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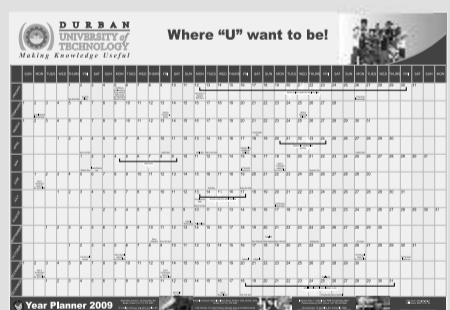
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Art for Humanity receives UNESCO stamp of approval

Megan van den Heever



Art for Humanity (AFH), a Human-Rights based arts organisation in partnership with the Durban University of Technology (DUT), has recently received the status of UNESCO Patronage. UNESCO, which stands for The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, offers the patronage as the highest form of support granted by the organisation as a moral endorsement of an exceptional activity.

The endorsement comes in the course of AFH's new project 'Dialogue among Civilisations', which involves a series of collaborative artworks and poetry to be launched in 2010 with the aim to inspire the viewer with 'moral ownership', in the context of opposing racism, xenophobia and highlighting the plight of refugees - through art and poetry. The project will involve collaborating artists and poets from African countries and abroad, who

will create work based on the values of creativity, freedom of expression, human rights, excellence, dignity, pride, inspiration, reflection, cultural heritage as well as respect for individual rights and independence.

UNESCO believes that the project, which is to be launched before the 2010 World Soccer Cup, is consistent with the organisation's principle objective, as it regards the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

Jan Jordaan, Director of Art for Humanity, believes that the patronage strengthens one's belief in the aims and objectives of one's work.

"It also recognises the unique role of arts and creativity as a means of dialogue, communication and understanding; and as a medium to promote and inspire ethical values in society." Jordaan stated.

AFH believes that the patronage significantly adds to international recognition and status of the project, with particular focus on the exhibition and

conference to be launched on 21 March 2010.

Although the title is only valid for the exhibition and conference in March 2010 when the project is launched, it is set to extensively strengthen AFH's work in securing future financial donor support, and inviting further endorsements from Human Rights activists and local and international Human Rights organisations, and enhancing the professional status of participants in AFH's work. The logo is set to appear on publications and advocacy material associated with the 'Dialogue among Civilisations' project.

The status is also a notable milestone for the DUT, which is regarded as a cultural -driven educational institution. AFH plans to put this achievement to good use by sharing the patronage with DUT, and all who contribute to the work of AFH.

AFH also hopes that the status associated with this patronage will help raise adequate funds for the successful completion of this worthy project.

Learning games to stimulate thinking

Ms Anisa Vahed, who lectures in the Department of Dental Technology at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) has initiated the development of two learning games to stimulate students' thinking. The two games are the Muscle Mania Multimedia Game and the Tooth Morphology Board Game.

The multi-media game is used to tutor Dental Technology students on the structural and functional anatomy of muscles of mastication or chewing and facial expression. The Tooth Morphology Board Game was developed to promote literacy and retaining with understanding the content area of Tooth Morphology, a discipline that requires a significant amount of memorization, recall, association and application.

Ms Vahed and her team commissioned budding IT specialist Chen Zheng to assist in the technical designing of the game. In his second year of study in Information Technology at DUT, Zheng says "It's human nature for people to play games. The game makes learning interesting, easier and funnier".

"We have a generation of students who learn theoretical concepts better by visual interpretation, especially when learning is taking place in a fun yet effective gaming manner," says Vahed. Seeing that the material for the subject was too theoretical for students to grasp and often resulted in rote learning, she collaborated with Ms Parivash Khalili from the IT department who recommended that they work with Chen Zheng to develop the game. Ms Parivash Khalili and Mr Peter Rippon were instrumental in ensuring that the game was professionally developed.

Zheng says the game consists of scattered facial muscle pieces which students are expected to place in the right places on the face. As students play the game, he adds, they get to understand better where each

muscle belongs in the human face. Students play the game until all muscles are placed in the right place. He believes that the advantage of creating a successful and exciting game for students is that "they understand muscle and I understand IT". "People remember visual pieces, not words," he says. He is thrilled that students enjoy and like the game. The game is in English but he is confident that it can be made in any language. Zheng, is in South Africa to study, hails from Yunnan Province in China and is part of a pool of international students that DUT draws from different corners of the world.

