ANNUAL REPORT
of the ACM History Committee
For the Period: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
Submitted by Barbara Boucher Owens. chair
Version: 2020-07-31

Executive summary
- **Turing Oral History Project**: Phase one essentially completed; the last interview is scheduled for fall 2020. Phase two is underway, which will add oral histories for Turing laureates since 2015 and earlier laureates whose oral history should be supplemented.
- **Turing Award website**: The Turing website is up-to-date. Approximately 15 entries have been augmented with short video highlights from oral history interviews ("snippets").
- **ACM Key Award Winners**: During the first phase of this 3-year project, 41 oral histories with ACM award winners (of 72 planned) have been captured.
- **Fellowship program**: Five History and Archiving Fellowships were awarded in 2020. We saw a substantial increase in the number of good proposals submitted for these fellowships. The committee is working to better document and publicize the accomplishments of projects with fellowship support over the years.
- **India Industry Leaders Video Project**: We have started a pilot program for collecting oral histories with key individuals in India.
- **SIG Heritage**: The committee is developing resources and support to assist SIGs and Committees as they develop their individual organization's history.
- **History Committee website**: The committee has launched an updated website using WordPress and the ACM theme. We continue the process of populating the website.
- Concerns:
    - Procedures with ACM for permanent archiving of written, audio, and video content, especially interviews.
    - Challenges related to support from ACM headquarters for the Committee's web-based projects.
    - Understanding the impact of COVID restrictions on both budget and projects.

1. 　　 <u>BASIC INFORMATION</u>
    1.1 Barbara Boucher Owens, Chair, Southwestern University, joined December 2015
    Members, in reverse chronological order of joining
        Carol Hutchins, Courant Institute Library, joined in February 2005
        Mary Whitton, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, joined in May 2010
        Roy Levin, Microsoft (retired), joined November 2012
        Kim Tracy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, joined October 2014
        Barbara Boucher Owens, Southwestern University, joined December 2015
        Vicki L. Almstrum, Texas State University, joined December 2015
        Ursula Martin, Oxford University, joined April 2017

Bernadette Longo, NJIT, joined April 2018
Erik Rau, Hagley Museum, joined April 2018
Sachin N. Maheshwari, IIT Delhi, joined July 2018
Jeffrey Yost, Charles Babbage Institute, joined July 2018
David C. Brock, Computer History Museum, joined May 2019
Amanda Wick, Charles Babbage Institute joined May 2019

Members who rotated off during report year
Len Shustek, Computer History Museum, joined in May 2005 and left committee
February 1, 2020

1.2   State the purpose of the committee
The 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 Project Oversight
  - Collect oral histories with Turing award winners (FY'16–); update website; provide oversight for the project work
  - Chair: Roy Levin; Member: David Brock
- SIG Heritage
  - Develop resources for and give support to SIGs and Committees to capture their own histories
  - Chair: Vicki Almstrum; Members: Carol Hutchins, Kim Tracy, Amanda Wick
- Finance
  - Prepare and submit yearly budget for ACM, monitors expenses
  - Chair: Mary Whitton; Member: Erik Rau
- History and Archiving Fellowships
  - Provide oversight of the Fellowship award process; goal of the fellowships is to support and encourage projects relevant to the broad history of ACM, including SIGs
  - Chair: Kim Tracy; Members: Bernadette Longo, Ursula Martin, Erik Rau, Mary Whitton, Jeff Yost
- Fellowship History
  - Determine results from projects that have received past fellowships
  - Chair: Vicki Almstrum (chair); Members: David Brock, Ursula Martin, Erik Rau, Kim Tracy, Jeff Yost
- ACM Key Awards Video project
  - Collect oral histories from key award winners throughout the ACM universe; the sub-committee provides oversight for the project work

- Chair: Carol Hutchins; Members: David Brock, Mary Whitton
  - India Industry Leaders Video Project
    - Develop oral histories with key individuals in India
    - Chair: Sachin Maheshwari; Members: David Brock, Ursula Martin
  - History Committee Website
    - Upate the ACM History Committee website and blog; convert site conversion to Wordpress
    - Chair: Kim Tracy; Members: Vicki Almstrum, Bernatdette Longo, Amanda Wick
  - Computing Educators Oral History Project (CEOHP)
    - Present as an exemplar for the SIG Heritage project, rehosted with WordPress and the ACM theme.
    - Co-chairs: Vicki Almstrum, Barbara Owens

