



Harvard  
School of Engineering  
and Applied Sciences

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January 15, 2013

IEEE Boston Section  
Chair Milestones Committee  
1 Center Street, Suite 203  
Wakefield MA 01880-2400

Attention: Gilmore G. Cooke

Dear Gil,

On behalf of the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), we are very pleased to accept the IEEE's Milestone Award for the Harvard Mark I Computer.

Developed by Harvard faculty member Howard Aiken and IBM in the early 1940s, the massive machine was originally called the ASCC (Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator). The Mark I is considered one of the first electro-mechanical computers ever created and represents a fundamental milestone in the history of modern computing.

We intend to install the plaque in the Harvard Science Center (1 Oxford Street) proximate to the historical display that features significant components from the original Mark I.

Our Communications Project Manager, Eliza Grinnell (grinnell@seas.harvard.edu and 617-495-2871) will serve as the coordinator for the research and installation process.

Warm regards,

Cherry A. Murray  
Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
John A. and Elizabeth S. Armstrong Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences and  
Professor of Physics



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Dear Gil,

On behalf of the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), we are very pleased to accept the IEEE's Milestone Award for Harvard's early electrical and physics research laboratories, best embodied in Cruft Laboratory.

Originally called the Cruft High Tension Laboratory, the structure was designed in 1915 to support research on antennas and storage batteries, and later, during WWII, was dedicated to work on radar.

Considered the location of the first government research grant given to an institution of higher learning, the building connects to Pierce Hall (home to engineering) through the aptly named van Vleck Bridge at the second and third levels. The bridge was commissioned by then dean of engineering John Hasbrouck van Vleck (who won a Nobel Prize for his work on magnetism). Cruft now connects to the new Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering (LISE) via a bridge at the third level, and it shares its west wall with Lyman Laboratory.

We intend to install the plaque proximate to the Pierce/Cruft bridge in Cruft itself (located at 19A Oxford Street) that celebrates the union of physics and engineering.

Our Communications Project Manager, Eliza Grinnell (grinnell@seas.harvard.edu and 617-495-2871) will serve as the coordinator for the research and installation process.

Warm regards,

Cherry A. Murray  
Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
John A. and Elizabeth S. Armstrong Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences and  
Professor of Physics