Vahed has also been involved in creating the Tooth Morphology Board Game for first year students studying towards a National

Diploma in Dental Technology. "The chief element of the board game is that the abstract content is merged with game characteristics and learners are able to repeat cycles within the game context, making them active participants in knowledge acquisition," says Vahed.

Scholarly research papers on the two games have been presented at both national and international conferences. Ms Vahed was also invited to educate DUT staff on her games and she expresses her sincere gratitude to the person who was not only catalytic in motivating her to tread the path of game based teaching but challenged her educational philosophies, Mrs Delysia Timm without whom these games would have not been possible.



Photo Supplied

Students playing the Tooth Morphology Board Game from left to right:
Ms Mbali Dladla, Mr Simphiwe Gumede, Mr Khutso Tsita and Mr Eric Myeza

Visiting professors

- Information Technology and Systems experts

Bhekani Dlamini

Durban University of Technology (DUT) is hosting two renowned systems experts in the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics on DUT's Ritson campus. Don Petkov and Olga Petkova are Professors at Eastern Connecticut State University and Central Connecticut State University in the US, respectively.

Professors Petkov and Petkova are at DUT assisting staff to select research topics and conduct research towards improving overall research output in information technology and other areas.

They are also giving a series of seminars related to preparation of research proposals, the writing of dissertations and publications. They will share also their expertise in the area of assessment of student learning and e-Learning.

Petkova is currently conducting research on collaborative technology in virtual teams. She has published widely on software development and Information Technology education issues. Petkov is pursuing research on the application of systems thinking in software development. He serves as the Deputy Editor (USA) of Systems Research and Behavioural Science (Wiley) and is on the editorial boards of IJITSA, JISE and Scientific Inquiry. He has published

widely on systems thinking and IT management.

Both Professors Petkova and Petkov have previously worked and lived in Pietermaritzburg for 11 years. Petkova previously worked at the Midlands campus of Technikon Natal from 1994 - 1997 and later worked at University of Durban-Westville and University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (UNP). Petkov was with the former UNP since 1991. He was the Associate Director of Research at ML Sultan campus for six months in 1999 while on leave from UNP.

They are both delighted to be back in South Africa again to work with their former colleagues. Petkova is in South Africa until the end of March, while Professor Petkov will leave at the end of April.

They will be presenting at a series of seminars on research and IT issues.

Editor's corner



As a graduate of a traditional university, I must admit that while at school, the absolute imperative was to go to university. To study physics and maths was a diet we were force fed. It didn't matter what you wanted to do, certain things were simply expected. Even if you had a penchant for words and equations and numbers left you feeling slightly woozy and light-headed, you went with the flow and did it on the higher grade nogal!

My time at DUT has left me bewildered at the lost opportunities for so many. I wonder why teachers and guidance counsellors didn't push the previous technikons as viable options. Students at UoT's are prepared for the working world, and the mandatory internship is the cherry on top.

The passion that so many feel for this university is obvious. While we all express it differently, some by erecting statues, some by donating funds and others by simply spending their working lives here, all contributing in one way or another to keeping the doors to this hallowed institution open.

Ciao,

Raylene Captain-Hashtibeer

Communication's Manager

Scene and Around



Our DUT students with the Uqweqwe women's sewing circle view the bead work for this year's ceremonies

130th Anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu War

Two third year Public Relations students from the Riverside Site started their 2009 experiential training with a "Franco-Zulu-Anglo" bang! Phumzile Zulu and Mandisi Ngcobo accompanied Glenn Flanagan, Senior French Lecturer and Project Leader to the Endumeni Municipality's 130th anniversary commemorations of the Anglo-Zulu War in Dundee.

They also spent a day at the Prince Imperial monument and with members of the Uqweqwe community. The third day was engaged in attending an international conference on the Anglo-Zulu War.

Vive la présence française! Vive le Prince Impérial! Vive DUT!

People Strategies for Global Leadership – Gearing for the future

Brent Newton

The 52nd Institute of People Management (IPM) conference was recently held at Sun City. The premier Human Resources conference on the African Continent and one of the most highly respected H R conferences world-wide, the conference featured speakers at the top of the HR game from SA; UK; Germany; Sweden and the USA. The "Who's who" of South Africa's leading HR professionals were present, including Italia Boninnelli, Terry Meyer, Prof Frank Horwitz, Dr Shirley Zinn, Steve Bluen and Paul Norman.

The topic was 'People Strategies for Global Leadership - Gearing for the future'. Although there were different emphases, the burning issues organisations face both now and in the future is a shortage of 'Talent', that is highly skilled and very capable people. Research reveals that in the next ten years there will be such a shortage of Talent that many organisations will suffer. Countries such as China are already gearing themselves to buy Talent they need to continue to outperform other countries.

Obviously, South Africa cannot escape the shortage of Talent and yet unfortunately there seems to be little co-ordinated effort to resolve

the situation, which will deteriorate as the years progress.

Two of the more dynamic speakers were Steve Bluen, HR Director at SABMiller and Paul Norman, HR Director at MTN. Both Bluen and Norman's presentations outlined their People Strategies to ensure they became and remained globally competitive. There is a maxim which the top organisations in the world adhere to and this is 'the only sustainable competitive advantage an organisation has, is its people . . . ' The whole thrust of the conference was to show what has worked and what needs to be done regarding an organisation's People Strategies.

Magnet Student Winners

Sithembile Shabangu

Two DUT students recently struck it lucky when they won the 2008 Magnet Student Survey competition aimed at finding out information about different careers that students at tertiary institutions would like to go into. Almost 800 DUT students completed the survey and participated in the lucky draw.

Employer branding specialist, Magnet Communications, conduct annual and independent surveys, profiling professionals and students across South Africa about their career goals, their employers of choice, and the qualities which most attract them to these employers.

Second year Child and Youth development student, Thandeka Ngcobo, says that her dream is to be a social worker.

"I am happy to be one of the winners," she added. She won an Apple iPod MP3 player.

Veronica Mahlaba, second year Journalism student, won a 12 month annual subscription to the Financial Mail. Veronica's dream is to be a TV or radio journalist, but she is not sure where she will end up working.

In 2008, during an August to October field period, the South African Student Survey reached its greatest number of respondents yet, 19 000. These students come from 23 tertiary institutions across the country and complete the survey either online, or in hard copy, with the help of 300 student ambassadors employed by Magnet Communications.

Five minute interview

Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer recently interviewed Kevin Moorgas, Senior Electronics Technician in the Department of Electronic Engineering

Raylene: Tell us about yourself . . .

Kevin: I have worked at DUT for the past nine years as a Senior Electronics Technician in the Department of Electronic Engineering. I am a member of ECSA (Engineering Council of South Africa) and SAIEE (South African Institute of Electrical Engineers). I enjoy doing research, discovering and reading about new technologies.

Raylene: Kevin, I believe you recently were awarded the Best Student Paper award. Tell us more about this.

Kevin: The topic, DSP Systems vs ANN Ensembles for Motion Detection and Filtering is a paper is based on part of the work I am doing towards my M-Tech Degree. It compares a conventional motion detection system, ie Digital Signal Processing (DSP) with that of an intelligent system, Artificial Neural Network (ANN). The results show that the intelligent system produces far superior results in terms of picture quality and accuracy. I chose this topic because of my interest in the field of artificial intelligence and image processing.

Raylene: Tell us about the conference where the paper was presented.

Kevin: The World Conference on Engineering Computer Science (WCECS 2008) was hosted by International Association of Engineers (IAENG) at the University of California, Berkeley. The Berkeley Campus is in San Francisco USA. The conference was an international one which was held late last year, with a total of 376 accepted papers. The conference covered a wide range of engineering disciplines including Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Computer, Robotics, etc.

Raylene: What does this award means to you, academically and personally?

Kevin: It was a huge achievement just to be selected to present a paper at this conference because out of a total of 663 papers that were submitted only 376 were selected. So to actually win the best student award for my category was really a great achievement which I really did not expect.

Although our department does not require that a paper be published based on one's MTech degree my supervisor, Dr P. Govender encouraged me to do so,



Photo by Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

so that my Masters degree will not only have some sort of national accreditation but also an international one. It also means that the work we are doing in this department is of a high standard and has international recognition.

I have always wanted to be a researcher and this is now the first major step in that direction. I am working on another paper which I hope to publish in 2009.

Raylene: What are you plans for the future?

Kevin: As I mentioned I love doing research and hope to be a full time researcher in my field. I also will pursue my D Tech degree after completing my masters which is in the final stages. I also hope to be an academic some day.

Raylene: What gave your paper the edge?

Kevin: My supervisor, Dr Poobie Govender, is a very experienced researcher and academic who has about 50 publications. He advised me that when writing a paper, it must be unique, original and on the cutting edge of technology in order to grasp attention. His guidance and advice in writing and presenting papers played a key role in my success. These are the lines along this paper was written and which I think gave me the edge over the others at the conference.

Raylene: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Kevin: I would like to thank Professor Annelie Jordaan and Postgraduate Development and Support (PDGS), Dr Poobie Govender and DUT for supporting me with my research and Masters Degree.

Construction student scoops English award

Sandile Gumede

The Department of Media, Language and Communication held the Sharon Wilson Award for its top annual English student in 2008 at the *Rendezvous Restaurant*, at DUT's Steve Biko Campus. Kyle Smith from the Department of Construction Management achieved the highest mark and received the R1 800 cash prize.

Handing over the award, Clive Wilson (benefactor of the award) said English is the world's commercial language and that 341 and 500 million people use English as their first and second language respectively.

Kyle said he felt honoured to receive the award. Kyle then thanked the department for their support. "The faculty has been supportive and their level of professionalism has been high" he said.

Meanwhile, after lecturing for 27 and 14 years, respectively, Diana Hacking and Glenn Flanagan retired from the department. Hacking said in her 27 years experience she realised that students have different perceptions when it comes to time and space. She

said she would miss the interaction with students.

Flanagan said her best memory about DUT is the enthusiastic response and moral support she received from her colleagues over the years. She said DUT gave her practical support, "DUT gave me space to allow me to pursue research and do something that I'm passionate about."

The Sharon Wilson Award Ceremony was started by Clive Wilson 18 years ago in loving memory of his late wife, Sharon Wilson, who was an avid and dedicated English lecturer in the Department of English and Communication at Technikon Natal during the 1980s. Wilson's wife died in November 1988 from a brain aneurysm.

DUT registers new SIFE members

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is a worldwide, self funding, economic stability building organisation that is run by students. The SIFE chapter at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) held registration for new members on Wednesday, 28 January at the Sports Centre located at DUT's Steve Biko Campus.

According to DUT's Murray Wasling, "SIFE's main thrust is to create economic stability in under developed areas, by engaging and helping with resources to maintain and sustain the many different projects with which SIFE is involved."

The Department of Entrepreneurial Studies and Management at DUT has a professional and highly motivated SIFE team. "Looking forward to 2009, our DUT team is already engaged in various projects, including a joint venture with Tabeisa who are located at the ML

Sultan Campus," Murray added.

There are a number of large stake holders that support SIFE, just two of which are Harmony Gold and ABSA.

The SIFE team is on a recruitment drive at the moment, and we are looking for highly motivated, innovative and disciplined students to join our SIFE ranks. If you would like to be part of SIFE, contact Murray on 031 373 5497 or 031 373 5147, or email murrayw@dut.ac.za.

From humble beginnings to a star

Bhekani Dlamini

Jabulisile Dlamini's dream of becoming an artist came true when she was auditioned and selected as the only new actress in the movie "The Puzzle" recently filmed and produced in Durban. She is the only one from KwaZulu-Natal featuring in the movie.

Dlamini acts and features prominently in this movie alongside known stars such as Sihle Xaba of the *Bay of Plenty*, Zikhona Sodlaka of *Tshatsha* and Zolisa Xaluva of *Tshatsha* and former *Generation* actor. Dlamini will graduate with a National Diploma in Office Management from the Durban University of Technology.

From humble beginnings at Little Flower in Ixopo, Midlands, little did Dlamini know she would make a movie someday. She plays the character of a rural girl who falls pregnant and the boyfriend runs away from her. "I have always liked acting and the arts. I did poetry and traditional dance at school," she says. Her mother, who is a domestic worker, discouraged her from pursuing dreams in the arts, but instead encouraged her to study office management so she could find employment quickly. But today her mother is so happy to see her perform on TV. She cried tears of joy when she saw her being interviewed on *Shift*, an

SABC1 programme, last year.

Dlamini is determined to pursue her

interest in the entertainment world. "I am done with Office Management," she proudly says. She is looking to Karabo Moroka of *Generations* as her role model and is in the process of finalising a contract to feature in one of the top dramas on TV.

She advises aspirant actors that the entertainment industry has its challenges and is not easy. She urges them to do research on the character they are going to play.

'The Puzzle' is produced by Arise Media and BACRM. It features DJ Tira and Big NUZ. It is available at *Jet Music*, *Reliable Music Warehouse* and *Musica*.



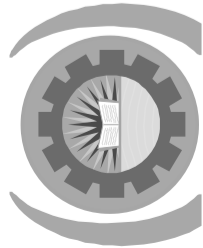
Photo by Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

DUT recognised at Innovation Fund awards

The Minister of Science and Technology, the Honorable Minister Mosibudi Mangena, acknowledged the Durban University of Technology (DUT), at an awards function held on 27 November 2008. The Innovation Fund awards were held at the very exclusive Groot Constantia Estate in Cape Town. The Innovation Fund hosts this awards ceremony annually, on behalf of the Minister, Department of Science and Technology and the Innovation Fund.

The Technology Transfer office at DUT entered the university for the Most Innovative Higher Education Institution (HEI) Competition. DUT has won two very prestigious and coveted awards, being voted the Most Innovative Newcomer in 2009 and for ranking among the top ten best Innovative Higher Education Institution in South Africa. The adjudicators were impressed with the vision, structure and mechanisms that have been established at DUT to deal with innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurial activity. According to Professor Gerhard Prinsloo, "This is a great achievement for DUT and a great platform to position the university as one of the leading institutions in Innovation and Technology Transfer. We are very proud to have won these prestigious awards."

The vision of the Technology Transfer office at DUT is to establish itself as the leading University of Technology in driving and promoting technology and innovation within the province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Durban University of Technology prides itself on the advancement of Technology not only for commercialization but more importantly, for the betterment of our people. The unit is currently engaged in renewable energy projects targeted at rural KwaZulu-Natal, three dimensional modeling to promote innovation among students and entrepreneurs and technologies developed to manage the environment. The Technology Transfer Office at DUT would like to hear from inventors in order to assist with viable projects.

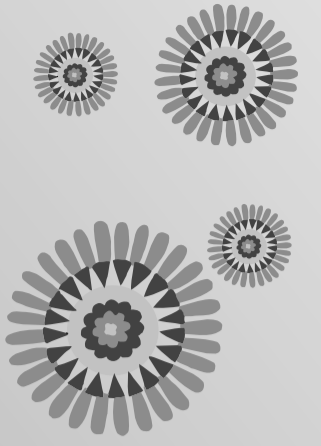


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Summer Festival

Scene and Around

Durban University of Technology hosted a Family Day at the end of 2008 at DUT's Steve Biko Campus. Pictured are staff members and their families.



Photos by Raylene Captain-Hasthibeer

Scene and Around

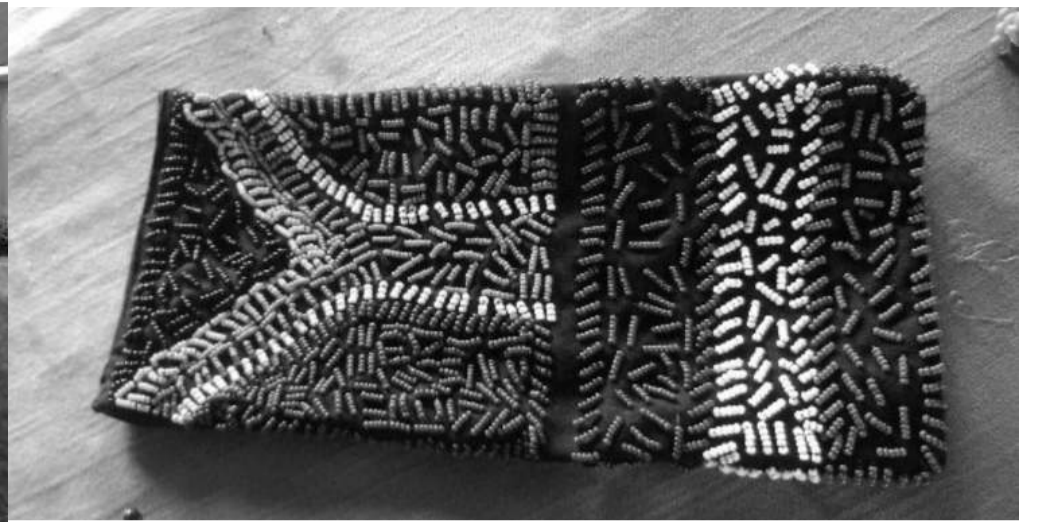
French Presence in KwaZulu-Natal



Above: Our students with Her Worship the Mayor, Mme Mbatha, the Mayor of Endumeni.



Above: Mandisi Ngcobo and Phumzile Zulu, 3rd yr DUT PR Interns visit the French Sisters Michael and Théophane at the convent in Pomeroy.



Above: Franco-Zulu reconciliation -beaded by the women of Uqweqwe

National Human Resource Development Workshop

Brent Newton

The Durban University of Technology recently hosted a national initiative examining a new improved approach in Human Resource Development (HRD) across universities in South Africa. The approach was to re-examine the HRD modules from the National Diploma in Human Resources up to a module-based Masters degree.

With the Department of Education phasing out the BTech, MTech and DTech in the future, the HRD initiative looked at the different options that universities of technology or universities could follow in the future; the premise being that it is better to initiate the process now, rather than wait for the deadline to be upon us.

Professor Malcolm Wallis opened the workshop and it is envisaged that all streams in the different H R qualifications will follow a similar process. The results of these initiatives are not binding on any UoT, they are merely a guideline and the combined thinking of many specialists.

Do you want to publish your research findings?

Are you a researcher? Do you fit into any of the categories indicated below?

- Completed your masters or doctoral degree and not published your research findings in an accredited or non-accredited publication?
- Completing your masters or doctoral research, have completed aspects of the research which are publishable but have not yet published your research findings?
- Conducting research for non-degree purposes and have produced a body of completed research which is publishable?
- Have masters or doctoral students who have completed their research and want to publish their research?



If YES to any of the above, please contact
Ms V Govender (vanesh@dut.ac.za or ext 2558) or
Ms PC Cele (celepc@dut.ac.za or ext 2577) from the Centre
for Research Capacity Development (CRCD) for forthcoming
workshop details.

Erratum

The November 2008 issue of the ConDUiT erroneously attributed text to Dr Veena Rawjee. Kindly note that Dr Renitha Rampersad replaces Dr Rawjee in the article titled "Acknowledging PR students".
Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Disclaimer:

The Communications Department strives to deliver accurate reporting and interesting stories, but cannot take responsibility for inaccurate information supplied. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Corporate Affairs Division.

"NOTHING, nothing, nothing justifies violence."

Supplied by Shakeel Ori

With these strong words the Vice-Chancellor of DUT, Professor Roy du Pré opened a research and learning seminar titled "Work, Women and Learning: The Impact of Violence" presented by international researcher Dr Jenny Horsman and hosted by DUT'S Co-operative Education department in collaboration with SAQA, INSETA and RWL.

Professor du Pré referred to the tragic and violent death of a young DUT lecturer early this year. "This is a subject that needs to be continuously researched in order for us to move forward. We need to put our heads together and resolve to do something immediately because at the end of the day nothing justifies any form of violence," he told delegates.

It is estimated that one out of six women in South Africa are in abusive relationships. One is killed by her partner every six days. A woman is raped every 26 seconds and a shocking 80 percent of rural women are victims of domestic violence.

Dr Horsman related that her on-going research on women and literacy has led her to believe that in the presence and the aftermath of violence, many people struggle to learn new ideas and skills.

"Violence shapes us. It can make us stronger as learners or teachers BUT it can also make it hard to trust ourselves and others and even more difficult to learn. We need to find fruitful ways to make it easier to learn or teach when violence marks our lives and or the lives of those we work with," she said.

Delegates were navigated through her interactive website which provides resources to support learning.

"We need to build an understanding of the scope of the problem and of different forms of violence and their impact of learning."

A question session allowed attendees to engage Dr Horsman on this crucial issue. Delegates were each given a blank puzzle piece to take away with them. "You are now part of the puzzle that will make the change."

Chairperson of SAQA and international academic, Professor Shirley Walters said that more interactive seminars like this one was essential to highlight the impact of violence in relation to work and learning.

"Since 1994, we have favourable policy environments for attaining lifelong learning. Therefore it is essential to ensure the education and training of women assists them to become leaders in their communities, families, government and workplaces."

For more information on Violence and Learning visit:
www.learningandviolence.net

Dr Horsman is a community-based literacy theorist, educator and researcher with more than thirty years experience in the adult literacy field in England, Sierra Leone and Canada.

Quotable Quote

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

Barack Obama



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