1.4 Dates of committee meetings.
  Teleconference
    2019-08-12, 2019-09-16, 2019-10-21, 2019-11-18 (no quorum), 2019-12-16, 2020-01-20, 2020-02-17, 2020-03-17, 2020-04-20, 2020-05-18, 2020-06-15 (no quorum)
    Yearly face-to-face meeting scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19

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 with one or two line description	Responsible Person	Starting Date	Status	Funds Budgeted	Funds Spent

DEVELOPMENT FUND SPECIAL PROJECTS (2)

Title   ACM Key Award Winners Video Series --Development Fund Special Project
  Three-year project to conduct, edit, and do post-production of interviews with winners of Key ACM Awards. Interviews are nominally one hour, conducted and recorded using a video conferencing system such as Zoom. Goal is to complete and post 72 interviews by the end of the project.
Responsible Person   Carol Hutchins (subcommittee chair); Chuck House, contractor
Start Date   FY2018-2019
Status Chuck House hired to lead project; at the end of June 2020, 41 interviews had been completed. Virtually all are Zoom Video interviews.   While not studio quality, 85% have been quite good, and the rest are adequate.   The video interview material will be stored next quarter at the Babbage Institute, along with much ACM archived material.

Funds Budgeted	$336,000
Funds Spent as of June 2020	$163.800 ($42,000 Fiscal 2019, $121,800 Fiscal 2020)
Total to date:	$163,800
Funds available	$172,200

Title   Turing Oral History Project --Development Fund Special Project

> A 3-year project to develop video oral-histories for all non-interviewed Turing Award winners (project awarded $210K in ACM Development Funding June 2015). Only one interview is currently pending, and that is for Joseph Sifakis. It will be held in Athens, Greece on September 6, 2020.

Responsible Person   Roy Levin, Chair of Turing Website subcommittee; David Jefferson contractor, Tom Haigh, contractor

Start Date   FY 2016

Status The work defined in the original proposal is essentially completed. See ongoing work

Funds Budgeted $210,000.00

Funds Spent as of June 2020: $212,655.57

Funds available: -0-

ONGOING COMMITTEE BUDGET FUNDED PROJECTS (4)

Title   Turing Award and Website Improvement

> An ongoing project to further develop the Turing Award website (amturing.acm.org/), including preparing entries about the current winner(s). As funding permits, the project is enhancing the accessibility and usability of materials on site, including video snippets from each interview.

Responsible Person   Roy Levin (Turing subcommittee chair); Tom Haigh contractor.

Start Date   Ongoing

Status: Webpages are current and 15 laureate write-ups have been updated with video snippets.

Funds Budgeted $25,000

Funds Spent as of June 2020 $23,500

Title   SIG Heritage Project

> This project is developing resources and providing support and training for SIG Historians to document and preserve the activities, artifacts, and archives of their SIGs.

Status The first event the History Committee organized to specifically target "SIG historians" was the workshop in May 2019 (https://acmsigheritage.dash.umn.edu/). Attendees included representatives of 11 different SIGs, 6 History Committee members, 2 fellowship winners, 2 others with project responsibility and 2 Babbage staff. As follow-up, the subcommittee is developing a white paper to outline next steps in the SIG Heritage project, including a resource website using WordPress and the ACM theme.

Responsible Person: Vicki Almstrum (SIG Heritage chair)

Start Date April 2017 (on-going)

Status Workshop held, goals being set for continuation

Funds Budgeted $10, 000

Funds Spent   -0-

Title   2020 Fellowships Awards for Research and Archiving

> Each year the History Committee awards fellowships, usually up to four with an approximate limit of $4,000 per award. Recipients use the funds to support scholarly research on topics related to ACM History, as well as for collecting and curating materials for archiving. (Prior awardees, projects, and results will appear on this page: history.acm.org/projects-and-initiatives/fellowship-for-the-advancement-of-acm-history/)

Start Date: April 2020; nominally funds are to be spent by the recipient within a year of award

Responsible Person: Kim Tracy

Status: Ongoing project. 19 applications received this year. Because the face-to-face meeting was cancelled, we agreed to make a fifth award this year. Five projects were selected in April 2020, for a total of $22,125. The five fellowships went to the following individuals:

- Bonnie Mitchell and Jan Searleman (Bowling Green State Univ. and Clarkson Univ.)
  - Innovative Archive Development: Adding Computer Graphics from the 1980s, Visualization and Enhancements
    https://digitalartarchive.siggraph.org/
- Brianna Morrison (University of Nebraska – Omaha)
  - History of SIGCSE's Conferences
- Rebecca Perry (independent scholar)
  - History of pioneering women artists in computing (SIGGRAPH)
- Dana Plepys (University of Illinois – Chicago)
  - Preservation of SVR (SIGGRAPH Video Review/Computer Animation Festival)
- Gloria Townsend (DePauw University)
  - ACM-W History

Title   India Industry Leaders Video Project

This new oral history project is being piloted with three key figures in India's computing field. The Computer History Museum will archive the interviews, with copies at CBI. The copyright will be held by ACM.

