

CANDIDATES FOR THE UPCOMING ACM SIGMOD ELECTIONS

Mike Franklin
Chair, ACM SIGMOD Nominating Committee

A clear sign of a healthy organization is the willingness of its members to volunteer their time to support and guide it. SIGMOD is particularly fortunate in this regard. As evidence is the slate of candidates listed on the following pages. These six people have agreed to run for positions as SIGMOD officers, and if elected, are committed to overseeing and improving the wide-ranging activities of SIGMOD and continuing the progress that has made us one of the leading SIGs in ACM.

The slate was chosen through a rigorous process required by ACM. In September 2004, current SIGMOD Chair Tamer Özsu asked me to chair the nominating committee. I signed on, provided that Tamer agreed to be one of the committee members, which he did. I then invited three additional senior members to join the committee: Hank Korth of Lehigh University, Beng Chin Ooi of the National University of Singapore, and Timos Sellis of the National Technical University of Athens. Fortunately, they all accepted.

We then solicited nominations by posting on DBWorld, emailing to the SIGMOD membership list, and canvassing the SIGMOD Executive and Advisory Committees. These nominations were then collected and supplemented by additional suggestions from the nominating committee. The nominating committee went through numerous rounds of discussions, agreed on a slate of candidates and invited them. Then the real work of convincing these busy people to run began. With the help of the formidable persuasive skills of the existing SIGMOD officers and board members, we were able to assemble the excellent slate of candidates you see here.

In the following, the candidates outline their plans and aspirations for the organization. I would like to thank the candidates for agreeing to run, the committee members for their efforts in organizing the candidate slate, and everyone else who supplied well-timed advice, arm twisting, and encouragement to the candidates. Finally, I'd like to encourage you to show your active support for SIGMOD by voting in the election.

CANDIDATES FOR ACM SIGMOD CHAIRPERSON

PROF. AHMED ELMAGARMID

PURDUE UNIV., USA



- **Professional Experience:**

Professor, Purdue University, 1988-Present.
Professor, Pennsylvania State University 1985-1988.
Corporate Chief Scientist, Hewlett-Packard, 2001-2003

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Database Systems; Video analysis, mining and processing; Data sharing and integration; Technical roadmaps and architectures; Corporate strategic planning.

- **ACM activities:**

Industrial Program Chair, ACM SIGMOD Conference, 1994.
Industrial Program Co-Chair, ACM SIGMOD Conference, 1993.
Editorial Board, ACM SIGMOD Digital Review.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Program Committee chair and general chair ICDE 1993 and 1994.
Editorial Board, IEEE Tran. on Knowledge and Data Engineering (1999 for 2 terms).
Founding Editor-in-Chief, International Journal on Distributed and Parallel Databases, Kluwer, 1992-Present.

- **Awards received:**

NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, 1988.
Distinguished Alumni Award, Ohio State University, 1993.
Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Dayton, 1995.

- **Statement:**

I have been a member of the ACM and SIGMOD since graduate school and while I have not served in SIGMOD as an officer, I have served the SIGMOD conference in various roles over the years. I have also been very active in the IEEE TCDE, ICDE and DE Bulletin for several years.

If elected, my focus would be to broaden the membership base, the scope and the reach of SIGMOD. I will try to do that by continuing the wonderful work done by Rick Snodgrass on digital libraries and the great progress made by Tamer Özsu in taking SIGMOD outside of North America. Tamer and Rick have set the bar and continued in the tradition of excellence that SIGMOD has been known for over the years. If elected, I will emphasize certain tactical and strategic issues such as to: 1) broaden the definition of database research and the scope of SIGMOD; 2) continue the hard work on SIGMOD Anthology and DiSC. I will expand the role of SIGMOD in digital publishing and dissemination of database literature; 3) place added emphasis on liaison activities with government and industry; 4) become more proactive in providing input to funding agencies; 5) continue the spirit of cooperation with the VLDB Endowment, IEEE and professional publishers; 6) organize educational opportunities for researchers in emerging countries and expand the reach of SIGMOD to members outside North America. Great strides have been made under the leadership of Tamer Ozsu in this regard, I will follow up on the programs he started and will expand the membership base from within and outside of North America; and finally, 7) pay closer attention to budgetary issues.

