Editor's Notes

Let me welcome you to my inaugural issue of the SIGMOD Record. The first thing that you are likely to notice is that things have not changed all that much (unless ACM comes through with a fancy new cover). The reason for this stability is largely due to the great job of organizing the Record that our outgoing editor, Jennifer Widom, has done over the past couple years. Jennifer implemented a number of policies to ensure a high level of quality for the Record, including the creation of several new regular sections and an emphasis on publishing special issues on a wide range of topics of interest to the SIGMOD community. I'd like to thank Jennifer for the wonderful job that she has done, and for her help with the editorial transition process. I plan to continue with the same general structure for the Record, including the publication of timely special issues. I believe that combining solicited contributions with a good selection of papers from our pool of submitted articles is the best way to ensure quality and relevance while providing a high-profile forum for work from throughout the SIGMOD community.

Some change of course, is inevitable — particularly when the editorial board consists of busy people who are donating their time and effort. I've been informed by Len Gallagher that he will be stepping down after several years as "Standards Activities" editor. Len has done an excellent job of finding important articles, and his help will be sorely missed. On the positive side, it is my pleasure to announce the addition of two new associate editors. Ling Liu from the University of Alberta is the new associate editor in charge of Articles and Technical Notes. She will be helping to coordinate the mini-review process for technical contributions and will assist with special sections. Praveen Seshadri of Cornell University has agreed to take on the "Systems and Prototypes" section and will be soliciting articles on innovative systems being built in both industry and academia. I thank both of them for volunteering their time and look forward to working with them.

On to the matter at hand: The current issue contains a number of contributions that I hope you will find of interest. First is a special section on Environmental Information Systems edited by Oliver Günter. Oliver has assembled an interesting set of papers from around the world on a topic of global importance. We also have a report from the I^3/POB working group on Mediator Languages, which has already begun to generate discussion (as evidenced by the commentary from several folks at MITRE, which is also included). Other highlights include a very useful and timely survey on OLAP and Data Warehousing by Surajit Chadhuri and Umesh Dayal, and a Systems and Prototypes contribution describing innovative work being performed by the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory here at Maryland.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to submit articles, ideas for special sections, and material for inclusion in our special columns. In particular, it should be noted that several of our industry-based columns have had difficulty finding people to contribute material for their columns. We depend on submissions from our industry-based members to facilitate the dialog between the academic and industrial components of the SIGMOD membership. Please feel free to contact me or the appropriate Associate Editor with your submissions and/or ideas.

Michael Franklin
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