



Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa



David William 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 and graduated with a MA in biochemistry. He continued his academic endeavours and read for the MSc in Operations Research and Management Studies at the 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 first few years of his working career he spent in the UK and then joined the Imperial Chemical Industries' South African subsidiary, AECl, in the early 1970's. He received permanent residency in South Africa in 1974. During the early part of the career he was involved in some challenging OR problems, for example: the simulation modelling of animal metabolism; the simulation of optimal storage facilities for AECl'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; computerised decision support models for complex decentralisation decisions and various forms of multi-million-per-annum contracts between AECl and the Chamber of mines. His responsibilities in AECl 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 has been the Senior Strategic Planner at the Development Bank of Southern Africa where he supports the CEO and the executive management team (including the Chairman and Governor) in analyzing and planning Strategy for the Bank.

Throughout his challenging business career he has remained a dedicated and loyal member of the *Operations Research Society of South Africa* (ORSSA) and has served the society in a variety of rolls. He served on the National Executive and held the portfolios of Newsletter Editor, Vice President and led the society as President in 1985. Later he returned to the national executive and served as Treasurer. In addition he has served the Johannesburg Chapter over an extended period of time as chairman, secretary and treasurer. He has acted as referee for papers in ORiON, and served as guest editor for an edition in 1998. He has organised conferences and served on a number of organising committees. The practical experience and insights that he developed has been the core of some twenty papers presented at conferences and seminars of ORSSA and other professional societies.

Dave is involved at Wits University's School of Mechanical Engineering as Advisory Board member and external examiner for the past twenty years for courses in Operations Research as well as for MSc theses. He has also been invited as guest lecturer at the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Witwatersrand and at the Gordon Institute of Business Science. Professionally 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 OR specialist that developed into a respected business leader and manager, while staying true to his roots in OR. For his numerous contributions to the profession of Operations Research in general and his service to ORSSA over many years he was duly and unanimously elected Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa at a meeting of the Executive committee in June 2007.