

Editor's Notes

Welcome to my first issue as *SIGMOD Record* Editor. My name is Mario Nascimento and I am pleased to join the group of database researchers who have served as Record Editors in the past (Harrison R. Morse (1969), Daniel O'Connell (1971–1973), Randall Rustin (1975), Thomas J. Cook (1981–1983), Jon D. Clark (1984–1985), Margaret H. Dunham –then Eich– (1986–1988), Arie Segev (1989–1995), Jennifer Widom (1995–1996), Michael Franklin (1996–2000) and Ling Liu (2000–2004)). I just hope I can measure up to their legacy. Before going any further let me say that I am thankful to the ACM SIGMOD Executive Committee, in particular to Tamer Özsu, for the support and vote of confidence. I am also grateful to Ling Liu for her support during the transition over the past few months. I also wish to thank well in advance, the help and guidance I will ask for, and am certain to receive, from all Associate Editors as well as colleagues like yourself, to whom I may eventually ask to review submissions sent to me. I must count on you, member of the SIGMOD community, to ensure the *Record* is a high-quality venue and, you know, a chain is as strong as its weakest link. Enough about me though, let me now introduce the contents of this issue.

We start off with three special articles. As many of you know, last December, our community lost Seymour Ginsburg. Serge Abiteboul, Rick Hull and Victor Vianu, who have worked with Seymour, were kind enough to put together a tribute to him. It contains several personal accounts of Seymour's life and relationships and I am sure you will find it a very interesting piece.

On a lighter note, Michael Stonebraker has recently been awarded the "IEEE John von Neumann Medal." To celebrate such an accomplishment David DeWitt, Michael Carey, and Joseph M. Hellerstein have put together an article about Stonebraker's many achievements.

SIGMOD is scheduled to hold elections this coming Spring for its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer. Mike Franklin chaired the Nominating Committee and authored the article that presents the candidates biographical data and position statements. I join Mike (and the whole Executive Committee) in encouraging you to vote in the upcoming elections as well.

This issue also presents three research papers and one survey paper (handled by Jose Blakeley, the Research Surveys Editor). J. Fan and S. Kambhampati survey the topic of web services. S. Guinepain and L. Gruenwald discuss some of the research issues that need to be addressed in order to provide automatic clustering within a DBMS. J. Li et al. investigate the issue of processing sliding-window queries over data streams. The set of research papers is closed with a contribution by R. Xie and R. Shibasaki who propose a conceptual schema for spatio-temporal data.

Finally, we also have a set of articles which have been handled (or written) by the Associate Editors. Amit Seth's Research Centers column features an article about the database research community in Spain. We also have four meeting reports which were handled by Brian Cooper. Ken Ross' column on Influential Papers, as usual, presents the opinion of researchers about papers they consider specially important. Leonid Libkin, with his Database Principles Column, provides us with a paper on Containment of Aggregate Queries by S. Cohen. In this edition Marianne Winslett departs from the individual interview model and offers instead a "collective interview" about databases in virtual organizations. In the last article of our columns section Rick Snodgrass presents his customary report about *ACM TODS*.

As I start my tenure as Editor I am gathering ideas for improving the *Record*, e.g., new features that would be interesting to have on a consistent basis. For instance, would it be interesting to publish a collection of abstracts of Ph.D. thesis (with pointers to online versions)? What about a regular column with news regarding community members, e.g., awards received, promotions, editorship changes, etc.? I would also like to have more involvement from students, and younger researchers. SIGMOD 2005 is already experimenting something in that sense, by having students as members of the program committee for the demonstrations track. Another provocative question is: should the *Record* be an online-only publication? As you can see, ideas and questions abound. So, if at any time, you, the reader, feel the *Record* can be improved please send me an email with your suggestion and/or ideas at record@sigmod.acm.org. The *Record* is SIGMOD's publication, and I would like to see it being made by the community and to the community.

To conclude, this Editor position, as any other new task, imposes a learning curve. It is possible that during this initial period the process with submissions and reviews may take longer than usual. I ask you to bear with me as this should be only momentary. That is it. I hope you like this issue –as I saw once in a store: “if you like what you see, tell your friends, if you don't, please tell me ...” Cheers!

Mario Nascimento, Editor.
Edmonton, Canada. January 2005.