

# The CHM Muse

Volume 1, Issue 6

Staff & Volunteer Monthly Newsletter

October 2008

## Staff Summer Celebration



CHMers enjoy a well-deserved relaxing picnic day at the lake



Bears, Salmon and Bees-  
Hmm, maybe you had to be there....

Perhaps a company picnic is not the normal front page newsletter-type material, but the reason behind the CHM Staff Summer Celebration at Shoreline Park in September certainly was worthy of headlines. The fun-filled afternoon of barbeque, beverages, and friendly competitions like tug-of-war, scavenger hunts, bean bag races, and a unique game called Bears, Salmon and Bees was a big thank-you to the efforts of the museum team that over the past year:

- Launched the Successful Babbage Exhibit
- Hosted over 20,000 tour visitors
- Opened the Yosemite warehouse
- Accomplished major collection moves of SAP, NASA and the 1401 collection
- Debuted a new, improved website
- Achieved a record Net Operating Income of over \$400K
- Welcomed a new CEO



Picnic Organizer Fiona Tang



Guess which team is winning here

Plus, we had all these neat pictures to show. Special thanks to our party committee of **Alana Clarkson, Chris Garcia, Fiona Tang, and Richard Verducci** for planning a such great day.

**A New Feature This Month:**  
**“The Mystery Photo”**

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# Spotlight On: The Events Team

You've arrived at the museum on a sunny October morning to discover there's no place to park- almost all 400 parking spaces have been filled by yet another all-day rental event. Blame it on our enterprising Events team of **Valerie Alston**, **Jennifer Alexander**, and **Richard Verducci**. In the past year, they have booked an incredible 262 venue rentals, bringing over 48,000 guests (and their cars) to the site, and generated almost \$900,000 in revenue for the Museum. This represents over 25% of the income for our entire museum operations, in addition to the great public exposure it provides us- for many venue rental guests, these events are their introduction to the Computer History Museum.

So what does it take to achieve this kind of success? The Events staff does everything from A-Z in getting clients to the events- marketing our services, conducting tours for prospective clients, negotiating rates and contracts, coordinating with event planners, AV vendors, caterers, security, and a very capable internal support staff of **Dennis Cassar**, **Bill Birdsong**, and **Lorenzo Garza** from Facilities, and Volunteer manager **Jim Somers**. Weekly planning meetings of this extended staff are held to ensure schedules and commitments are met, and all our guests have a highly satisfactory experience with their events. The high return rate of clients is a tribute to the time & effort put in by the staff.

**Valerie Alston** has just completed her first full year with the museum. She came to CHM in October 2007 with a wealth of experience in conference services, having been director at the Crowne Plaza Cabana in Palo Alto prior to becoming Director of Events for the museum. **Richard Verducci** has been on the Events team as a coordinator since January, 2007, having worked previously at the Tech Museum in San Jose. The veteran of the group is **Jennifer Alexander**, having been with the museum since the Moffett Field days, starting in July, 2002. Jennifer also serves as CHM's talented in-house Graphic Designer, assisting every department with their graphic arts needs.

Maybe we can get the team to raise enough funds in the next couple years to build us a multi-level parking garage...



Jennifer Alexander



Richard Verducci



Valerie Alston

## Events By The Numbers: FY08 Final Totals

Total Income: \$875,625  
Net Profit: \$520,883  
Number of Rentals: 262  
Number of Event Guests: 48,547



Smart Car promo was a 3-week event in November 2007



## VSC

### Sept 16 Meeting Summary

By Judith Haemmerle, VSC Chairperson

The Volunteer Steering Committee sponsored a social for volunteers and staff on Saturday, October 11, after the regular Volunteer Saturday work session. The theme was Oktoberfest: beer and pretzels were served, along with polka music and dance instruction.

Volunteers can look forward to an update by Museum staff on the design of the new Timeline exhibit, which will replace Visible Storage. The presentation, tentatively expected in early November, will discuss the schedule of the project, and the ongoing roles for volunteer docents, greeters, demonstrators, and the restoration teams, both during the transition and after.

