Message from the Chairs

Welcome to the seventh International Symposium on Asynchronous Circuits and Systems. Async2001 is returning this year to Salt Lake City, Utah where the first symposium in this series was held in 1994. In the message from the chairs from that inaugural meeting the organizing committee expressed the hope that the symposium would evolve into a regular series devoted to the study of asynchrony in digital hardware design. We are very pleased to see that it has done just that. After the first Async symposium in Salt Lake City in 1994, the symposium visited Aizu, Japan (1996), Eindhoven, The Netherlands (1997), San Diego, California (1998), Barcelona, Spain (1999), and Eilat, Israel (2000). In the process, we believe that is has become the premiere place to publish cutting-edge research in asynchrony and we are very pleased to host the symposium once again.

The message from the chairs in 1994 also mentioned that the somewhat cumbersome name of the original symposium (The International Symposium on Advanced Research in Asynchronous Circuits and Systems) was meant to evoke thoughts of the very successful Advanced Research in VLSI conference series that started at Caltech in 1979. Our hope was to emulate that conference series' ability to focus attention on a specific area and select only the very best, most current research for presentation at Async. This year you have an opportunity to see just how well the two meetings complement each other. We are very excited to also host the 2001 Advanced Research in VLSI conference directly following Async2001 in the same venue (ironically, this is also the year that the Steering Committee voted to shorten the name of the Async symposium which reduces the similarity in the names of the two meetings). Async2001 will be held from Sunday March 11th through Wednesday March 14th 2001, and ARVLSI 2001 will take over on Wednesday the 14th and continue through Friday March 16th, 2001.

We've always believed that there is significant overlap of interests from the constituency of the two conferences. This year we're putting that to the test by planning an informal tour of Park City, or an informal afternoon of skiing for attendees of both meetings on Wednesday afternoon followed by a joint banquet on Wednesday night. We hope that attendees from both meetings will enjoy getting together in a comfortable apres-ski banquet setting and talking about mutual technical interests. We also hope that both meetings will benefit from crossover attendance to increase the number of attendees and improve communication between researchers with compatible research interests.

For Async 2001 we have tried a new procedure for the program committee. The program committee was organized as four separate areas so that authors could submit to a specific area, and that papers in a specific area could be more visible to the reviewers. The hope was that the smaller set of reviewers would get a better perspective on the papers in their area. We received 43 papers from which the committee selected 20 for presentation at the symposium. As usual, only papers with the highest technical and presentation standards could be accepted. Although the number of papers submitted was down slightly, the quality was extremely high, and we believe that an excellent program is in store for you.

We've also changed the process by which the Best Paper award is chosen. The program committees in each of the four areas elected one paper from their area to be considered as Best Paper. These papers have all been scheduled on Monday so that attendees will have an opportunity to see all four presentations in close proximity for comparison. The symposium attendees will vote for the Best Paper after the four presentations, and the award will be announced at the Wednesday banquet. The nominees for Best Paper are noted in the Table of Contents of this volume.

The Symposium also includes a number of invited talks relevant to our discipline. We're excited to have presentations from prominent researchers from industry. These talks should be interesting and relevant as our asynchronous research efforts find their way out of the lab and into the commercial world. Our speakers for Async 2001 are Bill Athas from Apple Computer, Kevin Normoyle from Sun Microsystems, and Ajay Khoche from Agilent Laboratories.
We would like to thank everyone who helped make this symposium possible. In particular we'd like to thank the authors who submitted papers, and the members of the program committee for their professional and thorough reviews and discussions. Thanks go to our invited speakers for coming up with fascinating and timely talks. Thanks also to Intel Corp. for their support of the symposium and a special thanks to Sun Microsystems for their generous support for students attending the symposium. Virtually all the students attending this year's symposium have some form of support thanks to Sun's generous gift. Finally, we would also like to thank the asynchronous research community at large for making this conference series a success and keeping our professional lives both interesting and fun. We look forward to seeing old friends and colleagues, meeting new researchers and students, and making new research connections in Salt Lake City 2001. Welcome!

Erik Brunvand  
*General Chair*

Chris Myers & Al Davis  
*Co-Program Chairs*