



Pharmacy master's student wins top National Award

NMMU pharmacy Master's student and Vice-Chancellor Scholarship recipient **Lana Strydom** was recently awarded the prestigious Brian Seymour Memorial Award for 2014. She shares this top national pharmacy award with Kristi Clayton, a Rhodes graduate currently completing her internship at Clicks in Grahamstown. This is the first year since the award was established, in 1967, that two recipients have been selected as winners.

"To win this award is humbling – it's not something I expected or set out to achieve. I worked hard academically to meet my own high standards, not because I was trying to meet other people's expectations," said an overjoyed Lana, who completed her BPharm degree cum laude last year. Lana is presently studying towards her MSc in Pharmaceutics while lecturing part-time in the Pharmacy Department.

She had high praise for those who have supported her – her parents, brother, friends and lecturers. "It is only by God's grace that I did so well and I feel extremely blessed." (continue on page 4)



Lana Strydom receiving the Brian Seymour Award

Message from Head of Department

The academic year has come to an end and the calendar year is not far behind. This year, 2014, has been a year full of activities and achievements for the Pharmacy Department, staff and students. During the fourth term, as in life, there were moments of achievement (successfully hosting the Academy Conference and the Pharmacy Ball) of recognition (Brian Seymour Award, leadership awards and Sporting awards) as well as moments of sadness (the tragic death of Bianca Harper Agherdien).

The Pharmacy Department congratulates the students who have successfully completed and passed their November examinations. To the successful BPharm4 and PT students we wish you well as you commence your careers in Pharmacy.

In closing I would like to thank the Pharmacy Department staff for all their hard work throughout the year. I wish all our students, staff, fellow NMMU members, alumni, stakeholders and readers a safe, peaceful and blessed festive season and may the New Year bring you joy, health and all that you would wish for yourselves.

Enjoy a well earned rest during the vacation period - **Shirley-Anne Boschmans**



NMMU Pharmacy hosts the 35th Annual Conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences is a national society of pharmaceutical scientists that is a sector of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa. The society hosts an annual conference to showcase research in the pharmaceutical sciences and each year the responsibility to host the conference moves between institutions providing postgraduate qualifications in pharmacy. This year, **the 35th conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences was held from 12 to 14 September 2014 at the Summerstrand Hotel in Port Elizabeth.** The last time NMMU has hosted this conference was in 2005.

The theme for the conference was "Integrating Research, Education and Practice" and together with a carefully compiled program emphasized the need for Academia to increase efforts to integrate our practice as well as collaborate more closely with other sectors in order to achieve favourable educational outcomes for the pharmacy profession. The theme was also very relevant in light of the fact the Department of Pharmacy is currently in the process of rolling out a new BPharm curriculum that has more emphasis on the integration of student learning.



Invited plenary speaker, Prof Ian Bates (3rd from left) with NMMU Pharmacy HoD, Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans (2nd from right), and lecturers of the mid-level worker programs, Ms Celeste Naude (left) and Mrs Janet Barry (right)

The conference hosted approximately 100 delegates from NMMU, Rhodes University, North-West University (NWU), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN), Walter Sisulu University (WSU) and the University of Limpopo as well as several delegates and exhibitors from industry, community and hospital pharmacy and laboratory suppliers.

macy and laboratory suppliers.

The busy conference program included nine sessions with 18 open podium presentations, 12 young scientist presentations and 31 poster presentations as well as an exciting social program with a braai evening on the Friday night and a gala dinner hosted at the VIP room in the South Campus Sports Centre. This year's conference was also innovative in an attempt to 'go green' by not including a printed book of abstract, but instead made abstracts available electronically, accessible using a mobile application, that was also a first for the Academy.

The theme for the conference was supported by a number of invited prominent international academics that included Prof Ian Bates, Chair of Pharmacy Education at UCL School of Pharmacy and Director of the Education Development Team for FIP; Prof Paul Rutter from the University of Wolverhampton who is widely published in the fields of self-care and service development; Dr Michael Rathbone, formerly from the International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur and who now owns his own company based in New Zealand focusing on veterinary medicine development; Prof Beverley Glass, Chair of Pharmacy at James Cook University in Australia and Dr George Dranitsaris, an oncology research scientist from Canada. The invited speakers were complimented by a number of local academics presenting open oral papers as well as a presentation by Prof Ilse Truter, the 2013 winner of the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Teacher Award and a professor in the NMMU Pharmacy Department.

