ACM-W Annual Report

Elaine Weyuker, Chair

July 27, 2006

Chair: Elaine Weyuker
Past Chair: Ursula Martin
Working Committee: Jehan Ara, Bettina Bair, Valerie Barr, Tracy Camp, Joanne McGrath Cohoon, Paula Gabbert, Neelam Gupta, Cindy Hood, Kathy Kleiman, Barbara Ryder, Chris Stephenson, Gloria Townsend, Amy Wu.
Ambassadors: Jehan Ara, Reyyan Ayfer, Anne Condon, Vashti Galpin, Annika Hinze, Catherine Lang, Veronika Oechtering, Jan Peters, M. Suriya.
Advisory Committee: Jennifer Chayes, Maria Klawe, Susan Landau, Barbara Simons, Karen Sollins, Harriet Taylor, Telle Whitney

1. Purpose of the Committee: Celebrate, inform and support women in computing.

2. Committee Organization: The working committee is project-oriented. Every committee member either chairs or co-chairs a project which are listed below.

3. Committee Meetings: The committee has not had any face-to-face meetings during this timeframe. There will be one at the upcoming Grace Hopper conference in October 2006.

Projects

There are 5 new projects:

1. Athena Lecture Award: This is a new annual award that is given to a pre-eminent woman computer scientist for outstanding research accomplishments. The Athena Lecture will honor women who have made fundamental contributions to computer science research. We presented the first award to Deborah Estrin at the ACM Banquet. She will present the first Athena Lecture at Mobicon in October, 2006. There were 17 nominees representing 13 different SIGs.

2. Student Scholarships: This is a new series of small scholarships to allow women students to attend a research conference. The purpose is to allow undergraduates to aspire to go on to graduate school and Masters students to continue on for a PhD.

3. Poster to Recruit Girls to Computer Science: This was done jointly with CSTA.

4. Large Regional Conferences: Similar to the Small Regional Conferences, but covering a larger geographic area. The first one is in the planning stages and will be held in the mid-west in fall 2006.

5. Identify and facilitate the nomination of women candidates to be ACM Fellows and for other awards. Women are too often overlooked and invisible. We want to assure that appropriate candidates are considered.

There are 7 continuing projects:

1. Small Regional Conferences: These are small local Hopper-like conferences. This year there were two: Ohio and Indiana. The goal is to allow women who would not be able to travel long distances to attend the Hopper conference to experience the excitement of meeting other women in computer science and to foster a community of women is an accessible area.

2. SIGCSE Conference Booth: Provide an ACM-W educational and informational booth at SIGCSE conference, with database application to capture and organize SIGCSE visitors by interest and geography.

3. Student ACM-W Chapters: These are organized on a school-by-school basis to provide a community for women students who frequently feel very isolated. The ACM-W student chapter project continues to progress and grow. There are currently 20 university chapters and 1 high school chapter. We are currently working on the charter for our first international chapter. New this year are CD's for the student chapter start-up kit so that they are easy to distribute at conferences. It includes all forms that need to be sent in for the charter as well as supporting materials for the chapter once they get started (including the 101 chapter ideas booklet developed last year).

4. Computer Girl Website: Provides high school girls with information about studying computer science at the university level. Awareness of ComputerGirl's existence was fortified at an interview by Microsoft MainFunction of creator Amy Wu and at various speaker events such as high school presentations and part of Anita Borg Institute's Conversations with Innovative Women in Technology Series. In addition, many new sites and resource lists have included ComputerGirl as a resource for young girls. A new "Learning Center" was started to provide tutorials and education channels. ComputerGirl also recruited an additional high school member to help develop the website. Finally, ComputerGirl made connections with CSTA to further the cause of education and equity in computing.

5. A Timeline of Women in Computing is being developed jointly with the ABIWT and the Computer History Museum.

6. Digital Library Project: Research on Women and Computing. The ACM-W Database Project included several articles related to women and computing from 1980 to 2003. All 398

articles within the database have been incorporated into the National Engineering Education Delivery System (NEEDS): http://www.needs.org/. ACM-W has also added another 622 entries to the NEEDS digital library (as of June 2006), which are not listed within the previous ACM-W database. The ACM-W Database Project has expanded, prompting a name change to the ACM-W Digital Library Project.

7. Foreign Ambassadors: The goal of this project is to encourage and support women computer scientist worldwide. There are currently nine Ambassadors representing the following countries: Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.