**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the COMMITTEE on Professional Ethics

For the Period: July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

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; 2) plan and review activities to educate membership in ethical decision making on issues of professional conduct; 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.

1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

The Committee met:

- March in Denver at the SIGCSE Conference

- June in Kolding at the Ethicomp Conference

- 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.

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.

**Finished**

- Provided a workshop on teaching Computer Ethics and Decision Making at SIGCSE Conference Denver- 35 registrants from academe and industry. We ran a pre-event workshop at SIGCSE symposium on how to introduce discussion of professional/ethical issues and the use of ACM’s Ethics Codes into computing classes. The workshop introduced techniques to show the relevance of ACM’s professional standards for a variety of computing classes and provided complete ready to use examples for attendee’s classes and suggestions for training in industry.

- Worked on several issues with the Pubs board

- Reviewed the drafts of Computer Science Curriculum 2013- Social and Professional recommendations.

- Endorsed the Pledge of the Computing Professional <http://computing-professional.org/index.html>

- 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/

- Organized an occasional COPE column in CACM.

On-going - Work with ACM Professional Development Committee developing a Tech Pak on Professionalism and Computing Ethics.

-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.

-Develop web presence on ACM.org to facilitate a better understanding of computing professionalism.

-Write quarterly column for Inroads about using the Codes in teaching and other issues of professionalism.

- 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.

- 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.

- Continue work with an international interdisciplinary group to collaboratively build a document about ‘moral responsibility for the use and development of computing artifacts.’

-Encourage New Leaders:

Organize a CD of examples on how to integrate ethical issues into the CS Curriculum. Part of the content would be contributed by ACM faculty members. This would also function as a way to identify potential new leaders.

-Continue working with SIGCAS to identify recipients for their “Making a Difference Award.”

-Manage Code translations into Middle Eastern languages - Arabic translation complete, working on Hindi translation.

- Distribute Code translations to other web sites.

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 Atlanta 2013.

- 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.

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

- Examine the possibility of putting some computer ethics training on podcasts and YouTube.

-Modify structure of the COPE Computer Ethics training workshops making them more interactive by including pedagogic practice, for example.

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

* Develop a COPE web page at the ACM containing resources to help ACM members address ethical concerns and to provide pointers to material used in training members about professionalism.
* Having received emails from members indicating the failure of professional colleagues to be aware of the Codes of Ethics, we are looking into effective ways to broaden the awareness of the Codes. Several of these efforts will be tied to using a breadth of automated technologies: including pod casts, webinars, talking power points, and robotic technology.
* COPE will work 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”; a international resource of information, guidelines methods, techniques and curriculum materials helping to organize it in a way that will facilitate its extension beyond the UK and making it available to help improve the ethical sensitivity of members of the ACM.
* Examine the possibility of COPE or the ACM Code having a presence in appropriate social media.
* The ACM Code of Ethics talks about copyright. Continue to work with the ACM Pubs Board formulating policy about intellectual property and how to address tensions between different international policies.
* The Code must be reviewed to explore the impact of new copyright legislation on the Code.

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 nine active members and should probably have no more than 10 members. One third of the committee is from outside the USA. 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. David Gleason is the principle consultant for an IT management firm in Boston. 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, and Ethicomp.

4. COMMENTS

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

# **APPENDIX**

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and

members, and other persons responsible for projects. Use this format:

Name: Donald Gotterbarn

Address: 3 Red Oak Circle Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423 929 0660

Fax: 423 328 7843

Email: don@gotterbarn.com

Responsibility within the Committee: chair, ex officio member all 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: Policy sub-committee chair

Name: David Gleason

Address: IT for Progress, 10 Spring Park Ave, Boston MA

Phone: 617-803-5082

Fax:

Email: dgleason@ITforProgress.com

Responsibility within the Committee: new member

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:

Fax:

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

Responsibility within the Committee: Web content sub-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: new member

Name: Simon Rogerson

Address: DeMontfort University Center for Computing and Social Responsibility, Leicester UK

Phone: + 44-116-257-7475

Fax:

Email: 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

Phone: 218-755-2825

Fax: 218-755-2822

Email: mwolf@bemidjistate.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: New member