The gala dinner celebrated 'Excellence in Pharmacy' and several awards were presented. Profs Nadine Butler (UWC) and Billy Futter (Rhodes) received Honorary Life Membership certificates and the **Boehringer Ingelheim Young Scientist award for the best podium presentation** by a young researcher in two categories: laboratory sciences and pharmaceutical practice was awarded. The winner of the award for best young scientist in laboratory sciences went to **Frank Zindo** and the winner of the pharmaceutical practice award was, Michelle Theunissen, were both from UWC. The co-runners up for pharmaceutical practice category were two NMMU postgraduate students, Greg Purcell and Shabeerah Ramkhalawon.

(continue on page 3)

Conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (cont.)



Young Scientist Winners. From L to R: Ilze Crukowski (Boehringer Ingelheim), NMMU's Greg Purcell and Sha-beerah Ramkhalawon (Pharmaceutical Practice runners-up), Michelle Theunissen (Pharmaceutical Practice winner), Frank Zindo (Laboratory Sciences winner) and Trizel du Toit (Pharmaceutical Sciences runner-up)

Boehringer Ingelheim also sponsored awards for the best publication in each of the four disciplines of pharmacy: pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacy practice and pharmacology, the **best paper in pharmacy practice** was awarded to **Dr Sue Burton** of NMMU.



Dr Sue Burton receiving her award for the best publication in Pharmacy Practice from Ilze Crukowski of Boehringer Ingelheim

Another accolade for the Pharmacy Department NMMU was that Prof Gareth Kilian, also the conference convener, was awarded the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Teacher of the Year award, the second year in a row that an academic from NMMU has won this award. Prof Truter won the award in 2013.



Prof Gareth Kilian, recipient of the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Teacher of the Year award, being presented the award by Mr Richard Rossiter of J&J

Conference convener, Prof Gareth Kilian, also received the convener's medal from Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Chairman of the Academy and HOD of Pharmacy at NMMU.

Conferences such as these are difficult to organize without the financial assistance provided by sponsors and the convener and his team would like to thank (in order of their contribution) : **Aspen Pharmacare, NMMU Office of the DVC: Research and Engagement, Boehringer Ingelheim, Clinicare Pharmacies, Johnson and Johnson, iNova Pharmaceuticals, Advanced African Technologies and Sigma Aldrich** as well as the exhibitors: **Advanced African Technologies, Wirsam, Microsep and IMP.**

At the recent 35th annual conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APSSA), a sector of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA), hosted by the pharmacy department in Port Elizabeth, two members of the staff: Prof Gareth Kilian (Vice-Chairperson) and Dr Sue Burton were re-elected to the executive committee. They will be joined on the committee by Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, who having just completed a two-year term as chairperson of the Academy, will continue to serve on the committee as immediate past chairperson.

The Academy was established 1979 to cater for the needs of pharmacists and non-pharmacists actively involved in or with a particular interest in: pharmaceutical education; research and development; the pharmaceutical sciences and technology or the professional practice of pharmacy. Further details of the Academy and its activities can be found on the website: <http://www.academy-pssa.org/index.html>.

Brian Seymour Award (contine from page 1)

Lana aims to finish her Master's by the end of next year and then undertake her community service in 2016. "I haven't quite decided what happens after that. Pharmacy is a very diverse field and I could see myself going into industry, academia or hospital pharmacy. After doing community service I will have gained more experience and will know where my true passion lies."

The **Brian Seymour Award function** was held on 15 November at the PSSA offices in Durban in the form of a formal dinner. A brass mortar and pestle on a wooden plinth was awarded to each of the recipients by Noel Seymour, son of Brian Seymour.

The Brian Seymour Award honours a pharmacy graduate currently completing their internship who established him/herself as a top pharmacy student by displaying academic excellence, leadership qualities and an interest in local and national student affairs. Each pharmacy school in the country nominated their top final year BPharm student for the previous year, and Skype interviews were held between each of those nominees and a panel of adjudicators.

The award originated when colleagues of the late Brian Seymour at the Natal Coastal Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa established it as an annual award in memory of Brian and the way in which he led and served his profession at the top level of both the Pharmaceutical Society and Pharmacy Council, while still at a relatively young age.

