*Citation read on the occasion of the Granting of the degree of*
*Honorary Doctor of Engineering to*
**Calvin Gotlieb**
*by the Senate of the University of Victoria*


*November 10, 2011*

Mr. Chancellor, I have the privilege of speaking about the accomplishments of Calvin Carl "Kelly" Gotlieb: scholar and educator, community builder and mentor, and a great Canadian.

In the late 40's and early 50's, Kelly Gotlieb was a key pioneer in developing an entirely new discipline: computer science. Most of you graduating today will have taken at least one course in computer science and I know that some of you will walk from this stage with a full degree in it.  This is the man who was there at the start of it all; whose career has spanned more than 65 years; and who continues to be a driving force in the advances of computer science and information technology today.

Dr. Gotlieb earned a PhD in physics from the University of Toronto in 1947. At that time, from his work on electronic calculation of steep shell trajectories during the 2nd World War, Kelly realized how important computers and computer science would become.  In 1950, he created the first course on computing in Canada at the University of Toronto and in 1951 offered the first graduate course. Is it any wonder Kelly Gotlieb is widely regarded at the "Father of Computing in Canada"?

Imagine how exciting it must have been to be present at the beginning of a discipline that would profoundly change the way we do almost everything today? And Kelly Gotlieb was one of the first to understand both the economic and social implications that computers and computer science would have on the world. His scholarly work encompasses more than 100 articles and books covering a broad range of the computer science spectrum—from the effective representation of digital information, to privacy and social issues in computing. He has a deep and abiding commitment to teaching these topics and still lectures on these subjects today.

Not only is Kelly Gotlieb a gifted scholar and educator, but he has worked tirelessly to build national and global communities of practice in computer science and information technology. In 1958, working at the national level, Kelly co-founded the Canadian Information Processing Society to develop initiatives related to public policy around information technology, set standards within the IT profession, and assist the IT community.  On the global stage, Kelly served as Canada's representative to the United Nations in the development of the International Federation of Information Processing Societies, and also served as a consultant, writing an early report on the application of computer technology to global development.

Kelly Gotlieb was instrumental in advancing the goals of the Association for Computing Machinery, the world's largest educational and computing society and the primary computing organization in the world today. He served terms as Editor-in-Chief of Communications of the ACM and the Journal of the ACM, arguably the most important publications in computer science.

Kelly Gotlieb's lists of honours is a long one. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the British Computer Society, and the Association for Computing Machinery. In 1994 the International Federation of Information Processing Societies inaugurated the Isaac L. Auerbach Award for excellence in international IT service; Kelly Gotlieb was its first recipient. In 2002 he received the prestigious Association for Computing Machinery Presidential Award—one of only 13 people ever to have been so honoured. He is an inductee into the Canadian Information Productivity Awards Hall of Fame for his lasting contributions to technological innovation. Here Kelly joined the ranks of such luminaries as Alexander Graham Bell.

In 1996 Kelly Gotlieb became a Member of the Order of Canada.  The citation begins, "He has been largely responsible for leading Canadians into the modern age of computing."  A particularly apt opening, given the dazzling array of "firsts" for which Kelly Gotlieb has been responsible: building the first digital computer in Canada, co-founding the first computer centre in Canada (2nd in the world), and establishing the first Canadian department of computer science—and this is just a sample.

Combine these outstanding accomplishments with his continuing commitment to building strong, skilled, principled information technology professionals both in Canada and around the world, and you have a great Canadian who has made a positive difference to our society and to our world.

Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to present Calvin Carl "Kelly" Gotlieb for the degree of Doctor of Engineering, honoris causa.

*Written and presented by*
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