

Head of Department recognised for lifelong service to profession

Prof Sarma Yadavalli, Head of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has received the 2015 Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) Distinguished Educator Award. The award was made in recognition of his outstanding lifelong service, dedication to education and outstanding support, as well as service to the industrial engineering and the operations management professions. Prof Yadavalli received the award at the 2015 IEOM Conference at Hyatt Regency in Dubai on 4 March 2015.



→ Prof Sarma Yadavalli (left) receives the Distinguished Educator Award from Prof Abdur Rahim of the University of New Brunswick (centre). Looking on is Ms Resh Plaha of Crystal Quality UK Ltd (right).

The IEOM Society recognises educators, researchers and professionals for their significant contribution through teaching, research and publication, service, innovation or leadership in the field of industrial engineering and operations management.

Prof Yadavalli obtained a BSc (Mathematics) degree from Andhra University, India, in 1975, followed by a master's degree in Statistics from Osmania University in 1978 and a PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology in 1983.

Prof Yadavalli started his career as a research scholar and tutor at the Indian Institute of Technology in 1978. From 1983, he lectured at a number of tertiary institutions, including Bendel State University in Nigeria,

the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and the National University of Lesotho. He joined the erstwhile University of Transkei in 1991 and the University of the North in 1994, after which he joined the University of South Africa in 1997.

Prof Yadavalli came to the University of Pretoria in March 2002 as a professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. He was appointed Head of Department in 2010.

Prof Yadavalli has reviewed the study programmes of the Department of Statistics at the University of Botswana as an external reviewer.

He has presented several papers at national and international conferences and is a member of a

number of professional organisations, including the Southern African Institute of Industrial Engineers (SAIIE), the Society for Quality, Reliability and Operations Management, and the International Statistical Institute.

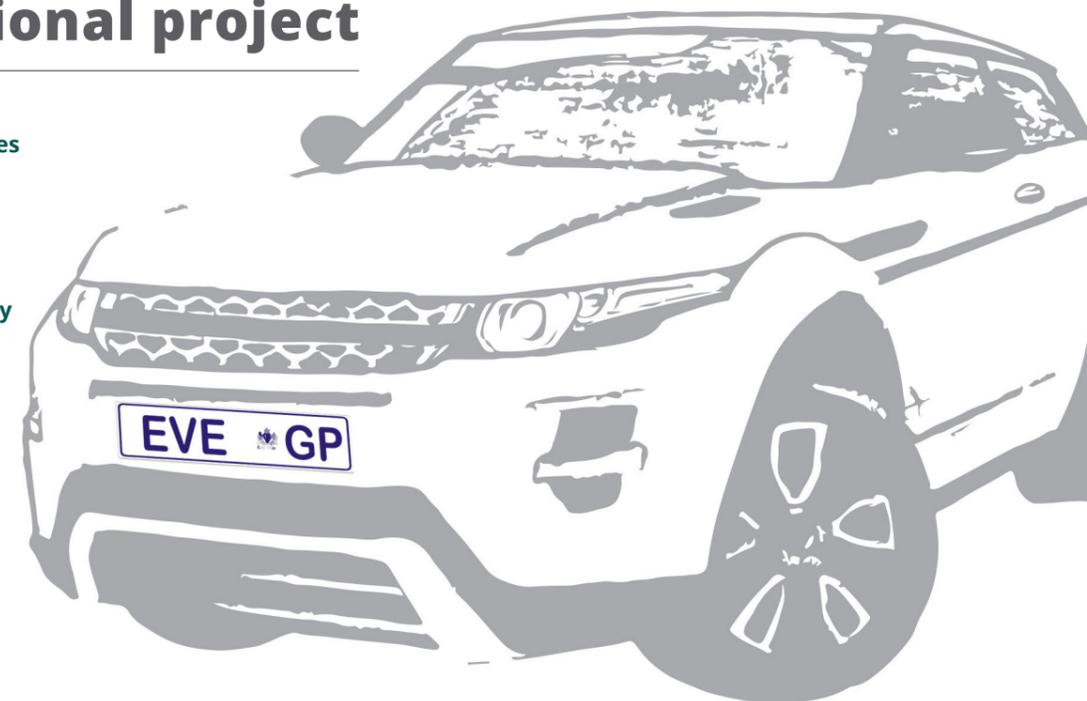
He has a C1-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF)

Prof Yadavalli also received the lifetime achievement award from the Society for Quality, Reliability and Operations Management at the International Conference on Quality, Reliability and Infocom Technology (ICQRIT) held at the Indian National Science Academy in December 2006.

This award was made in recognition of his contributions in industrial engineering and reliability theory. ➦

Vehicle Dynamics Group participates in international project

Innovation technologies in ground vehicle engineering require strong interdisciplinary and intersectoral investigations with an international dimension. In light of this, a consortium of 12 partners from industry and research institutions has started the Innovative Engineering of Ground Vehicles with Integrated Active Chassis Systems project, also known as Project EVE. The Vehicle Dynamics Group (VDG) in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering participates in this project and represents the University of Pretoria as the project's only South African university.



The project aims to develop and improve innovative vehicle components, such as integrated chassis controller targeting, simultaneous improvements in vehicle stability and energy efficiency, new hardware subsystems for brakes, active suspension and tyre pressure control for on- and off-road mobility, as well as remote network-distributed vehicle testing technology.

The project is funded by the European Community Horizon 2020 Framework Programme Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (under grant agreement no. 645736). The EVE consortium is coordinated by Ilmenau University of Technology (Germany) and includes institutions and organisations such as Tenneco Automotive Europe (Belgium),

ITAINNOVA Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón (Spain), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), dSPACE GmbH (Germany), SKF Automotive Development Centre (Sweden/Netherlands), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Virginia Tech (USA), Gerotek (South Africa) and ESTEQ Ltd. (South Africa).

The project's activities will span three years and will be carried out through comprehensive vehicle dynamics simulations in diverse software environments, and a combination of vehicle testing on state-of-the-art dynamometrical test rigs and proving grounds in Germany and South Africa. At the centre of the experimental activities is a high-tech instrumented vehicle

demonstrator that is used for the development and evaluation of the novel chassis control system. It is housed at the Ilmenau University of Technology. As an innovation-oriented project, EVE will develop a number of technologies for automotive chassis engineering ready for immediate industrial implementation after the conclusion of the project.

The project's targets will be achieved with intensive networking measures, which cover knowledge transfer and experience sharing between participants from academic and non-academic sectors, the professional advancement of the consortium members through intersectoral and international collaboration, and secondments. ➦

For more information on Project EVE, go to <http://eve-project.eu/>