It was a very special evening with a number of the recipients from past years also being able to attend the event. NMMU is certainly a leader in producing high quality pharmacists as evidenced by the fact that 5 of the past 7 years' winners have been NMMU graduates.

- Phumeza Mlonzi - 2013
- Raydon Juta - 2012
- Michelle Bennett - 2009
- Charl Botha - 2008



Brian Seymour Winners :
Raydon Juta (2012), Kristi Clayton (2014), Phumeza Mlonzi (2013), Lana Strydom (2014) and Charl Botha (2008)

Lana was also honoured for her academic achievements at the annual NMMU Council Awards function held at the Feathermarket Centre on 19 June . She won the NMMU Council Award for the **Best First Degree Graduate in the Faculty of Health Sciences** for 2013 and also walked away with the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for the Best First Degree Graduate in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology 2013.**



Prof Vic Exner with Lana Strydom and Prof Piet Naude

"Making the most of Pharmacy"

- Was the message that Debbie Cruickshank gave to the BPharm final year students in October. Debbie Cruickshank works for Life Healthcare, and is based at Life the Glynnwood Hospital on the East Rand in Gauteng. She is one of a growing number of pharmacists who are pioneering the implementation of clinical pharmacy services in South Africa's private hospitals. Her typical day is spent in the ICU, where she provides clinical pharmacy services, focusing not only on medicine supply and dispensing but also individualized medicine management for each of the 30 patients. Debbie recently completed the NMMU Pharmacy Department's Short Learning Programme "Clinical skills for Hospital Pharmacists" which she passed with distinction. She is now contemplating her Masters degree, which will allow her to register with the South African Pharmacy Council as a specialist, a clinical pharmacist Her message to the 4th years stressed the need for passion and professionalism in their career, and for pharmacists to be a visible and essential presence in the wards. Her enthusiasm, down to earth manner, stories of making a difference in patient's lives and love of clinical pharmacy inspired many of the fourth year pharmacy students who are looking towards entering the profession and choosing their career path in pharmacy.

Pharmacy – A Culture of Excellence

The NMMU Achievers' Awards Dinner 2014 was held on 22 of October - where students are recognized and honoured for their achievements and contributions on the sports field, within societies and for their leadership. A 2nd year **Pharmacy student – Alex West** snatched up a few awards. Alex was awarded the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Leadership**, along with Sendi Gandidzanwe – a BSc student. In addition to this prestigious award, Alex walked away with both the **Arts & Culture Person of the Year** and **Arts & Culture Administrator of the Year**.



Alex West with the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Leadership

Alex was awarded these for his academic performance, his leadership as the Chairperson of the NMMU Ballroom and Latin Dancing Society, as well as his involvement in various events – such as the Kwanele Enuf-is-Enuf Campaign against gender based violence.

"As future pharmacists (and as pharmacists) we are leaders in our own right. Let us strive for excellence and set goals that will develop our abilities. We may not know what the future holds, but we can equip ourselves as best we can for what we may be faced with." - Alex

This goes to show that Pharmacy students are not only capable of academic performance, but performance in the fields of Arts & Culture and Leadership. Highlighting the importance of managing a balanced lifestyle, engaging in leadership opportunities, and taking advantage of the various opportunities made available during a student's years of university education.

Faculty of Health Sciences Student Research Conference

The Annual Faculty of Health Sciences Student Research Conference took place on Friday 26 September 2014 in the NMMU Auditorium (South Campus). This annual event showcases the postgraduate research that is being conducted in the Faculty. The morning was opened by two stimulating presentations by Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal of the NMMU George Campus) and Prof Gerry Bodeker from Oxford University. The Pharmacy Department is very proud that **Razia Gaida** (PhD student) won the **Best Poster Prize at the conference** for a poster entitled, "Antidepressants and Parkinson's Disease".



