

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the September 2008 issue of SIGMOD Record. We begin the issue with a welcome message from Yannis Ioannidis to all new SIGMOD members (many of whom joined at the time of 2008 SIGMOD/PODS Conference), followed by a short article about the 2008 SIGMOD Award Winners.

Our first regular **article** is the *Claremont Report on Database Research*, which should make for a very interesting read, as it details the discussion during the seventh self-assessment meeting for the data management community. Our second (by C. J. Date) and third (by John Grant) short articles, are essentially responses to the December 2007 article on "Nulls, Three-Valued Logic, and Ambiguity in SQL" by Claude Rubinson.

Next we have an article on the **Systems and Prototypes Column** (edited by Magdalena Balazinska), about the *Orchestra System*, which is a collaborative data sharing system inspired by data sharing needs in the life sciences. The article is written by Zack Ives and his collaborators in the Penn Database Group.

The **Distinguished Profiles in Data Management Column** (edited by Marianne Winslett) features an interview of AnHai Doan who is currently an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. AnHai is the first DB person to win the ACM Dissertation Award.

We continue with the **Open Forum Column**, which is meant to provide a forum for members of the broader data management community to present (meta-)ideas about non-technical issues and challenges of interest to the entire community. In this issue, we are featuring two articles. The first one, summarizes the presentations and discussions of the panel on *Paper and Proposal Reviews - Is the Process Flawed?* which was held during the June 2008 CRA Snowbird Conference (which is the flagship conference for academic and research laboratory administrators interested in computing research issues). The article is written by Korth (panel moderator), Bernstein, Fernandez, Gruenwald, Kolaitis, McKinley, and Ozsu. The second article is written by H. V. Jagadish and provides the rationale and proposal for the *Journal of Data Management Research* that was announced during the 2008 VLDB Conference in New Zealand. Given the amount of "buzz" within our community regarding these issues, both articles are timely and should be quite informative.

Next we have two articles in the **Event Reports Column** (edited by Brian Cooper). First is the *Report on the Dagstuhl Seminar on Ranked XML Querying*, which was held in March 2008 (written by Amer-Yahia, Hiemstra, Ruelleke, Srivastava, and Weikum). Second is the *Report on the 9th International Workshop on Web Information and Data Management (WIDM 2007)*, written by Fundulaki and Polyzotis.

We close the issue with multiple **Calls**:

- Call for Nominations for the ACM SIGMOD upcoming elections (due: Nov 15)
- Call for Submissions for the ACM SIGMOD Jim Gray Doctoral Dissertation Award (due: Dec 15)
- Call for Papers for the 2009 ACM SIGMOD Conference (due: Dec 4)
- Call for Papers for the 2009 PODS Conference (due: Dec 8)
- Call for Demos for the 2009 ACM SIGMOD Conference (due: Dec 4)
- Call for Industry Presentations for the 2009 ACM SIGMOD Conference (due: Dec 4)
- Call for Panel Proposals for the 2009 ACM SIGMOD Conference (due: Dec 4)
- Call for Tutorial Proposals for the 2009 ACM SIGMOD Conference (due: Dec 4)

- Call for Submissions to the First Annual SIGMOD Programming Contest (due: Mar 15)
- Call for Submissions to the Undergraduate Research Poster Competition (due: Apr 3)

Before closing, I would like to take a moment to say a very big **thank you** to three associate editors that are retiring from the editorial board of SIGMOD Record:

- *Len Seligman* from the MITRE Corporation has been the associate editor in charge of the Industry Perspectives column since the December 1997 issue.
- *Andrew Eisenberg* from IBM Corporation and *Jim Melton* from Oracle Corporation have been the associate editors in charge of the Standards column since the September 1998 issue.

As you can see, Len, Andrew, and Jim have been serving the database community through their columns in SIGMOD Record **for over a decade**. This is definitely above and beyond the call of duty. Please make sure to congratulate them and say thank you in person next time you see them at SIGMOD or any other database conference!

Alexandros Labrinidis
October 2008