Editor's Notes

This issue of the *SIGMOD Record* gives us an opportunity to welcome the new SIGMOD board of officers and to acknowledge our outgoing officers. As Rick Snodgrass mentions in his "Chair's Message", the elections this past spring resulted in Rick becoming SIGMOD Chair, Meral Özsoyoğlu becoming Vice-Chair, and Eric Hanson becoming Secretary/Treasurer. I'm very much looking forward to working with them, and we have already begun exchanging ideas about how to improve the *SIGMOD Record.* We should all thank them and the other candidates (who can breathe easier now!) for volunteering their efforts to ensure that SIGMOD keeps running smoothly.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the outgoing officers, who served diligently for the past eight years. Their contributions and accomplishments are noted in detail by Rick. I'd like to add that since my editorship overlapped with the last six months of their terms, I got to witness them in action. I was deeply impressed by their dedication and the amount of work they performed to ensure the success of the organization. Fortunately, they all plan to continue their high levels of contribution to the database community. For example, Won Kim remains Editor-in-Chief of TODS, Laura Haas is Program Chair for the SIGMOD '98 conference, and Mike Carey is Americas Program Committee Chair for VLDB '97.

Along with the changes in the SIGMOD leadership, we continue to go through changes in the Editorial Board of the *Record.* Xiaolei Qian has ended her run as Associate Editor of the Funding column. She did an excellent job of making sense of the various funding initiatives and pointing out important opportunities. Beau Shekita has also stepped down as Associate Editor of the Industry News column. We will miss Beau's keen sense of the industry's direction and his uncanny ability to actually get people to write technical articles about their products.

The current issue contains articles on a variety of topics, including OLAP, geospatial databases, security, and web-site management. In addition we have a report from the recent DART workshop on Active and Real-Time databases, and a reprint of the report on strategic directions for database research, edited by Avi Silberschatz and Stan Zdonik. This latter report is from the database working group of the Strategic Directions Workshop, which was sponsored by ACM, Computing Research Association, NSF, and the Office of Naval Research. We also have a Systems and Prototypes contribution from the Lore group at Stanford, and a Research Centers report from the University of Karlsruhe.

In closing, I would again like to encourage your participation in the *SIGMOD Record* through the contribution of articles, reports, and proposals for special issues. Also, during the next few months we will be adjusting the editorial structure of the *Record*, combining some columns, creating some new ones, and appointing new members of the editorial board. As always, you should contact me or the appropriate Associate Editor with your submissions and input.

Michael Franklin
July, 1997