

UCSD Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering receives \$1.8 million gift from Apollo Inc. and Mentor Graphics

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APOLLO COMPUTER, INC. AND MENTOR GRAPHICS CORP. GIVE \$1.8 MILLION GIFT OF EQUIPMENT TO UCSD ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The University of California, San Diego Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) has received a gift of \$1.8 million worth of state-of-the-art computer equipment and software from Apollo Computer Inc. and Mentor Graphics Corp.

The equipment will be used to train graduate and undergraduate students in the computer-aided design of Very Large Scale Integrated (VLSI) integrated circuits (IC).

Apollo, headquartered in Chelmsford, MA, has given UCSD seven Series 3500 workstations along with three laser printers, and Mentor Graphics, of Beaverton, OR, has contributed the software.

"Few universities have comparably powerful packages of hardware and software," said Paul Chau, assistant professor of electrical and computer science at UCSD, who will be sharing the equipment with Walter Ku in the ECE VLSI design laboratories.

"For industry, students who have experience with such state-of-the-art industrial computer aided design tools are hard to find. This puts UCSD graduates in an advantageous position in the job market and satisfies a need of industry. I am very pleased that industry is supporting undergraduate and graduate education and research," added Chau.

Chau and Ku, working with local Apollo representative Greg White and Mentor Graphics representative Paul Jensen, were instrumental in securing this generous donation to UCSD.

"Prior to the gift, enrollments had to be restricted primarily to graduate students because of a limited number of workstations," said M. Lea Rudee, dean of the Division of Engineering. "Now enrollments can be expanded to include undergraduate students. This also gives a big boost to the VLSI design research in the ECE department of UCSD."

About two dozen graduate students in Chau's course will use the new equipment and many undergraduates will also have access to it.

According to company spokesperson Lynn Bellavance, "Apollo has provided the university with its Series 3500 Personal Workstations (TM), the company's advanced 4 MIPS (millions of instructions per second) desktop workstations. Mentor Graphics' software donation includes Chip Station, for the design and layout of custom integrated circuits; QuickSim, an interactive simulator; QuickFault, a fault simulator, and QuickPath, the industry's first graphic critical path simulator."

The very complex microchips which the students will learn to design with the new equipment have a wide range of advanced applications such as use in high performance signal processors which are employed in radar, sonar and telecommunications systems.

"As partners in the technological commitment to this program, Apollo and Mentor Graphics are providing UCSD engineering students with the most advanced design tools available for the schematic capture, integrated circuit layout, and simulation processes necessary for VLSI IC chip design," Bellavance said.

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