Happy New Year! Welcome to the January 2007 issue of the IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS). It is my pleasure to present a brief state of the journal in this issue. We received 369 regular papers and 150 special issue (SI) papers in 2005. As of 11 October 2006, we have received 294 regular papers and 25 SI papers in 2006. We expect to reach the same number of regular paper submissions this year. However, we are cutting down on special issues to reduce the printing time of papers, which currently averages approximately nine months after a paper is fully accepted.

As you know, it used to take an average of 26 months to publish a paper in TPDS in 2002. We have now cut it down to 18 months, which includes reviews, major revisions, and time to print after a paper is accepted. Most importantly, the average time for a first decision on a paper is less than four months for all papers handled in 2005 and 2006, which is comparable to conferences in our areas. We are also taking steps to post the accepted papers electronically much ahead of the time the paper is published in print. I congratulate the IEEE Computer Society staff, associate editors, and reviewers of the TPDS for a job well done. I also thank the authors for sending high quality papers for publication in our journal.

Drs. Kwei-Jay Lin and Jaideep Srivastava have completed their terms and retired from the Editorial Board recently. I very much appreciate their time and effort in processing the papers. I also take this opportunity to welcome and introduce a few distinguished researchers to the Editorial Board of TPDS. Drs. Tarek Abdelzaher, Gagan Agrawal, Manish Parashar, and Michel Raynal are appointed as new associate editors. Their short biographies and areas of research are given below. I am confident they will contribute to further enhancing the quality and timeliness of TPDS.

As always, I invite comments and suggestions from authors, reviewers, and readers on how to improve the quality of this transaction. I also seek your help in spreading the word about TPDS to your colleagues. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laxmi N. Bhuyan
Editor-in-Chief

Tarek Abdelzaher received the BSc and MSc degrees in electrical and computer engineering from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, in 1990 and 1994, respectively. He received the PhD degree from the University of Michigan in 1999 on quality of service adaptation in real-time systems. He was an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, where he founded the Software Predictability Group, until his promotion with tenure in 2005. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He has authored/coauthored three book chapters and more than 80 refereed publications in leading conferences and journals in several fields, including real-time computing, distributed systems, sensor networks, and control. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Real-Time Systems, an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, the ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks, the International Journal of Embedded Systems, and the Ad Hoc Networks Journal, as well as editor of the ACM SIGBED Review. He was a guest editor for the Journal of Computer Communications and the Journal of Real-Time Systems, and is coeditor of the IEEE Distributed Systems Online. He has served on numerous technical program committees in real-time computing, networking, quality of service, distributed systems, sensor networks, multimedia, and mobile computing, among others. He also held several conference organization positions, including program chair of RTAS 2004, finance chair of IPSN 2006 and Sensys 2006, sensor networks vice chair of RTSS 2005 and ICDCS 2006, system vice chair of DCoSS 2006, general chair of RTAS 2005, program chair of RTSS 2006, general chair of RTSS 2007, and general chair of IPSN 2007. His research interests lie broadly in understanding and controlling the temporal properties of software systems in the face of increasing complexity, distribution, and degree of embedding in an external physical environment. He is a member of the IEEE and the ACM.
Gagan Agrawal received the BTech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in 1991, and the MS and PhD degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1994 and 1996, respectively. He is an associate professor of computer science and engineering at the Ohio State University. His research interests include parallel and distributed computing, compilers, data mining, grid computing, and processing of streaming data. He has published more than 125 refereed papers in these areas. He is a member of the ACM and the IEEE Computer Society. He received a US National Science Foundation CAREER award in 1998. He served on the ACM dissertation award committee between 1999 and 2003.

Manish Parashar received the BE degree in electronics and telecommunications from Bombay University, India, and the MS and PhD degrees in computer engineering from Syracuse University. He is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Rutgers University, where he is also the director of the Applied Software Systems Laboratory. He has received the Rutgers Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research (2004-2005), the US National Science Foundation CAREER Award (1999), and the Enrico Fermi Scholarship from Argonne National Laboratory (1996). His research interests include autonomic computing, parallel and distributed computing (including peer-to-peer and grid computing), scientific computing, and software engineering. He is a senior member of the IEEE, a member of the executive committee of the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Parallel Processing (TCPP), part of the IEEE Computer Society Distinguished Visitor Program (2004-2006), and a member of the ACM. He is the cofounder of the IEEE International Conference on Autonomic Computing (ICAC), serves on the editorial boards of several journals, and on the steering and program committees of several international workshops and conferences. For more information, please visit http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/~parashar/.

Michel Raynal has been a professor of computer science since 1981. At IRISA (CNRS-INRIA-University joint computing research laboratory located in Rennes), he founded a research group on distributed algorithms in 1983. His research interests include distributed algorithms, distributed computing systems, networks, and dependability. His main interest lies in the fundamental principles that underlie the design and the construction of distributed computing systems. He has been the principal investigator of a number of research grants in these areas and has been invited by many universities all over the world to give lectures on distributed algorithms and distributed computing. He belongs to the editorial board of several international journals. Professor Michel Raynal has published more than 100 papers in journals (Journal of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Acta Informatica, Distributed Computing, Communications of the ACM, Information and Computation, Journal of Computer and System Sciences, Journal of Parallel and Distributed Computing, IEEE Transactions on Computers, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, Computer, IEEE Software, IPL, PPL, Theoretical Computer Science, Real-Time Systems Journal, The Computer Journal, etc.) and more than 200 papers in conferences (ACM STOC, ACM PODC, ACM SPAA, IEEE ICDCS, IEEE DSN, DISC, IEEE IPDPS, Europar, FST&TCS, IEEE SRDS, etc.). He has also written seven books devoted to parallelism, distributed algorithms, and systems (MIT Press and Wiley). He has served on the program committees for more than 70 international conferences (including ACM PODC, DISC, ICDCS, IPDPS, DSN, LADC, SRDS, SIROCCO, etc.) and chaired the program committee of more than 15 international conferences (including DISC (twice), ICDCS, SIROCCO, and ISORC). He served as the chair of the steering committee leading the DISC symposium series from 2002-2004. Michel Raynal received the IEEE ICDCS best paper Award three times in a row in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Recently, he cochaired SIROCCO 2005 (devoted to communication complexity), IWDC 2005, and IEEE ICDCS 2006.