

February 19, 2007

2007 Committee on Fellows
American Statistical Association
732 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943

Dear Fellows Committee:

This is a letter of recommendation for John Deely for Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Dr. Deely is an outstanding statistician in many respects but my remarks are intended to focus on his outstanding contribution to the teaching of statistics.

John Deely's earliest contributions were the development of a teaching faculty and courses in statistics in the Department of Mathematics at Canterbury University in New Zealand. He grew the program from one course of 100 students with one statistics professor to eight courses with over 800 students and five staff during his leadership of statistical research and teaching in the department.

Today at Purdue University's Department of Statistics, John Deely is the lecturer for a course that introduces approximately 1500 students each year to the importance of statistics. He has doubled the size of this course he supervises over the years. The course fulfills one of the most critical missions of a statistics program in a large public university in teaching introductory statistics to nonmajors. A special role is played by courses that describe the importance and usefulness of statistical analysis to those who will probably not carry out such analyses themselves, but who will either direct or request them because they understand their utility in so many situations. It is one of the most popular courses in our department with an attendance rate that is phenomenal given that it is a lecture of close to 400 students at a time. By involving the students in activities during the lecture, he maintains their attention and focus on the ideas he is transmitting. The

incorporation of famous guest lecturers, video files, graphic displays and interactive voting technology during the class are all part of an extraordinarily successful effort to bring home the concepts and ideas of statistics. The course is also noted for its inclusion of first rate computational technology. As you might imagine, he receives some of the highest teaching evaluations for a lecture of that size in the University.

In recognition of his talent for teaching, Dr. Deely was the recipient of the first David S. Moore Service Teaching Award in 2004. This award was established to reward outstanding contributions to the quality of the Purdue University Department of Statistics service courses. (Service courses are defined as those courses whose majority audience is not statistics or actuarial science students.) The award is given no more often than every two years.

His strong research background has contributed greatly to his ability to provide the most current and appropriate material to the students. He also regularly teaches a graduate course on Bayesian statistics to graduate students from statistics and other disciplines around the campus. He is also regularly invited to teach as a special invited guest lecturer a Summer School workshop on Statistical Inference in Human Biology in Asti, Italy.

In summary, John Deely has successfully brought the ideas of statistics to more students than any might imagine and I strongly recommend his fellowship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Ellen Bock".

Mary Ellen Bock
Professor and Head
Department of Statistics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2066