

Message from the VLDB president



Gerhard Weikum, President of the VLDB Endowment Board of Trustees

A warm welcome to all participants of the VLDB 2005 conference.

A German proverb says that you should not praise the day before sunset, but so far the conference has been a terrific event: excellent organization, insightful talks, and a very enjoyable atmosphere. On behalf of the VLDB Endowment, I would like to congratulate and thank the entire Trondheim team and the many other voluntary contributors for running such a wonderful conference.

The VLDB Endowment is a non-profit foundation which primarily serves as the steering committee for the VLDB conference series. It is responsible for long-term planning of future conferences, and supports the individual conferences by giving general guidelines and on-demand advice when asked for, thus sharing the experience and lessons from past conferences with future ones.

The VLDB Endowment also sponsors various scholarly activities. More specifically, it has established a program, unofficially coined SPEND (for Surplus Provided to Educate Nations on Databases), which supports summer schools, tutorials and other training activities of this kind, in countries that could otherwise not afford the expenses for such events. Along similar lines, the VLDB Endowment runs a joint program with ACM SIGMOD to donate DVDs with the SIGMOD Anthology to libraries in developing countries. In addition, the VLDB Endowment is also the main sponsor of the Conference on Innovative Data Systems Research (CIDR), which takes place every two years and serves as a complement to mainstream database conferences like VLDB or SIGMOD, by soliciting and accepting system-oriented papers that

pursue speculative directions off the beaten paths.

Last but not least, the VLDB Endowment runs the VLDB Journal, one of the most successful journals in the database systems area, with an excellent citation factor. The journal's three editors-in-chief, Elisa Bertino, Tamer Özsu, and Kyu-Young Whang, and the entire editorial board have worked very hard to establish the VLDB Journal in this leading position in our field. Many thanks to all these volunteers, especially to Tamer Özsu who served as the coordinating editor-in-chief and has stepped down from the editorial board this summer. His successor as an editor-in-chief is Klaus Dittrich; Elisa Bertino will serve as coordinating editor-in-chief. Also, the following editorial board members have retired this year, after eight years of great service to our community: Rakesh Agrawal, Phil Bernstein, Yannis Ioannidis, Hiroshi Ishikawa, Wolfgang Klas, Fred Lochovsky, Alberto Mendelzon, Michele Missikoff, Timos Sellis, and Jaideep Srivastava.

Alberto Mendelzon, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Toronto, one of our field's best scientists, sadly passed away June 16th this summer; we lost a great colleague and friend way too early.



The VLDB Endowment is run by a board of 21 elected trustees, each of which serves for a term of six years. The board is continuously renewed, with one third of its members being replaced every two years. New trustees are chosen by the board in a secret election procedure, and the VLDB Endowment's code of regulations requires that there is a geographical balance among the 21 trustees so that America, Europe, and Asia are all represented. All trustees are non-paid volunteers, including the Endowment's executive which consists of the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and the treasurer.



Until this March, Hongjun Lu served as the VLDB Endowment's secretary, and we were all deeply saddened by his passing. We lost not only an excellent researcher and most productive scholar of our community, but also a wonderful colleague and dear friend. We will dearly miss Hongjun.

Let me conclude my message with a brief outlook on the coming VLDB conferences, next year and in 2007. In 2006, next year, the conference will be in Seoul in Korea, one of the most attractive major cities in Asia. The general chair will be Kyu-Young Whang, and

Umesh Dayal, Gustavo Alonso, and David Lomet will serve as general PC chair and PC track chairs, respectively. In 2007, the conference will be in Vienna, the charming capital of Austria, with Wolfgang Klas and Erich Neuhold as general chairs. Johannes Gehrke, Minos Garofalakis, and Divesh Srivastava will be general PC chair and track chairs. I hope to see many of you again next year in Seoul and a year later in Vienna.

Yesterday's Social Event

The Conference Banquet was held at the Royal Garden hotel, yesterday at 19:00.



Winners of the Best Paper Award.



In his dinner speech, Keith Jeffery suggested similarities between Scandinavian Vikings and contemporary database researchers.



The energetic student choir Pirum entertained.

Announcements

Swap of rooms: Research Sessions 15 and 16 have swapped rooms. Research Session 16, *Architectural Issues*, will be in Haraldsalen while 15, *New Applications*, will be in Tavern.

Extra lunch tickets: Lunch tickets for accompanying people are sold at NOK 230 at the secretariat. The tickets have to be bought the day before at the latest.

Internet Access

Wireless: Use the network with the SSID of "VLDB". This is an open network at 11 Mbit/s (IEEE 802.11b). In order to **browse the web, read e-mail, or log on to remote systems**, you need to **register at the firewall** by visiting any web page using a web browser.

