

COMPUTER SCIENCE *Unplugged*



With Dr. Tim Bell

University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand

UAB

40th
Anniversary
Computer &
Information
Sciences
2006-2007

Seminar for Educators:

Wednesday June 27
11am-noon
Room 430, Campbell Hall- UAB

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Show for Children:

Wednesday June 27
3:30pm-4:30pm
McWane Center

(RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

Computer Science Unplugged Seminar for Educators

Computer Science Unplugged is a project that teaches principles of computer science without using computers. It can be used in conjunction with computer courses, in classrooms, and in situations where access to computers is limited. This seminar describes activities that educators can use to demonstrate principles of computer science to young school children in a variety of settings. These activities are "unplugged" --- no computers are required. In this first seminar at UAB, we will describe how "Unplugged" material can be used for school outreach. The presentation will also discuss some evaluation and lessons learned over the years. Thanks to support from Google, a free copy of the book is available at <http://csunplugged.org/>

Computer Science Unplugged Show for Children

This show is an action-packed, zany time exploring some of the neat ideas in computer science. It is primarily aimed at elementary-aged school children, and has been "performed" in a variety of settings such as school classrooms, science museums, and science festivals. This wacky show takes kids and the young at heart through some great ideas in computer science using low-tech games, magic tricks and stories. In this second talk at the McWane Center, no computers are used as you learn about the Binary Birthday Cake, the Parity memory trick, and look at why people get frustrated using computers.

Biography

Dr. Tim Bell is an Associate Professor in the department of Computer Science and Software Engineering at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. His current research interests include Computers and Music, Public Understanding of (Computer) Science, and educational applications of podcasting. He received the Science Communicator Award from the NZ Association of Scientists in 1999, and an inaugural New Zealand Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award in 2002. He has appeared with his "Computer Science Unplugged" show at the Edinburgh International Science Festival, the Dunedin International Science Festival, and the Australian Science Festival. He is also a qualified musician, and performs regularly on instruments that have black-and-white keyboards. He is co-author of the books "Text Compression" and "Managing Gigabytes".

For more information, contact Dr. Jeff Gray at 934-8643, or gray@cis.uab.edu

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