



Frederick P. Brooks, Jr. Professional Memorial

Sharing Stories: Panel Discussions with
Colleagues and Friends

William & Ida Friday Center
Chapel Hill, NC
March 4, 2023

Remembering Our Dear Friend

Dr. Frederick P. Brooks, Jr., a pioneer in the field of computer science and a tremendous colleague and friend to so many, passed away on November 17, 2022 at the age of 91, surrounded by his family. As a recipient of the A.M. Turing Award, an inaugural recipient of the National Medal of Technology, and a recipient of numerous other awards, Dr. Brooks was one of the most respected people in the field of computer science. He was also a kind and caring person, a friend and mentor to all.

Dr. Brooks grew up in Greenville, North Carolina and received a bachelor's degree from Duke and a doctorate from Harvard, where he was supervised by computing pioneer Howard Aiken. He joined IBM in New York in 1956 and managed the IBM System/360 family of computers, which was revolutionary in the industry.

In 1962, Dr. Brooks visited Chapel Hill for an interview and guest lecture entitled "Ten Research Problems in Computer Science," which made an impression on the administration that led to the formation of what would become the Department of Computer Science. He returned a year later and agreed to lead the new department, which became the second free-standing, doctorate-granting computer science department in the United States.

Dr. Brooks played a key role in the development of computing resources at three triangle universities, UNC, Duke, and N.C. State, as well as in the growth of the nearby Research Triangle Park. In 2008, a second building was constructed to extend the computer science department's footprint, and the new building was named for Dr. Brooks.

Dr. Brooks spent two decades as department chair and led a research group in interactive computer graphics and virtual environments. He was an extraordinary mentor to his colleagues and students. More than 40 students completed doctorates with him as principal advisor, and very many others benefited from his counsel. He advised on many academic developments at the university and even served on several civilian boards to advise the U.S. military. He continued teaching and advising graduate students into his 80s, ultimately retiring in 2015 after 51 years of service to the university.

Dr. Brooks has left an unmistakable mark on the computer science department and on his profession. He set an example of excellence in both scholarship and teaching, with a constant focus on the people of the department, treating everyone with respect and appreciation. His legacy will live on at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Today's Agenda

We will fondly remember the professional accomplishments and contributions of Dr. Brooks. Colleagues and friends will share stories in panel discussions across all eras of his professional career.

10:00 a.m. Introduction

10:15 a.m. Panel 1

Peter Calingaert, Craig Mudge, Richard Sites, William Wright
Moderated by Henry Fuchs

11:15 a.m. Panel 2

Steven Bellovin, Lib Moore Jones, Stephen Pizer, Stephen Weiss
Moderated by Gary Bishop

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Panel 3

Henry Fuchs, Andrew Glassner, Michael Pique,
Jane Richardson, Russell Taylor
Moderated by Mary Whitton

2:30 p.m. Panel 4

Penny Rheingans, Ivan Sutherland, Amitabh Varshney,
Samuel Williamson
Moderated by Stephen Weiss

3:30 p.m. Panel 5

Ronald Azuma, Gary Bishop, Benjamin Lok, Mary Whitton
Moderated by Stephen Pizer

Selected Professional Awards & Honors

- Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (1968)
- W. Wallace McDowell Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Computer Art, IEEE Computer Group (1970)
- Computer Sciences Distinguished Information Services Award, Information Technology Professionals (1970)
- Guggenheim Fellowship for studies on computer architecture and human factors of computer systems, University of Cambridge, England (1975)
- Member, National Academy of Engineering (1976)
- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1976)
- Computer Pioneer Award, IEEE Computer Society (1982)
- National Medal of Technology and Innovation (1985)
- Thomas Jefferson Award, UNC-Chapel Hill (1986)
- Distinguished Service Award, Association for Computing Machinery (1987)
- Harry Goode Memorial Award, American Federation of Information Processing Societies (1989)
- Foreign Member, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1991)
- Honorary Doctor of Technical Science, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich (1991)
- IEEE John von Neumann Medal, IEEE (1993)
- Fellow (initial inductee), ACM (1994)
- Distinguished Fellow, British Computer Society (1994)
- Foreign Member of the Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom (1994)
- Allen Newell Award, ACM (1994)
- Bower Award and Prize in Science, Franklin Institute (1995)
- CyberEdge Journal Annual Sutherland Award (1997)
- Turing Award, ACM (1999)
- Member, National Academy of Sciences (2001)
- Computer History Museum Fellow Award (2001)
- Eckert–Mauchly Award, ACM and IEEE Computer Society (2004)
- IEEE Virtual Reality Career Award (2010)