**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the ACM History Committee

For the Period: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Submitted by *Chuck House, Chair*

1. BASIC INFORMATION

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 Committee Chair*, joined April 2017

Barbara Owens, *Southwestern University*, joined December 2015

Vicki L. Almstrum, *DeVry University*, joined December 2015

Kim Tracy, *Michigan Technological University*, joined October 2014

Jon Bashor, *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*, joined October 2014

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)

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

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

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

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 will chair 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.*

1.4 Dates of committee meetings.

 Monthly Teleconferences:

In 2016: Sept 26; Nov 15; Dec 15. In 2017: Jan 16; Feb 15; April 17; May 15

 Annual face-to-face meeting:

March 15-16, 2016 [Mountain View, CA; Computer History Museum]

2. 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).*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Turing Award** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Turing Website**  |  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.*

*2017 Awardees: three awards made (see prior awardees, projects, and results at http://history.acm.org/public/public\_documents/acm\_history\_fellows.php )*

*Winners for 2017:*

* Bethany G. Anderson/University of Illinois, "From Margin to Center: Reframing the History of Women in Computing and Information Technology through Oral Histories”
* Beth A. Robertson, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, project on James Swail, [Canada's] National Research Council (NRC), and the development of assistive computing
* Bonnie Mitchell / Bowling Green State University and Jan Searleman / Clarkson University, “ACM SIGGRAPH Art Show Archive”

**ACM Oral**

**Histories** Hall 2004 ongoing $10K *$0K*

*Commission oral histories of ACM officers, editors, and others – two transcripts are in need of final editing prior to public posting. No active leadership right now*

**History Blog** Xie 2011 ongoing $0 $0

*Provide a forum for active discussion. Includes postings from fellowship awardees and reports on ACM HC activities. Very minimal attention to this; decision has been made to add redacted committee minutes for past two years.*

**ACM Books** Misa 2013 ongoing $0 $0

*Publish ACM-related history via ACM Books: three titles in 2015-16, none in 2017*

**Workshops**

*ACM HC organized a mini-workshop on ACM history embedded in the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Albuquerque NM 8-11 Oct 2015); two full sessions accepted onto the program with a total of 8 ACM history-related papers. See books for ACM Book publication (published 2016)*

Research Workshop Misa 2015 one-time $10K

**Oral History Workshop** Whitton 2016 one-time $20K [approx $22K]

*ACM HC organized a two-day workshop on oral-history principles and practices (UNC Chapel Hill 12-13 May 2016) with external workshop leader Mary Marshall Clark*

*<http://www.incite.columbia.edu/mary-marshall-clark>.*

3. PLANS

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

We have commissioned oral histories of previous editors-in-chief from *CACM* and

*JACM*. Two oral histories are in final editing.

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

Tom Haigh began work as Turing Award website Curator-in-Chief in January 2015: he wrote the entry for Turing 2014 awardee Michael Stonebraker (now posted); and commissioned historian Jeffrey Yost to write entries for Turing 2015 awardees Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman (the two essays are done, edited, and are being reviewed prior to posting).

Mike Williams began active curator role for Turing Oral History Project (at work summer 2015). At the beginning of fiscal 2016, he had processed 5 completed interviews, 2 additional interviews have been scheduled, and there are active discussions with 3 more Turing awardees. A total of 22 new interviews are planned at present.

Williams retired from this project on June 30, 2017 for health reasons. All told, at this point, ACM HC has 22 video interviews either conducted by Williams’ team, or obtained from other public domain sources. 19 individuals are either infirm or deceased, and we have not (yet) tried to find adequate previous material to post. 12 individuals are “on hold” pending further search for prior materials, or have declined to be interviewed. A final 12 await scheduling.

David Jefferson, a long-term computer scientist retired from UCLA, now a Visiting Professor at Lawrence Livermore National Labs, is replacing Mike Williams as of July 1, 2017.

**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.

**3.3 List new projects or program**s which are proposed or contemplated.

**Supercomputing History**

Jon Bashor, ACM HC member, is retiring from Lawrence Livermore Labs this year; he has been the *de facto* archivist for LLNL for many years. ACM HC in conjunction with SIGHPC and the Computer History Museum are assessing potential avenues for a meaningful project.

**CEOHP project**

We anticipate a proposal, perhaps with SIGCSE, for this coming year.

**OZSU Festscrifts**

ACM HC began interaction with Tamer Ozsu, ACM Books Editor-in-chief, in early 2017. The ACM Turing projects will serve as initial material for Ozsu’s selected editors. In turn, ACM HC has re-adjusted some of our interview timing to accommodate Ozsu’s needs.

