Biographical Note

Robert T. Jantzen is professor of mathematics at Villanova University, straddling the fence between physics and mathematics while working in the field of classical general relativity. Having slipped from mathematics into physics as an undergraduate at Princeton University during the golden age of general relativity in the 1970s, followed up by graduate work in physics at UC Berkeley supervised by Abraham Taub in the mathematics department, he has employed the tools of differential geometry and Lie group theory first to elucidate properties of spatially homogeneous cosmological models and later of stationary axisymmetric spacetimes like black holes. A backdrop to this career has been the inspiration of a lifetime of academic commuting to the land of Italian geometers like Luigi Bianchi and Tullio Levi-Civita, now joined by one of their contemporaries, Corrado Gini.

Response from Robert T. Jantzen

Tackling a problem out of left field as a rank amateur in a curiosity-driven collaboration and actually reaching an interesting new perspective on the issue has been a rewarding experience, especially since it speaks to a wide audience at an elementary level about an important societal problem. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for this award. It is not often that we as academics imprisoned in a world of scholarly writing that only other experts can digest are able to break out and speak to a much broader readership and then actually be recognized for it. Doing so with a friend makes it all the more special.