



*Fellow of the Operations Research Society
of South Africa (ORSSA)*

Theodoulos Stylianides

Citation. By Jan van Vuuren, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.

Theodoulos Stylianides, known to us as Theo, was born on the 29th of March 1950. After completing a bachelor of science degree (majoring in physics and applied mathematics) at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1973, and an honours degree in applied mathematics at the same university in 1974, Theo joined the Fuel Research Institute of South Africa in the capacity of research officer, a position he held until 1978. Thereafter he joined PLAN Associates, where he remained until 1995, first as production manager, then as associate and finally as partner. Here he applied operational research and statistical techniques to problem solving in urban and regional planning over a wide range of projects including transportation studies, various retail location problems, air pollution reduction and demographic projections for the Koeberg nuclear power station. During this period Theo also became a student again, obtaining a second honours degree in 1980, this time in operations research from the University of South Africa (UNISA), as well as a masters degree *cum laude* in 1982, also in operations research from UNISA. He was also awarded a diploma in business management from Damelin Management School in 1988.

In 1995 Theo joined the CSIR Logistics and Quantitative Methods group where he was responsible for project management and technical leadership over a broad spectrum of fascinating projects, including the development of a vehicle scheduling algorithm for South African Breweries, the development of a model for clinker capacity expansion at Blue Circle Cement, the development of depot location models for Omnia Fertilizers, the development of a crime analysis decision support system for the South African Police Service, the development of transmission load forecasting models for Eskom, the development of an electricity consumption forecasting model for BHP Billiton, and the development of a container growth forecasting model for Kagiso Urban Development. In 2008 he was promoted to competence area manager of the Logistics and Quantitative Methods group at the CSIR, heading a team of 30 researchers and supporting staff responsible for advanced modelling and supply chain related research as well as statistical modelling.

Theo has won many awards, including a certificate of merit awarded by the CSIR's crime prevention initiative for his work on the geographical mapping of crime data for the South African Police Service, and three *icomtek* excellence awards, one for best team performance in 1998, one for business excellence in 2000 and one for best achiever in 2004. In 1998, he was also awarded the prestigious Tom Rozwadowski medal by ORSSA for a paper titled *A model of clinker capacity*, published in the European Journal of Operational Research, and in 2008 he won the CSIR Built Environment's Management Excellence Award.

Theo speaks four languages (French, Greek, Afrikaans and English) and holds membership of various professional and learned societies, including associate membership of the South African Institute of Management, full membership of the Institute of Operations Research and the Management Sciences (the American operations research society, known as INFORMS), and of course, until today, regular membership of ORSSA. He is also a professional natural scientist, registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientists, and considered an expert in crime analysis, energy modelling, capacity expansion modelling, project management, urban and regional planning, logistics modelling and business management.

Theo has had a longstanding connection with ORSSA, where he has been a regular presenter of papers at national conferences. He served as treasurer of ORSSA during the period 2002-2003. During this time he devoted considerable time and effort towards updating and improving the Society's member database. He was also a key figure in preparations in the run-up to ORSSA's successful hosting of the triennial conference of the International Federation of Operations Research Societies in Sandton last year.

For his numerous contributions to the profession of Operations Research in general, and his services over many years to ORSSA in particular, Theo Stylianides was duly elected *Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa* during a closed electronic ballot of the Executive Committee on the 5th of August 2009. I call on the President to confer Fellowship of the Operations Research Society of South Africa on Theodoulos Stylianides.