

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE  
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Daniel Gianola at Spring 2012 Commencement.

**Executive Summary:** Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Gianola for his outstanding contributions to animal genetics and statistics.

**Details on Dr. Gianola's Accomplishments:**

- ◇ Dr. Gianola received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and animal production from the University of the Republic of Uruguay (1970) and a Master of Science in dairy science (1973) and a Ph.D. in animal breeding (1975) from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.
- ◇ He began his professional career as a population and livestock specialist with the World Bank in 1975. In 1978, he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois, rising to the rank of professor in 1987. In 1991, he joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison as professor.
- ◇ A world-renowned animal geneticist and statistician, Dr. Gianola is widely acknowledged as the person most responsible for improving animal breeding analysis through the introduction of Bayesian statistical methodology. In the early 1990s, Dr. Gianola and his research team demonstrated the effectiveness of Bayesian inference in complex genetic analyses, which led rapidly to its widespread adoption in both animal and plant breeding and rapid progress in genetic improvement in plants and animals. Today, most complex genetic analyses rely heavily on Bayesian methods that were pioneered by Dr. Gianola and his colleagues. Dr. Gianola's work in genetics and statistics builds on the foundation of animal genetics established at ISU by Jay Lush, considered by many as the founder of modern animal genetics.
- ◇ Dr. Gianola has been a visiting professor, consultant, or invited lecturer at institutions in 35 countries on four continents. Among his many recognitions are the Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Award, the J.L. Lush Award for Outstanding Research in Animal Breeding from the American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science Rockefeller Prentice Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Breeding and Genetics Research, and Fellow status in the American Statistical Association for "Influential research in statistical methods for quantitative genetics; for pioneering work on Bayesian methods applied to animal breeding; and for excellence in international teaching of advanced statistical methods." He has received honorary degrees from universities in Spain, Germany, Uruguay, and Denmark.
- ◇ ISU described Dr. Gianola in the following way: "Few have contributed as much to statistical methodology for animal breeding research and practice as Daniel Gianola. Given Iowa State University's undisputed position of historical and current strength in animal breeding research and teaching, it would be most fitting for ISU to be the first university in Dr. Gianola's adopted home of the United States to recognize his extraordinary accomplishments with an honorary degree."