Razia Gaida receiving her prize

The following Pharmacy students presented podium presentations:

- **Greg Purcell** - The effect of an intervention on the documentation of adverse drug reactions to antipsychotic drugs.
- **Razia Gaida** - Treatment of Parkinson's disease in South Africa and investigation of risk factors causing dyskinesias.
- **Shabeerah Ramkalawon** - Antibiotic stewardship: The role of the clinical pharmacist.
- **Aloysius Abahamye** - Cost comparison between repackaging bulk oral solid medicines and manufacturer-prepared patient-ready packs in the public sector in South Africa.
- **Keith Daniell** - The involvement of colon inflammation in the pathogenesis of obesity and Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Two NMMU Lecturers of the Year linked to Pharmacy Department

The Golden Key NMMU Chapter recently conducted a survey where NMMU students were asked to vote for the lecturer of the year in each Faculty. Students were asked to rate lecturers' approachability; provision of sufficient supplemental material; use of latest teaching methods and technologies; presentation of course material in such a way that it prepares students to work and live in the globalised world; going beyond what is expected to help students; and involvement in extracurricular activities. In total, 956 NMMU students voted for 300 lecturers. Two staff members lecturing Pharmacy students were amongst the winners - **Dr Susan Burton** from the Faculty of Health Sciences and **Dr Bernita Barton** from the Faculty of Science. They lecture various aspects of **Pharmacy Practice** to all levels from 1st to 4th year Pharmacy students and **Organic Chemistry for Pharmacists** to 1st year Pharmacy Students, respectively.



From left : Osiphesona Ngcanga (Golden Key NMMU Chapter), **Dr Benita Barton (Faculty of Science)**, Ms Claudette Leppan (Faculty of Arts), Ms Cheryl Schroder (Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology), Mr Sikhumbuzo Nofemele (Faculty of Education), Ms Sharon Tessendorf (Faculty of Business) and Economic Sciences), **Dr Susan Burton (Faculty of Health Sciences)**

Young local Pharmacist passed away



Twenty-seven-year-old former Miss Port Elizabeth (2010), Bianca-Anna Harper Agherdien, passed away on Thursday 13 November 2014, following a car accident. She obtained her BPharm degree in 2010 and her MPharm in 2012 both from NMMU.

Bianca had a way of making a person feel special. She greeted you with a big smile, was sincere when she asked after your well-being and always seemed to be so enthusiastic about any activity she was involved in. She wasn't just another beauty queen spewing clichés about world peace and ending poverty, she was a remarkable young woman. But despite her obvious talents and intelligence, she was also humble, kind and motivated.

Her death was tragic, senseless and has left so many people feeling deeply saddened. I hope that despite this tragedy, people will embrace Bianca's spirit and try to emulate her compassion, her kindness and her enthusiasm. I hope that people will remember her as the wonderful person that she was and try to keep her memory alive. Let this be a reminder that life is fragile, it can be taken away in an instant. What you leave behind depends on how you lived and I hope that Bianca is looking down on us and smiling because she can see that she was able to do so much with hers, even as she fought to keep it. Rest in peace, B*. You will be missed.

Bianca-Anna Harper Agherdien

May your beautiful soul be happy with our Father above. Judith Regnart, a friend

Aspen Pharmacy Project Presentation Evening

The **Annual Aspen Pharmacy Project Presentation Evening** this year took place on **Tuesday evening 21 October 2014 in the NMMU Auditorium**. It was attended by nearly 300 students and other delegates. Eight students presented their individual research projects (15 minute presentations). The **Best Podium Presentation Award** went to **Zaheer Gaida** for his study entitled *"Pain management and the usage of over-the-counter analgesics"* (supervised by Prof I Truter). The **runner-up award** went to **Andrea Connacher** for her study entitled *"Development of antibacterial impregnated hydrocolloid films"* (supervised by Prof Gareth Kilian).



Best Podium Presentation

Left - Andrea Connacher (runner-up)

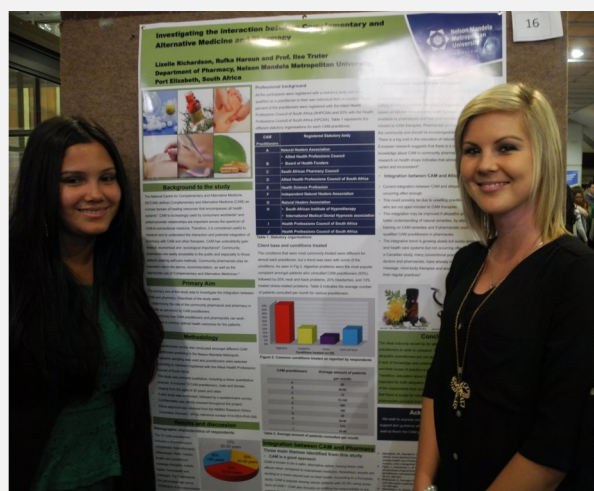
Right - Zaheer Gaida, the winner

The students who did not present an oral presentation, were involved in either an individual or group poster presentation. Research on a wide variety of topics was presented. This year, 16 students completed individual research projects and the remaining students completed one of six coursework elective projects, namely :