If elected, the new SIGMOD officers will listen to members of previous administrations and to the membership at large in order to focus on the right issues and the right solutions. Financial soundness has been a cornerstone of all ACM SIGs and particularly of SIGMOD. I will work hard on making SIGMOD even more fiscally sound. We will attempt to keep expenses under check while increasing revenues. One way to maintain lower fees for conference registration is to increase the membership both in North America and abroad. I will attempt to increase the membership base from the current number of about 2800 members by about 10% in North America and 25% overall. This I believe is a reasonable target if we place incentives for more students to join SIGMOD. We can take advantage of current plans that call for SIGMOD'07 to be in China to attract more new members. I will work with the local chapters in order to improve the value proposition of SIGMOD and attract new membership. One way SIGMOD is currently financed is through income from the digital library. Expanding the role SIGMOD plays in the publication and dissemination of database literature should be one of my goals. I will work closely with the editors of DiSC and the Anthology to expand and improve these two great vehicles. I would also promote the idea of establishing courses that would be offered through a distinguished speaker program that will be offered through live lectures and using the web. The three goals of

expanding membership, increasing attention to digital publishing and providing benefits to local chapters contribute to the finances and quality of SIGMOD.

PROF. RAGHU RAMAKRISHNAN

UNIV. OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, USA



- **Professional Experience:**

Professor, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI, 1997-present
Associate Professor, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 1992-1997
Assistant Professor, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 1987-1992

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Data mining; Data models, query languages, query optimization; Data integration; Intelligent database caches; Privacy.

- **ACM activities:**

Associate Editor, ACM Trans. On Database Systems (TODS), 2004-present.
Program Committee Co-Chair, KDD, 2000.
Program Committee Member, ICDE, ICDT, ICLP, KDD, PODS, SIGMOD, ICLP, WWW, etc., Many years.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Board of Trustees, VLDB Endowment, 2004-present.
Co-Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, 1999-2004.
Program Committee Co-Chair, VLDB 2002, DOOD 1997.

- **Awards received:**

ACM: SIGMOD Contributions Award, ACM Fellow.
OTHER: Packard Foundation Fellow in Science and Engineering, NSF Presidential Young Investigator.

- **Statement:**

SIGMOD has long been one of the largest and most successful of ACM's SIGs, thanks to the impact of database research in the real world. I'm happy to have this opportunity to run for Chair, and if elected, I will do my best to continue the strong tradition of service and leadership established by generations of dedicated SIGMOD office-bearers. In particular, I will try to address two new issues—funding climate and an improved reviewing process—and expand the reach of SIGMOD by fostering closer ties with similar societies in Asia and Europe and with other ACM SIGs such as SIGIR and SIGKDD.

We live in interesting times. Database systems have become ubiquitous, and the database research community—measured in terms of the number of students, researchers, conferences, or published papers—is larger than ever. On the other hand, funding for database research is becoming harder to obtain. This is especially troubling for the younger members of our community, as they seek to establish their careers in very competitive times. It is also a major concern that this mix of circumstances could throttle the development of the field. Notwithstanding the maturity and success of our field, database research challenges abound because of

the novel forms of data, the novel modes of data acquisition and management, the new concerns of privacy and security, and the increasingly sophisticated forms of analysis tasks that we are faced with. SIGMOD must play a leadership role in articulating the vision that ever-increasing collections of data are at the heart of every commercial, educational and scientific enterprise, and emphasize that our ability to manage and make sense of this data remains a bottle-neck. Not only is there more data to contend with, it is increasingly diverse in terms of structure, and data management and analysis is at the core of a growing number of critical fields such as biology and health care. If elected, I will actively explore how SIGMOD can highlight the central nature of database research and speak forcefully for increased support from federal and commercial organizations.

