

## **Letter from the Editor-in-Chief**

### **Bulletin Editors**

I told you in the March issue about prior editors who were retiring. Let me now take this opportunity to introduce our new editors, whose information now appears on the inside cover of this June Bulletin issue. The new editors, in alphabetic order are (1) Peter Boncz of CWI in the Netherlands, Brian Cooper of Yahoo! in California, Mohamed Mokbel of the University of Minnesota, and Wang-Chiew Tan of IBM in California. As is always the case I strive to find editors who are leading researchers whose collective interests and expertise span areas of current interest to the database community. I am confident that the new editors will continue to bring the latest research and technology issues, trends, and successes, whether from academic or industrial organizations, to Bulletin readers. It is a pleasure to once again find terrific researchers who are willing to take on this task, and I look forward to working with them over the next two years.

### **TCDE Chair Election**

There is a separate letter on page two of this issue calling for nominations for the position of TCDE Chair. In the past, participation has been low. I would urge you, however, to give some thought to whom you would like to see in this position, and let us know by nominating him or her. This can be done by an email to any of the nominating committee members.

### **The Current Issue**

Spatial and spatio-temporal databases have become increasingly important as a research topic. This is in no small part due to the commercial opportunity in providing services to people based on where they are and, e.g., the time of day. Thus there has been a flurry of commercial activity in this area. This interest has been sufficient so that there is now a SIGSPATIAL group within the ACM that is sponsoring its own SIGSPATIAL conference. We are fortunate in having the Co-PC chair of this year's SIGSPATIAL conference, Mohamed Mokbel, as a Bulletin editor. Mohamed has assembled the current issue, exploiting his well-informed knowledge of what is happening in this area and who is doing it. The result is an issue that encompasses a broad cross section of the research and industrial activity in this area. I am sure you will be well rewarded in reading this issue. Perhaps it will convince you to also pursue this as a research area yourself.

I want to thank Mohamed for his efforts in assembling the issue. It contains work from both academic and industrial people, continuing a Bulletin strength in describing technology to our readers from across the entire technology community. Additional thanks are due Mohamed for his willingness to immediately take on an issue upon his being appointed as editor.

David Lomet  
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