Editor's Notes

Welcome to the December 2007 issue of SIGMOD Record. We start this issue with a welcome message by Yannis Ioannidis, aimed primarily at new SIGMOD members (many of whom joined SIGMOD right after the SIGMOD/PODS 2007 conference). Following Yannis' message, you will find a short note by Curtis Dyreson about the SIGMOD Anthology volume that you are receiving together with this issue.

Next, we have two regular **articles**, which are both "*critiques*". The first one, is on physical database design in general and the TAB benchmark in particular (by Nicolas Bruno). The second article is on nulls, three-valued logic and ambiguity in SQL (by Claude Rubinson).

We continue with an article in the **Surveys Column** (edited by Cesar Galindo-Legaria), on *Context Models* (by Bolchini, Curino, Quintarelli, Schreiber, and Tanca). With context-aware systems becoming increasingly pervasive in everyday life, this data-oriented survey should be an excellent starting point on the topic.

Next we have an article on the **Systems and Prototypes Column** (edited by Magdalena Balazinska), about the *Intel Mash Maker*, which was one of the demos in SIGMOD 2007. The previous Systems and Prototypes article was published in the September 2004 issue of SIGMOD Record. I am very happy to see the column revitalized again and feature descriptions of exciting and innovative systems and prototypes.

The **Distinguished Profiles in Data Management Column** (edited by Marianne Winslett) features an interview of Ricardo Baeza-Yates who is Vice President of Yahoo! Research in Europe and Latin America. Read Ricardo Baeza-Yates' interview to find out (among many other things) about CS Research in Latin America, his multi-continent commute for Yahoo! and how to get real data in academia.

We continue with an article in the **Research Centers Column** (edited by Ugur Cetintemel), about *Data and Web Management Research at Politecnico di Milano* (by the 16 members of the research group, which include Stefano Ceri, Cristiana Bolchini, Piero Fraternali, Fabio A. Schreiber, and Letizia Tanca). The article highlights the group's research across two different dimensions: *data-driven research* (which includes work on context-aware and mobile databases; the survey on context models in this issue is authored by members of this group) and *web-driven research*.

Next we have three articles in the **Event Reports Column** (edited by Brian Cooper). The first is the *Report on the First International Workshop on Ranking in Databases (DBRank'07)* which was held in April 2007, together with ICDE 2007. The second is the *Report on the Fourth International Workshop on Data Management for Sensor Networks (DMSN 2007)*, which was held in September 2007, together with VLDB 2007. The third is the *Report on the first VLDB workshop on Management of Uncertain Data (MUD)*, which was also held in September 2007, together with VLDB 2007.

We also have two important **announcements** in this issue: the Call for Nominations for the 2008 ACM SIGMOD Awards (deadline: April 7, 2008), and the Call for Submissions for the SIGMOD 2008 Undergraduate Research Poster Competition (deadline: April 4, 2008).

We continue with a very important **Call for Participation** in the Tribute to Honor Jim Gray, which will be held on May 31, 2008 at UC Berkeley.

With the December issue being late, we were able to include for the first time the **Calls for Papers** for almost all the workshops that will be held together with this year's SIGMOD conference. These are (in alphabetical order):

- DaMoN 2008: 4th International Workshop on Data Management on New Hardware (deadline: April 11, 2008),

- DBTest 2008: 1st International Workshop on Testing Database Systems (deadline: April 11, 2008),

- MobiDE 2008: 7th International ACM Workshop on Data Engineering for Wireless and Mobile Access (deadline: March 26, 2008),

- WebDB 2008: 11th International Workshop on the Web and Databases (deadline: April 6, 2008),

- XIME-P 2008: 5th International Workshop on XQuery Implementation, Experience and Perspectives (deadline: March 28, 2008).

When I had in mind that the June 2007 issue would be a collectors' item, I only thought this would be the case because of the change of the cover design and the change in Editor. Little did I know that there would be a third reason. Unfortunately, there was a problem with one of the papers' math fonts during printing (specifically: they were not included) which made the paper incomprehensible. We are reprinting the paper (*Estimating the Selectivity of tf-idf based Cosine Similarity Predicates*, by Tata and Patel) in its entirety in this issue (under the **Errata Column**), with the math included this time. Additionally, ACM and the printer have been able to "debug" this problem and have made all the necessary arrangements for this not to happen again in the future.

Alexandros Labrinidis
February 2007