

HONORARY GRADUATE

Stephen Archibald George Anderson

Stephen Archibald George Anderson, who has had a long and distinguished connection with the University, was born in Johannesburg in 1925. He received his schooling at Michaelhouse, in Natal, and took his first degree, a Bachelor of Science, at Rhodes University. He came to Wits in 1946 and graduated in 1948 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

While a student at Wits, he distinguished himself in sport and was active in various spheres. His pre-eminence was in hockey and he crowned his Wits sporting career by captaining the First Hockey XI, with considerable success. He then went on to play hockey for Durham County in the north of England. He remains an active golfer and tennis player and enthusiastic trout fisherman.

After graduating, he joined African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI) and was seconded for a spell to Imperial Chemical Industries, the parent company in the United Kingdom. After returning to AECI in South Africa, he became Director of Personnel and Production and an executive director. He retired from AECI in 1984.

Stephen Anderson was then invited to take the position of Executive Director of the Federated Chamber of Industries, which he modestly describes as "just a lot of very hard work". He helped to strengthen the financial position of the FCI during his directorships in 1987 and 1988, before it amalgamated with the Chamber of Commerce to form the South African Chamber of Business.

A distinguished career in business is not normally a sufficient reason for the award of an honorary doctorate. This evening we are honouring Stephen Anderson for his contribution to education and to this university.

In 1961 he became a member of the Witwatersrand Council of Education, the body which had played an important role in the founding of the University of the Witwatersrand in 1922. In 1964, Anderson became a member of the Executive Committee of the Council and, in 1976, its Chairman. It was in these positions that he developed his interest in and broad grasp of educational issues and made his first contributions to the furthering of education at regional level.

In 1978, the Witwatersrand Council of Education nominated Stephen Anderson as its representative on the Council of the University. He became deeply involved and soon served as chairman of the Finance Committee. This was appropriate preparation for one of the three most important positions in the University, that of Chairman of Council, a position held by his father, P M Anderson, from 1940-1954. He also served as trustee and governor of the University Foundation.

Beyond the sphere of tertiary and regional education, he has served as Governor of Roedeian School and is a member of the Board of Pridwin School.

Sensitive to the enormous importance of science education at school level, especially in disadvantaged school systems, he involved himself in the Science Education Programme, an organisation which researches and develops curricula, structures and techniques in science education and equipment (including an innovative "suitcase laboratory" for under-funded and equipped schools.

While still Chairman of the University Council, Stephen Anderson became involved in the negotiations and agreements which led to the establishment of the University's Forum for Further Accelerated and Comprehensive Transformation (FFACT). He immediately plunged himself into the business of FFACT and was an active and helpful participant in meetings, often attending sessions at short notice. He brought to the

discussions a breadth of understanding and a patient wisdom which contributed enormously to the success of the Forum.

His period of office as Chairman of Council coincided with a challenging period in the University's history, a time of turbulence during which the University community contended initially with attacks from the forces of apartheid hostile to its opposition to Government policies and later with attacks from opponents of the apartheid regime who believed that the University was not moving rapidly enough towards transformation.

Mr Anderson served this University with distinction during these trying times.

This University, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to regional education and to the University, is honoured to confer upon Stephen Archibald George Anderson the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.