Editor's Notes

Welcome to my first issue as editor-in-chief of the SIGMOD Record. I would like to thank Mike Franklin, our outgoing editor-in-chief, for the truly wonderful job he has done during the past four years and for his help with the editorial transition process. Under Mike's leadership, the Record has achieved an unprecedented level of excellence, including the introduction of several regular feature sections (e.g., Database principles, Influential papers), the timely publication of each issue, as well as the new cover and layout. An important challenge for me is to maintain the high standards that Mike has set. In addition, I thank Rick Snodgrass, the SIGMOD chair, for his encouragement and being an inspirational role model. My thanks are also due to the associate editors Jose Blakeley, Andrew Eisenberg, Leonid Libkin, Jim Melton, Jignesh Patel, Ken Ross, Len Seligman, Amit Sheth, and the web master Alexandros Labrinidis for their continued support through the transition in editorship.

Looking towards the future, I am excited about the opportunity to serve the SIGMOD community in this capacity. I plan to keep on the general structure of the Record, combining solicited contributions with a selection of papers from submitted articles. Another important challenge for all of us is to continue the growth and enhancement of the Record. Several new columns and special issue sections have been proposed. As the editor, I invite you, dear readers, to send me your ideas and suggestions, so we can work together to improve the Record further, and I encourage you, members of the database community, to submit research articles or materials for our feature sections or special issue sections.

The present issue contains a number of contributions that I hope you will find interesting. It begins with six technical articles. Topics covered range from XML and wireless Web, querying, indexing, and distance-based applications in multi-dimensional data management, to system support for distributed information flows, quality of service and knowledge management in digital libraries. Following the articles, the Database Principles section presents a paper discussing the roles of constraints in managing semi-structured data and XML data. The Influential Papers section consists of reminiscences by five contributors, including a paper that the contributor didn't like initially, and a paper that took seven years to appear. We also have three reports from the workshop on XML-enabled Wide Area Searches for Bioinformatics, the ACM SIGIR workshop on XML and Information Retrieval, and the fourth international conference on Flexible Query Answering Systems. Other highlights include an article in the Standards section, describing how applications can use standard SQL to concurrently access their SQL data and non-SQL data, and a Systems and Prototypes contribution describing a joint research project on managing heterogeneity with researchers from IBM Almaden Research Center and University of Toronto.

Hope you enjoy this issue and will support the Record with your contributions. Thank you.

Ling Liu
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