- Veterinary Pharmacy (Dr Gabby Howse & Dr Tarryn Fick)

- Pharmaceutical Product Development (Prof Gareth Kilian)
- Drug Utilisation Research - Complementary and Alternative Medicine (Prof Ilse Truter & Prof Raj Naidoo)
- Changing Face (Dr Sue Burton & Mrs NomaChina Kubashe)
- Introduction to Pharmacovigilance (Dr Bulumko Futshane from MSH and Ms Lia Kritiotis as liaison lecturer for the elective)
- Managing Medicine Supply at Health Institutions (Mr Lindile Mabuya from MSH and Mrs NomaChina Kubashe as liaison lecturer for the elective)

The **Best Poster Award** went to **Rufka Haroun** and **Lizelle Richardson** for a poster entitled *"Investigating the interaction between the fields of Complementary and Alternative Medicine and pharmacy"* (supervised by Prof Ilse Truter) and the runner-up poster prize went to Annika Theron for her poster entitled *"Relationships between antibiotic use and nutrition outcomes among HIV positive infants, below the age of twelve months, treated for severe acute malnutrition at Dora Nginza and Pelenomi Hospitals"* (supervised by Dr Liana Steenkamp).



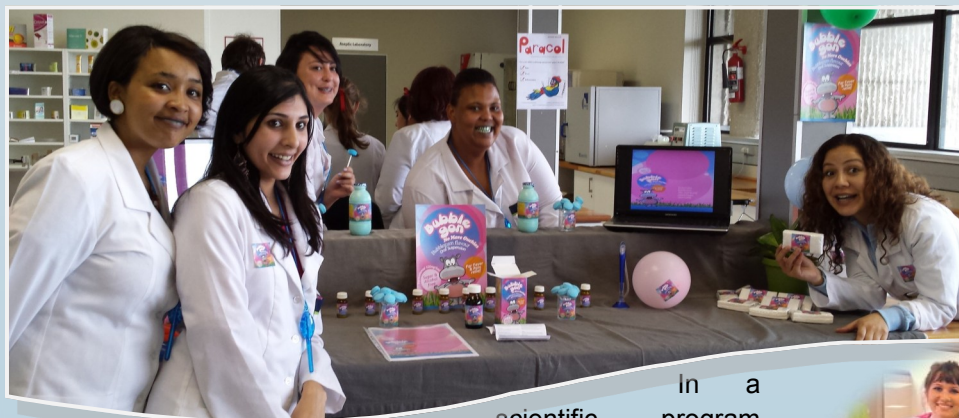
Best Poster Presentation

Rufka Haroun and Lizelle Richardson

Third Year Pharmacy Students Showcase their Pharmaceutical Formulations

A component of the third year pharmaceuticals module is a formulation project. The pharmaceuticals students had the opportunity to apply their knowledge and show their skills - students were expected to formulate, manufacture, package and promote/advertise their own pharmaceutical product. The topic for this year's formulation project was to formulate a paracetamol containing product — as an oral solution or suspension, rectal suppository or sterile intravenous solution and students working in groups of 4-5 to complete:

- Research and development of five different formulations
- Preparation of the formulations for testing
- Stability testing
- Selection of the most appropriate formulation for manufacturing
- Manufacture of the chosen formulation
- Packaging of the final product to suitable for the marketing approach (package insert & patient information leaflet)
- Submission of the final research report, the final product and marketing materials



The project culminated in an exhibition where students showcased their products in the form of an exhibition on 24 October 2014 in the Pharmaceuticals laboratory that was attended by students and staff of the Pharmacy Department.

In a scientific program such as pharmacy, students rarely get to express their creative side and the exhibition was one such occasion when students could use innovative and creative ideas to promote their formulated products.



