**2008 AMD - University of Michigan**
**Undergraduate VLSI Design Contest**

Dear EECS 427 student:

Since its invention in 1958, the integrated circuit has literally and rapidly transformed the world in which we live. The solid state transistor's reach extends into virtually every aspect of modern life and has improved the standard of living of billions of people throughout the world. AMD is very optimistic about the future—we see tremendous potential for further achievement in integrated circuit technology and are confident in the ability of the students at Michigan to harness that potential.

We are pleased and excited to see your interest in furthering your knowledge in the field of VLSI design, and commend your decision to enroll in this challenging course. The principles and techniques you will learn this semester, as well as the valuable experience you will gain from your design project, will provide a solid foundation for a career in VLSI research and design.

Michigan engineering students are among the brightest and most talented in the world. For that reason, AMD seeks to recognize and reward your hard work and creativity by sponsoring the AMD – University of Michigan Undergraduate VLSI Design Contest. Participation in this contest is simple and should not add to your workload. Cash prizes will be given to the winning teams.

**Contest Rules**

As a part of the EECS 427 curriculum, it is expected that you will team up with other classmates to complete a large design project. Near the end of the semester, each team is expected to provide a written report of their project, as well as giving an oral presentation about their design, as a part of the normal grading process. A member of the AMD microprocessor development/design team will attend these oral presentations and, if you wish to participate, review your written report in order to judge the accomplishments of each team based on the following criteria:

1. The overall quality of the design, i.e., its originality, the soundness of the engineering trade-offs involved in its design, thoroughness, and the simulated performance of the design.

2. The appropriateness of the design solution within the context of its intended use, i.e:
    - What is the motivation for the design?
    - Why is the implementation appropriate for the intended use?
    - Does the design satisfy the requirements of the intended application?
    - What is unique about the design?
    - What novel or elegant solutions are used in the design?

3. The overall quality of the written submission and oral report, considering factors such as clarity, conciseness, grammar, and style.

Contest winners will be determined by a committee comprised of AMD designers and Michigan faculty, and announced before the end of the semester.

**Contest Awards**

$2,500 is prize money will be distributed among the winning teams.

**For more information**

Please contact Spencer Gold at spencer.gold@amd.com for more information.