

ANNUAL REPORT
of the ACM History Committee
For the Period: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
Submitted by *Thomas Misa, Chair*

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Committee members:

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

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

Remaining members, in reverse chronological order of joining

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

Peri Tarr, *IBM*, joined November 2012

Chuck House, *Innovascapes*, joined in May 2011 (incoming chair)

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

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

Mary Hall, *University of Utah*, joined in January 2005; chair 2009-2014

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–)

1.4 Dates of committee meetings.

Monthly Teleconferences:

Sept 24, 2015; Oct 22, 2015; Nov 23, 2015; Dec 15, 2015; Feb 16, 2016; May 25, 2016;

Oct 22 2015; June 20 2016 [Turing oral history project subcommittee]
 Annual face-to-face meeting:
 March 10-11 2016 [San Francisco]

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

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

Title of Project	Responsible <u>Person</u>	Starting <u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	Funds <u>Budgeted</u>	Funds <u>Spent</u>
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with one or two line description

Turing OH Project	all	2015	ACM funded		
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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).

Turing Award Website	all	2005	launched, ongoing	\$2.5K	\$2.5K
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Create webpage entries at <amturing.acm.org> for each new Turing Award winner.

Research Fellowship

	all	2009	ongoing	\$20K	\$0K
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Fund research projects: travel for collections, interviews, archive site visits.
2016 Awardees: no awards made (see prior awardees, projects, and results at http://history.acm.org/public/public_documents/acm_history_fellows.php)

ACM Oral Histories

	Hall	2004	ongoing	\$10K	\$0K
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Commission oral histories of ACM officers, editors, and others – two transcripts are in need of final editing prior to public posting.

History Blog	Xie	2011	ongoing	\$0	\$0
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Provide a forum for active discussion. Includes postings from fellowship awardees and reports on ACM HC activities.

ACM Books	Misa	2013	ongoing	\$0	\$0
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Publish ACM-related history through ACM Books: three titles in 2015-16
<<http://books.acm.org/subjects/forthcoming-titles>>: Bernadette Longo's biography of ACM founder Edmund Berkeley . . . Robin Hammerman and Andrew Russell's edited volume on Ada Lovelace (appeared for December 2015 bicentennial) . . . Misa's edited volume Communities of Computing: Computer Science and Society in the ACM (2016)

Research Workshop Misa 2015 one-time \$10K
[approx \$10K]

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 below for ACM Book publication (forthcoming 2016)

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>>. See below for highlights.

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 coming 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). He is now [June 2016] processing 5 completed interviews, 2 additional interviews have been scheduled, and there are active discussions with 3 more Turing awardees. A total of 22 interviews are planned at present.

ACM HC held a “research workshop” at the annual SHOT meeting in mid-October 2015; many of the presentations, duly revised, are forthcoming fall 2016 in *Communities of Computing: Computer Science and Society in the ACM*, a volume Misa is editing for ACM Books (now in production).

Committee chair Misa published an update on ACM HC activities “Computing is History” in *Communications of the ACM* 58 no. 10 (October 2015): 35-37.

ACM HC organized a well-received “oral history workshop” UNC Chapel Hill during 12-13 May 2016 (see blog post at <<http://historyblog.acm.org/?m=201605>>) with 16 attendees. A detailed post-workshop survey highlighted many positive experiences (small group; hands-on character; close contact with group leader [an established expert in oral history methods]; wide diversity in ages, national backgrounds, institutional homes, perspectives; ample time for personal connections; varied experience with different roles [interviewing, being interviewed, analyzing; planning]; open discussion) as well as several suggestions for future (clear expectations, relation to established practices in computing history). The 17-page summary can be used in planning future events, which are highly desired by attendees of 2014 archiving, 2015 research, and 2016 oral-history workshops.

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

We are discussing follow-up activities for the successful “archiving” workshop (May 2014), “research” workshop (October 2015), and “oral history” workshop (May 2016).

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.

Two recently added members (December 2015) are: Barbara Owens, Southwestern University; and Vicki L. Almstrum, DeVry University, representing the Computer Educators Oral History Project.

The current composition of the committee is reasonably diverse. Six out of 14 current members are female, including the past chair. Six new members have been added in the past several years, two from industry and three female. The geographic distribution includes one international member 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; three have 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 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.

The ACM History Committee mobilizes the members' expertise to advise ACM and associates on how to properly handle historical documents, interviews, and information. This year, 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.

APPENDIX

Address list of all committee members:

Name: Tom Misa

Address: Charles Babbage Institute; 211 Andersen Library;

University of Minnesota; Minneapolis MN 55455

Phone: (612) 624-5050

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Email: tmisa@umn.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Chair (2014-16)

Name: Tao Xie

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

Phone: 217-244-5931

Fax:

Email: taoxie@illinois.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: SGB representative

Name: Mary Hall

Address: School of Computing, University of Utah; 50 S. Central Campus Dr.; Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Phone: 801-585-1039

Fax: 801-581-5843

Email: mhall@cs.utah.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Former chair (2009-14)

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
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Responsibility within the Committee: Turing OH subcommittee

Name: Barbara Owens
Address: Southwestern University (emeritus)
708 Greenwood Ct.; Georgetown, TX 78628
Phone:
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Responsibility within the Committee: CEOHP representative

Name: Vicki L. Almstrum
Address: Strayer University (North Austin Campus); DeVry University (Austin TX)
Phone:
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Responsibility within the Committee: CEOHP representative

Name: Roy Levin
Address: formerly Microsoft Research Silicon Valley
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Responsibility within the Committee: Subcommittee on Turing OH project

Name: Peri Tarr
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Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights NY USA
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Responsibility within the Committee: Member at large

Name: Chuck House
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Responsibility within the Committee: in-coming committee chair

Name: Mary Whitton
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Responsibility within the Committee: SIG representative

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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