San José State University

The Department of Computer Science and

The Department of Computer Engineering jointly present

THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING SPEAKER SERIES

Gordon Bell

The Birth and Death of the Minicomputer Industry from a Bell's Law and Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) Perspective

Wednesday, August 31

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Auditorium ENGR 189

Engineering Building

The minicomputer is a computer class created in the mid-1960s and used to control real time systems. Bell's Law, which accounts for the creation (and death) of computer classes, will be used as a framework for the discussion of Digital's demise.

Gordon Bell is a principal researcher at Microsoft working on lifelogging and cloud computing. He spent 23 years at Digital Equipment Corporation as Vice President of R&D, where he was responsible for the first mini- and time-sharing computers and the development of DEC's VAX. Bell has been involved in the design of many products at Digital and over 100 startup companies. At the NSF, he led the National Research Network panel that became the Internet and was an author of the High Performance Computer and Communications Initiative. Bell is the author of books and papers on computer architecture, startup companies, and lifelogging. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, ACM, IEEE, the National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Science, and the Australia Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. He received the 1991 National Medal of Technology. He is a founding trustee of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA and its predecessor, the Computer Museum in Boston, MA.

Next: **James Gosling**
Wednesday, September 7

Speakers arranged by Prof. Ron Mak for his class CS 185C-01: The History of Computing
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