

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the ACM History Committee  
For the Period: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Submitted by Mary Hall, Chair

1. BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 List of committee members, terms of office; begin with chair. As an appendix, attach the address list of the committee's members.

Mary Hall, Chair, *University of Utah*, joined in January 2005, chair in January, 2009  
Brent Hailpern, SGB Liaison, *IBM TJ Watson*, joined in October, 2008  
Mary Whitton, *University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*, joined in May, 2010  
Tao Xie, *North Carolina State University*, joined in May, 2010  
Tom Misa, *Charles Babbage Institute and University of Minnesota*, joined December, 2008  
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 State the purpose to the committee -- its current charter. If an ad hoc committee, state the termination date.

*Mission statement: to foster preservation and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing.*

- 1.3 Indicate the organization of the committee into subcommittees or other subunits; give a one-sentence description of each subunit's charter. Name the individual responsible for each subunit.

*The committee is small, so we don't have subunits.*

- 1.4 List dates of committee meetings.

*Teleconferences:*

08/25/09, 09/30/09, 10/28/09, 12/02/09, 01/06/10, 03/30/10, 04/30/10, 05/18/10

*Annual face-to-face meeting:*

Feb. 25-26, 2010 at the Charles Babbage Institute, Minneapolis, MN

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:

<u>Title of Project</u> with one or two <u>line description</u>	<u>Responsible</u> <u>Person</u>	<u>Starting</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Funds</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Funds</u> <u>Spent</u>
Research Fellowship	all	6/01	funded	\$5K	\$5K
<i>Fund research to travel to sites or otherwise access archives of ACM docs.</i>					
Travel Fellowships	all	6/01	funded	\$5K	\$5K
<i>Fund research to travel to sites or otherwise access to archives related to ACM Hist.</i>					
Oral Histories	Sndograss	2004	ongoing	\$20K	<i>unknown</i>
<i>Commission oral histories of ACM Presidents and others and add to Digital Arch.</i>					
Turing Award Website	all	2005	ongoing	\$5K	<i>unknown</i>
<i>Curate website for individual Turing Award winners organized by Curator-in-Chief</i>					

The "status" indicates whether the project is ongoing, terminated (give date), about to terminate (give expected date), etc.

Please list active projects before passive or completed ones; and list the most important projects first.

3. PLANS

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

Our current projects are ongoing, but we will soon finalize the last three oral histories of Fran Allen, Robert Tarjan and Peter Naur.

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

This year we plan to make significant progress on establishing procedures to manage the Turing Award website.

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

We are commissioning additional oral histories of journal editors from CACM and JACM.

We may introduce additional fellowships once we have time to see how well the current fellowship awardees are doing.

We have proposed the Mike Mahoney Memorial Colloquium, and plan to discuss how to make this happen.

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 current composition of the committee is already pretty diverse. Three out of eight members are female, including the chair. The geographic distribution includes one international member, two members in the Northeast, two members in the South, two members in the West, and one member in the Midwest. Five of the members are academics, one works as a librarian in a university institute, one directs a museum, one member is from industry. Tom Misa is listed as an academic but also works for a historical institute. Most of the members are mid-career to senior, but this year we added Tao Xie, a recently tenured academic, to our membership to bring in the next generation of ACM member. When the next committee member retires, another industry representative might be desirable.

4. COMMENTS

List any comments you wish brought to your Board's or Council's attention.

It is important to note that many things the History Committee does do not require a budget, but simply leverage the expertise in the committee to advise ACM and associates of ACM on how to properly handle historical documents and information. I'll cite a few examples from this year.

John White contacted the History Committee after getting a call from Bob Ashenhurst's son about his personal archive at University of Chicago and whether ACM would have an interest in it. Through the History Committee, Charles Babbage Institute contacted the Ashenhurst's son as well as the University of Chicago archives about archiving Ashenhurst's ACM-related documents and materials. The University of Chicago has taken possession of the materials in his emeritus office, and plans to archive only the materials related to his activities as a UC faculty member. The University of Chicago has already shipped CBI ~20 boxes of Ashenhurst materials pertaining to his activities in ACM, and (as they further process the materials in their possession) will be sending CBI additional ACM-related materials. This is a great example of ACM prompting CBI into action. UC was not planning to save Ashenhurst's ACM materials, but CBI was very interested in adding these materials to its several ACM holdings.

The History Committee participated in a teleconference with members of the SC Conference organizing committee led by Pat Teller, along with Donna Cappelletti (ACM SIG director) and Len, Brent, and Mary. The discussion was about where to archive physical artifacts such as hardware and paper documents related to the artifacts that had been displayed at the SC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference. There have been follow-on conversations with the Computer History Museum.

Discussions are on-going about cross-promoting to ACM members access to the IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, the leading journal in computer history. This was the direct result of the ACM-HC meeting at CBI, to initiate productive discussions with Jeff Yost, current EIC of Annals.

## **APPENDIX**

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

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: Chair

Name: Brent Hailpern

Address: IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center; P. O. Box 704;  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598-0704

Phone: 914-784-6821

Fax:

Email: bth@us.ibm.com

Responsibility within the Committee: SIG Governing Board Liaison

Name: Mary Whitton

Address: Department of Computer Science; University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill; 256 Sitterson Hall, CB #3175; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3175

Phone: (919) 962-1950

Fax: (919) 962-1799

Email: whitton@cs.unc.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: SIG representative

Name: Tao Xie

Address: Dept. of Computer Science, North Carolina State University; 2278 EBII,  
890 Oval Drive; Campus Box 8206; Raleigh, NC

27695-8206

Phone: (919) 515-3772

Fax: (919) 515-7896

Email: xie@csc.ncsu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: SIG representative

Name: Tom Misa

Address: Charles Babbage Institute; 211 Andersen Library; 222 - 21st Avenue  
South; University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN 55455

Phone: (612) 624-5050

Fax:

Email: tmisa@umn.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: Historian / CBI Liaison

Name: Martin Campbell-Kelly

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

Phone: +44 2476523193

Fax:

Email: m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk

Responsibility within the Committee: Historian

Name: Len Shustek

Address: Computer History Museum; 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd;  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Phone: (650) 810-1010

Fax:

Email: shustek@computerhistory.org

Responsibility within the Committee: CHM Liaison

Name: Carol Hutchins

Address: Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Library; Warren Weaver  
Hall, 12th Floor; 251 Mercer Street; New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 998-3314

Fax:

Email: hutchins@nyu.edu

Responsibility within the Committee: ACM Publications Board Representative