The success of database systems has affected the research community in another important way—the growing number of conference submissions has strained the present reviewing system. Recently, SIGMOD and VLDB have both discussed these issues and (following proposals put forth by Phil Bernstein and Rick Snodgrass) thought about adding some “memory” to the conference review process, e.g., allowing some borderline papers to be re-submitted to the next conference together with their previous reviews and an authors’ response. A logical next step is a conference-journal hybrid that blends the strengths of the two publication models—it should retain our tradition of rigorous conference-paper reviewing with deadlines, while allowing for continued iteration on a paper. The idea is to create a journal that is closely affiliated with one or more major conferences, with selected papers to appear in the conferences and editorial decisions tied to conference committees. Hopefully, such a hybrid will reduce the randomness in the quality of reviews and give authors the ability to respond to reviewers’ comments. If elected, I would explore the viability of bringing together premier database conferences to create such a hybrid forum. If this model is successful, I believe it will be widely adopted in other areas of computer science, and perhaps in other disciplines as well.

CANDIDATES FOR ACM SIGMOD VICE-CHAIRPERSON

PROF. YANNIS IOANNIDIS

UNIV. OF ATHENS, GREECE



- **Professional Experience:**

Professor, University of Athens, 2001-present.

Associate Professor, University of Athens, 1997-2001.

Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor, University of Wisconsin, 1986-1999.

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Query optimization, query processing in distributed architectures; Database personalization; Data integration; Digital libraries, cultural and scientific information systems; User interfaces.

- **ACM activities:**

Associate Editor, ACM SIGMOD DiSC, 1998-present

Guest Editor, ACM Sigmod Record, 1992

Program Committee Member, SIGMOD, PODS, KDD, AVI, ..., Several years.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Board of Trustees, VLDB Endowment, 1998-2003

Program Committee (Co-)Chair, EDBT 2006, VLDB 2002, VDB 1998, SSDBM 1997

Associate Editor: JDL, VLDB Journal, Information Systems, ...

- **Awards received:**

ACM: ACM Fellow (2004)

OTHER: VLDB “10-Year Best Paper Award” (2003), Univ. of Wisconsin “Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award” (1996), NSF “Presidential Young Investigator Award” (1991)

- **Statement:**

Data management is a critical issue for most contemporary computing systems and SIGMOD is a natural home for the developments in the field overall. Nevertheless, SIGMOD is still often perceived as associated with somewhat narrow interpretations of the term ‘data management’. Moreover, several new “fields” are born, which focus on application-driven functionality with significant data management components, but move independently of the discussions in the SIGMOD community. If honored to be elected as SIGMOD vice-chair, I will make an effort to cluster some of these fields around SIGMOD, so that data management research is not compartmentalized. In this direction, strategic alliances and co-location or even merging of events will be in order.

I will also work towards expanding and diversifying the human capital of SIGMOD. If elected, I will explore how membership in SIGMOD and participation to SIGMOD events can increase, with initiatives that focus especially on young researchers and on scientists from geographic regions with no established tradition in the field. Additionally, I will support the current dissemination programs, which are already successful, and will work to further increase the role of SIGMOD, together with VLDB, as a missionary of data management technology to the world.

PROF. KRITHI RAMAMRITHAM

**INDIAN INST. OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY,
INDIA**



- **Professional Experience:**

Head, Kanwal Rekhi School of IT, IIT Bombay, since April 2003.

Chair Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, since June 1998.

(Assistant/Associate/Full) Professor, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, Sep 1981 – August 2001

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Wide-area Data Dissemination; Advanced Transaction Processing; Time-critical database systems; Mobile Databases; Bridging the digital divide -- Information needs of rural communities.

- **ACM activities:**

Program Committee member, ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (several years) and other ACM sponsored/supported conferences.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Member, Board of Trustees, Very Large Databases (VLDB) Foundation, since 2004.

Steering Committee Member, Database Systems for Advanced Applications (DASFAA), since 2004.

Co-Program Chair, IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering, Feb 2003.

- **Awards received:**

ACM: Fellow ACM, since Jan 2001.

OTHER: Fellow IEEE, since Jan 1998; Fellow, Indian National Academy of Engineering, since Jan, 2005.

- **Statement:**

I have been an active contributor to the DB Community as a researcher (with close to 200 DBLP entries), as Program Committee Chair/member of many Database conferences, and as editor of journals devoted to databases. This, along with my significant presence in the elated communities of the web, distributed systems and real-time, will allow me to help SIGMOD in its current efforts at broadening its reach and impact.

