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BRANCH REPORTS

CAPE TOWN

Activities for 2001 started with the active participation of some branch members in the SAAWG National Conference on Women in Research, held at UCT Medical School on 2 and 3 February 2001. Three of our younger members presented posters and short talks on their research. We congratulate Antoinette Cloete, Fatima Slemming and Elizabeth Mathebe on representing the Branch so ably. At the mayoral cocktail party for delegates to this conference, the Branch President was one of the women honoured by SAAWG for her contributions to research in South Africa. Members also attended the 77th AGM of SAAWG at UCT Medical School on 4 February.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

At the AGM of the Cape Town Branch, 7 March 2001, the business meeting was preceded by the projection of a brief PowerPoint presentation explaining the objectives of IFUW and the means adopted in addressing these objectives on a global scale. Hazel Bowen and Judith Cornelissen gave an overview of the findings of the first phase of the national research project which was to be presented by them at the IFUW Conference in Ottawa, Canada, in August 2001. At the business meeting Honorary Life Membership of the Cape Town Branch was conferred on Helen Richter, in recognition of her outstanding service to the branch, and Naledi Pandor was congratulated on the conferment of Honorary Membership of SAAWG on her at the 77th National AGM. Peggy Impson, Editor of the Journal, called for further volunteers to serve on the Editorial Board and for assistance

in the compilation of the 80th anniversary publication. Kath Coaton agreed to act as the Branch representative for the Journal.

Dr Shirley Churms was re-elected to the office of Branch President and Kath Coaton and Helena Broadbridge to the committee. Margret Gehner was elected to the executive to assist the President with the secretarial and financial functions involved in the administration of the branch. It was pleasing to welcome two of our younger members, Antoinette Cloete and Elizabeth Mathebe, as new members of the committee.

The annual luncheon, on 12 May, was held at the Mowbray Golf Club. The speaker at this highly successful function was one of our members, Rene Simpson, who holds a Master's degree in tourism and manages her own business in this field. Her talk, was entitled ***The Changing Face of Tourism.***

The first general meeting, held on 28 July, took the form of a symposium, the topic being ***Changing perspectives in education at the start of the 21st century.*** The three speakers on the panel included one of our members and two distinguished guest speakers, each of whom discussed aspects of education. Dr Margaret Elsworth, who has been honoured by Queen Elizabeth II for her dedicated work over three decades in founding and administering the African Scholars' Fund, spoke on the aims of this fund. Associate Professor Paula Ensor, of the Department of Education at the University of Cape Town, addressed the meeting on ***Curriculum Restructuring*** that brought about significant changes during the late 1990s, resulting in the introduction of cohesive "programmes", designed to prepare students for their future

professions. Fatima Slemming, a Branch member, who spoke on ***The Special Problems of Postgraduate Students***, especially with regard to academic writing at this level, and the programmes now established at the University of the Western Cape to meet these needs.

At the general meeting on 3 November Hazel Bowen and Judith Cornelissen reported on their attendance of the IFUW Triennial Conference in August.

The end of the year party was held on 1 December at the home of Mona Meiring-Steyn. Sadly, this function was also a farewell to one of our committee members, Helena Broadbridge, who returned to Europe after several years of postgraduate study and research in South Africa, which culminated in the award of a doctoral degree at the University of Stellenbosch.

A new venture this year was the organisation of a fund-raising concert held on 15 September. The theme of this concert was ***Music and dance from around the world***. We were very grateful to the artistes, many of whom were professional, for giving their services without charge. The money raised was used to finance this year's Marie Grant Book Award at UCT.

AWARDS

Marie Grant Book Award – This was presented to **Erica Moroney** from the graduating HDE class at UCT.

A legacy of R2000 recently received from the Estate of the late Margaret Lindsay was used to increase the capital invested in the Marie Grant Fund and so raise the value of the book awards in future.

On the death of Dora Guelke, a trust fund was established in her memory and it was stipulated that the revenue from this fund should be used to give financial assistance to members of the branch to present their research work at an IFUW Triennial Conference. Awards were made to the two delegates from our Branch who attended the IFUW Conference in Ottawa this year.

PROJECT 5.0

The Cape Town Branch, represented by Hazel Bowen, has continued its involvement in the **Ikamva Labantu** project which encourages and assists women from disadvantaged communities to make dolls for sale. One of the most popular of these is a doll depicting former President Nelson Mandela which attracted much interest at the recent IFUW Conference. Project 5.0 has started identifying areas where training is required. There are a number of new recruits requiring the basic training and several have expressed interest in attending classes in English literacy.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Marie-Lou Roux continued to represent the Branch with distinction on the Habitat Council and other environmental bodies. The Branch was represented by Hazel Bowen at the

annual Cape Times/Caltex Awards function for the preservation of the environment in the Western Cape.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year 8 new members were enrolled, most of them from the younger age group. Membership stands at: 42 full members, 13 senior members, 13 student members, 6 Honorary Life Members and 3 Honorary Members.

With great sorrow we have to record the passing of three loyal and longstanding members, all of whom had been Honorary Life Members of the Branch. Greta McArdell died in February, Professor Vera Grover in August and Sybella Schelpe in November. They will all be remembered with respect and affection for their interest in and contributions to the work of the branch over many years.

