: 3-year project to conduct, edit, and post interviews with winners of Key ACM Awards. Interviews will nominally be one hour and conducted and recorded using a video conferencing system such as Zoom. Goal is 72 interviews.

Responsible Person: History subcommittee lead Carol Hutchins; Chuck House, contractor

Start Date: FY2018-2019

Status: Chuck House hired to lead this project.

Funds Budgeted: $336,000

Funds Spent: $42,000

**Title: Turing Award Oral History Project  
(Development Fund Special Project)**

Description: 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).

Responsible Person: Roy Levin, Chair of Turing Award Oral History Project subcommittee; David Jefferson contractor, Tom Haigh, contractor

Start Date: FY 2016

Status: The work defined in original proposal will be completed FY2020. See future plans.

Funds Budgeted: $210,000

Funds Spent: $195,511

**ONGOING COMMITTEE BUDGET FUNDED PROJECTS (4)**

**Title: Turing Award Oral History Project Website Improvement**

Description: Ongoing project to create and maintain the Turing Award website <amturing.acm.org> including preparing entries for the current winner(s). Funding permitted, project will enhance access and usability of materials on the website.

Responsible Person: Roy Levin, Chair of Turing Award Oral History Project subcommittee; Tom Haigh, contractor

Start Date: Ongoing

Status: Completed interviews have been processed, work is underway to explore options for enhancing access and usability of materials on the website

Funds Budgeted: $2,500 NOTE this is from the Professional Services Line.

Funds Spent: $2,500

**Title: SIG Heritage Project**

Description: Develop resources and provide support and training for SIG Historians to document and preserve the activities, artifacts, and archives of their SIGs.

Status: Primary activity was a workshop (acmsigheritage.dash.umn.edu), the History Committee's first event to specifically target "the history person" from SIGs. Participants included representatives from 11 SIGs, 6 History Committee members, 2 fellowship winners, 2 others with project responsibility, and 2 Babbage staff. Workshop completed. The subcommittee is now drafting a proposal to ACM for support for additional SIG Heritage efforts.

Responsible Person: Almstrum

Start Date: April 2017

Status: Workshop held, goals being set for continuation

Funds Budgeted: $20, 000

Funds Spent: $20,000+ (estimated)

**Title: Research Fellowships 2019 Awards**

Description: Each year the committee, at its discretion, awards up to four research fellowships, nominally $4,000 per award per year. The funds support scholarly research on ACM History related topics. (See prior awardees, projects, and results at history.acm.org/public/public\_documents/acm\_history\_fellows.php)

Responsible Person: Tao Xie, Jeffrey Yost, Kim Tracy

Start Date: April 2019; funds are to be spent by the recipient within a year of award

Status: Ongoing project. Two were selected and awarded in April 2019 from 15 applications.

#1: Frances Corry and Anna Loup, University of Southern California, “Capture It While You Can”: Revisiting SIGCOMM ‘99’s Technical History of the Internet, Continued Support Application. Awarded $6K. This is a follow-on award to a FY2018 winner. The amount was higher due to an anticipated trip to Asia.

#2: Kira Lussier, University of Toronto Mississauga, Computing Psychology: Personality Testing in Human/Computer Interaction. Awarded $4K.

Funds Budgeted: $20,000

Funds Spent: $10,000 (we request reallocation of remainder to Travel and Meetings.)

**Title: ACM India Oral History Project**

Description: An oral history project piloted with three keyfigures in India’s computing field. The Computer History Museum will archive the interviews, with copies at CBI, copyright ACM.

Responsible Person: Sachin Maheshwari

Start date: June 2019

Status: Planning phase; ACM India will supply some funding

Funds Budgeted: $2500 beginning June 2019

Funds Spent : $0

**Title: History Blog**

Description: 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.

Responsible Person: Kim Tracy

Start Date: Restarted Summer 2019

Status: Ongoing

Funds Budgeted: $0

Funds Spent: $0

3. PLANS

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

The original Turing Award Oral History Project goals should be met by the end of the 2019-2020 year.

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

**Turing Award Oral History Project**

Responsibility and goals for the continuing project must be clearly formulated.

Tom Haigh has introduced test snippets to the Turing interviews as a first step in assessing the impact and costs of such additions.

David Jefferson and Roy Levin have the full set of archived files (ACM does not), including the materials from Mike Williams. David has 4TB of data. An open issue is how to back up the full archive.