**SIG Histories**

 Barbara Owens presented a preliminary proposal to ACM Council June 22, 2017 for SIG consideration. Termed the SIG Heritage Project, 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 will be done this year to implement a pilot program.

**Workshops**

We are discussing follow-up activities for the successful “archiving” workshop (May 2014), “research” workshop (October 2015), and “oral history” workshop (May 2016). The focus of the next one will be assisting new SIG ‘historians’ to get started on SIG history collecting.

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 two most recent members (April 2017) are internationally based—one in England and the other in India. Two recently added members (December 2015) are: Barbara Owens, Southwestern University; and Vicki L. Almstrum, DeVry University, representing the Computer Educators Oral History Project. Three of the four new members are women; two are international, and one includes significant industry experience.

The current composition of the committee is reasonably diverse. Five out of 14 current members are female. The geographic distribution includes three international members and representative geographical coverage from across the U.S. While half of the members are academics, one works as a librarian in a university institute, and two direct museums or historical institutes; five have extended careers in industry. Most of the members are mid-career to senior, other than Tao Xie, a recent associate professor. The committee has strong SIGPLAN, SIGCSE, SIGHPC, and SIGGRAPH connections and hopes to expand its SIG 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 a open call for proposals and an appropriate means to evaluate and fund them. ACM HC would be willing to serve in that capacity.

4.2 The work done by the ACM HC with regard to the Turing Award winners has proven very positive, for relatively minimal cost to ACM. This work could only be done with a paid administrator, and key paid interviewers. In reviewing other historic ACM and SIG Awards, not to mention SIG history, it is apparent that volunteer leadership needs to be augmented in order to assure broader coverage. Thus, we might anticipate a project proposal to be brought to the ACM Council for 2018/19 analogous in basic outline to the Turing Award project.

**APPENDIX I**

Address list of all committee members:

Name: Chuck House

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

Phone: (805) 570-6706

Email: housec1839@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Chair

Name: Tao Xie

Address: Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-­‐ Champaign; Urbana, IL 61801

Phone: 217-­‐244-­‐5931

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Email: taoxie@illinois.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: SGB representative

Name: Tom Misa

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

Phone: (612) 624-­‐5050

Fax: 612 625-­‐8054

Email: tmisa@umn.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Former Chair (2014-­‐16)

Name: Jon Bashor

Address: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Berkeley Lab Computing

Sciences; One Cyclotron Rd 59R3022B; Berkeley, CA 94720

Phone: 510-­‐486-­‐5849

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Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large

Name: Kim Tracy

Address: Computer Science Dept., Illinois Wesleyan University, Room: CNS C207A, 1312 Park St., PO Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

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Email: <k.w.tracy@ieee.org>

Responsibility within the Committee: Turing OH subcommittee

Name: Barbara Owens

Address: Southwestern University (emeritus)

708 Greenwood Ct.; Georgetown, TX 78628

Phone: Fax:

Email: <owensb@southwestern.edu>

Responsibility within the Committee: CEOHP representative

Name: Vicki L. Almstrum

Address: Strayer University (North Austin Campus); DeVry University (Austin TX) Phone:

Fax:

Email: <almstrum@gmail.com>

Responsibility within the Committee: CEOHP representative

Name: Roy Levin

Address: formerly Microsoft Research Silicon Valley

Phone: 650.323.1290

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Email: Roy Levin <roy@Levin.net>

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

Name: Mary Whitton

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Chapel Hill; 256 Sitterson Hall , CB #3175; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-­‐3175

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Responsibility within the Committee: SIG representative

Name: Martin Campbell-­‐Kelly

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

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Responsibility within the Committee: Historian

Name: Len Shustek

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Responsibility within the Committee: CHM Liaison

Name: Carol Hutchins

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Responsibility within the Committee: ACM Pub Board representative

Mathai Joseph

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Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large

Ursula Martin

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Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large

**APPENDIX II**

ACM History Committee Terms of Office

The following motion was unanimously approved at the July 17, 2017 History Committee meeting:

* 1. 3-year terms, no term limits
	2. Chair will be responsible for discussing membership status and wishes with each member as their term comes to an end.
	3. For the chair, discussion of membership status and wishes for continuation falls to the non-chair member with seniority.

Pursuant to that motion, current ACM HC members are placed in the following categories:



This structure gives the most recent four members in the 3-year category; three of the next most recent in the 2-year category; and two members in the 1-year category who’ve indicated they’d like this as their last year.

New members after the first of the year will join as a new 3-year member term (e.g. starting after January 2018 for this year, term ends June 2021). When resignations occur, the person filling the role will assume the term of the resigning member.