Message from the Chairs


This year's Symposium is being hosted by the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university. Chapel Hill is a picturesque college town buzzing with cultural and artistic vitality, and is nicknamed the "Southern Part of Heaven," after the title of the 1950 book by William Meade Prince. Chapel Hill is at the western point of the Research Triangle, an area of about 1.5 million people, composed of Chapel Hill, the cities of Durham and Raleigh, and the Research Triangle Park. The area is home to many Fortune 100 firms and leading scientific and technology research facilities, and three universities: Duke University, NC State University, and UNC Chapel Hill. With its restaurants, clubs, bookstores, theaters, coffee houses, street musicians, parks, gardens, and historic homes, Chapel Hill looks forward to welcoming the symposium attendees and treating them to southern culture and hospitality.

We received 49 paper submissions, of which 21 were accepted for final publication and presentation at the symposium. The program chairs were impressed by the quality and range of submissions. The Program Committee members and external reviewers provided 5-6 in-depth reviews of each submission. The final program is wide-ranging, covering: globally asynchronous locally synchronous systems (GALS), on-chip networks (NOC), delay-insensitive design, arbitration and synchronization, circuit and system synthesis, and low-power design.

To complement the papers selected for presentation, we are delighted to have invited talks by three very distinguished speakers. David Tennenhouse is a partner at New Venture Partners, a global venture capital firm dedicated to corporate technology spin-outs; previously he was the founder and Director of Intel Research. Dr. Tennenhouse will talk about what it will take for asynchronous design to gain industrial acceptance; specifically, how asynchronous design needs to find the disease for which it is the cure. William ("Bill") Dally is Chief Scientist and Vice President of NVIDIA Research, and chairman of Stanford University's computer science department. Dr. Dally is a pioneer of parallel computing and stream processing, and will talk about how graphics processors and general-purpose processors are likely to evolve in the coming years. Charles ("Chuck") Seitz is President & CEO of Myricom, and a pioneer in the design of asynchronous and concurrent computing systems. Dr. Seitz will talk about the history of asynchronous design, and share his reminiscences from the early days.

The symposium would not have been possible without the help of many people. We thank all the authors for their effort in submitting high-quality work to the symposium. We thank the Program Committee members for their hard work in carefully reviewing (and debating!) the merits of the submissions and in providing extensive, elaborate and constructive feedback to all authors, as well as the efforts of several external reviewers.

We thank Achronix Semiconductor, CEA Leti, Silistix, Sun Microsystems, and Tiempo for their generous financial support of the symposium. Please refer to the symposium website (http://asyncsymposium.org) for the complete list of our sponsors. We are especially thankful to the sponsors this year for their support in the middle of a global economic crisis. Their sponsorship greatly enhances the value of ASYNC 2009 by helping keep registration fees low.
this year, and by providing registration and travel assistance for students. We recognize that this year has been hard for many of our other recent sponsors; we thank them for their past support, and look forward to their support again in the future.

Special thanks are due to several people who helped handle the unique challenges of organizing this year's symposium in light of the current worldwide economic turmoil. We have had to balance two competing goals: on the one hand the goal of controlling expenses so we could offer lower registration fees to all our attendees; and on the other hand, the desire to offer an attractive technical program and social events befitting the 15th anniversary of the symposium. We especially thank Missy Wood and Jenni Clark (UNC) for their exceptional efforts to produce a cost-efficient budget for the symposium, and for setting up all the local arrangements; Marly Roncken (Portland State University) and Pascal Vivet (CEA Leti) for their persistence in seeking industrial donations; Ivan Sutherland (Sun Microsystems) for helping recruit distinguished keynote speakers; and Mary Lindsley (Duke University) for her wonderfully creative ideas on social events. Without the help of each one of these people, it would not have been possible to organize a symposium that was cost-effective yet high-quality.

We would like to thank Erik Brunvand (University of Utah) for his careful and efficient management of the publication process; Charlie Brej (Manchester) and Tibi Chelcea (CMU, formerly) for handling the publicity and advertising; and Kelli Gaskill (UNC) for local publicity and outreach. We thank the IEEE Computer Society and its Technical Committee on VLSI for their sponsorship and logistical assistance, specifically the excellent support of Carmen Saliba in working out contracts and giving guidance through the budget process. We also thank Silvia Ceballos of the IEEE Press for her editorial production of the proceedings. We thank Chris Coleman of the School of Computing at the University of Utah for his excellent design of the cover art for this proceedings. Finally, we thank UNC Chapel Hill for providing staff support for planning, coordinating and running the symposium, and for the auditorium and environment for a productive and enjoyable meeting.

We wish you an exciting symposium and a memorable visit to Chapel Hill!

**Montek Singh**  
General Chair

**Ran Ginosar and Luciano Lavagno**  
Program Committee Co-Chairs