We are starting an overhaul of the volunteer section of the Museum's Web site. Two new volunteers, **Gilberto Medrano** and **Dave Astel**, are taking the lead regarding Drupal (for content management) and the calendar, respectively.

To protect artifacts better, the policy is now in force that all activities in these areas must be scheduled in advance through **Jim Somers**. Under consideration is a further policy to require supervision by staff or trained volunteers of any special groups, media crews, etc. in these areas. The PDP-1 team also has requested that the Restorations Demo Room can be locked when not overseen by staff or volunteers.

The VSC has recommended that the Museum engage the local community; one means would be an E-Waste Event on a weekend in the parking lot. Two charities in specific have also been suggested: Family Giving Tree, during the holiday season, and forming a Kiva micro lending CHM volunteer-staff team.

The VSC is preparing a list of goals for next year. Thoughts and suggestions from all are welcome. Situated between Museum staff and the volunteer force, we want to increase communication in both directions. We are looking for VSC representation at some staff management meetings, and for interaction between volunteers and a wider range of staff. There may be changes to where volunteers appear on the Museum organization chart.

The past year has seen a substantial increase in the visitor count, and in the duties of front-of-the-house volunteers. We are reviewing whether the current situation is satisfactory, or we need to find additional coverage from volunteers or even staff. **Next VSC Meeting is Tuesday, October 28**

## The Calendar of Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Trainings

Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> :  
Volunteer Day at Yosemite Warehouse

Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> :  
CHM Presents and Evening with Jean Bartik

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> :  
An Evening with Sam Wyly,

Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> :  
First Aid and CPR training for Volunteers

Please Check the calendar on the volunteer website at

<https://www.computerhistory.org/volunteer> for details on times and specific volunteer opportunities.

## And A Few More Picnic PIX



# INPUT / OUTPUT



## CHM Presents Stretch Is a Big Hit!

On Sept. 11, the Computer History Museum's community gathered together to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IBM's Stretch project with a CHM Presents lecture featuring some of the project's original pioneers. Renowned *New York Times* tech reporter, Steve Lohr, moderated the engaging discussion between Fran Allen, Fred Brooks and Harwood Kolsky. The evening was generously sponsored by IBM to commemorate a significant chapter in its history, as well as the history of the computing industry overall. The audience welcomed each speaker onto the stage with thunderous applause and a majority of the attendees lingered after the dynamic discussion to mingle with the esteemed speakers. This event was truly one of the most anticipated, successful and well-attended CHM events of 2008.



Harwood Kolsky, Fran Allen, Fred Brooks and Steve Lohr



Fred Brooks and Stretch

### Calendar of Upcoming CHM Events

- **2008 Fellow Awards Gala Ceremony**  
Tuesday, October 21
- **An Evening with 2008 Fellow Awardee Jean Jennings Bartik**  
Wednesday, October 22
- **Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Thursday, October 23
- **An Evening with Sam Wyly, in Conversation with Dixon Doll**  
Monday, October 27
- **CHM Presents The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dynabook**  
Wednesday, November 5



### GreenStep Update

By Marlen Cantrell

Since our last update, the GreenStep team has made some nice progress in these areas:

- **Waste Reduction:** Our white copy paper consumption has gone down by 33% for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY09.
- **Reuse:** we are in the process of moving from paper stock with 10% recycled content to product made with 35% recycled content.
- In the kitchen, we are moving from plastic ware products to purchasing biodegradeable ones, for example utensils made of cornstarch
- A large GreenStep bulletin board has been installed just outside the admin copy / mail room- you can read or post interesting recycling tips, commute info, or articles to this board.

Suggestions or comments? Contact Jeanette at [jwood@computerhistory.org](mailto:jwood@computerhistory.org)



# Exec Staff's Day on the Farm



## Staff Journal Entry- Sept 23, 2008

Today our CHM exec staff team went on an offsite team strategy planning meeting to the coastal town of Pescadero, near Half Moon Bay, first spending the morning at the Harley Farms goat dairy. We met the goat herd, up close & personal, learned to milk a goat, made our own fresh goat cheese, and enjoyed it as a snack upstairs in the farmhouse loft. Then, we headed on up the road to Len & Donna's Sawmill Lodge in the hills above the village, where we met for an afternoon of mapping out our strategy for the coming year. But pictures of us at the meeting really aren't that interesting, so we just have these goat pictures to share...



