EDITORIAL

Dear TOSEM Community,

It has been about two years since my last editorial, which makes it high-time to introduce the associate editors who have joined us since then. I will keep the descriptions brief and the adjectives to a minimum, because you can rest assured that each of these associate editors is a world-class researcher and a dedicated professional in software engineering research – otherwise, my vetting process would have precluded me from inviting them to join the board!

Sebastian Elbaum is on the faculty at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. His research aims to improve software dependability through testing, monitoring, and analysis. Robert Walker is on the faculty at the University of Calgary. His research involves software engineering, with an emphasis on software evolution and software reuse. Peri Tarr is a member of the research staff at IBM TJ Watson Research Center. Her research interests include software engineering environments, aspect-oriented software development, software integration and interoperability, traceability, consistency and inconsistency management, and IT governance. Willem Visser is on the faculty at the University of Stellenbosch. His research interests are mostly focused on using symbolic execution for testing and bug hunting. Collectively, these four have enhanced the field through results, through education and advising, and through international collaborations. They will augment all of this through their commitment to TOSEM and high-quality journal publications in software engineering research.

My second and final term will be completed at the end of 2012, and I will be proud to pass the current editorial board – these new associate editors and those that remain on the board – on to the next editor-in-chief.

I'd like to add one special note of appreciation to someone who may never even read it. Jono Hardjowirogo was the Publisher on the ACM staff that worked with TOSEM for over a decade. Carol Matsumoto, the (fantastic, amazing, and wonderful!) TOSEM editorial assistant, and I depended on Jono in many ways, and we want to shout out our thanks (in English, although we would add them in Indonesian, Javanese, and German if we could)! We're thrilled, of course, to have Irma Strolia still working with us at the ACM. We look forward to working with Irma and Laura Lander, who has replaced Jono (albeit with a different title, Journals Manager).

Let me finish by addressing the two most common questions I get about TOSEM: "What is the acceptance rate?" and "How long is your review cycle?"

We have made decisions on 613 articles that have been submitted from 2007 through mid-November 2011, with the following breakdown

Decision	Number of Manuscripts	Percentage of Total
Accept	80	13.0%
Reject	344	56.2%
Major Revision	133	21.7%
Minor Revision	56	9.1%
Total	613	100%

Of the rejected papers, about 147 (about 43%) of them were rejected without review (because they were out-of-scope or otherwise judged inappropriate to send through the review process), while the remaining 197 decisions were made after review.

As for time-to-review, here is the histogram that shows the number of manuscripts reviewed in 30-day groups for the articles submitted from 2007 through mid-year 2011

This is by no means where I'd like it to be, although I am pleased with the progress we've made in reducing these numbers over the past years. I'd like my successor especially to focus on reducing the number of papers in the 91+ day range; said another way, I'd like almost all papers for TOSEM to receive an initial decision within 90 days.

So, those are the key statistics. I hope to mine the database a little more before writing my final editorial, which should appear in the last 2012 issue of TOSEM, and I'll report on that – and on the new editor-in-chief – at that point.

Methodically yours,

David Notkin
Editor-in-Chief