Editor's Notes

I'm pleased to present what I believe is the most interesting issue of SIGMOD Record so far under my editorship. This issue contains a wide variety of high quality material with articles to suit any reader. Rather than using the editor's notes to walk the reader through the contents of the issue, as usually is done, I've decided to cast tradition aside and allow the reader to browse the Table of Contents for himself. I will, however, point out a few notable portions of this issue.

The centerpiece is a special section on Advances in Real-Time Database Systems. This section is guest edited by Azer Bestavros, who put together an excellent collection of papers in a timely manner. The section begins with a survey and introductory material by Prof. Bestavros, followed by eight technical papers spanning a wide variety of topics within the area of real-time database systems.

I also point the reader to the report titled "Database Research: Achievements and Opportunities into the 21st Century." This report summarizes the findings of a workshop convened in May 1995 specifically to consider long-term prospects and directions for database research. The workshop—and subsequent report—followed a similar workshop and report produced five years earlier. It is interesting to see how the distinguished panel of academics and industrial folks who attended the workshop view the future of database research, and to see how this future has changed since the previous report.

This issue introduces two new regular special sections. Michael Franklin edits the new section on Systems and Prototypes, while Eugene Shekita edits the new section on Industry News. These sections add considerably to both the variety and practicality of SIGMOD Record articles. Readers also will find the article on Object Query Standards in this issue to be a relevant and timely piece.

I've had numerous questions regarding submission deadlines and turnaround time for SIGMOD Record technical articles. There are no deadlines. Although SIGMOD Record is not a peer-reviewed journal, all technical submissions undergo a "mini-review" process, which usually takes 2–3 months. If a paper is deemed acceptable, it is actually accepted only if it can be printed within a year of its submission. (The Record has a limited number of pages.) In my editorship so far, the proportion of technical submissions deemed acceptable has been about 25%–30%, and I've been able to print all papers within a year. Note that the June issue each year is the SIGMOD conference proceedings, so this issue is the last regular one until September.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this issue to the memory of Paris Kannelakis, an influential professor, researcher, and human being, who lost his life in a plane crash during the Christmas holidays. He will be missed by the entire community.

Jennifer Widom
January, 1996