

Editor's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first issue with the newly elected officers for *SIGMOD*: Raghu Ramakrishnan (Chair), Yannis Ioannidis (Vice-chair) and Mary Fernández (Secretary/Treasurer). I am confident I can speak for all members when I bid a warm welcome and wish them a productive mandate. Likewise, I would also like to thank the other candidates, Ahmed Elmagarmid, Krithi Ramamritham and Louiqa Rashid, for putting forward their names. As others have mentioned it before, is good to see that *SIGMOD* can count on good people willing to keep its well-established tradition.

You will probably notice that this issue is missing the traditional Chair's Message. The reason for that is simple: timing. Even though this is September's issue, it is closed and sent to ACM's Headquarters late in July. Raghu took over shortly before I had to close this issue, and amid all the transition work, his message could not be prepared in time; hence this issue will not feature the Chair's Message. However, in a quick email exchange he asked me to relay the following message: "*I'm glad to have the opportunity to be chair and to work with Mary and Yannis, and we're working to understand the issues involved in our new offices.*" We all look forward for his first message in December's issue. The new officers are also in the process of updating the volunteer committees as well, so the listing you see on this issue is likely to change for the next ones.

This issue features a special section on Scientific Workflows guest-edited by Bertram Ludäscher (Univ. of California, Davis) and Carole Goble (Univ. of Manchester). As you can see from their introduction to the special section, they were able to put good together a good set of papers covering several aspects of this new area. I hope to be able to have similar guest-edited special section once or twice a year. If you have an idea about one and are willing to work on it, please contact me.

On a sad note, Alberto Mendelzon passed away last June. I think that the following, excerpted from a statement¹ by his colleagues in the Toronto Database Group, summarizes everyone's feelings well: "*Alberto was a great intellect, a charming friend, and an inspirational mentor. The citation for his recent election into the Royal Society of Canada (the Canadian National Academy) gives a glimpse into his intellectual legacy, but says nothing of the great man who will be sorely missed. His passing leaves a hole in our community and in our hearts.*" As I type this note, his colleagues in Toronto are working on a tribute that should appear in December's issue.

Finally, the *Record* does have a backlog of papers both to be printed and to be reviewed. While it is nice to have a larger number of papers being submitted, this puts further stress on the reviewing process (which I mentioned on June's issue). I assure you that all submitted papers are given fair attention, which, sometimes, means a longer review time. As well, all those accepted will be published as soon as possible. I wish all could be published as they are accepted, but I have to work within a pre-determined page budget, which means all papers have to wait for its turn "in line". I am sure you all understand (though I also understand you may not like it when it is *your* paper that is delayed, but *c'est la vie*).

I hope you enjoy this issue and that you have had a good Summer time (or Winter time depending on which hemisphere you are).

Mario Nascimento, Editor.
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¹ <http://www.sigmod.org/NEWS/05/alberto.16june2005.html>