

Message to SIGMOD Members (especially Students)

In the past few months there have been several important developments at ACM SIGMOD that I would like you to know about. First of all, preparations for the 2009 SIGMOD/PODS Conference are well under way. Providence, RI, is getting ready to welcome all of us from June 29th to July 2nd and promises some memorable times. The officers responsible for the various parts of the program and the relevant committees are working hard to ensure that an exciting and diverse program is produced. Note that all six workshops of the conference have open calls for papers (http://www.sigmod09.org/delegates_workshops.shtml), so there are still several opportunities for your research results to be presented next June to the SIGMOD/PODS audience.

As always, special efforts are made to increase participation of students to the conference. In addition to a significantly reduced registration fee for all students, particular attention is given to undergraduates with an interest in databases. Following the tradition of recent years, several undergraduates will receive scholarships to defray their conference attendance costs; they will, thus, have the opportunity to personally experience the SIGMOD/PODS Conference atmosphere and come close to a wide variety of cutting-edge database research. Selected students will present their research accomplishments in a special poster session, while one of them will be chosen to receive a “best poster” award. The deadline for applying for undergraduate scholarships is April 3rd; additional details on eligibility and submission are available at http://www.sigmod09.org/calls_papers_sigmod_undergrad_poster.shtml.

In general, ACM SIGMOD tries to pay special attention to student matters independent of the main conference (<http://sigmod.org/sigmod/sigmod-student/>). There are significant benefits to being a student member of ACM SIGMOD, as for the same fee as online professional members, student members receive the benefits of online plus membership, which includes the annual DiSC dvd as well as any new additions to the SIGMOD Anthology dvds. In addition, the SIGMOD Dissertation Award has been established, recognizing scientific excellence in database doctoral work. Also, the *dbgrads* and *dbjobs* database systems have been established and are searchable through the SIGMOD website, facilitating matching graduating database students with related job opportunities.

Finally, an important activity that SIGMOD members can be involved in and benefits students (whether members or not) is that of mentoring. ACM has partnered with MentorNet, the leading organization promoting e-mentoring relationships between students and professionals in the areas of engineering and science. By joining, students gain invaluable career advice, encouragement and support, while professionals lend their expertise by helping to educate and inspire young professionals. Visit www.acm.org/mentornet, consider joining the program, and promote it to other students in your university that may benefit from it.

The database field has much to gain by increased participation of students to ACM SIGMOD activities. Encourage students in your environment to join and become members of the largest professional organization of database researchers!

Sincerely,
Yannis Ioannidis
ACM SIGMOD Vice-Chair
(responsible for membership issues)