Responsible Person   Sachin Maheshwari (subcommittee chair)

Start date   June 2019

Status Planning phase; ACM India will supply some funding. The first interview should be completed summer 2020.

Funds Budgeted $2500 beginning June 2019

Funds Spent   none as of yet

Title   ACM History Committee Website

Provide information about the ACM History Committee's projects and history. After several years of minimal attention to the website's content and associated blog, the Committee is in the process of redesigning the site (using ACM's WordPress theme) and migrating website content. (history.acm.org/)

Responsible Person   Kim Tracy (subcommittee chair)

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 final interview scheduled as part of the Turing Award project should be completed in FY21.

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

Turing Project
- Tom Haigh will continue to add video snippets, produced from the Turing video interviews, to the awardee profiles on the A.M. Turing Award website.
- David Jefferson and Roy Levin have copies of the full 4TB archive (including the materials from the former project leader, Mike Williams), which should eventually reside in archival storage managed by ACM.
- URGENT CONCERN: Getting the source materials into ACM hands and backup maintenance. Can the materials be preserved in the ACM Digital Library? David wants to transfer the full 4TB of data to maintained archival storage. The materials could also be archived at CBI, which has an agreement with ACM.
- Need to clarify the relationship between CBI and ACM.

ACM Key Awards Project
- By end of May 2020, 37 interviews had been conducted (out of 72 commissioned)
- The project is on schedule for this 3-year project, although none of the material has yet been turned in to Wayne Graves at ACM.
- Still missing interviews with awardees of the ACM/IEEE Eckert-Mauchly, ACM Lawler, ACM Thacker, ACM Policy, and ACM Prize awards.
- Statistics for the 37 interviews conducted to date:
  - 34 ACM Fellows, 11 NAE members (National Academy of Engineering), 1 NAS member (National Academy of Sciences)
  - 13 IEEE Fellows (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), 10 CRA awardees (Computing Research Association), 4 SIAM Fellows (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics)
  - 7 Anita Borg awardees, 10 ACM Outstanding Contribution awardees, 6 ACM Athena Lecturer winners
  - 6 ACM Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice awardees, 5 ACM Ken Kennedy awardees, 5 SIAM/ACM Prize in Computational Science and Engineering winners, 5 ACM Distinguished Service awardees
  - 5 ACM Past Presidents, 2 ACM/AAAI Allan Newell awardees, 2 ACM Presidential awardees, 1 ACM Karl Karlstrom Outstanding Educator winner, 1 ACM Grace Murray Hopper winner (awards.acm.org/hopper)

SIG Heritage
- The SIG Heritage project is advancing through the planning stages. We are currently creating a white paper that will further sketch the initial content of our SIG Heritage website (which will be located at heritage.acm.org). It will provide tools and advice to support the work of SIG Historians. We also anticipate various ACM Committees will be able to benefit from this resource.
- Part of the work is to find exemplar projects that help illustrate different approaches to capturing a SIG's history.

- A goal is to create an active discussion community for SIG Historians, beginning with the participants at the May 2019 workshop.

India Industry Leaders Video Project
- This project has been set up to collect oral histories for three key figures in India's computing field. 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.
- Interview planning is underway for the three interviews. Besides the logistics of having an appropriate interviewer and schedule, work has included developing an appropriate list of questions and identifying the platform that works best in the Indian environment.

History Committee Fellowships
- The Fellowship Award process has been working smoothly, with discussions over the past two years taking place on-line. One goal for the committee is to clarify and revamp the criteria for fellowships
- The Fellowship History work is intended to improving the process of collecting results and statistics from past fellowships

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

    See above - Turing snippets, SIG Heritage beyond workshop; India Industry Leaders Video Project Interviews

