The faculty of Informatics of the University of Lugano confers an honorary doctorate in informatics to Dr. Leslie Lamport for

‘his pioneering contributions to the theory of distributed systems’.

Leslie Lamport received a doctorate in mathematics from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, in 1972, with a dissertation on singularities in analytic partial differential equations. He has since worked as a computer scientist and researcher in several organizations. In 2001 he joined Microsoft Research in Mountain View, California.

Dr. Lamport’s research have laid the foundations of the theory of distributed systems. Among his most notable papers are the following three:

- “Time, Clocks, and the Ordering of Events in a Distributed System”
- “Distributed snapshots: determining global states of distributed systems”
- “The Byzantine Generals Problem”

which contain original and insightful concepts and are among the most cited papers in the field of distributed systems. He is author of the book “Specifying Systems: The TLA+ Language and Tools for Hardware and Software Engineers”.

In 2004 he received the IEEE Piore Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of information processing, in relation to computer science, deemed to have contributed significantly to the advancement of science and to the betterment of society.

He is also famous as the author of LaTeX, a document formatting system used extensively by researchers as well as by professional editors.

The faculty of informatics is grateful to Dr. Lamport for his recent course for the faculty’s doctoral program in April 2006.