Having imbibed the western academic culture through two decades of my career at Univ. of Massachusetts at Amherst (before moving to IIT Bombay), bringing its ethos to the developing world has been very rewarding and satisfying. With my personal experience, I would like to be a major driver of the ongoing efforts by SIGMOD to bridge the gap between emerging and established DB research communities. In this regard, with the support of the SIGMOD membership I would like to explore several new avenues including the establishment of a vibrant visitors program, an expanded role for poster presentations at conferences, and the use of electronic publications to allow quicker and easier dissemination of research results.

I believe that my already strong connections with researchers across the globe, including the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe, will be of immense help towards achieving these goals.

CANDIDATES FOR ACM SIGMOD TREASURER

DR. MARY FERNANDEZ

AT&T LABS RESEARCH, USA



- **Professional Experience:**

Principal Technical Staff Member, AT&T Labs Research, 2000 – present.

Senior Technical Staff Member, AT&T Labs Research, 1995-2000

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Data management and integration with emphasis on XML; Query languages & semantics; Query optimization; Domain-specific languages for data management.

- **ACM activities:**

Demonstrations Chair, SIGMOD Conference, 2005.

Associate Editor, ACM TODS, 2003 - present.

Tutorials Chair, SIGMOD Conference, 2003.

Web Site Chair, SIGMOD Conference, 1999.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Advisory Board Member, MentorNet program for electronic mentoring of women in engineering, 2003 – present.

- **Statement:**

SIGMOD is a vibrant organization that is a vital interface between the database research community and the database industry. The SIGMOD/PODS conferences are the organization's flagship events, where academics and practitioners have many opportunities to interact and learn from one another. Having held several associate chair positions for SIGMOD and general and program chair positions for several workshops, I am well prepared and eager to serve SIGMOD on the Executive Committee. As Treasurer, my main responsibility is to guarantee that the budgets of the SIGMOD conference and related workshops are sound and to help plan for future events. My first proposal to the SIGMOD Executive Committee is to establish a scholarship fund, possibly underwritten by industrial sponsors, to finance the attendance of professors and students at the SIGMOD/PODS conferences who would otherwise not be able to attend. Increasing the diversity of people and institutions involved with SIGMOD will help maintain its impact in the future.

PROF. LOUIQA RASCHID

UNIV. OF MARYLAND, USA



- **Professional Experience:**

Professor, Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, 1987-present.

Professor, Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, 1987-present.

Professor, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, 2002-present.

- **Current areas of professional interest:**

Data integration; Query optimization; Wide area applications and performance; Biological data management.

- **ACM activities:**

Editorial Board, ACM Computing Surveys, 2004-present.

Program Committee Member, ACM SIGMOD, 2002.

- **Membership and offices in related organizations:**

Editorial Board, IEEE TKDE, 1999-2003.

Area Chair, Program Committee, IEEE ICDE, 2004.

- **Statement:**

I will bring a diversity of skills, experience and expertise to serve ACM SIGMOD. My academic training, work experience and professional expertise spans from electrical engineering to computer science to business and management to bioinformatics. I therefore have a broad and deep understanding of both the research foundations of our field, as well as a good exposure to application domains. In addition to my academic work experience, I have established collaborations with researchers in industry and I have spent time in the major research laboratories. Further, I have established several successful research collaborations with international academics in 4 continents. I have served the major funding agencies (NSF, NIH and DARPA) in several capacities. Finally, I have contributed significant time and effort to editorial positions, Program Committee

memberships, and Program Chair roles, in both ACM and IEEE journals and conferences. To summarize, my academic experience and professional service have provided me with the required skill and expertise to serve the ACM SIGMOD community. ACM SIGMOD is a thriving community and I expect it to grow in both strength and in numbers during the next term. My "vision" is to increase our recognition, and further the impact of our contributions. My plans include the following:

- Identify opportunities to demonstrate the impact of database research activity both to non-database CS researchers and to outside agencies.
- Encourage senior database researchers to take a public leadership role within and outside the CS community. I believe that such roles are important to increase our recognition and reach.
- Explore opportunities to further recognize the achievements of database researchers. This includes lifetime research contributions as well as opportunities to showcase the achievements of recent doctoral graduates and young faculty, e.g., best newcomer awards and doctoral consortia.