

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED
RESEARCH MEDAL**

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting to you

Barry Vivian William Irwin,

Associate Professor

in the Department of Computer Science,

for the award of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Medal.

Professor Irwin is widely regarded as one of the leading specialists in the South African Information Security community. He is one of few South Africans academics who is qualified as a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) by the International Information Systems Security Certificate Consortium (ISC2). Notably, as measured by the selection committee for this award, he has an outstanding record of research productivity in relation to his relative youth as a researcher and university teacher.

Amongst Professor Irwin's most visible achievements is the initiative that he took to establish the Security and Networks Research Group (SNRG) at Rhodes University in 2003. He has built this group into amongst the largest and most active research groups at the university, testimony to his research vision, his initiative and leadership, and his readiness to take up a challenge and persevere with it until it succeeds.

He has been an exceptional mentor of postgraduate students in recent years, with 40 masters and PhD graduates to his credit; one of the PhD graduates in the ceremony this morning, and 11 Masters degree graduates in a related ceremony, are here because of the mentorship of Professor Irwin as their supervisor.

In addition to enjoying a sustained output of research publications and being ranked amongst the high productivity researchers at Rhodes, he has demonstrated a significant influence as a scholarly voice. His publications have to date attracted 276 citations in the work of other authors.

He is a regular speaker at forums such as the annual South African Telecommunications, Networks and Applications Conference (SATNAC) and the annual Information Security for South Africa conference (ISSA).

An indication of the character of this recipient is the high number of community and public service organizations which have regularly benefitted from his knowledge and energy, ranging from schools, both local and in deep rural parts of the Eastern Cape, through non-profit organizations such as the Grahamstown Foundation and Scifest Africa, to nationally and internationally important forums such as ZaCon, the National Police Services, the South African Anti-Phishing Forum.

In 2011, Professor Irwin co-founded the South African Chapter of the Global HoneyNet project, which aims to provide a better understanding of international trends in malicious activity on the Internet, and provide materials on tools and methods needed to investigate this kind of activity.

One of his referees describes him as a “balanced person who excels across the board in all of his teaching, research and community involvement.”

While another concludes that he is “an exceptional person with whom students can associate, and who they can follow as a role model”.

Mr Chancellor, I request you to award the **2014 Vice-Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Medal** to Prof Barry Irwin.