

The LEO Award for Lifetime Exceptional Achievement in Information Systems

Established in 1999 by the Association for Information Systems and the International Conference on Information Systems, and presented annually at the Conference, the LEO Award honors outstanding individuals who have contributed to the information systems community. The award recognizes seminal contributions to research, theory development, and practice in Information Systems.

Like its namesake, the Lyons Electronic Office, the world's first commercial applications of computing, these outstanding scholars/practitioners are pioneers, extending knowledge and insight.

The contributions of the Award winners have been sustained throughout their careers. They have made exceptional global contributions in the field of Information Systems and are regarded as important representatives of their national or regional Information Systems Community.

LEO Award winners are role models. They inspire colleagues and students within the Information Systems field. They command the respect of individuals from outside the field because their contributions also have had an impact in fields other than Information Systems. LEO Award winners are recognized for exemplary professional and personal integrity.

This year, two LEO Awards were presented at the Conference in Shanghai, China. The recipients of the award, both natives of Australia, were Ron Weber and Richard (Rick) Watson. Coincidentally, both are graduates of Minnesota's Ph.D. program in Management Information Systems.



Ron received his doctorate in 1977 and is currently dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University. Ron served as the editor-in-chief of *MIS Quarterly* from 2002–2004.



Rick received his doctorate in 1987 and is the J. Rex Fuqua Distinguished Chair for Internet Strategy in the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. In 2001, while serving as a senior editor, Rick established the "Theory and Review" section of *MIS Quarterly*.

Previous recipients of the LEO Award with close ties to Minnesota include Blake Ives (Ph.D., 1978, and EIC of *MISQ* 1992–1994), Izak Benbasat (Ph.D., 1974), Gordon B. Davis, Emeritus Professor of Information Systems and former publisher of *MIS Quarterly*, and Detmar Straub, currently at Georgia State University, a former faculty member at Minnesota, and the current Editor-in-Chief of *MIS Quarterly*. Other recipients of the Award who served as EIC of *MIS Quarterly* are William R. King (1983–1985), Robert Zmud (1995–1998), and Carol Saunders (2005–2007).