Welcome to Anchorage and to DSN 2008! This year's PDS program consists of 23 papers (out of 87 submissions) that cover a wide range of dependability issues, and show the depth and breadth of our community's research efforts.

The review process followed the tradition of thoroughness that's come to be expected from this conference. Each regular paper submission received five reviews, including at least three from program committee members, and the remainder from external reviewers, who were suggested by program committee members in December. Practical experience report and tool demonstration submissions were each reviewed by three program committee members. Overall, 413 reviews were produced for the 87 submissions.

This year we introduced two new elements to the review process: optional author responses and pre-PC meeting discussions. Authors were given 48 hours and 500 words to respond to draft (pre-PC meeting) reviews, to correct any factual errors or gross misinterpretations, answer questions raised in the reviews, and so on. Authors of 60 submissions (69%) took advantage of this forum. After the author response period, program committee members used the conference management message boards for in-depth deliberations before the PC meeting. This online discussion facility was used for 23 submissions (26%).

The reviews and author responses were discussed in a program committee meeting held in Palo Alto, CA, in early February. Despite blizzards in the central United States, the meeting was attended in person by 29 members and "virtually" by an additional five members. The result of these deliberations is a strong program of 19 research papers, three practical experience reports, one tool demonstration report, and a panel session.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the program committee, who contributed their expertise and time from their busy schedules before, during, and after the PC meeting to ensure the quality of the reviewing and shepherding processes. I also greatly appreciate the efforts and expertise of the external reviewers. Thank you for your assistance in creating this program!

Many individuals have helped me over the last year. I would especially like to thank Neeraj Suri, Phil Koopman, Henrique Madeira, Mootaz Elnozahy and Rick Schlichting for their excellent advice, support and mentoring. Babak Falsafi coordinated the authors in the preparation of the final versions of papers for the proceedings. Phil Koopman, Chuck Weinstock and Alistair Veitch graciously provided the financial means for the START reviewing software service and for defraying the costs of the PC meeting. Rich Gerber customized the START reviewing software to permit the different phases described above. Joann Becker and Brad Wittke provided invaluable help with local arrangements before and during the PC meeting.

I wish all participants a very interesting, fruitful, and enjoyable conference!

Kimberly Keeton
Hewlett-Packard Labs
PDS Program Chair, DSN 2008