Editorial

This issue of ACM TOCS marks a passing of the baton in the role of editor-in-chief. Building upon the success of the previous editors-in-chief of TOCS (Anita Jones, Ken Birman, Larry Peterson, and Carla Ellis), Peter Chen has been an extraordinarily effective leader of TOCS for the past three and a half years. Under Peter's leadership, TOCS has taken major steps forward in its role as the premier journal in experimental computer systems research. In particular, Peter's initiative of proactively soliciting the authors of award-quality conference papers (appearing in a broad set of top-tier systems conferences) to submit extended versions of their work to TOCS for fast-track consideration was extremely successful. Between this initiative and Peter's vigilance in making sure that the review process was moving forward efficiently, TOCS has enjoyed articles of exceptionally high quality, as well as one of the fastest review cycles of all of the ACM journals. I am honored and delighted to be following in Peter's footsteps, and I would like to thank him for his valuable service to the broader systems research community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a new associate editor to the editorial board: Remzi Arpaci-Dusseau from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Remzi is well known in the systems community for his research contributions in a broad set of areas (including storage and file systems, operating systems, parallel and distributed systems, databases, and computer architecture) as well as his generous and responsible service to the research community (e.g., in the role of program chair for OSDI and FAST).

TOCS has always been my favorite journal, and I think it plays an important role in complementing our very strong systems research conferences. Perhaps the most compelling advantage that TOCS offers is a flexible page count that allows authors to tell a larger and more complete story. This is useful not only for presenting a more comprehensive version of a single research study (e.g., an extended version of a particular conference paper), but also for comparing and contrasting related approaches that would each fill an entire conference paper in their own right. Building upon Peter Chen's very successful strategy of actively soliciting TOCS submissions, I plan to do this for both of these types of papers: that is, not only for individual award-quality papers, but also for promising combinations of papers or approaches that would make interesting comparative studies. I am also interested in soliciting submissions to TOCS from the authors of papers that win "test-of-time" awards to present retrospective discussions of their work. In addition, I am fully committed to keeping our review cycles as short as possible at TOCS, so that they are comparable to typical conference review times (but with the added benefit of being able to submit articles whenever it is convenient for the authors).

TOCS is the premier journal in computer systems, and it has published many of the most significant articles in our field. I look forward to working with Remzi and the other associate editors to continue making TOCS a valuable resource to our community.

Todd C. Mowry
Editor-in-Chief