

Chair's Message

Greetings. Since I last wrote to you in this forum, I attended the meeting of the ACM SIG Governing Board (SGB) in Chicago, and we (the EC) have been discussing ways to mount a membership drive. We've been observing the enormous effort involved in organizing SIGMOD 2006, and assisting when we can. Meantime, Beng Chin Ooi has been assembling an impressive PC for SIGMOD 2007.

An important development is the new SIGMOD awards committee structure. We adopted the structure of the ACM awards committee, with five members who serve staggered terms (to ensure continuity as members rotate off the committee). I am very grateful to the following members of our community for agreeing to be on this important committee:

- Serge Abiteboul (Chair), Mike Carey, David Maier, Moshe Y. Vardi, Gerhard Weikum

Separately, we have for the first time an award for the best dissertation in the database area! Many thanks to Hans Schek and the SIGMOD Dissertation Award committee for all the effort they've put into this selecting the winner of this important new award for 2006, to be presented at SIGMOD in Chicago:

- Hans-Joerg Schek (Chair), Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Sophie Cluet, Jim Gray, Masaru Kitsuregawa, Gail Mitchell, Beng Chin Ooi

I'd like to give a special thanks to Shahram Ghandeharizadeh for his yeoman service as the editor of the DiSC anthology. He will step down shortly, and Joachim Hammer has agreed to take on this very challenging and vital role. If you see either of them, buy them coffee—hey, buy them lunch. They've earned it (or will, in the case of Joachim!).

On a personal note, after nearly 20 years at Wisconsin, I will be joining Yahoo! Research this summer. While I am excited about the new opportunities and challenges, it is with mixed emotions that I leave Wisconsin, which has been a wonderful place to live and to grow, personally and professionally.

Sincerely,
Raghu Ramakrishnan