Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

Fabrizio Lombardi

It is with feelings of honor and excitement that I start my appointment as the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the IEEE Transactions on Computers (TC). TC is in its 56th year of publication, by far the oldest peer-reviewed transaction of the IEEE Computer Society. Through the years, the position of EIC has been held by outstanding innovators in computer engineering, science, and education. The list includes luminaries such as T.Y. Feng (Pennsylvania State University, 1982-1986), M.T. Liu (The Ohio State University, 1986-1990), E. Swartzlander (The University of Texas-Austin, 1991-1994), J. Liu (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995-1998), J.L. Gaudiot (University of Southern California/University of California-Irvine, 1999-2002), and V.K. Prasanna (University of Southern California, 2003-2006). Hence, it is also with trepidation that I start my duties. I am humbled and privileged to follow in such glorious footsteps and it is my primary goal to preserve the unabated tradition of excellence of TC pursued by my predecessors.

The radical changes in operations that TC has undergone over the leadership tenure of past EICs have forged a remarkable partnership; as Associate EIC, working closely with J.L. Gaudiot and V.K. Prasanna, I have witnessed the renewed sense of ownership of the technical community in all of its publication activities: Timely and detailed reviews are provided to the authors; the dedicated involvement of Associate Editors (AEs) has resulted in the assignment of qualified referees and a fast decision time for submissions. The fruits of this endeavor are evident: At present, publication delay stands at an all time low of 7 months (on average, from time of submission to full acceptance after a second review). Selectivity through a rigorous peer-reviewed process is reflected by an acceptance ratio of just above 20 percent; a dramatic increase in the so-called impact factor has occurred as a recognized measure of widespread acknowledgment of the technical excellence in the papers published by TC.

In these times of widespread knowledge generation and fast-paced innovations, I am confident that the legacy of scholarship that has made TC a flagship archival journal in the portfolio of the IEEE Computer Society will continue to enable it to lead the computer community by publishing fundamental, explorative, and significant papers, while adjusting to changes in technology and industrial/academic practice. As EIC, with the help of all constituencies (authors, reviewers, Associate Editors, and staff members), I am seeking to complement the existing topical strengths of TC with inter and intradisciplinary topics. Therefore, I am starting to identify prospective colleagues for involvement in TC to reflect diversity in geographic distribution (such as from Asia, Latin America, and Europe), gender, and technical affiliation/expertise, thus continuing the traditional inclusive nature of this community. TC is well positioned to attract interdisciplinary coverage with an enhanced exposure for computer innovations across the engineering and scientific communities. In this respect, I am encouraging authors in industry and national research laboratories to consider TC as a venue of publication of their high quality works.

Globalization and widespread outreach are a few of the challenges that lie ahead. The technical coverage of TC is constantly expanding; therefore, we need the strongest support from you, our readers and authors, in providing us with your contributions (either as individual manuscripts and/or special sections) to cover the tremendous strides in this exciting field of technical endeavor.

As I am fully committed to maintaining the TC volunteer-led organization, I am grateful for the help, dedication, commitment, and, sometimes, also patience that you as readers, authors, and reviewers have granted the Editorial Board and me on many occasions in the past as I am confident you will also grant us in the future. Do not hesitate to contact me with recommendations and suggestions that may further improve this remarkable journal in any aspect of its operation. I look forward to them. It is a privilege to serve you in this capacity and share the resolve that the best is yet to come.

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Editor-in-Chief

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