

THE CONVERSATION US

89 South Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02111 USA

For Immediate Release



Primary Press Contact: Joel Abrams
Media Relations Manager, The Conversation
joel.abrams@theconversation.com, 857-233-8429

Alternate Press Contact: Jason Lindley
Media Relations Coordinator, The Conversation
Jason.lindley@theconversation.com, 617-678-6689

New Podcast with University of Washington History Professor Margaret O’Mara Explores Unveiling of First Computer Mouse and the Birth of Silicon Valley

Date September 17, 2018 (Boston, MA) – *Heat and Light*, the inaugural podcast from The Conversation US, will release an episode on September 18th about the unveiling of the first computer mouse in 1968 and the birth of Silicon Valley with University of Washington historian Margaret O’Mara.

Go to www.heatlightpod.com to hear the first episodes and learn more about *Heat and Light: Stories from 1968, the year that changed America*.

A computer may have been the size of room in 1968, but it was still a watershed year for tech industry. That year saw the founding of the Intel Corporation that would revolutionize microprocessors and “the mother of all demos,” a landmark event that featured the first public demonstration of a computer mouse. Margaret O’Mara, a professor of U.S. history, became fascinated with the story of the Silicon Valley through a circuitous path that involved time spent in the White House and a close encounter with the Little Rock Nine. She recounts how Silicon Valley, once a pastoral agricultural community, became a technological and economic powerhouse – and what that meant for the people who lived there.

This is the fifth episode released [in The Conversation’s new podcast series](#). In each episode of the six-part series, host Phillip Martin, the Senior Investigative Reporter for Boston public NPR station WGBH, jumps into the maelstrom that was 1968 with scholars from across the country.

“Each topic we cover in *Heat and Light* informs the dialogue we’re having today in courtrooms, in classrooms and at dinner tables in the United States, including conversations around police brutality, technology, the morphing of our political parties and more,” said Martin.

The Conversation is an independent, nonprofit publisher of analysis and commentary, authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. [The Conversation US](#) has

relationships with scholars at more than 625 colleges and universities, with articles distributed to thousands of newsrooms daily by the Associated Press. For more information, including interviews, photos, audio samples and other media requests related to the Heat and Light podcast, please contact Joel Abrams or Jason Lindley.

###