

Recognition for UP computer science pioneer

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Prof Derrick Kourie is one of the founding fathers of computer science in South Africa. In 2012, he received the South African Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists (SAICSIT) Award for the pioneering role he has played in promoting computer science as an academic discipline in South Africa.



→ Prof Derrick Kourie is acknowledged for his groundbreaking work in computer science.

This award was initiated by SAICSIT in 2008 to annually recognise individuals who have played pioneering roles in promoting computer science and information technology as academic disciplines. Prof Kourie is the fourth recipient from the University of Pretoria to have received this acknowledgement since its inception. Other recipients include Prof Roelf van den Heever and Prof Judith Bishop, both associated with the University's Department of Computer Science. In 2008, the award was presented to Prof Dewald Roode, founder of the Department of Informatics at the University of Pretoria, for his pioneering role in information technology.

Prof Kourie is the editor of the *South African Computer Journal* and leader of both the Fastar Research Group on Finite Automata Systems and the Espresso Research Group on Software Engineering Principles and Practices. He has an extensive

publication record, having co-authored an authoritative book in the field of mission-critical and provably correct software, entitled *The correctness-by-construction approach to programming*.

In 2013, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, the Department of Computer Science decided to honour Prof Kourie's scientific and academic contributions to research and higher education by publishing a Festschrift. This publication contains ten chapters in four parts (logic, automata, stringology and programming), which cover many of Prof Kourie's own research interests in the area of theoretical informatics and formal aspects of computing.

All the authors and co-authors of the Festschrift are long-term scientific collaborators and academic colleagues of Prof Kourie, and all of them are experts in their related fields. ➔