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Dr Robert M. Bell,  
Chair, Year 2007 Committee on Fellows  
American Statistical Association  
1429 Duke Street  
Alexandria Virginia 22314  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr Bell,

Re: the nomination of Dr John Deely for Fellowship of the ASA

I am very happy to support the nomination of John Deely for a fellowship of the American Statistical Association. John has made important contributions to the theory and practice of Statistics, particularly to Bayesian theory and methodology, and to Statistical Education over the last 40 years or so.

In the first place, John has made important contributions to Bayesian methods and their implementation over a long period of time. Although his list of publications is not particularly long, many of his papers have appeared in the top journals, including several in the Journal of the American Statistical Association and the Annals of Statistics. Of particular note is his paper with Dennis Lindley "Bayes Empirical Bayes" which appeared in the 1981 issue of JASA. This paper, which clarified the essentially non-Bayesian nature of classical empirical Bayes methods and looked at these methods from a Bayesian point of view, is highly cited and has been very influential.

Secondly, John has been heavily involved in statistical consulting, right from his early years at Sandia. He worked closely with business and government agencies throughout his years at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and was responsible for introducing innovative statistical methods in a wide variety of settings. Many of these methods are still being used successfully today, more than ten years after John returned to the US.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there are John's contributions to teaching and statistical education. Almost single-handedly, he inspired a whole generation of good mathematics undergraduates at the University of Canterbury with his inspirational teaching, and converted them into good statistics graduate students. As just one example, here is what Catherine Loader had to say when I asked her about John's influence on her career: "Professor Deely was instrumental in pioneering and maintaining a strong undergraduate statistics major at Canterbury, at a time when such programs were extremely uncommon. He was always highly supportive and encouraging to his students, and generous with his time. With Professor Deely's encouragement, many students continued on with statistics studies at a higher level.

From my own perspective, Professor Deely is probably the one person who had the most influence on my career. It was his suggestion that led to my working, as an undergraduate, on problems involving boundary crossings and extreme value theory - areas I've continued to work in. This also led to our joint (and my first!) publication (Loader and Deely, *Journal of Stat. Comp and Simulation* 27, 95-105 (1987)). He was also instrumental in encouraging me to pursue graduate studies in the USA, and supported me with the whole process. Professor Deely's guidance was the difference between my pursuing a research career in statistics, versus other low-level alternatives."

For all these reasons, I give my whole-hearted support to this nomination.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Scott  
Professor Emeritus,  
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