



Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category IV Recognition Award

(To an upcoming member of ORSSA
of age 35 or below for excellence
in operations research practice)

Daniel Petrus Lötter

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

Daniel Petrus Lötter was born on October 1st, 1986. After matriculating from Sasolburg High School with an A-aggregate in 2004, he enrolled for a bachelor's degree in commerce at Stellenbosch University in 2005. After being awarded this degree in 2008, he went on to obtain an honours degree in operations research from the same institution *cum laude* in 2009. The following year he enrolled for a master's degree in operations research, also at Stellenbosch University. He obtained his master's degree in 2012, based on a thesis entitled *Modelling weapon assignment as a multi-objective decision problem*, and enrolled for doctoral studies the following year. He is currently in the process of finalising his doctoral dissertation in operations research at Stellenbosch University on a part-time basis. The title of his dissertation is *Design of a weapon assignment subsystem within a ground-based air defence environment*.

In 2015, Danie was appointed lecturer in operations research within the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch, a position he still occupies within the *Stellenbosch Unit for Operations Research in Engineering*, or SUnORE Group. He plays an important part in the organisation of activities and research outputs of this group. His research area is combinatorial optimisation and the design of decision support systems. He has supervised seven fourth-year industrial engineering students in respect of their final-year research projects, or *skripsies*, and he has also co-supervised two master's students in respect of their theses. He teaches the underlying theory and algorithmic solution methodologies related to transportation and assignments problems, as well as dynamic programming, as part of the third and fourth year operations research courses within the industrial engineering curriculum at Stellenbosch University. In these capacities he is making a meaningful contribution to the training and nurturing of a new generation of operations researchers.

Danie is well-known in the local operations research community, and regularly attends ORSSA conferences where he presents his work. In addition to his activities as a student and as a lecturer, he has served on the Executive Committee of ORSSA in various capacities since 2010. He was the editor of the ORSSA Newsletter in 2010 and 2011. During the period 2012–2015 he served on the Executive Committee of the Western Cape Chapter of ORSSA, first as additional member, and then as chapter chair in 2014 and 2015. In addition, he has been the business manager of the ORSSA Newsletter since 2012, serving in this capacity while simultaneously being chair of the Western Cape Chapter of ORSSA. As if this is not enough, he has also twice headed the local organising committees of ORSSA annual conferences, in 2013 and again this year, doing a superb job in each case. This afternoon he was elected vice president of ORSSA for 2017. When he takes office as the 31st ORSSA president in 2018, he will be the youngest serving president in the history of our Society.

In recognition of the excellent quality of sustained service rendered to the profession of operations research in general and to our Society in particular in various capacities over the last six years, Daniel Petrus Lötter is, on this 13th day of September 2016, duly awarded a Category IV ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the President to confer the award.