



**CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR S A MORRIS, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF INFORMATICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF JOSEPH MARK GANI TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, HONORIS CAUSA, ON 10 OCTOBER, 1991.**

Chancellor, I present to you Joseph Mark Gani.

Joseph Gani was born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1924 and completed his schooling in Egypt and Japan. His career has moved across many national boundaries influencing the professional lives of colleagues throughout the world including those at the University of Wollongong. Professor Gani is truly an international figure in the disciplines of mathematics and statistics.

Joseph Gani graduated with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Science degree at Imperial College, London in 1945 and attained his Diploma of Membership in 1948. In the post-war years, the "brain drain" was working to Australia's advantage and Joseph Gani came here to form a lasting relationship with this country. He was awarded a PhD from the Australian National University in 1955 and a Doctor of Science degree by the University of London in 1970. In the first two decades of his academic career, he taught science and mathematics at school and university levels in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. For seven of those years, he worked at the University of Western Australia, rising to the position of Reader in Mathematical Statistics.

In 1961, just before a University College was founded here at Wollongong, Joseph Gani was appointed Senior Fellow in Statistics at the Australian National University and, in 1964, he took up his first Professorial appointment at Michigan State University. In the following year, he became the foundation Professor of Probability and Statistics at the University of Sheffield.

In 1974, Joseph Gani returned to Australia to become Chief of the CSIRO's Division of Mathematics and Statistics. It was at this time that he worked with and gave guidance to John Blake and David Griffiths, both of whom

subsequently became Professors of Mathematics at this University. Joseph Gani is currently Professor and Chairman of the Statistics and Applied Probability Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Professor Gani has made major contributions in the field of applied probability, particularly in the theory of storage and epidemic theory, and in mathematical biology. He has devoted a large part of his time to explaining mathematics to the wider community. His list of publications is substantial and varied: titles range from learned dissertations on "transformed Markov Processes" to "applied probability is alive and well in Japan".

An unrelenting communicator of ideas, Joseph Gani has founded four distinguished mathematical journals including the Journal of Applied Probability, Mathematical Spectrum and The Mathematical Scientist and is an Associate Editor of a number of other influential journals in his field. He has been a leading organiser of Summer Schools and Conferences in Australia and internationally.

Professor Gani has held visiting appointments internationally, notably at Columbia and Stanford Universities in the United States and prestigious institutions in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Japan and Australia. He is a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the International Statistical Institute, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and the Australian Academy of Science. He has also served as a high office bearer to a number of distinguished societies, for example as President of the Australian Mathematical Society and Vice-President of the Royal Statistical Society.

The University of Wollongong today salutes Joseph Gani as an outstanding mathematical scientist. He is a generous scholar who has had an important influence on the development of the Department of Mathematics at this University. Mathematicians have the ability to cross the divide between the so-called "two cultures" of Arts and Science. In appreciating the power and beautiful symmetry in numbers, they hold in their hands, as Bertrand Russell once remarked, the score to the "music of the spheres" and the key to the dynamics of the natural world.

Professor Gani has sought to interpret numbers in comprehensible terms, never losing his sense of joy in his discipline and never neglecting to pass on his knowledge to his colleagues and to the general public. His colleague and former Head of the Department of Mathematics at Wollongong, Professor John Blake, neatly summed up Joseph Gani's role when he described him as "one of the most dynamic personalities in international mathematics and statistics."

Chancellor, it is my privilege and great pleasure to present to you Joseph Mark Gani for the award of Doctor of Science Honoris Causa.