



Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category I Recognition Award

(To a retired member of ORSSA
for outstanding contributions
over a long period of time)

Dave W Evans

Citation. *By Wim Gevers, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.*

David William Evans was born in England on 11 December 1946. After completing his schooling in Yorkshire, he enrolled at Cambridge University and graduated with an MA in biochemistry. He continued his academic endeavours and read for an MSc in Operations Research and Management Studies at Imperial College in London. Not only did he distinguish himself academically, but he was also an accomplished sportsman and played first team basketball and cricket, and he also achieved a Half Blue for Basketball at Cambridge.

He spent the first years of his working career in the United Kingdom, then joined the Imperial Chemical Industries' South African subsidiary, AECI, in the early 1970's, and received permanent residency in South Africa in 1974. During the early part of his career he was involved in a variety of challenging OR problems, including simulation modelling of animal metabolisms, the simulation of optimal storage facilities for AECI's multimillion Coalplex project, geostatistical ore reserve estimation for an open cast phosphate mine, investment modelling of a fertilizer complex, optimising profitability and operations in the multi-million chlor-alkalis and plastics business, and computerised decision support models for complex decentralisation decisions and various forms of multi-million-per-annum contracts between AECI and the Chamber of mines. His responsibilities in AECI grew as he successively became Information Systems Manager during the second half of the 1980s, Logistics Manager during the early 1990s and Information Technology Manager during the later 1990s.

After a brief stint as an independent Strategic Management and IT Consultant, he joined Kohler Packaging as divisional IT director and subsequently was senior consultant at Value Analytics where he was intimately involved with the development and implementation of executive information systems, IT and strategy consulting for a number of clients. From 2003 onwards he became the Senior Strategic Planner at the Development Bank of Southern Africa where he supported the CEO and the executive management team (including the Chairman and Governor) in analyzing and planning strategy for the bank. He remained there until his retirement earlier this year.

Throughout his challenging business career he has remained a dedicated and loyal member of ORSSA and has served the Society in a variety of roles. He has served on the National Executive at various occasions, holding the portfolios of Newsletter Editor, Vice President and finally President in 1985. He later returned to the National Executive, serving first as Treasurer and then again as President during the period 2009-2010. In addition he has served the Johannesburg Chapter over an extended period of time as Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. He has refereed for many papers for ORiON, and has served as guest editor for a special edition in 1998. He has organised numerous conferences. The practical experience and insights that Dave has developed over the years has formed the core of some twenty papers presented at conferences and seminars of ORSSA and other professional societies.

Dave has been involved at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Mechanical Engineering as Advisory Board member and external examiner for courses in Operations Research as well as for numerous MSc theses. He has also been invited as guest lecturer at the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Witwatersrand, as well as at the Gordon Institute of Business Science. In addition to being a member of ORSSA, he is also a member of the *Computer Society of South Africa* and the *South African Production and Inventory Control Society*.

Dave Evans is the epitome of an operations research specialist who developed into a respected business leader and manager, while staying true to his roots in operations research. For his services to and impact on operations research in general, his leading role in promoting operations research in industry, his services to ORSSA over a period of close to 40 years, Dave William Evans is, on this 17th day of September 2013, duly awarded a Category I ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the President to confer the award.