

## Letter from the Editor-in-chief

Dear members and readers,

It has been a pleasure and certainly a rewarding experience serving as Editor-in-Chief of Explorations for almost three years and before that as Associate Editor for two years. Taking care of the newsletter's matters is not a simple task and is time consuming, but I certainly learned a great deal thanks to the 8 special issues I was involved in since 2004 and the multitude of revealing articles we published. I hope you enjoyed and benefited from these readings at least as much as I did.

The Explorations has been a success based on the citation count of the published articles and also based on the enthusiastic submissions we regularly receive. I would like to express my gratitude to the Associate Editors Bart Goethals and Charu Aggarwal for the significant role they played in this accomplishment. Since I took over the position of Editor-in-Chief, I introduced the publication of PhD dissertation abstracts, book reviews, and selected papers from SIGKDD workshops. I believe these have contributed in the overall success. I am pleased to announce that Bart Goethals, from the University of Antwerp in Belgium, has accepted his nomination as Editor-in-Chief and will take over as of December 2010. I am looking forward to reading the SIGKDD Explorations published under his leadership with a new exciting program, starting with a special issue on Unexpected Results in Data Mining guest edited by M. Dunham and C. Giraud-Carrier.

In this issue we have a set of articles on a variety of relevant data mining issues two of which were selected from the workshops at SIGKDD 2009 in Paris. Articles from this year's workshops will appear along the workshops reports in the December issue. Among these contributed articles are two surveys: one on the challenging task of classifying sequence data by Xing et al., grouping approaches by application domain as well as based on techniques used; and the second one on social tagging by Gupta et al., a popular phenomenon that has lately attracted significant research attention and that provides tremendous opportunities for data miners in terms of annotated data to explore. We also have in this issue two PhD thesis abstracts. These are the thesis of Mohammad Al Hasan, who received this year's 2010 SIGKDD Doctoral Dissertation Award, as well as the thesis of the runner-up recipient Jilles Vreeken.

Happy reading.

Osmar R. Zaiane

