UCLiC
The first 10 Years

...as witnessed by Rachel Benedyk
Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, Honoured Guests, our sponsors Foolproof, but most important: alumni old and new!

Welcome to all!
And just to be perverse
I'll be doing this in verse!
Some time ago, the Powers-that-Be
Of workplace U-C-L-I-C

Approached me (as an ancient member)
To do some "something", in November:

"Who else has been here long enough
To tell the story of our stuff?

So leave your normal run of teaching,
Prepare yourself to do some "speeching"!

Come, Rachel B, don't look so glum:
Tell them what's past, and what's to come!"
Blessed are the virtues of nostalgia
Not all euphoria: some neuralgia....... 
Yes, I was there, remember all
Way back...to Founder Harry Maule
When ergonomic time was spent
Study'ing the work en-vi-ron-ment.
Along came John, and before Long
Had the Unit going strong;
Applying maximum of traction.
To Man-Computer Interaction.
Oh what a bless-ed place to be:
A centre stuffed with MSc’s!
So much research growing apace
We had to find a larger place!

And so we moved, and came to stay
What better place? In Bedford Way!

They welcomed us with open arms

Although with time, we lost our charms:
"No room at the inn!: We grew and grew
But Psychology expanded, too!

And we - an "inter"-discipline
Were sometimes OUT, and sometimes IN!
Then Harold, as you will have read
Found Remax House, to lay our head.

We'd nabbed an ideal space we thought —
But goodness no — the lease was short!
And just in time, along came Ann
And started in CS to scan

Finding for us, with loving care
A Malet 8th Floor pied-a-terre

Showing with quite unequalled skill

That there's a Way, when there's a Will.
As I review the long years past:
Some things were lost, and some will last....
I mind professors fit and frisky
Leading students on projects risky
Coalmines....and steelworks.....and driving blind
Are "risky" things that come to mind;

Although today (just to be fair)
You can still fall off the back of a chair
Or purchase vertigo galore
From the glazing on our high-up floor!
Our "Movement Suit" (proclaim the sages) Reminds them of the Middle Ages

The metal scaffolding, it's clear
Strikes candidates inside with fear;
Oh.....donated by a generous backer
We have an optic Gazing Tracker

A goodly "risk" for those who try
To test it with a "roving eye"
So U-CLIC passed its first decade. It's grown apace, no way "decayed"!

Extends its influence corrective. Both social, physical, and affective;

Plus cognitive cross-fertilisation. With other fields, and other stations.

U-CLIC bestrides, in all its facets Body and mind, and all its assets.
All things with any systems base
Are subject to an interface

With users at its very heart;
Both staff and students play their part.
At home now, in eM-P-E-B.
SUCCESS is there for all to see:

EP-SeRC grants to relieve us
And Platform Grants, for high
achievers

A Marie Curie dedication
To help us with "re-integration"
With CHI-MED and the KTP
The future's bright for PhDs.

But if! those ergonomic capers
Research must lead to published papers!

For all your work's to no avail
Without a massive paper-trail
So, here I list a small selection.
For - yes! - your critical inspection:

"Usability evaluation"
"The Hexagon in Education"

"How Overcome your Laptop Terror"
"Avoiding Post-Completion Error"

"The Role of Strategy Assertion"
"Experience in Games Immersion"....

You'll find no topic (you can try)
That doesn't click with HCI
And now before my time is gone
A special welcome to Yvonne

A student here for M.Sc.
She roamed the earth, unchained and free.

And now she's back, you must respect her
You-click: and lo! She's its Director,
While Ann, by no means in the lurch

Directs her fondest love: Research
So ends my Tale of Ups and Downs
Put on your smiles, dismiss your frowns;
We welcome all those from our past.
To UCLIC’s future, raise a glass!
And I await your "error audits"

But (much preferred!): Your gen'rous plaudits!
Thank You !!

Many Thanks To:

Maya Kar
Dimitris (Jim) Kontaris
George Maninis
Yun Duan
To be continued...