The project supervisors, Prof Kilian, Mr Kadernani and Mrs van Jaarsveld were delighted with how students were able to produce products that were of a high quality and presented in a professional manner.



Lia Kritiotis and **Candyce Clark** were privileged to be selected for and successfully completed the Santrust PhD proposal development programme which is run in partnership with NMMU and Santrust. It is a development programme that is geared towards equipping PhD students to develop proposals for their PhDs. This programme is very challenging as it opens up so many areas of research design and methodology, many of which had not been encountered before, and are employed in a wide variety of research areas, besides pharmacy and chemistry. The programme gives PhD students the tools to write research proposals effectively, and it encourages student to always keep their research in the forefront of their minds as they read and write and develop their proposals.

The South African Pharmacy Council completed an accreditation visit for the Advanced Certificate in Pharmacy Technical Support (Pharmacy Technician programme) from the 20th—22nd October 2014. During the visit, the accreditation committee reviewed module files prepared by the lecturers. They also held meetings with the Head of Department (Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans), Dean of Health Sciences (Prof V Exner), Director of School (Prof N Smith), Vice Chancellor (Prof Derrick Swartz) and Acting: Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic (Prof D Zinn). The committee also visited two experiential sites where the Pharmacy Technician students completed their externship hours, Medirite Greenacres and Walmer 14th Ave Community Health Centre. Overall, the responses about the programme were very positive and we await a final report and outcome from the com-

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NMMU Pharmacy Preceptor Programme

Various international accreditation standards for pharmacy education have made it compulsory for academic institutions to include dedicated and structured periods of experiential learning throughout their curricula. In an attempt to follow international trends, the South African Pharmacy Council published a new BPharm curriculum with a greater experiential learning requirement. At the start of 2013, the NMMU Pharmacy Department implemented a new clinically integrated BPharm programme. This modern curriculum was designed to accommodate the shift in the pharmacy education model towards a more clinically focused experiential learning curriculum.



Pharmacists have a professional responsibility to “utilize [their] knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists” (Witry, Patterson, & Sorofman, 2013, p. 655). This notion supports the use of preceptor (mentoring) programmes to facilitate experiential training of pharmacy students. A preceptor is a registered practicing pharmacist, who has volunteered to accept responsibility for experiential education of pharmacy students at clinical rotation sites. The preceptor will undertake the role of both the pharmacist (employed by a company in a specific pharmacy sector), as well as accepting the responsibility to teach and assess undergraduate pharmacy students. Preceptors should aim to achieve two primary goals, namely: to **train students to become professionals** and to **pre-**

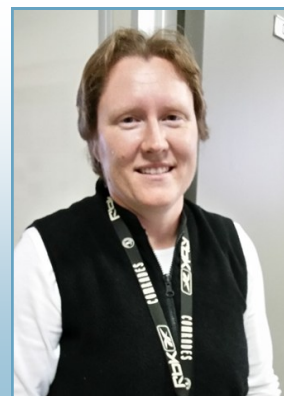
pare students for the transition from education in the lecture room to actual clinical practice. Preceptor programmes have been linked to multiple positive outcomes for both pharmacist preceptors and students, including: skill advancement, network growth and career development.

The NMMU Pharmacy Department is currently in the process of developing the preceptor programme, which will be implemented next year for the BPharm third year students. Since 2015 will be the first year of implementation, clinical placements will only be arranged at community (retail) pharmacies. As the programme develops in years to come, it is envisaged that other sectors of pharmacy (private hospital; wholesale pharmacy, manufacturing and consultant pharmacy) will be incorporated in to the experiential learning module to offer a greater variety of opportunities. The NMMU Pharmacy Department is very excited about this new adventure that the students will be embarking on. We shall keep you updated in the future!



Saying goodbye...

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to one of our colleagues in the Pharmacy Department. Dr Lynsey Knoetzen has been with us for 1 ½ years, lecturing across the Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Technical Assistant courses as well as assisting with the BPharm hospital program and SOAP (subjective, objective, assessment, and plan) assessments. As a qualified pharmacist and medical school graduate, she has decided to return to medicine and complete her internship and community service. The staff and students will miss Lynsey and hope she enjoys great success in her new chosen path.



