Bell Gives Award to Museum

Computer Museum Board Member C. Gordon Bell was awarded the first IEEE John von Neumann Medal for his "innovative contributions to computer architecture and design." He has given the $10,000 grant accompanying the medal to the Museum to endow the Computer Architecture Collection.

The award, named in honor of the eminent mathematician whose seminal work defined computer architecture, is sponsored by International Business Machines Corporation. Bell was cited for his contributions to the industry, academia and government.

Courtesy: IEEE

The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc.) Medal was established in 1990 and was presented for the first time this year to Bell.

Gordon
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Gordon Bell spent twenty-three years at Digital Equipment
Corporation as Vice President of Engineering. At Digital, he
was responsible for the first mini- and time-sharing computer,
and led the development of the VAX. The first Assistant
Director for Computing at NSF, Bell headed the National
Research Network panel that became the National Information
Infrastructure (NII). He is the author of the *High Performance
Computer and Communications Initiative*, and co-authored
Computer Structures: Readings and Examples with Allen Newell.
Bell is the recipient of the 1991 National Medal of Technology.
Currently, he is Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research Corp.

The PDP-6, shown with Gordon Bell (left)
and Alan Kotok. The 36-bit PDP-6 was
delivered in 1964 to MIT's Project MAC,
the University of Western Australia,
Brookhaven National Laboratory, and
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. It
was the first of the personal "mainframes"
designed for both time-sharing and real-time
laboratory applications. Kotok went on to
develop the follow-on PDP-10.

"For short-term predictions, **bet against the optimist.**"