Welcome to Philadelphia and to DSN 2006! This year's DCCS program consists of 34 excellent papers (out of 187 submissions) that cover a wide range of dependability issues and show the depth and breadth of our community's research efforts. This excellent collection is the result of a very thorough selection process, one of the most competitive in the history of this conference.

As a testament to the diversity of our community, this year the symposium received contributions from 25 countries and, continuing a trend observed in the last few years, over 15% of the submissions had multinational author lists. Most contributions were from universities and government research organizations; industrial submission were responsible for about 10% of the total, while twice as many submissions were the product of collaborations between industry and academia.

The review process followed the tradition of thoroughness that has come to be expected from this conference. The program committee members suggested external reviewers for the regular papers in early December. The rate of completed reviews from the 225 external reviewers exceeded 99% of our goals. In total, 933 reviews were produced for the 187 submissions. These reviews were discussed in a program committee meeting, held in Austin in the middle of February, that, despite the disruptions caused by blizzards on the East coast of the United States, was attended by 44 of the 47 PC members (the missing three were "virtually" present through conference calls). Each regular paper was reviewed by 3 program committee members and up to 4 external reviewers; over 97% of regular papers had 5 or more reviews, with an average of 5.13 reviews per paper. Practical experience reports and software demonstration submissions were each reviewed by 3 committee members.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Program Committee, who worked hard and smart, both before and during the PC meeting, to maintain and enhance the traditional quality of the reviewing process – I really appreciated their willingness to further burden their busy schedules by accepting my invitation to serve. But it is the entire community, really, that should take pride in this final program: DSN requests a lot of input from the community in terms of external reviews, and the response from the community has never been as overwhelmingly positive as this year. Thank you.

Many individuals have helped me in many ways during the 12 months of preparation that led to this program. I would especially like to thank Rick Schlichting, Mootaz Elnozahy, Jay Lala, Jean Arlat, and Andrea Bondavalli for their excellent advice, support, and mentoring. Chandra Kintala and Sachin Garg very graciously provided the financial means for acquiring the software used during the reviewing process and helped defray the costs of the PC meeting. My sincere gratitude goes to Jeff Napper and Harry Li for their invaluable help during the PC meeting and the recruiting of external reviewers, to Sara Strandtman for her help in organizing the program committee meeting and other logistical functions, and to the University of Texas at Austin for hosting the PC meeting.

Finally, I offer special thanks to the IBM Austin Research Lab and to its director, Lorraine Herger, for sponsoring the "Perspectives in Dependability” workshop that followed the PC meeting in Austin – the workshop not only proved to be highly enjoyable and stimulating, but provided a little extra incentive for PC members to come to Austin, helping to ensure such high participation in the PC meeting.

Lorenzo Alvisi
DCCS Program Chair, DSN 2006