Editor's Notes

Welcome to the June 2008 issue of SIGMOD Record. As you have probably already noticed from the cover, this is a very special issue, devoted exclusively to Jim Gray and essentially serving as the proceedings of the *Tribute to Honor Jim Gray*, that was organized at the University of California, Berkeley on May 31, 2008.

The articles in this issue provide a glimpse at the immense impact that Jim has had on the academic and business world in general and the database community in particular.

We start the issue with a reprint of the interview that Jim gave to Marianne Winslett as part of the *Distinguished Database Profiles* column (along with a short introduction by Marianne). The interview was originally published in the March 2003 issue of SIGMOD Record and the entire video was recently published online at `http://www.sigmod.org/interviews`.

Next, we have *Ode to a Sailor*, written by Donna Lee Carnes, Jim's wife of many years. In addition to a personal perspective, the article also provides an introduction to the remaining articles published in this issue. These articles are written by Jim's colleagues and friends, all prominent researchers in our field, paying tribute to Jim's work and to Jim as an individual.

Before closing, I would like to thank the many people who worked very hard to make this issue possible. Donna Carnes, Pat Helland, Paula Hawthorn, Alan Teague, and Vicky Rozycki were involved in all aspects of putting this issue together. Of course, the contributing authors reserve special praise for submitting their articles (and permission forms :-)) on a tight schedule. Finally, many thanks go to the staff from ACM (especially to Julie Goetz) and from Cadmus Communications (especially to Larry McCord, and Tony Hoevenaars); their guidance and help was instrumental in printing the first ever issue of SIGMOD Record that contains color pages, while facing a very tight schedule.

We will resume our regular printing schedule with the September 2008 issue.

Alexandros Labrinidis
May 2008