Editorial

With this issue, the transition from Larry Peterson as editor-in-chief of *ACM Transactions on Computer Systems* to me is essentially complete. Larry has held this position since 1998. Under Larry's leadership, TOCS has increased its impact and prestige during a time when journals have faced many challenges. I wish to sincerely thank him, on behalf of the entire systems community, for his dedicated service to TOCS. I also welcome Mark Hill as a new Associate Editor and say "thank you" to departing Associate Editor Anoop Gupta.

TOCS has become established as the preeminent journal for the experimental systems community. It has a history of publishing the most influential systems research papers. I believe that the key to keeping TOCS vital is to position it as the one place to find the highest quality papers in systems—broadly defined. This implies that TOCS maintain its high standards and its traditional scope. TOCS-style papers must continue to offer interesting and important ideas, described thoroughly and with depth, and supported by strong experimental results or insights from practical experience. While specialized conferences continue to proliferate and narrowly-focused journals are launched, TOCS must play an umbrella role where topics from various areas of systems can be found.

I have a number of goals for my term as editor-in-chief. The first is to upgrade the process for online submission, review, and tracking. As I expect every new editor has said, I hope to make the review cycle shorter and more efficient. While some researchers may find it tempting to leave their conference papers as the final word and move on to the next idea, TOCS can offer the potential for much greater impact by allowing authors to tell their story more fully and with more perspective. I plan to be proactive in encouraging submissions and soliciting other kinds of submissions such as retrospectives. I want to enhance the value of TOCS as part of the ACM Digital Library so that TOCS content and its related links can be the starting point for any effective systems literature search.

While journals will continue to face a number of challenges, one significant asset TOCS enjoys is the willingness of its authors, reviewers, associate editors, readers, and related Special Interest Groups to participate in maintaining the health and traditions of TOCS. I am eager to hear any suggestions, concerns, or ideas for improvements that members of the TOCS community have to offer. I look forward to working with many of you over the next few years.

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