

Plenary Roundtable Discussion

Wednesday July 22, 2009

1:30-3:00pm

Regency Ballroom

70 Years Electronic Digital Computing that Changed the World

2009 marks the 70th anniversary of the first proof-of-concept prototype of the electronic digital computer. This technical forum will re-examine, from a modern perspective, the contribution of John V. Atanasoff to the invention and development of electronic digital computing.

Hosts:

John V. Atanasoff II,
JVA Initiative

Carl K. Chang,
Iowa State University

Moderator:

Vladimir Getov,
University of Westminster

Panelists:

Gordon Bell, Microsoft
Charles Call,
Patent Attorney, Chicago IL

John Gustafson, Intel

Mike Williams,
University of Calgary

Distinguished Guests:

Mike Geselowitz,
IEEE History Center

Richard J. Gowen,
IEEE Foundation

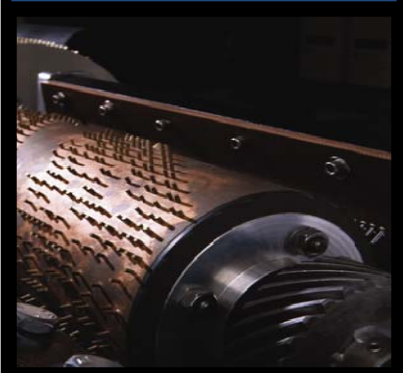
Expert panelists will present their views on:

1. The variety of different technologies explored and used in the early days of automatic computing.
2. The advantages of digital vs. analog calculations.
3. The importance of binary arithmetic for electronic digital computing.
4. The engineering challenge for the design of dynamically refreshed memory.

Discussion questions will include:

1. How have the main principles of electronic digital computing invented by John V. Atanasoff propagated to most of the computer designs today?
2. Does the introduction of electronic digital computing mark the beginning of a new revolution in human history?
3. What was the impact of the 1973 federal court decision on the recognition of Atanasoff's invention?

Additional questions from the audience are welcome and encouraged!



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