Editor's Notes

At the Business Lunch of the SIGMOD 2001 conference in San Diego this past May, I announced a number of changes to the SIGMOD Record. For the benefit of those who couldn't attend, I summarize the main changes as follows.

First, we will introduce four new columns to the SIGMOD Record. These new columns are the result of many discussions with the SIGMOD chair Rick Snodgrass and former editor Mike Franklin.

- The first new column is the Distinguished Database Profiles. This column will feature interviews with people who are well-known database researchers and professionals or those who have made significant contributions to the database field, such as ACM fellows and SIGMOD award winners. Marianne Winslett from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champagne has agreed to be the associate editor in charge of this column.

- The second new column is the Book Reviews. This column will feature review articles for those books that are of general interest to the SIGMOD community. Karl Aberer from EPFL Switzerland will be the associate editor responsible of this column. You will find a call for book reviews in this issue.

- The third new column is the Career Forum. This column will feature career advice, and highlight database jobs in academia, government, and industry. This new column is intended for those who are starting out in the Database field. Alexandros Labrinidis, a senior graduate student from University of Maryland, will be editing this new column. Alex will be the first student associate editor, representing a large body of student readers of SIGMOD Record.

- The fourth new column is the Transitions section. This column allows database people to announce their recent job moves, including the new challenges and excitement in their new positions.

Another recent update in the Editorial Board: Avigdor Gal from Rutger University has agreed to take over the "Articles, Reports, and Technical Notes", for which I was responsible as an associate editor from 1997 to 2000.

Furthermore, starting next year the SIGMOD Record will have four regular issues a year instead of current three. The SIGMOD conference proceedings will continue to be mailed to all SIGMOD members every year, although it will no longer be counted as an issue of the Record.

This issue contains a wide variety of high quality articles. The centerpiece of the issue is a special section on Advanced XML Data Processing. This section is guest edited by Karl Aberer. The section begins with a survey and introductory material by the guest editor, followed by seven technical papers spanning a wide variety of topics within the area of XML data management.

This issue also includes three interesting articles in the regular research contribution section. The first article is contributed by David Lomet of Microsoft Research. It describes the evolution of B-tree, focusing on page organization and techniques. The second article presents an overview of the Ecobase project, led by Patrick Valduriez and Asterio Tanaka. The third article is written by

Nam Huyn from SurroMed Inc., which examines new application requirements that are not being met by the current data analysis technologies and the research challenges in addressing these needs.

In addition to submitted articles and the ever popular Influential Papers and Standards sections, I would like to point out the report on the SIGMOD 2001 Awards ceremony by Philip Bernstein of Microsoft Research, the report on the Semantic Web workshop by Constantopoulos et.al, and a survey article continuous queries over data streams by Shivnath Babu and Jennifer Widom from Stanford University. The survey presents architecture and an overview of alternative semantics and processing techniques for continuous queries. This issue also marks the initiation of three new columns:

- The Distinguished Database Profiles section, edited by Marianne Winslett, is off to a strong start with an interesting interview with Prof. Ullman.
- The Career Forum section marks its inauguration with an article reviewing the career-enhancing services at SIGMOD Online by Alexandros Labrinidis and Alberto Mendelzon.
- The Book Reviews section announces its inception with a Call For Book Reviews.

Finally, I would like to thank the authors for taking time to prepare these excellent articles and the column editors for their hard work in contributing to this issue of the Record.

Ling Liu
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