



Seen with Professor Snyman (left) is head of the department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, Prof. Josua Meyer.

Professor Jan Snyman published a book entitled *Practical Mathematical Optimization* (Springer). Professor Snyman is a world leader in the field of mathematical optimisation of mechanical systems, and earlier this year received an honorary professoriate from the University of Miskolc. Professor Snyman's scientific contributions have also been acknowledged by the University of Pretoria, with the awarding of the Exceptional Achiever's Award for 2001-2003, and again for the period 2004-2006.

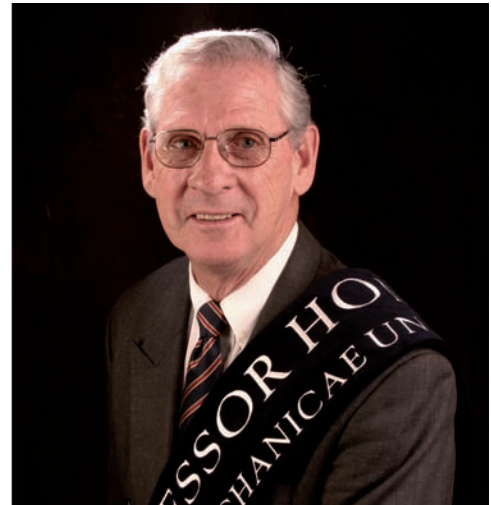
PRETORIA PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Hungarians are well known for their prowess in the fields of physics and mathematics. Therefore, when a foremost Hungarian university of technology awards an honorary professoriate to an academic, it is an exceptional achievement.

Such an award (Professor Honoris Causa), was recently bestowed on Professor Jan Snyman, of the University of Pretoria, by the Hungarian University of Miskolc. The University of Miskolc was established in 1735 and has produced numerous eminent mathematicians, physicists and engineers in its 270-year history. About 10 years ago, Jan Snyman, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Pretoria, met engineers of the University of Miskolc at an international conference on structural optimisation, held in Germany. This contact led to formal scientific collaboration between the two universities, which has continued for the past six years.

The collaboration has specifically been directed to the development of practical mathematical optimisation algorithms and their application to, among others, the determination of the minimum weight or cost designs of mechanical systems. This is of great importance in manufacturing, where minimum size and volumes translate to minimum overall cost and optimal system efficiency.

Professor Snyman, with more than 120 scientific papers to his credit, is an acknowledged international authority in the field of optimisation algorithms applied to the optimal design of mechanical systems. Currently he is also making this expertise available through his book *Practical Mathematical Optimization*, which has been published internationally. Since Professor Snyman and his Pretoria colleagues have established themselves as developers of innovative optimisation algorithms, and their Hungarian counterparts are renowned for their expertise in the modelling of tubular and frame structures, it made perfect sense to collaborate in research on the optimal design of steel structures. Over the past six years this co-operation has led to more than 20 joint international technical publications. Professor Snyman's scientific contributions have also been acknowledged by the University of Pretoria. He was given the Exceptional Achiever's Award for 2001-2003, and again for the period 2004-2006.



→ *The University of Miskolc in Hungary has awarded an honorary professoriate to Professor Jan Snyman of the University of Pretoria's Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. Professor Snyman is a world leader in the field of mathematical optimisation of mechanical systems.*

The award by the University of Miskolc's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering makes Professor Snyman an honorary member of that university's council. He may also directly contribute to the administration of the academic programmes of the University of Miskolc's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, which comprises of 19 specialist departments.

Professor Jan Snyman's optimisation techniques are currently being used by a large number of prominent local and overseas universities and research establishments. This in itself makes for a fitting tribute to the international impact his work is having in improving technological systems. 📍

Interview by **Leon Liebenberg**

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