



Proposed panel discussion on the early days of the Department of Classical Languages at UNISA when it was housed in the Samuel Pauw Building, Skinner and van der Walt Streets.

I am in the preliminary stage of working on the history of the UNISA Department of Classics and interested in compiling a list of reminiscences, particularly of the period of Dr Gerrit Viljoen's headship until he left at the end of 1966 to take up the position of Rector at RAU. I had the privilege of having him as my tutor in my first year as an honours student in the Department in 1966. He had an enormous influence on my understanding of Greek Tragedy and of the discipline in general and I remember many interesting conversations we had at his house in Rietondale during my weekly tutorial sessions. Anyone in the Department at RAU while he was Rector could also contribute.

If there are at least four who are interested in contributing, the project has a reasonable chance of success. Even those who might be interested but not be able to attend the session in person could communicate by email or other electronic means.

As a starting point here are some suggested references which I have found useful:

Dawie Kriel's comprehensive obituary in *AC LII* (2009) v-x , and reminiscences in Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, Boston, 1994, 481; F.W. de Klerk's Memoir, *The Last Trek, a New Beginning*, Macmillan, London, 1999, 175, 227 and an online article by Grant Parker, *Mixed capital: classicism in unexpected places* (Princeton/Stanford working Papers in Classics:

<https://www.princeton.edu/~pswpc/papers/.../parker/parker.html>), pages 1-2.

Please contact me at the address below if you are interested in this session.

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