UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



DOCTOR OF SCIENCE "HONORIS CAUSA"

DR. WILLIAM THOMAS WILLIAMS

MR. DEPUTY CHANCELLOR,

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO INVITE YOU TO HONOUR A MAN WHO HAS
GIVEN UNSTINTINGLY OF HIS TIME AND OF HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE TO
BOTH THE STAFF AND POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES.

DR. WILLIAM T. WILLIAMS, SOMETIME PROFESSOR OF BOTANY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON; RECENTLY RETIRED AS CHIEF
RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE C.S.I.R.O. DIVISION OF TROPICAL PASTURES,
IS A LEADING AUTHORITY, SOME WOULD SAY THE LEADING AUTHORITY OF
THE USE OF NUMERICAL METHODS FOR CLASSIFYING BIOLOGICAL DATA.

DR. WILLIAMS HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS A STUDENT,

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH SCIENTIST.

HE GRADUATED WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS FROM THE UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON IN 1933 RECEIVING HIS PH.D. IN 1940, AND THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE CONFERRED ON HIM IN 1956 ALSO FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

AFTER EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS COLLEGES OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY,

DR. WILLIAMS BECAME PROFESSOR OF BOTANY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF

SOUTHAMPTON IN 1951, A CHAIR WHICH HE FILLED WITH DISTINCTION

UNTIL 1965, WHEN HE DECIDED THAT A WARMER CLIMATE HAD ATTRACTIONS

AND MOVED TO AUSTRALIA. FINDING THAT CANBERRA DID NOT QUITE

MEASURE UP IN WINTER-TIME, DR. WILLIAMS MOVED TO BRISBANE IN 1968.

EARLIER, IN BRITAIN, DR. WILLIAMS HAD SERVED WITH

DISTINCTION IN THE BRITISH ARMY DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR,

RISING THROUGH THE RANKS TO BE COMMISSIONED FINALLY AS A MAJOR.

HE IS A FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY, AND OF THE INSTITUTE OF

BIOLOGY; AND HE HAS SERVED ON THE COUNCIL OF BOTH THE SOCIETY

FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND THE BIOMETRICS SOCIETY. DURING HIS

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



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CAREER DR. WILLIAMS HAS PUBLISHED MORE THAN 108 RESEARCH PAPERS,

10 OF THESE IN CO-AUTHORSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE

DEPARTMENTS OF ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY IN THIS UNIVERSITY. AT

VARIOUS TIMES DR. WILLIAMS SERVED AS EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND AS A MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

COUNCIL; DR. WILLIAMS TAKES A KEEN INTEREST IN CULTURAL AND

CIVIC AFFAIRS AND IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS APPEARANCES AS A

COMMENTATOR ON B.B.C. RADIO AND TELEVISION AND MORE RECENTLY

ON THE A.B.C.

THIS BRIEFLY, MR. DEPUTY CHANCELLOR, OUTLINES THE

DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF DR. WILLIAMS. BUT THE UNIVERSITY IS

MORE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO HONOUR HIM BECAUSE OF HIS SERVICES

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, IN PARTICULAR HIS GREAT ASSISTANCE

NOT ONLY TO MEMBERS OF STAFF AND POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE

DEPARTMENTS OF ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY, BUT ALSO IN THE DEPARTMENTS

OF MICROBIOLOGY, DENTISTRY, GEOGRAPHY AND EDUCATION. DURING 1972

DR. WILLIAMS WAS ADVISING ON THE APPLICATION OF COMPUTER METHODS

TO NO FEWER THAN 16 RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THE UNIVERSITY, HALF

OF THESE ON PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY STAFF AND HALF BY POST-GRADUATES

STUDENTS. THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN FREELY GIVEN BY

DR. WILLIAMS SINCE 1967. IN RECOGNITION OF HIS GREAT SERVICES

DR. WILLIAMS WAS GRANTED THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RESEARCH

CONSULTANT IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY SOME 3 YEARS

AGO.

DR. WILLIAMS IS NOW RETIRING FROM HIS POSITION ON THE

STAFF OF THE C.S.I.R.O. AND INTENDS TO MOVE TO TOWNSVILLE. IN

FAREWELLING HIM, THE UNIVERSITY IS DELIGHTED TO AWARD DR. WILLIAMS

AN HONORARY DEGREE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICES

TO THE UNIVERSITY.

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UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



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MR. DEPUTY CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU WILLIAM THOMAS
WILLIAMS, ASSOCIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY, DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, DIPLOMATE OF THE IMPERIAL
COLLEGE, FELLOW OF THE LINNAEAN SOCIETY, FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE
OF BIOLOGY, LICENTIATE OF MUSIC IN AUSTRALIA, FOR ADMISSION TO
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE 'HONORIS CAUSA' OF THIS
UNIVERSITY.

The Deputy Chancellor says:

BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION

OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT WILLIAM THOMAS WILLIAMS TO THE

RANK AND PRIVILEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE'HONORIS

CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND.