

SAAWG IN ACTION

The South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) has looked back on its “herstory” over the past 90 years.

SAAWG was established in 1923 in Wellington, Western Cape and is affiliated to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). Its vision and mission has always been to advocate for the improved status of women and girls, to build up a network of likeminded women to foster friendship and understanding, to promote education (and lifelong learning) and to promote a peaceful society. *The membership is multi-disciplinary and includes students.*

For its 90th anniversary a publication has been produced from the writings of its members and other authors which have appeared in its Journal from 1930 to the present time. The book, entitled “*Rights and Wrongs in this land of ours: South African Women Write*” is divided into themes so that the reader can reflect on the changing context within South Africa as reflected by these authors. Minister Naledi Pandor was a keynote speaker at the Cape Town launch of the book on 3 September 2014. This is a very readable book which you can “dip into” or use for more indepth research.

It is also with pride that we note that bursaries awarded by SAAWG (previously SA Association of University Women, SAAUW) have been providing small but necessary assistance to female students over many years. Some of the bursaries started in the 1930’s and 1940’s. In 2014, 10 awards were made directly to undergraduate students, four to postgraduate students and 69 awards to undergraduates nominated by each of the tertiary institutions, nationally. In addition, the branches present their own bursaries and awards. These 2014 awards total over R320 000 in value.

Other activities of SAAWG range from national and local conferences, seminars, lectures and workshops to mentorship programmes for members and the public, and two projects work with groups of girls in high school. SAAWG is currently involved in a network of civil society organisations developing a local response to the UN Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

We are also delighted to be able to announce that the IFUW Triennial Conference in August 2016 will be held in Cape Town – this will be a first for the African continent.

More information on SAAWG, how to be involved in our projects or how to purchase the publication can be obtained on this website or by e-mailing info@saawg.org.



Mentorship project in Kraaifontein



Prof Tania Douglas, UCT Health Sciences Faculty, Prof Amanda Gouws, Stellenbosch University and Minister Naledi Pandor, at the launch of the publication.



Margaret
Lindsay
Memorial
Lecture,
Cape Town



Annual lunch,
Cape Town



Kraaifontein mentorship



Aurora
Mentorship
Project,
Johannesburg



Discussion group
at AGM,
Johannesburg