3.4   Committee diversity:
- Four of the six members who left the committee are older males, three from the US.
- Only two replacements have been made, one a young female; both are from the US.
- Seven out of 14 current members are female.
- The geographic distribution includes two international members and representative geographical coverage from across the U.S.
- The committee seeks more Asian and European representation.
- Half of the members are academics, one works as a librarian in a university institute, and three direct museums or historical institutes; three 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 Committee activities for the year.
- We are excited to partner with ACM India in piloting an Oral History Project highlighting computer industry pioneers.
- The new History Committee website will include an updated ACM-HC Blog where we can highlight History Committee activities.
- Some committee activities have been hampered by uneven support from ACM HQ. We recognize that moving headquarters and the COVID-19 shutdown contributed to this problem, but it was evident even before that. Most notable have been the delays in matters related to IT, especially those required to support video snippets on the Turing website.
- The committee is concerned about systematic, permanent archival of historical materials. The committee is actively encouraging and supporting various ACM groups (notably SIGs) that are trying to preserve their history. The lack of a well-defined, functioning process to store these materials is a key concern. We urge ACM management to give high priority to solving this problem in FY21.

APPENDIX

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects. Use this format:

Name: Vicki Almstrum
    Email: almstrum@acm.org
    Responsibility within the Committee: SIG Heritage (chair); CEOHP (co-chair); Fellowship History (chair); Website (member); manage HC minutes

Name: David C. Brock
    Email: dbrock@computerhistory.org
    Responsibility within the Committee: Turing Project Oversight (member); ACM Key Awards (member); India Oral History Project (member); Fellowship History (member). Liaison between History Committee and the Computer History Museum.

Name: Carol Hutchins
    Email: carol.hutchins@nyu.edu
    Responsibility within the Committee: ACM Key Awards (chair); SIG Heritage (member)

Name: Roy Levin
    Email: roy@levin.net
    Responsibility within the Committee: Turing Oversight (chair)

Name: Bernadette Longo
    Email: blongo@njit.edu
    Responsibility within the Committee: Fellowship Awards (member) — drafts response letters for Fellowship applicants; Website (member)

Name: Sachin Maheshwari
    Email: snm@cse.iitd.ac.in
    Responsibility within the Committee: India Oral History Project (chair)

Name: Ursula Martin
    Email: Ursula.Martin@maths.ox.ac.uk
    Responsibility within the Committee: Fellowship Award (member); Fellowship History (member); India Oral History Project (member)

Name: Barbara Boucher Owens
    Email: owensb@southwestern.edu
    Responsibility within the Committee: History Committee Chair; CEOHP (co-chair)

Name: Erik Rau

   Email: erau@hagley.org

   Responsibility within the Committee: Finance (member); Fellowship Award (member);
      Fellowship History (member)

Name: Kim Tracy

   Email: Tracy@rose-hulman.edu

   Responsibility within the Committee: Website (chair); Fellowship Award (chair); Fellowship
      History (member); SIG Heritage (member); History Committee representative to SGB

Name: Mary Whitton

   Email: mcwhitton@gmail.com

   Responsibility within the Committee: Finance (chair); Fellowship Award (member); ACM
      Key Awards (member); Liaison to SIGGRAPH history activities (she is chair of
      SIGGRAPH's history committee)

Name: Amanda Wick

   Email: abwick@umn.edu

   Responsibility within the Committee: SIG Heritage (member); Website (member)

Name: Jeffrey Yost

   Email: yostx003@umn.edu

   Responsibility within the Committee: Fellowship Award (member); Fellowship History
      (member); 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. Liaison between the History Committee and the Charles
      Babbage Institute (a leading research center and archives for IT history), which Jeff
      directs. Liaison to the broader history of tech and IT communities of SHOT and SIGCIS.

Non-member participants

   Name: Tom Haigh

      Email: thomas.haigh@gmail.com

      Responsibility within the Committee: Contractor for the Turing Award Oral History
         interviews. Editor-in-chief of the Turing Award Winners' website. Consults with the
         ACM History Committee regarding the website, including enhancements and the
         development of new profiles. Provides professional historical expertise as needed to the
         committee in an advisory capacity.

   Name: Charles House

      Email: Housec1839@gmail.com

      Responsibility within the Committee: Contractor for the Development Fund Special Project
         ACM Key Award Winners Video Series

Name: David Jefferson

Email: drjefferson@gmail.com

Responsibility within the Committee: Contractor for the Turing Award Oral History interviews. Acts as the "producer": Contacts the laureates, helps match them to interviewers and videographers, helps schedule the time and location of the interviews, explains roles, collects raw video, has raw transcripts made, edits video and transcripts according to directions from laureates and interviewers, collects signed video release forms, makes sure interviewers, transcribers, and videographers are paid, maintains multiple backups, and turns over finished interviews.