THANKS

I have pleasure in acknowledging the sterling contributions of my committee and the friendly collaboration of the National President in offering advice and assistance whenever this was requested.

Shirley Churms Branch President

GRAHAMSTOWN

The Branch, now shrunk to 5 members, functions mainly as the Committee of the Fellowships Secretariat although those members do represent our Association on various public bodies. We held only 5 meetings between February 2001 and January 2002. Jean Wright, our representative on the board of the Settlers Hospital, reported that Settlers was set to become a part-private hospital. Beverly Ramstad made a large and energetic contribution to public affairs, being not only Chairman of the Grahamstown Police-and-Public Forum but also of the Area Police Board, and now treasurer at the provincial level. As Chairman of the Festival's Village Green Fair Committee, she was able to donate the sum raised by that committee and by Transnet – R67 000 – to three local organizations, the Albany Health Department, the Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association and the Grahamstown Foundation Dance group.

With so many re-adjustments taking places in Educational institutions nowadays it seems there is no smooth or certain process from one stage or college to another. Heather Tracey learnt in her mentoring that youngsters really need the aid of someone with access to information and with the knowledge, time and means to get it. Heather is active in the Police Forum too. She and Fay Henley attend, as SAAWG representatives, the meetings of the National Council of Women in Port Elizabeth. It seems that, instead of inviting speakers to our own meetings, we have become invited peekers at other bodies' meetings.

The year concluded with a joyous "Christmas" lunch hosted by Jean Wright at John Kotze House, Rhodes.

V Henley Branch President

JOHANNESBURG

The committee met monthly in order to conduct the affairs of the Branch in an effective and efficient manner. I would like to thank Naomi Monama for providing delicious teas for all our meetings.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly lunches at Hofmeyr House, Wits University, have proved popular. Our speakers have covered many topics of considerable interest to university graduates.

We have enjoyed reports on the South African National AGM, as well as the IFUW Conference held in Ottawa in August. With the exception of three, all our speakers have been members. The Branch President spoke on ***Africa's Hunger for Investment***, with Margaret Edwards, she described the ***Aurora Project*** to members; Phyllis Lloyd gave her thoughts on the role of NCW and the ***International Council of Women in the 21st Century***, Maude Goedhys spoke on the ***University of the Third Age*** which has just started in Johannesburg; and Sylvia Shapshak reminisced on being a woman architect. We played hostesses to Ati Chris Blom, a Vice President of IFUW, who spoke on her impressions of the UN Conference on Racism held in Durban. Mrs Janet Unterslak gave us a glimpse into the difficulties of prescribing English setwork books in the "new" South Africa, while Mrs Leyden Field, Soroptimists International of Johannesburg, spoke on her project of creating food gardens in the Diepsloot Informal Settlement. This last meeting of the year provoked lively discussion on the varied activities of NGOs in Johannesburg, and the lack of press interest in them.

RECRUITMENT

We, as a Branch, need to give serious thought to recruitment. In particular we need to address the "*What's in it for me?*" syndrome which has overtaken the, "*I have been privileged and therefore I must give something back to the community*" syndrome with which we grew up.

NEWSLETTERS

We are indebted to Catherine Bell, Margaret Edwards, Gracie Monama and her friend for their efforts.

PROJECTS

Bursaries and Prizes

BEST WOMAN GRADUATE 2000

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND - School of Economics and Business Sciences : **Belinda Oddes**
and **Jennifer Cleminson** – B.Com

RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITEIT : **Maria Joannou** – B.Com

VISTA UNIVERSITY - Soweto Campus : **Dimakatso Tsotetsi**

JUBILEE BOOK PRIZE – Best First Year Student

UN. OF THE WITWATERSRAND : **Marcelle Zachas**

BURSARY RECIPIENTS

SACTE/UNISA : **Yecune Olubakinde** and **Pretty Margaret Mbatha**

JOHANNESBURG COLLEGE OF EDUCATION : **Tharusha Goorsamy** – B.Prim.Ed (Senior Primary with Maths and Science)

Annual Lecture

In 2001 we combined three of our projects into one event and were gratified with its success. The adjudicator for our essay competition, Prof. Rosemary Gray, delivered our Annual Lecture on the topic of the Study and Action Plan of IFUW, viz ***Globalization : Connections Through Education***.

Essay Competition

We are greatly indebted to Maria Jakovljevic and Margaret Edwards for their work. The Essay Competition is a huge undertaking and the committee requires much assistance. The competition provides a voice for our youth and carries out the IFUW theme of addressing the needs of "the girl child" and helping to enhance self esteem.

The winner was **Nothuleka Nqana** from Healdtown Comprehensive School.

Aurora Project

Four seminars were held during the year.

GENERAL

The "Women of Note" Jubilee Project is a continuing activity. Hylda Hedges and Jill Duncan have worked very hard and diligently on this project, and must be thanked by the whole Association.

THANKS

I would like to thank the members of the committee and, indeed all those members who have given much of their time and expertise to the Branch. We wish Margaret Edwards great success in taking over as National President for the next three years.

Jocelyn A. Bell Branch President