

Letter from the Editor-in-chief

Dear Readers,

With this issue of Explorations, the role of Editor-In-Chief has been fully transitioned from Sunita Sarawagi to me. Sunita has done a terrific job of filling Explorations with fascinating articles during her tenure, and it's going to be a challenge to fill her shoes! Bing Liu, Osmar Zaiane and I would like to thank Sunita for her service to Explorations.

We have two exciting special issues coming up. In June, Raymond Ng and Jian Pei are guest editors of a special issue on "Health Informatics", an area where data mining can directly contribute towards making people's lives better. In December, Daniel Keim will guest edit a special issue on "Visual Analytics". We also plan to initiate a new series on Research Centers, where the universities and research labs that drive our field tell us about their vision and research.

This Issue

We start the issue with a new feature. We invited the KDD 2006 workshop chairs to select the most interesting papers from their workshops for inclusion in Explorations. The first paper is from the Multimedia Data Mining workshop, the second from WebKDD, and the last two from the Utility-Based Data Mining workshop. Next, we have papers describing the 2006 KDD Cup competition, and the strategies used by the winners. We then have an article describing four Grand Challenges for data mining, from the KDD 2006 panel. We wrap up our coverage of the conference with workshop summaries, and end the issue with a paper on stream mining.

Best Regards,

Ramakrishnan Srikant
explorations@rsrikant.com