Editorial

I remember David Hand and I being engaged in an animated discussion in 1989 about the need for a new journal—one which would provide a forum for research that crossed the boundaries of Computer Science and of Statistics.

While the two disciplines overlapped, the two communities were separate. Existing journals fell entirely within one community or the other. There was a need for a journal which would appeal to researchers in both communities, a journal where papers from researchers in one community would be studied by researchers in the other. Who knows, perhaps even a new research community would form from the combination.

Not long after that conversation David founded Statistics and Computing.

Now, little more than a decade later, Statistics and Computing has become a premier research journal containing high quality papers from both communities and covering a wide range of topics. Its special issues provide important and timely collections on new and emerging research areas. Statistics and Computing has distinguished itself as the pre-eminent journal targeting the two communities.

Much of this success is due to David—his vision, his energy, his dedication. Congratulations David on this important and rare accomplishment. Well done!

This means of course that following David as Editor-in-Chief is somewhat daunting. I am somewhat reassured, however, by the fact that he will continue to be involved in the journal—submitting papers and providing much valued advice. David will become only the less visible Hand behind Statistics and Computing.

The future, as David has indicated, is very promising. Statistics and Computing is now an established and accomplished journal, attracting papers of high quality.

This does not mean, however, that it's time to coast. Coasting will only result in a narrowing of focus and that is not the intended role of this journal.

Statistics and Computing must continue to broaden its coverage of both areas. The challenge is to cover research which is predominantly computational as much as research which is predominantly statistical. In either case, the research must have a substantive, rather than token, computational and statistical component—even if this is only in the formulation of open problems which would benefit from further study. Perhaps most interesting are those novel application areas where computational and statistical approaches are required to be used in conjunction with one another in order to make significant progress. From its inception, Statistics and Computing has been envisioned as an innovative journal for research truly at the interface between Computer Science and Statistics. That vision has not changed with the change in editor.

I strongly encourage those who share this vision to participate by submitting manuscripts and proposals for special issues or simply by promoting the journal to others. Together, we can accomplish much.

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R. Wayne Oldford
Editor-in-Chief

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