Editor's Notes

We are in the midst of an exciting time for SIGMOD in general and the *SIGMOD Record* in particular. As evidenced by the changes you may have noticed to the lists of committees and contributors on the preceding pages, and by the notes from Rick Snodgrass and Alberto Mendelzon on the pages that follow, many new initiatives are underway. In terms of the *Record*, we have a new web site, called *SIGMOD Record — Web Edition*, that has been developed and is being maintained by Alex Labrinidis of the University of Maryland. You can access the current issue as well as previous ones at this site, which is located at `http://www.acm.org/sigmod/sigmod_record`. The *Web Edition* is part of the new *SIGMOD Online* initiative, whose goal is to provide a comprehensive electronic presence for SIGMOD (see Alberto's message on Page 4).

This issue of the *SIGMOD Record* is chock full of interesting contributions from around the world. The editors have provided articles covering a range of topics of importance to the database community. Ling Liu, Praveen Seshadri, Len Seligman, and José Blakely have each provided two strong papers for their regular sections in the current issue. We also have four submitted articles, covering the areas of database implementation, active databases, data mining, and spatiotemporal queries. These latter articles were chosen from among the articles we received after going through a "mini-review" process. In keeping with recent *Record* policy, the acceptance rate for such submissions has been around 30%.

We also have several special features in the current issue. Rick Snodgrass has initiated a new feature on "Influential Papers", in which prominent members of the research community comment on papers that have been particularly influential in their own work. Rick will be continuing this column in future issues of the *Record*. We also have an overview of the Predator Object-Relational Database System developed by Praveen Seshadri and his group at Cornell University. I asked Praveen to provide this paper, because I knew that as Systems and Prototypes editor he would be hesitant to include a paper on his own system. My group at Maryland has been using the Predator system for our research, and I'm sure that many others could benefit from it as well. Our third special feature is a paper from Nick Roussopoulos describing the relationship between materialized views and data warehousing. An earlier version of this paper appeared in the 1997 KRDB workshop (see the December 1997 issue for a report on this workshop). I asked Nick for permission to reprint this article, which provides a concise, informative, and entertaining overview of this important research area.

I'd like to thank the authors and the editors for their hard work in putting together this excellent issue of the *Record*.

Michael Franklin
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