

October, 2009

## **Press Release**

The Office of International Education and Development is honored to host Ms. Antoinette Sithole, museum educator and curator of the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa. Ms. Sithole will visit Appalachian State campus and the community of Boone during the week of November 9, 2009

Ms. Antoinette Sithole serves as an educational speaker and curator of the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto, South Africa. She is the sister of the late Hector Pieterse, who died on the 16 June 1976, in the Soweto uprisings in South Africa. At age 12, her brother was the first and youngest child to be killed by the Apartheid regime. Antoinette witnessed the incident.

The Hector Pieterse Museum was established in 2002 to commemorate and preserve the history of all young people who were killed under Apartheid protesting the injustices of that system, especially the inferior education provided for black students. Ms. Sithole has been the museum curator from its inception.

The 1976 student uprising changed the course of South African history and accelerated demands for change such as the release of political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela; the unbanning of political organizations, including the African National Congress (ANC); thus paving the way for the formation of a new democratic South Africa. After the first democratic election in 1994, June 16 was declared 'Youth Day' to commemorate the contributions made by South Africa's youth to the struggle against apartheid.

Ms. Sithole is a passionate speaker, educator and advocate on behalf of those who lived for years under the oppressive Apartheid system. Through sharing her historical knowledge and experiences, she assists others to better understand South Africa's history and its current process of democratic transformation in that country.

During her visit, she will be speaking with a variety of university and public school classes in Watauga County. In addition, Ms. Sithole will be a featured speaker at the "Doorways International Lecture Series" at the Carol Belk Library; the Global Studies Roundtable Faculty Lectures; and the Keynote Speaker at the NC International Student Leadership Conference on the Appalachian State Campus on Saturday, November 14, 2009.

For more information, please contact Sarah Bergstedt in the Office of International Education and Development at [bergstedtss@appstate.edu](mailto:bergstedtss@appstate.edu) or 828-262-8046.

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