



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)

Johannes M Hattingh

Citation. *By Marthi Harmse, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.*

Johannes Michiel Hattingh (or Giel as he is known) was born in Parys in the then Orange Free State on 16 May 1940. Fifteen years later he matriculated in the same town. Crossing the Vaal River, he enrolled for a BSc degree with majors in Mathematics and Statistics at the then Potchefstroom University for Higher Christian Education, a degree he obtained *cum laude* in 1962. A year later he completed an honours degree in Mathematics, two years later a masters degree in Statistics, and in 1971 a doctorate in Statistics and Operations Research, all at the same university on the banks of the Mooi River.

At a young age Giel started working as a technical clerk at SASOL (1957–1960). After obtaining his masters degree, he started lecturing at his alma mater in 1966. Three years later he was promoted to senior lecturer and in 1976 to full professor of Computer Science. From 1981 to 1984 Giel was Director of Computer Services and from 1985 to 1989 Chief Director of Planning and Information at Potchefstroom University. In 1990 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and in 1998 Head of the TELKOM Centre of Excellence, as well as of the Research Subprogramme on Computer Science, Informatics and Operations Research in the Focus Area on Business Mathematics and Informatics. He remained at North-West University until his retirement last year.

Giel has been a member of ORSSA for many years and was, in fact, one of the first members to be elected Fellow of ORSSA in 2005. He is also a full member of the South African Computer Scientists and Information Technologists Society, of which he was President in 1997 and 1998. He has been graduate advisor to many masters and doctoral students in Statistics and Operations Research, Computer Science and Information Systems as well as from the Business School in Potchefstroom. Some of his past students have gone on to play prominent roles on the local operational research landscape and within ORSSA.

He has published extensively, especially in the fields of Decision Support Systems, Mathematical Programming and Artificial Intelligence. He has also been involved in large-scale, industry-sponsored collaborative research projects with partners in Germany, the United States of America and elsewhere. Giel has also undertaken various study tours and has attended a large number of local and international conferences over the years, many as keynote speaker.

For his services to and considerable impact on operations research in general (both locally and abroad) and his role in educating and nurturing a long line of post-graduate students in Computer Science and Operations Research at the then Potchefstroom University for Higher Christian Education, now North-West University, Johannes Michiel Hattingh 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.