

## **Dr. Casper .J. H. SCHUTTE**

### **Director of Science, Technology and Informatics, UNISA, South Africa**



**Casper Jan Hendrik SCHUTTE** was born in Steytleville on 30 October 1934. He obtained B.Sc and B.Sc.Honours degrees in Chemistry at the University of Potchefstroom, and a Dr. Mat.et Phys. at the University of Amsterdam in 1960. He is married to Roswitha, and they have three children and five grandchildren. After a year lecturing at Potchefstroom University, he joined the Chemical Physics Research Group of the National Physics and Chemistry Research Laboratories of the CSIR in 1961. In 1964 he was appointed Senior Lecturer and in 1966 Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of South Africa. Nineteen students have received their MSc degrees and more than thirty students their Ph.D. degrees under his guidance at UNISA.

He was Dean of Science from 1984 to 1994, when he was promoted to Chief Executive Director of Science, Technology and Informatics attached to the Rectorate. He retired in July 1998 and now acts as independent Information Technology Consultant. His main research interests centre around quantum theory and the structure of matter. He has published more than 65 research papers in refereed international scientific journals and participated in many local and international scientific conferences. He is still active in this field. He is the author of two advanced university textbooks, namely: *The Quantum Mechanics of Atoms, Molecules and Ions* (Edward Arnold Publishers, London, 1968) and *The Theory of Molecular Spectroscopy* (North Holland Publishers, Amsterdam; American Elsevier, New York; 1976). Both these books were extensively prescribed for postgraduate courses at major international universities, and are also cited in the scientific literature.

He has been very active in the scientific community, and served on numerous CSIR advisory committees. He was President of the S.A. Chemical Institute (1982 - 1984) and also of the Joint Council of Scientific Societies of South Africa (1987-1988). He was leader/member of the Official South African Delegation to the bi-annual Council meetings and General Assemblies of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) from 1973 to 1997. He was Chairman of the international committee on Symbols and Nomenclature in Spectroscopy and has published three papers in an accredited journal in 1997 as a result of this involvement. He was also a member of the Publications Committee of IUPAC (1987-1997), and was till 1997 Chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board of the international journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. He was Chairman of IUPAC's Commission I.5, "Commission on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy" (1991-1995), heading an international team of spectroscopists and chairman of the international committee writing the *Students/ Manual The Language of Chemistry*. He was elected in 1996 as one of about 60 founder members of the Academy of Science of South Africa. Professor Schutte was awarded the Havenga Prize for Chemistry by the S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns and the Raikes Medal by the S.A. Chemical Institute. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. He has served on most of the important UNISA committees since 1964, including Council, Council Finance

**Committee, Executive Committee of Senate, Senate, Management Board, Library Committee, Computer Committee and various senior Administrative committees, etc. His scientific interest has broadened into the problems surrounding the teaching of science in this country. This has led to the publication of "The Language of Science", together with M H Orr (Butterworths 1992), which addresses some problems beginning students experience. As Dean of Science he was responsible for the creation of the Department of Life Sciences and the contract with the University of Potchefstroom. This was the first case of co-operation between SA universities and attracted very many new students to the study of Life Sciences. He also started the renewal in the Faculty of Science with regard to student support. As Chief Executive Director of Science, Technology and Informatics, he was the driving force behind the new directions in educational technology implemented at UNISA.**