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IBM software guru brings business and academia together

A masterclass in software architecture, touching on collaborative initiatives, research and the changing curricula of universities, brought together some of the best minds in the software business – from IBM and academia.

The event, a prestigious date in the IBM University Relations team's calendar, was attended by IBM architects – both experienced and relatively new to the company– as well as 20 academics from the UK and Ireland's leading universities.

Keynote presenter at this high-profile session was Grady Booch, IBM Fellow and Rational Chief Scientist, making a return visit to the UK after his 'sell-out' lecture tour earlier in the year.



Grady Booch (IBM) talking with Nick Whidborne and Richard Hopkins (both IBM)

Demonstrating leadership

Grady Booch, who is recognised worldwide for his work on software architecture and engineering as well as many successful engagements in complex software projects, had visited the UK in January to deliver the Turing Lectures in London and Manchester.

His talk – The Promise, the Limits and the Beauty of Software – had been arranged by Ian Nussey, who is part of IBM UK's University Relations team. Such was the enthusiasm for the lectures that larger accommodation had to be found, and Grady then suggested he would be willing to return to the UK to deliver a masterclass in software.

“The IBM UK technical community felt this would be an excellent way to demonstrate the company’s leadership and give people a chance to develop closer relationships with respected academics working in the field,” says Peter Eeles, who organised the event. “Grady’s presentation and participation in general, proved incredibly popular. We had a full house, plus a reserve list of others wanting to attend.”



John McDermid (York University), Liz Williams (IBM University Relations), Ian Sommerville (St. Andrews University) and Tracy Gardner (IBM)

Each breakout group had a presenter who spoke for around 20 minutes to start the discussions, plus an IBM facilitator and a reporter, who noted emerging themes and items that required follow-up actions.

“Now, we have to consolidate all the themes that arose during the two days and see where there are opportunities for further research and collaboration,” says Peter, who works in Rational software.

“Grady is quite a character, and it was a considerable coup to have him participate in the masterclass. Everyone said how much they enjoyed the masterclass, and it will certainly have strengthened the ties between IBM and academia.”

Among the IBM employees who attended were several members of IBM UK’s University Relations team, including Liz Williams and Ian Nussey.

Taking it further

The masterclass was held over two days at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London, with an evening reception at The Athenaeum Club in Pall Mall.

After Grady had delivered the main presentation, attendees divided into groups to share their experiences and understanding of four main topics - architecture representation, linkage of requirements to architecture, meeting quality of service requirements, and software engineering versus systems engineering.

- To find out more about University Relations in the UK and IBM's programme of events – including how to volunteer to participate in some of them – please visit the [UR site](#).
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Packed houses

Grady Booch has been Chief Scientist at Rational since it began in 1981, and he came into IBM when the company acquired Rational Software. His Turing Lecture, delivered in London and Manchester, was delivered to packed houses and 5,000 more people heard him on Internet TV.

He has been a consultant, architect and architectural mentor for many software-intensive projects around the world, and is highly respected for his work on software architecture, engineering and modelling.

Grady, who lives with his wife and cats in Colorado, is the author of six books, including the UML User's Guide, and has published several hundred technical articles on software engineering. His most recent work is The Handbook of Software Architecture, which contains UK case studies. For more details go to: www.booch.com/architecture.

Outside of software, his interests include reading, singing and playing the harp.

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