

A note from the Guest Editor

During April 24–25, 2006, I had the pleasure of co-organizing (along with Noga Alon, Janos Pach, Aravind Srinivasan, and the DIMACS director Fred Roberts) a conference on *Probabilistic Combinatorics & Algorithms*, in honor of Joel Spencer’s 60th birthday. With contributing talks by many of Spencer’s long-time collaborators, the conference was well-attended by many students, collaborators, and friends of Spencer, and was unsurprisingly a big success.

The present issue of the Journal of Combinatorics is a belated Spencer 60+ *festschrift*! My special thanks to Fan Chung and Ron Graham for giving me an opportunity to edit this special issue, to Lincoln Lu for handling the manuscripts, and to Noga Alon for writing a foreword. I am also grateful to all the authors of this issue who have very kindly supplied their recent probabilistic works to support this publication in honor of Joel Spencer. Finally, I express my gratitude to Spencer without whose advice and mentoring my mathematical path, with high probability, would have remained the road not taken!

Prasad Tetali, December 2010