

Professor Rolf Gerritsen

Chancellor,

I have the pleasure of presenting Professor Rolf Gerritsen, who has been awarded the honorary title of Emeritus Professor.

Professor Gerritsen commenced his tertiary education at the University of Western Australia in 1965. Following his undergraduate degree, he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to study a master's at the University of Ghana Legon.

It was during his time in Ghana while studying a course on traditional African social and political systems he was inspired to complete his PhD.

Professor Gerritsen returned to Australia and was meant to be the first Australian National University PhD Student in the Department of Social Change; Public Policy, however he ended up completing a PhD in political science on social change during the transition from subsistence agriculture to cash cropping. During his time at ANU Professor Gerritsen had his first taste of government relations when he became a Political Advisor for the Federal Labour Party in 1976-77.

In 1985, Professor Gerritsen became the founding lecturer for the ANU Graduate Program in Public Policy a position he held for ten years.

In 1995, Professor Gerritsen earned his professor title and became the Head of the Australian Centre for Regional and local government studies located at the University of Canberra.

Following a brief stint as a private consultant for regional development Professor Gerritsen moved to the Northern Territory and became the Director of Social and Economic Policy in the Department of the Chief Minister.

Professor Gerritsen technically began his journey with Charles Darwin University as the Bush livelihoods project director for the Cooperative Research centre for Tropical Savannas. In 2018 Professor Gerritsen officially joined CDU as a research leader for the Northern Institute and established the Central Australian Research Group.

Beyond the groundbreaking research and policy influence, it is Professor Gerritsen's remarkable gift for mentorship, collaboration, and the generous exchange of ideas that has truly shaped generations of academics and practitioners. His work optimises what a true educator is, a sharer of knowledge. Since he began his career Professor Gerritsen has supported over 55 students to complete their PhD's, often taking students who were in need.

Professor Gerritsen has published over 160 publications and resources including books, articles and research papers, and supports every political journalist from the NT or beyond.

Professor Gerritsen has officially retired from his research position with CDU, however, continues to mentor people with interests in northern politics and economy. He is a political expert and is writing another book.

Chancellor,

In recognition of his outstanding academic contributions to public policy as well as social, economic and political research and education, Charles Darwin University Council awards Professor Rolf Gerritsen the Honorary title of Emeritus Professor of the University.