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**SELECTED
TOPICS
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- Weekends or Evenings
- Past exam papers
- Notes / Summaries

ONLY OFFICIAL UNISA FRANCHISE

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FULL-TIME LECTURES DURING THE DAY

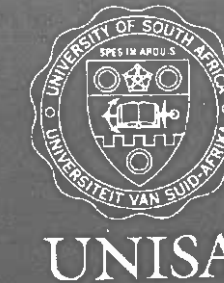
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NEWS



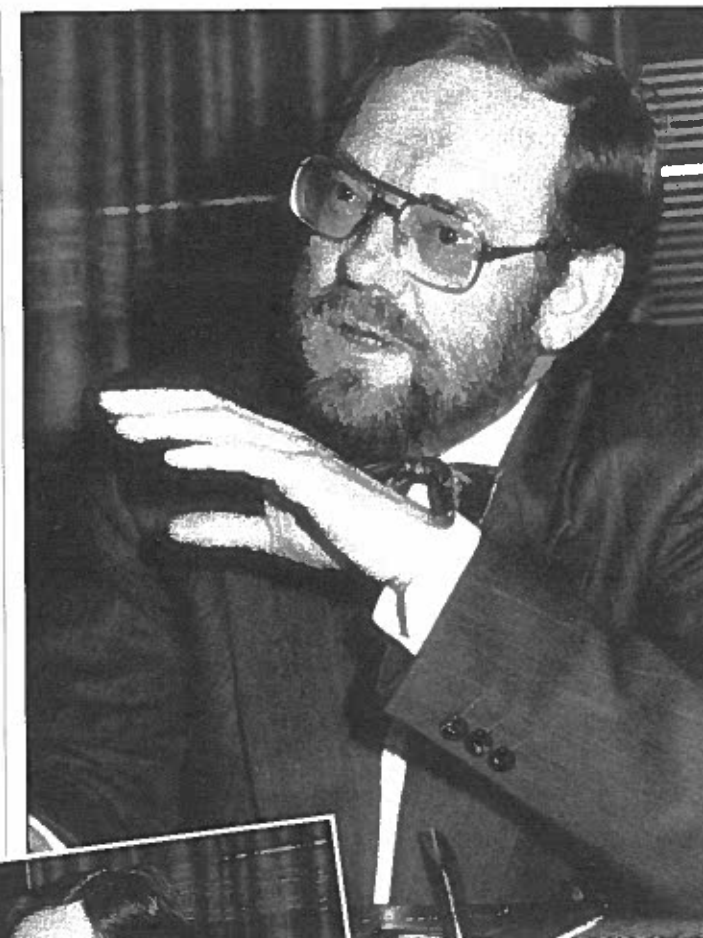
Wiechers calls it a day, but legacy of reform lives on

Principal Prof Marinus Wiechers bids Unisa farewell when he retires at the end of the year after 38 years' service to the University. *Unisa News* interviewed him for old times' sake.

When you were appointed Principal in 1994, the general feeling was that you were the right person to take Unisa through these times of transition. Looking back, were the people right?

I was keenly aware that my term of office would be a time of transition during which Unisa would have to absorb the enormous changes in our external surroundings and transform to adapt them. Reform, transformation and democratisation - these were the issues that inspired me to take up the position as Principal and to take part in this decisive period in Unisa's history. Seen in this light, I think I was the right person for the job. It has always been the unknown and sometimes troublesome times that inspire me.

U is eerstens 'n akademikus wat verskeie prestasies behaal



het in u loopbaan. Het u nie die akademie geweldig gemis nie? Was u nog steeds betrokke by die akademie?

Ja, ek het beslis die daaglikse betrokkeheid by onderrig en navorsing gemis, maar ek het darem probeer byhou! Die afgelope jare het ek wel drie doktorsgraadkandidate gehelp

3 **HEAD-HUNTING:** A special Working Committee is in the process of finding the right people for some of Unisa's top posts.

4 **PRIDE OF THE CAPE:** Unisa's Western Cape campus has just moved into its new, spacious state-of-the-art premises in Parow.

10 **WHAT YOU THINK:** If the number of letters received is anything to go by, the proposed SRC elections are something of a thorny issue.

14 **NEW COURSES GALORE:** We bring you five pages packed with new courses which will be offered by the University from next year, including a brand new LLB degree.

20 **A WORD OF ADVICE:** With the exams looming large (as if you needed any reminding), we bring you two pages of top tips on how to study and prepare painlessly.

Talk to us

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Prof Wiechers calls it a day

> From page 1

om hul hoogste akademiese onderskeidings te bereik, ek was mede-outeur van 'n regs-wetenskaplike boek en het self 'n paar akademiese artikels geskryf, soms regsopinies gegee en probeer op die hoogte bly met die reusagtige staatsregtelike ontwikkelinge in ons land.

What were the highlights of your time as Principal at the largest university in the southern hemisphere?

All the developments that would in time lead to the establishment of Unisa as a leading world university in the field of distance education were highlights. The reform of our distance education functions, our 50th festival year, student support and the development of the Sunnyside campus and the new Western Cape campus, the democratising of our internal management structures and the foundation of COLISA were all highlights.

There were surely some low points too.

I would have liked to see Unisa break free from the old mould of a conventional university to become a totally modern and open distance education university. I believe there are still too many forces that would like to see Unisa continue as it always has in the past.

What does the future hold for Unisa?

There is no doubt in my mind that Unisa has all the qualities needed to remain one of the world leaders in distance education. But this will demand that many of us give up our self-absorption, mediocre efforts and smug complacency in favour of more guts, drive and hard work!

U is al in die media aangehaal dat u sou sê dat die universiteitswet "lamlendig" is. Wat bedoel u daarmee?

Die huidige 1959-wetjie is 'n reliëk van die verlede, vol gate en lomp wysigings. Wat Unisa nodig het, is 'n ware grondwet wat sy waardes, ideale en identiteit weerspieël en aan die demokratiseringsproses 'n wetlike beslag gee.

There is increasing pressure from Unisa's students that the Council should be structured differently.

I feel very positive about such a restructuring of the Council. The broad guidelines for the composition of a university council will be included in the new general law on universities. Our Council will have to comply.

As Unisa is a distance education institution, does it really need an SRC?

Students must be represented in the new structures of the University. I am all for student representation and a National SRC, but then it must flow from a fully democratic election process.

Why did you decide to retire at the end of this year even though your term of office only ends next year?

I am just practising my right to retire at the age of 60! There are many personal reasons for my retirement. But as far as Unisa is concerned, it is my belief that a transitional figure in times of enormous changes - which is how I see myself - should not cling too tightly to the post of



Principal because transformation requires change and renewal.

Any advice for your successor?

I should advise my successor to be open and broad-minded, to be mindful of renewal and to refrain from excessive management which could impede the running of the University.

Do you have a message for the students?

Our students now have a better chance than ever before to obtain a measure of excellence in their studies. Being a student at Unisa is an exciting challenge and a personal task, and nobody should be deprived of knowledge by being fed half-truths, inadequate information and provided with poor course material.

Wat gaan u nou doen?

My onmiddellike reaksie is om te sê dat ek niks gaan doen nie! Ek sal sekerlik probeer om al my liefhebberye weer op te neem. Voordat ek ernstig planne maak, sou ek graag eers 'n ware sabbatsjaar van rustige studie vir myself wil gun. Miskien 'n besoekende dosentskap iewers. Maar ek hoop om op die lange duur nog steeds by ons hoër onderwys betrokke te wees - dit was altyd my eerste keuse en liefde.

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