Editor's Notes

My term as the Editor of the SIGMOD RECORD is ending by the end of 2004. I am delighted to present you my last issue and also the last issue of 2004.

Overview of the Issue

This issue features a special topic section on Semantic Integration, in addition to articles from six regular sections: Articles, Book Reviews, Distinguished Database Profiles, Influential Papers, Workshop Reports, and ACM TODS development.

The special topic section is guest edited by AnHai Doan, Natalya Noy, Alon Halevy. It consists of ten articles, covering various issues and technical challenges on semantic integration, ranging from scalability of semantic integration with respect to the size of the schema, user interface issues, to challenges in schema mapping maintenance. The first article is contributed by the guest editors. It consists of an overview of this special topic section and a short survey on semantic integration, which covers the problem definition, important semantic matching techniques, and current challenges for developing semantic matching systems.

Following the special topic section, we present you a research article on requirements and architecture for ubiquitous data access by Abdelsalam Helal and Joachim Hammer. It describes the UbiData architecture, aiming at providing anywhere and anytime data accesss and promoting any-device and any-application computing paradigm.

In the *Distinguished DB Profiles* column, we present an interview with C. Mohan by Marianne Winslett. Mohan is well-known for his work on transaction commitment, logging, and recover. He is currently the technical team lead for the DBCache project at IBM Almaden Research Center. This interview article is both interesting and enjoyable to read. Mohan speaks about many issues, including his experience with R*, the first project he had at IBM, the technology transfer of ARIES, *the research issues in messaging and queuing systems, life and expectations as one of 56 IBM Fellows*, the things he would like to do if extra time is given, and more.

The *Book Reviews* section contains two book reviews and an introduction article contributed by Karl Aberer, the associate editor for Book Reviews. Karl briefly describes the two book reviews and presents a list of books that are call for reviews in 2005.

This issue presents you with three workshop reports organized by Brian Cooper, the new associate editor for the workshop reports and technical notes. The first report summarized the events and discussions at the EDBT summer school on XML and Databases, contributed by Riccardo Torlone and Paolo Atzeni. The second report by Ioana Manolescu and Tannis Papakonstantinou, gives an overview of the workshop on the XQuery implementation, Experience, and Perspectives, which was held this year in Paris, France, incorporation with the ACM SIGMOD conference. The third workshop

report is contributed by Hiemstra and Mihajlovic, featuring the first Twente Data Management workshop on XML databases and Information Retrieval.

In ACM TODS Development column, Rick Snodgrass (EIC) briefly summarizes the changes to the ACM TODS editorial board.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the contributing associate editors, the guest editors AnHai Doan, Natalya Noy, Alon Halevy, all authors, and reviewers for their excellent work and their contributions to this high quality issue.

Farewell Message

Over the past four years, we, the Editorial Board, have done a great job in producing the SIGMOD RECORD as a high quality quarterly publication in terms of both technical breadth and depth. I am especially proud of the success of the three columns introduced in early 2001: *Book Reviews* column by Karl Aberer, *Distinguished Database Profiles* column by Marianne Winslett, and the *Career Forum* column by Alex Labrinidis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have contributed to the success and growth of the SIGMOD Record during the past four years. The first acknowledgement goes to all the **Associate Editors**, who have put a lot of efforts on organizing featured articles in their respective sections. As special thanks, I have listed all past and current associate editors at the end of this editor note with their roles in this publication and their current affiliation.

I would also like to thank all the **authors** who have contributed articles to the SIGMOD RECORD in the past four years, of whom many are the distinguished or the emerging leaders in the field of management of data. The high quality articles and the timely topics covered in different sections and feature columns not only have kept the RECORD a high-visibility forum for researchers and practioners across the world to exchange ideas and research results in a timely fashion, but also make the RECORD a platform for database researchers to share their experiences, career advices, insights, as well as database related events and activities world wide.

In addition to associate editors and authors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the colleagues and graduate students who have served as **reviewers** for articles submitted to the RECORD over the past four years. SIGMOD RECORD remains fairly selective in terms of these articles, publishing only about 1 in 3. Also, the production people at ACM, formerly Lisette Burgos, and now Adrienne Griscti, who have done a superb job of actually getting the journal printed and distributed to our 3000+ members.

Marianne Winslett deserves special mention for her distinguished database profiles column. She has done an amazing job in interviewing distinguished database researchers who are ACM fellows or SIGMOD award winners and putting together the interview article for each interviewee. Many have told me how much they like the articles in this

feature column and they appreciate the interviewees for sharing their experiences, advices, and comments on debatable issues. Marianne designs a set of interview questions for each interviewee and put a lot of personal touch into the interview questions and interview process. Her camera crew has also done a terrific job over the past 4 years.

Two of our current associate editors, Karl Aberer for Book Reviews and Avigdor Gal for Technical Notes and Workshop Articles, are stepping down at the end of their four-year term. On behalf of the SIGMOD Record Editorial Board, I would like to give them our special thanks for their outstanding services in the past 4 years. At the same time, I would like to introduce and welcome Brian Cooper as the new associate editor for Technical Notes and Workshop Articles section, starting October 2004.

Finally, I would like to thank Tamer Ozsu, the Chair of SIGMOD, and Rick Snodgrass, the Chair of the SIGMOD Advisory board for their leaderships in making SIGMOD an international community and for their efforts on disseminating knowledge through ACM SIGMOD Anthology (http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/~ley/db/anthology.html), a digital library for the database systems research community, and ACM SIGMOD Digital Symposium Collection, DiSC (http://www.sigmod.org/sigmod/disc/). I specially appreciate the active role both Tamer and Rick have taken in the promotion and improvement of the SIGMOD RECORD.

It has been a great honor to have the chance to serve the SIGMOD community as the editor of the RECORD publication and a member of the SIGMOD Executive Committee. I treasure the experiences and the opportunity, over the past four years, to work closely with many volunteers in this capacity. I am pleased to introduce Mario Nascimento of University of Alberta, the next person who has agreed to accept this honor. Mario has been the information director for SIGMOD over the past four years and has done a fantastic job in maintaining and improving SIGMOD online. I am confident that Mario will bring a lot of energy and talent to the job and I encourage all of you to assist him in the continued growth and enhancement of the SIGMOD RECORD.

Ling Liu

Atlanta, October 2004

Ling Liu
SIGMOD Record Editor (2001 – 2004)
(Georgia Institute of Technology)

Mario Nascimento
SIGMOD Record Editor (starting 2005)
(University of Alberta, Canada)

SIGMOD RECORD EMERITUS ASSOCIATE EDITORS (2001 – 2004)

Karl Aberer
Book Reviews (EPFL, Switzerland)

Avigdor Gal
Articles, Reports, Technical Notes
(Technion, Israel)

SIGMOD RECORD ASSOCIATE EDITORS (Current)

Brian Cooper
Articles, Reports, Technical Notes
(Georgia Institute of Technology)

Andrew Eisenberg
Standards (IBM Corporation)

Alexandros Labrinidis
Career Forum, Web Edition (Univ. of Pittsburgh)

Leonid Libkin
Database Principles (Univ. of Toronto)

Jim Melton
Standards (Oracle Corporation)

Jignesh Patel
Systems and Prototypes
(Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Ken Ross
Influential Papers (Columbia University)

Len Seligman
Industry Perspectives (The MITRE Corporation)

Amit Sheth
Research Centers (University of Georgia)

Marianne Winslett
Distinguished DB Profiles (UIUC)