*The Team Photo: Marlen, Karae, Gary, John, Bob, Gary, and Kirsten*



## The Mystery Photo

from the **Archives**

By Sara Lott, Software Archivist

In coordination with American Archives Month October 2008 we're introducing a new feature to the newsletter. The CHM archive has unidentified historical photographs that it would like to organize for possible future use. **Can you help us date and identify anyone in this photograph showing a couple having dinner at an awards banquet?**

Please email [slott@computerhistory.org](mailto:slott@computerhistory.org) if you can help. We hope you enjoy this new feature.



## From a Blogger

.....Anyway, PB wiki flew in an engineering candidate from Wisconsin for an interview on Friday, so I dragged him down to the Computer History Museum yesterday, as is my way. I \*love\* that place. That's something like the seventh time I've been there, and the second time I've dragged Casey along (I also coerced Lynn and Nathan into joining us). I love all the amazing old machines — they've got a fully functional Difference Engine, all intricate and amazing. [Check out this video on YouTube](#) that shows it off a bit: thousands of intricately moving parts, somehow performing calculations. Sure, modern microprocessors are infinitely more intricate and billions of time more capable, but you can't see anything happening. The Difference Engine is just mesmerizing to watch.

## Kudos to Curators

And thanks to you and your staff too, Dag (Spicer), for helping to make our event on Friday such a success! We were very pleased to have so many guests attend—including the esteemed Dr. Gene Amdahl—who immediately went to the donation table to view and discuss the artifacts. Having the artifacts there made a huge difference to those who attended; was a big hit. Thanks so much for your valuable contribution to this wonderful event!

Karen - Fujitsu

## CHM Job Opportunities

<u>Department</u>	<u>Job Title</u>
Collections	Audiovisual Archivist
Collections	Document Archives Intern
Collections	Museum Registration Intern
Development	Senior Director of Corporate Business Development
Education	Director of Education
Education	High School Programs Manager
Finance	Chief Financial Officer
IT	Web Developer

You can view these current openings at:  
[www.computerhistory.org/jobs](http://www.computerhistory.org/jobs)

## The Editors Desk

Editor:  
[Jim Somers](#), Volunteer Program Manager

Executive Staff Sponsors:  
[Gary Matsushita](#); [Karae Lisle](#)

*This month's contributors: Sara Lott, Fiona Tang, Jim Somers, Gary Matsushita, Judith Haemmerle, Bob Sanguedolce, Marlen Cantrell*



## Promotions

Congratulations are in order for:

**Ton Luong** has been promoted to Senior Web Designer

## This Month in History

**October 11, 1887**

### Comptometer Inventor Receives Patent

Dorr E. Felt was granted a patent for the Comptometer. He experimented with an adding device that he built in a "macaroni box." The comptometer, an adder, displayed a single register of results. Subtraction was carried out by nines-complement arithmetic, and multiplication by repeat addition. The comptometer was a commercial success for businesses, and "comptometer schools" were established early in the 1900's to teach efficient operation of this machine.

## Trivia Question

What do the following computers have in common: HAL 9000, PROTEUS IV, Nomad, Queeg 500, Skynet, and BOSS?

### September's Trivia Question

What ancient mechanical calculator, designed to calculate astronomical positions, was found in a shipwreck of a Greek island in 1900.

### Answer

The Antikythera Mechanism. Found off the Greek island of Antikythera, the mechanism is often described as the first mechanical calculator. Subsequent investigation, particularly in 2006, dated the mechanism to 150-100 BC. Technical artifacts of similar complexity did not reappear until a thousand years later.



Antikythera Mechanism main fragment  
(On display in National Archeological Museum of Athens)