The web page that you will receive is a log on page for the local wireless network. Enter "vldb" (all lowercase letters) as username and "trondheim" as password (all lowercase letters). Afterwards you can access the Internet through http, https, imap, imaps, pop3, smtp, rdp, ssh and other protocols.

Please note that the wireless network is not encrypted. If you need secure connections, you should use encrypted protocols, e.g. https instead of http. If you have questions or encounter any problems, please contact the conference secretariat.

The VLDB network is only available in the conference area. Access to wireless network in other parts of the hotel, including the rooms, can be bought at the hotel front desk.

Desktop computers: There are 12 desktop computers with Internet connection available at the **Rosenborg** PC room.

10 Year Best Paper Award

The annual VLDB 10 Year Best Paper Award is given to the authors of the paper from the VLDB conference ten years earlier, deemed to have turned out to be the most influential.

This year, an award committee consisting of Timos Sellis (chair), Christian S. Jensen, Richard Snodgrass, Gerhard Weikum, and Kyu-Young Whang has given the VLDB 10 Year Best Paper Award for 2005 to David Konopnicki and Oded Shmueli for their paper "W3QS: A Query System for the World-Wide Web".

At the 10 Year Best Paper Award session this morning, David Konopnicki and Oded Shmueli will receive the award certificates and give the presentation "Database-Inspired Search".

David Konopnicki is a member of the Search Technologies Department at the IBM Haifa Research Laboratory which develops the full-text search engines embedded in IBM Lotus products. From 1999 to 2001 David



was a co-founder and Director of Software Engineering at Dealigence, an electronic commerce company that developed tools for automated negotiation. From 2001 to 2003 he worked at Hewlett-Packard Research on optimization of spatial queries for SQL/MX,

the relational database of the HP NonStop (ex-Tandem) platform. David holds a Ph.D. from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

Oded Shmueli is a Professor of Computer Science at the Technion (Haifa, Israel). He graduated from Brandeis University (1977) and received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University (1981). He has held positions at several leading industrial research laboratories including IBM Research, AT&T Bell Labs and MCC. He was also a consultant for HP Laboratories over a five-year period. He was a co-founder and CTO of Dealigence Inc., a start-up company in the electronic commerce domain. He was Program co-Chair for VLDB98. His research interests include theoretical and practical aspects of database systems, and electronic commerce, topics on which he has published widely. He also holds three US patents.



Today's Social Events

Boat Trip

Participants of the boat trip on the fjord must gather outside the hotel entrance no later than 17:45. All tickets for the boat trip have been sold.

Visit to Ringve Museum

The bus to Ringve Museum will leave from the hotel at 18:00. Tickets (NOK 250) are sold in the secretariat until 17:00.

Google Reception

The Google Reception takes place in the foyer outside Haraldsalen and Olav Tryggvasson. The reception starts at 18:00 and will last until 20:30. All VLDB participants are invited.

Organ Recital in the Nidaros Cathedral

This evening all VLDB participants and accompanying people are invited to enjoy a organ recital.

The free concert starts at 21:00 in the Nidaros Cathedral which is located within 15 minutes walk from the Royal Garden hotel. On the map on page 5 in the Conference Brochure the Nidaros Cathedral is marked with blue bullet number 1.

Two VLDB 2005 crew will organize a walk from the Royal Garden hotel to the Nidaros Cathedral. If you would like to join them, please meet at the conference secretariat a few minutes before 20:30 (the walk starts at 20:30).

Have you submitted your presentation?

You were supposed to send us your presentation by August 26th. If you still haven't, submit your presentation to contact@vldb2005.org as soon as possible.

Weather Forecast

Today



Low: 12°C / 55°F

High: 21°C / 71°F

Partly cloudy. Gentle breeze.

Tomorrow



Low: 6°C / 44°F

High: 16°C / 62°F

Rain at times. Light breeze.

What's On

Music: Trondheim Symphony Orchestra

Olavshallen, 19:30

Tickets cost NOK 180 - 210

This is the opening concert for the season. Trondheim Symphony Orchestra conducted by Eivind Aadland performs Cello concerto by Dvorak and Concert for orchestra by Bartók. Soloist is the internationally renowned Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk.

Music: Trondheim Jazzfestival

Britannia Hall, 20:00

Tickets cost NOK 215

Ed Thigpen with Trondheim Friends. A tasteful and subtle drummer who is a master with brushes, Ed Thigpen is still most famous for his longtime membership with the Oscar Peterson Trio. He has also worked with many others - including two periods touring the world with Ella Fitzgerald during 1966-1972. He settled in Copenhagen in 1972, worked as a teacher, wrote several instructional books, and continued playing with the who's who of jazz as a freelancer.

Near the Hotel



Pirbadet - Norway's largest indoor swimming facilities, located at Havnegata 12.



Solsiden Center - Shopping center with many restaurants, located just across the river (walk across the bridge).

Editors: Roger Midtstraum, Heri Ramampiaro and Jon Olav Hauglid.