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Computer Science 50th Anniversary

Thursday, November 12th, 2009

Programme

School of Computer Science, Atrium

2.30 Welcome and registration

School of Mechanical Engineering, Room G31

3.00 – Introduction

Professor **David Eastwood**, Vice-Chancellor and Principal

3.30 – **And Logic Begat Computer Science** // When Giants Roamed The Earth

Professor **Moshe Vardi**, Rice University (Distinguished Lecture)

During the past fifty years there has been extensive, continuous, and growing interaction between logic and computer science. In fact, logic has been called "the calculus of computer science". The argument is that logic plays a fundamental role in computer science, similar to that played by calculus in the physical sciences and traditional engineering disciplines. This non-technical talk will provide an overview of the unusual effectiveness of logic in computer science by surveying the history of logic in computer science, going back all the way to Aristotle and Euclid, and showing how logic actually gave rise to computer science.

4.30 – **The Sixties** // Computing in the Stone Age

Professor **Rod Burstall**, University of Edinburgh

Around fifty years ago I spent three years at Birmingham University, obtaining a Master's degree and later a PhD, for the which much thanks. I will tell tales of the people who developed the art of programming and tried to educate the new kid on the block: the Digital Computer. We had our dreams. Have they come true?

5.30 – **Early days** // Computer Science at University of Birmingham

Peter Walling, University of Birmingham

The computing service got off to a slow start in 1959 and accelerated to a temporary standstill in 1995 when it merged with other service units, notably the University Library. Today, for reasons of nostalgia and with less fear of contradiction I will only attempt to describe the significant developments (as well as the trials and tribulations) which took place in the first 25 years; the era which spawned the School of Computer Science. As befits this occasion, my aim will be to educate, amuse and not to flounder in the surf of Information Technology which nowadays all too easily goes over my head.

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6.30 – **Reception**