URGENT to transfer source materials into ACM oversight and backup maintenance. Can materials be preserved in the ACM Digital Library? David wants to ensure that the 4TB of data ends up in archival storage that will be maintained. One possibility is to save at CBI, which has an agreement with ACM.

Need to clarify the relationship between CBI and ACM.

**ACM Key Award Winners Video Series**

Approved in mid-October for three years, 72 interviews.

End of December 2018: initial interview lists circulated for approval.

End of March 2019: 13 potential interviewees invited to participate.

End of June 2019: 11 invited to participate, 6 scheduled for 3rd quarter (including one already attempted, with video issues). Expect 6 to 8 interviews per quarter on an ongoing basis for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Completion mid-fiscal 2022.

**SIG Heritage**

Inaugural activity was workshop in May 2019. Next steps:

* Create an active discussion community for SIG Historians, beginning with the participants at the workshop.
* Launch the website heritage.acm.org with tools and support for SIG Historians.
* Collect exemplar projects to illustrate approaches to capturing a SIG's history. One exemplar project is the CEOHP project.

**India Industry Leaders Video Project**

Oral histories with three key figures in India’s computing field and considered strategies, priorities.

The Computer History Museum will archive the interviews, with copies at CBI, copyright ACM.

The committee voted to approve $2500 for the project. Additional funds to be contributed by the ACM India Council.

**History Committee Fellowships**

Clarify and revamp of the criteria for fellowships.

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

See above — snippets from Turing Award Oral History Project interviews, SIG Heritage beyond workshop; India Interviews.

*3.4 Committee diversity*

Four of the six members who left the committee are older males, three from the USA.

Only two replacements have been made, one a young female. Both are from the USA.

Seven out of 14 current members are female.

The geographic distribution includes two international members and representative geographical coverage from across the USA.

The committee seeks more Asian and European representation.

Half of the members are academics, one works as a librarian at a university institute, and three with museums or historical institutes.

Three members 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.*

*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 ACM Key Award Winners Video Series and the SIG Heritage projects are key to our activities for the year.

We are excited to partner with ACM India in piloting an Oral History Project highlighting computer industry pioneers.

The ACM-HC Blog will highlight all of these activities.

**APPENDIX**

*List of all committee, subcommittee, subunit chairs and members, and others responsible for projects.*

Vicki Almstrum

Responsibility within the Committee: SIG Heritage Project, CEOHP project

David C. Brock

Responsibility within the Committee: member

Carol Hutchins

Responsibility within the Committee: Local organizing, as appropriate

Roy Levin

Responsibility within the Committee: Turing Award Oral History Project.

Bernadette Longo

Responsibility within the Committee: letter writer

Sachin Maheshwari

Responsibility within the Committee: Overseeing oral history interviews with three iconic pioneers of computing in India

Ursula Martin

Responsibility within the Committee: No specific assignment

Len Shustek

Responsibility within the Committee: various

Kim Tracy

Responsibility within the Committee: SGB rep, subcommittee on web

Mary Whitton

Responsibility within the Committee: Budget/Finance, Liaison to SIGGRAPH history activities. (Mary is chair of the SIGGRAPH History Committee)

Amanda Wick

Responsibility within the Committee: SIG Heritage subcommittee

Jeffrey Yost

Responsibility within the Committee: advisory as a longtime professional historian of science/technology/medicine with specialty in history of computing, software and networking, as well as an expert, experienced oral historian. I serve as a liaison between the committee and the Charles Babbage Institute (a leading research center and archives for IT history), which I direct, and a liaison to the broader history of tech and IT communities of SHOT and SIGCIS. I also serve on the Fellowships subcommittee, and help organize events.

**Non-member participants**

Tom Haigh

Responsibility: Ex-officio non-voting participant as editor in chief of the Turing Award Oral History Project website. Consults with committee on the website, including enhancements and the development of new profiles. Also provides professional historical expertise as needed to the committee in an advisory capacity. Only one interview is currently pending, and that is for Joseph Sifakis. It will be held in Athens, Greece on Sept. 6.

Charles House

Responsibility: Project leader for ACM Key Award Winners Video Series

David Jefferson

Responsibility: Act as “producer” of Turing Award Oral History Project interviews. Contact laureates, help match them to interviewers and videographers, help schedule the time and location of interviews, explain roles, collect raw video, have raw transcripts made, edit video and transcripts according to directions from laureates and interviewers, collect signed video release forms, ensure interviewers, transcribers, and videographers are paid, maintain multiple backups, and turn over finished interviews.