Welcome to SRDS '97, which is being held this year in Durham, NC, at the Regal University Hotel, just north of Duke University. Duke in Durham, North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) comprise the Research Triangle. Many companies have made Research Triangle Park, NC, their corporate and research headquarters, thereby taking advantage of the abundance of academic talent the area has to offer. The proximity of business and academia has fostered industry-university cooperative efforts, one of which is located at Duke and NCSU: the Center for Advanced Computing and Communication, also a supporter of SRDS '97.

Distributed systems are ubiquitous and will play an important role in the next millennium. The need for high reliability is evident as such systems are used in life-critical and economy-critical application.

This symposium series, dating back to the early days of distributed systems, has a distinguished history of documenting basic research as well as applied research. Those involved in this series take pride in bringing academics, practicing engineers, government officials, and military officers together to discuss this crucial subject.

In organizing such a symposium the efforts of many individuals are involved. I would like to thank Vice General Chair Mladen Vouk, Program Co-Chairs Amir Abouelnaga and Farokh Bastani and the program committee for putting together an agenda of informative and timely topics. I also want to express my appreciation to the invited speakers, Tim Chou, Rich DeMillo, Ralph Evans, Ravi Iyer, and Chandra Kintala for graciously agreeing to present their points of view. Veena Mendiratta has handled the finances very efficiently and Sid Chatterjee has been most effective as registration chair. Last, but not least, Ajay Kshemkalyani, the local chair, and Linda Stievater, my assistant, are to be recognized for their excellent efforts to ensure the success of all local arrangements.

Kishor S. Trivedi