Editorial

I am pleased to announce the winner of the 2008 ACM TODAES best paper:

> *Wang, C., Yang, Z., Ivancic, F., and Gupta, A. 2007. Disjunctive image computation for software verification. ACM Trans. Des. Autom. Electron. Syst. 12, 2 (April 2007) Article 10.*

The selection committee (comprised of a subset of Associate Editors covering different topical areas within TODAES) reviewed articles in a two-year window (April 2006–January 2008) and had the difficult task of identifying a finalist from the many excellent articles that appeared during this time. The authors of the winning article were recognized at the opening session of the 2008 Design Automation Conference and received a $1000 award, together with citations recognizing their achievement. Congratulations to these authors!

Several Associate Editors (AEs) have retired after many years of dedicated service to the journal: Francky Catthoor, Kiyoung Choi, Steven German, TingTing Hwang, Mahmut Kandemir, Sharad Malik, and Martin Wong. I sincerely thank them for their efforts in handling what turned into a heavy workload as the number of submissions to TODAES to increased. I am pleased to welcome the following new Associate Editors who will serve a three-year term effective June 1, 2008: Soonhoi Ha (Seoul National University), Aarti Gupta (NEC Labs), Robert Jones (Intel Corp.), Preeti Panda (IIT Delhi), and Hai Zhou (Northwestern University).

Finally, I wish to indulge your attention for a few moments to highlight a transition in the leadership of ACM TODAES. As I complete my service as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of ACM TODAES, I'm delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Massoud Pedram (University of Southern California) as the new EiC. We are fortunate that he has agreed to take the helm and ask all readers to join me in welcoming him. His appointment as EiC begins immediately as I step down, and we will be transitioning the EiC function from my office to his over the summer.

As I look back during my tenure as EiC for the past four years, I note several accomplishments but also many challenges that remain to be addressed. First, the number of submissions to TODAES has gone up significantly, indicating strong interest in the electronic design automation community for high quality, archival journal publication. We are continuing to follow the original goals of this journal: high quality of accepted articles; diverse coverage spanning the entire spectrum of electronic design automation; timely issues dedicated to "hot" topics; and novel special issue formats (e.g., joint issues with the ACM SIGDA Multimedia Monograph series and the ACM Journal of Emerging Technologies in Computing Systems). A recent unique feature of TODAES has been the introduction of two special issues on "Demonstrable Software Systems and Hardware Platforms" that have highlighted working CAD systems

and artifacts. I believe these issues will pave the way for design automation researchers to strive towards producing *reproducible research results*, describing systems, platforms, and tools that not only have outstanding technical content, but which also have been demonstrated as working systems at forums such as the annual SIGDA/DAC University Booth.

Prospective authors are often concerned with the issues of backlogs for accepted articles and the review turnaround time. I'm pleased to say that ACM TODAES has continued to follow the original charter of the journal: no backlogs for accepted articles (i.e., accepted articles appear in the very next issue). We are working continually to ensure a prompt review cycle. While I had set an ambitious goal of 10 weeks from manuscript submission to first decision, we are currently average a little over 16 weeks for turnaround. I have tried hard to improve the turnaround time for submitted manuscripts. Many submissions do get a much quicker turnaround, but a large part of the delay comes from potential reviewers not responding to review invitations as well as tardy reviews. It is in the interest of all readers to participate actively in the review process and I encourage you to accept the responsibility of undertaking prompt and thorough reviews.

No journal can function effectively without a team of dedicated volunteers and staff. There are many people who deserve thanks in making TODAES a success: the authors of submitted manuscripts; the dedicated service of the Associate Editors and the special issue Guest Editors; the community of reviewers; the TODAES Information Director (Prabhat Mishra) for maintaining the TODAES Web page; the ACM Publications Board and the production staff; and the ACM SIGDA Advisory Board for their continued support and direction. Last but certainly not the least, I would like to recognize and thank Melanie Sanders (the TODAES Editorial Assistant) for her untiring efforts in making TODAES run like clockwork. She has been instrumental in liaising with the production staff, demystifying many "bugs" resulting from the ongoing upgrades of Manuscript Central, responding promptly to all AE and author requests, and, of course, keeping me from being tardy as well!

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving the design automation community as EiC of ACM TODAES. The journal is in great hands under Professor Pedram's leadership and I wish him and all the readership the best as he takes ACM TODAES to the next level of excellence.

NIKIL DUTT
Editor-in-Chief