Report on the 2001 SIGMOD and PODS Awards

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The Annual SIGMOD and PODS Awards honor important contributors to the database field. The awards are presented at the annual SIGMOD/PODS Conference. For those of you who missed that presentation at the 2001 conference, this article reports on this year's winners. Congratulations to all of them for these significant achievements.

The SIGMOD Innovations award is given "For innovative and highly significant contributions of enduring value to the development, understanding, or use of database systems and databases." This year's winner is Prof. Rudolf Bayer of the Technical University of Munich, for his invention of the B-Tree (with Edward McCreight), of B-Tree prefix compression, and of lock coupling (a.k.a. crabbing) for concurrent access to B-Trees (with Mario Schkolnick). All of these techniques are widely used in commercial database products. Prof. Bayer has also made many other important research contributions to the database field over a 30 year career in the areas of transaction management, deductive database, digital libraries, and most recently OLAP where he developed (with Volker Markel) the UB-Tree index that exploits space-filling curves for multidimensional indexing.

Rudolf Bayer, SIGMOD Innovations Award Winner

The SIGMOD Contributions award is given "For outstanding and sustained services to the database field through education, conference organizations, journals, standards activities, research funding, etc." This year's winner is Prof. Daniel J. Rosenkrantz of the University at Albany — State University of New York, for his outstanding and sustained services to the database field. Prof. Rosenkrantz was on the PODS Executive Committee 1990-1995, was PODS General Chair in 1984, 1990, and 1991, and was instrumental in encouraging the co-location of the PODS and SIGMOD Conferences. He has also made important research contributions to database concurrency control. He served as an editor of JACM 1981-1986 and was editor-in-chief of JACM 1986-1991. Prof.

Rosenkrantz has carried out pioneering research in numerous areas of computer science. He was elected an ACM Fellow in 1995.

Daniel Rosenkrantz
SIGMOD Contributions Award Winner

Eligibility for the Innovations and Contributions awards was broadened this year by dropping that they be for contributions dating back no more than 10 years. Thus, this is the first year that many senior contributors became eligible for the awards, adding an extra measure of honor to this year's winners.

The Best Paper Award for the 2001 SIGMOD Conference went to: "Locally Adaptive Dimensionality Reduction for Indexing Large Time Series Databases" by Eamonn Keogh, Kaushik Chakrabarti, Sharad Mehrotra, and Michael Pazzani (UC Irvine)

The Best Paper Award for the 2001 PODS Conference went to: "Optimal Aggregation Algorithms for Middleware" by Ronald Fagin (IBM Almaden), Amnon Lotem (Univ. of Maryland), Moni Naor (Weizmann Institute of Science). The PODS Best Newcomer Award went to "Relaxed Multi-Way Trees with Group Updates" by Kim S. Larsen (Univ. of Southern Denmark).

In order to encourage undergraduate students to attend the conference, SIGMOD offers a scholarship program. This year's winners are: Nilesh Dalvi (IIT Bombay, India), Antonio Gomez (Univ. Simon Bolivar, Venezuela), Jason Chionh Chern Hooi (National Univ. of Singapore), Sumit Kumar Sanghai (IIT Bombay, India), and Markus Wawryniuk (Martin-Luther Univ., Germany).

These awards are the result of hard work by the SIGMOD Awards committee (Phil Bernstein, Dave DeWitt, Jeff Ullman), the Undergraduate Scholarship committee (cochairs: Mario A. Nascimento, Aidong Zhang), and the SIGMOD/PODS Program committees (chairs: Timos Sellis, Peter Buneman). A summary of past award winners can be found at http://www.acm.org/sigmod/sigmodinfo/awards.html.