ACM History
Committee

Brent Hailpern

ACM SGB - Chicago - 27 Mar 2009
Purpose

- To foster preservation and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing

See history.acm.org
Who’s on First?

Mary Hall,
Chair

Carol Hutchins,
Pubs Liaison

Brent Hailpern,
SGB Liaison

Tom Misa

Pat Ryan

Len Shustek

Richard Snodgrass

David Wise

Matt Cleveland,
Webmaster

HISTORY.ACM.ORG/PUBLIC/COMPOSITION/
Topics

- SIG-sponsored Activities
- What Can SIGs Do?
  - Collecting Software
  - SIG Histories
  - Archive of conferences
- New Turing Award Site
- PIC Significant paper Bookshelf
- History Committee Fellowships
SIG Sponsored Activities

- SIGUCCS
- SIGDA
- SIGMOD
- SIGMICRO
- SIGPLAN

HISTORY.ACM.ORG/CONTENT.PHP?DO=SIGHISTORY
SIGUCCS

- History of SIGUCCS has been written by Jack Esbin.
- Employed graduate student to compile lists of officers and conference committees to date.
- One of our members has been exploring the possibility of bulk data entry. Since we have a considerable amount in a database already, it would obviously be preferable to use that rather than input one record at a time.
Identify several key founders of our field who are still available to comment on their work in an interview.

This will be put together with copies of their relevant papers and comments about how those papers influenced the field on a DVD.
Commissioning of a professional historian, with experience in oral histories, to interview David Hsiao, focusing on

- how TODS and VLDB Conference were created
- on the early history of SIGMOD
- on the early history of the database community

Comprehensive list of volunteers

http://dev.sigmod.org:58080/sigmod-acm/sigmod-history
Yan Solihin leads Oral History Project.

Paul Edwards is our historian

Interviews: Ed Davidson and Bob Colwell in April and May.

Showcase in SIGMICRO Newsletter and ACM DL
SIGPLAN

- HOPL-III videos now in DL
- Database of conference committee members (password protected)

www.sigplan.org/database.htm
portal.acm.org/toc.cfm?id=1238844
What Can The SIGs Do?

- Collecting software at the Computer History Museum
- Write history of SIG's founding
- Help with conference archive
- Capture websites post-conference
- Trial Run with 2-3 conferences
- Wayne Graves to coordinate
New Turing Award Site

Each award site will have a curator

Initial Set:
- Charles Bachman - Richard Snodgrass
- Edgar Codd - Jeffrey Xu Yu & Chris Date
- Jim Gray - Paul McJones
- John Backus - John Williams
- Ken Iverson - Devon McCormick
- Fran Allen - Ron Cytron

Looking for curator-in-Chief
PIC Significant Papers

Many conferences now have "Most Significant paper"

Create "Derived Work" bookshelf in DL to collect them

Add commentary?

Jack Davidson taking idea to PUBS Board
HC Fellowships

- **What**: new Fellowships in ACM History
- **Goal**: publicize + encourage use of ACM history materials
- **When**: proposals due 30 April [2009]
- **Details**: history.acm.org
HC Fellowships

- Up to two $2,500 awards
- Historical research on ACM related activities, including ACM members, officers, prize winners, the organization
- Candidates may be of any rank, from graduate students through senior researchers