Editorial

This is the inaugural issue of the Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics. It provides a central place for papers on algebraic combinatorics that, until now, have been distributed throughout a number of journals. Within recent decades, the study of the rich interplay between algebra and combinatorics, and their associated structures and techniques, has evolved into a mature, established, and identifiable discipline with substantial links to other parts of mathematics and its applications. The chief criterion for accepting papers is that they reveal interesting and significant interactions between algebra and combinatorics. These might involve the investigation of combinatorial structure using methods from linear algebra, representation theory, commutative and homological algebra, or lattice theory, to mention some of the more obvious possibilities.

When the idea of starting this journal was broached late in 1990, it was met with an enthusiastic response both from the research community and then from Kluwer whom we contacted early in 1991. The call for papers appeared in May 1991 and this first issue was put into production in November. The success of this process is due both to the interest shown by people in the area, particularly those who have agreed to serve on the Advisory and Editorial Boards, and to the publisher.

We are most grateful for the efforts made on our behalf by Kluwer and the encouragement and support they have provided, and look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with them. We greatly appreciate the willingness of authors to submit their work to this new journal and the support already given by our referees. Many deep and beautiful results have already been obtained in algebraic combinatorics. Our hope is that the focus of attention provided by this journal will further the continuing development of this important mathematical field. We trust that our readers will find much of interest in this and future volumes.

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