Chair's Message

You will notice the new SIGMOD Awards Committee listed on the first page. The awards are certainly in good hands. I thank the previous members, Tomasz Imielinski, Witold Litwin, and Peter Scheuermann, for serving on this important committee.

At the Executive Committee's meeting last fall, we decided to expand our web offerings significantly. Our web presence has a new name, *SIGMOD Online*; I encourage you to check it out at `http://www.acm.org/sigmod/`. Marianne Winslett first set up the server in the summer of 1993; Marie-Anne Neimat took over operation of the server in 1994. Arie Segev, Jennifer Widom and Michael Franklin have been responsible for the portion of the server that contains the *SIGMOD Record* archives. Many others have contributed over the years.

I still smile when I recall Marianne's admonishment at the SIGMOD'94 business meeting: "If you don't know what the web is, ask any of your undergraduate students." It is hard to believe that many of us were just coming up to speed on Mosaic at that time. The last four years have witnessed a fundamental paradigm shift, the ramifications of which will not be fully apparent for many years hence.

Alberto Mendelzon fills a new role, SIGMOD Information Director. Alberto has exciting plans for SIGMOD Online, which he will tell you about in his message on the next page. I view this resource as a critical component in meeting SIGMOD's duty to the database community to provide accurate, accessible information. We are indeed fortunate that Alberto is leading this effort.

Pam Drew is putting together a truly exciting SIGMOD/PODS conference, which you won't want to miss. There are some surprises in store, and some important announcements. Mark your calendar for June 1–4 in Seattle. See `http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/sigmod98/` for details.

Rick Snodgrass
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