

Tuynhuys



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14 August 1996

**Mr F Hall
The President
Board of Curators
University of Missouri
Columbia, Mo.
USA**

**Mr G Thomas
The Chairperson
University Council
University of the Western Cape
Bellville
South Africa**

Dear Sirs

We have learnt and taken note of the academic relationship that was established between your two fine institutions in 1986 and which has persisted and been maintained with wonderful results over the last decade. We are honoured to add our voice to those many others who will, no doubt, be conveying warmest congratulations to you on a wonderfully enterprising initiative and a successful project.

The University of the Western Cape holds a very special place in the hearts and minds of freedom loving South Africans. Its courageous educationally based defiance of the apartheid order and its intellectual challenging of the tenets of that order made a great impact, the fruits of which we are now savouring. The decision of the University of Missouri to establish links with UWC at that stage was equally courageous and far-sighted. The thousands of South Africans who graduated from UWC over these years and who are now contributing to the reconstruction and transformation of our society, are indebted to UM for becoming partners in the intellectual development of their alma mater. We are confident that from such a partnership, built on equality and reciprocity, the University of Missouri will have gained equal benefit.

It is our hope that this relationship will grow from strength to strength and that it will be maintained for a very long time to come. Strong healthy traditions are very much part of the quality of academic

institutions, and this relationship is establishing itself as such a tradition.

With sincere best wishes.


N R MANDELA