Welcome to ITiCSE 2014 in Uppsala

The second ITiCSE was in Uppsala 1997 and one comment late one night was “Mats, could you turn off the sun please”. That was in early June and this year the conference will be at a time with even less dark hours as it is close to the Midsummer celebration in Sweden. There are similarities and differences between the two instances of the conference. We will run the conference dinner at the same “nation” as last time and again having a reception at the university building, reflecting that traditions are important at our University that was founded in 1477. The organizers being part of one of the newest research groups, Uppsala Computing Education Research Group (UpCERG), calls for a strive for change and the steam train excursion is now updated to a boat trip on Fyris river out to Skokloster castle (perhaps the most beautiful castle in Sweden). The conference will be held at the same campus area, but now at Ångström laboratories (a building that is quite large and in some sense not at all a reflection it’s name :-p ).

The conference continues to be a truly international conference with 164 submissions from 36 countries on six continents (Africa - 3, Asia - 19, Europe - 38, North America - 51, Oceania - 17, and South America - 7). The 53 accepted papers are spread out over 16 different countries on five continents.

The theme of the conference is “Learning for life” and this will be addressed by our two keynote speakers. Yvonne Rogers from University College London will under the title New technology, new learning? takes a perspective on the impact design has on the value of technology for learning and especially for aspects such as collaboration, mindful engagement, conversational skills and the art of reflection. Jan Gulliksen, Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm will talk about how to meet educational challenges in the “digital” era with a holistic perspective including the whole population.

There are six working groups accepted, spread out over a broad spectrum of topics. They cover broad aspects such as the role of methodology in education, influences of new technology on
education, and pre-university computing education to more specific areas such as peer reviewing and gaming as educational methods and understanding programming exam questions. Participating in a working group is probably one of the most efficient ways to become part of a community. It will provide a unique opportunity to work with people from different countries interested and knowledgeable in the area of the working group.

Again, most welcome to enjoy ITiCSE in Uppsala (and Midsummer).

Åsa Cajander and Mats Daniels, conference chairs
Tony Clear and Arnold Pears, program chairs