Beyond the Classroom (BtC) 2014 graduation



From left to right : Norah Tagarisa, Siphe Njani, Clarice Geduld, Babalo Gibeni and Charity Dandira

The Beyond the Classroom (BtC) 2014 Graduation Breakfast Ceremony was held at Bayworld on 31 October - five of the more than 250 graduates were pharmacy students. We invited some of our lecturers to attend the graduation with us. The which was also attended by the Vice Chancellor.

BtC was a year long course that we undertook and were taught leadership skills such as ethical leadership, conflict management, presentation, personal branding and effective communication skills. The program is offered jointly via NMMU and Unity in Africa. We had to do community service as well as part of the program. We were required to make portfolios describing areas learned over the course of the year in and out of the program. It was very enjoyable as it took us out of the pharmacy world and forced us to grow outside of our comfort zone.

Pharmacy Students

PHARMACY STUDENT DOES 67 HOURS OF COMMUNITY OUT-REACH

The Student Governance and Development in conjunction with Unity in Africa (UniA) aims at encouraging students to give some of their spare time in creating a difference in the environment in which we live. Mr. Babalo Gibeni - a 2nd year Pharmacy student was amongst the students who successfully completed their 67 hours of community outreach in 2014. The students were encouraged by UniA to take part in activities that give back to the community. Some of these activities included : Beach Clean-up, Assisting Gr 1-12 learners with their

homework, assisting in the smooth running of certain NMMU events and impact days as well as the annual SA Ironman Race.



Pharmacy Department's Sport Star

On the weekend of 3 to 5 October 2014, the Tae Kwon Do Chang Hon Ryu National Championships was held at the NMMU Missionvale Campus. The Phoenix Tae Kwon Do club, which is based in the Eastern Cape, took all the available trophies. NMMU 1st year BPharm student, **Marco de Beer** won a gold medal in the Sparring discipline and this has earned him a spot in the National Protea Tae Kwon Do team that will be competing in Rimini Italy, next year for the Tae Kwon Do World Championship.

Congratulations and Good luck !!!



News from the Pharmacy Technician Programme



The **Pharmacy Technician students** visited **Fresenius Kabi** Manufacturing plant as part of their Sterile Manufacturing Pharmaceuticals module. The visit was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see in practice what they have been hearing about in theory all year long. Even with the added pressure of MCC's surprise visit that coincided with the tour, the staff at Fresenius Kabi made us feel welcome and gave up their valuable time to show us the whole plant (even providing one group with refreshments to pass the time while inspectors were on the plant floor - thanks Avril!). The visit was made possible by Fresenius Kabi who facilitated the visit and sponsored the transport of students to the plant. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many commented how their view of manufacturing as a future career choice had changed.



On the 28th of October the **Pharmacy Technical Assistant students** visited **Dora Nginza Hospital Pharmacy Stores**. The visit formed part of their Medicine Supply Management Module and was sponsored by MSH/SIAPS.

The students were given a tour of the existing facility, as well as the brand new premises to which the pharmacy department is busy moving. The students had to complete checklists detailing GPP requirements for Pharmacy Stores related to infrastructure and storage. In addition, students were requested to review stock cards and do calculations related to the stock cards.

This information was utilised by students to submit individual assignments after the visit.

This visit would not have been possible if it had not been for Mr Lizo Mpako, the Pharmacy Manager at Dora Nginza Hospital, and his staff, for so willingly setting aside the time to host the PTA students. We would also like to thank Mr Mabuya and SIAPS for their sponsorship which covered the costs of transporting the students to Dora Nginza.

NMMU Alumni Awards - 2014



NMMU Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have gone the distance and beyond in their various fields, to the benefit of society at local, provincial, national and international level. A number of outstanding nominations were received by the Alumni Association Executive Committee which is proud to present its awards in the spirit of NMMU's values. **The top Alumni Achiever Award recipient for 2014 was Deon Schoeman - the founder and managing director of Klinikare Pharmacies.**

AFTER nearly 30 years of running his own chain of pharmacies with stiff competition from national retailers, Port Elizabeth businessman Deon Schoeman says the secret to his success is hard work, taking care of employees and customers and providing exceptional service. Mr. Schoeman owns the KliniCare chain of pharmacies in Nelson Mandela Bay, which comprises eight pharmacies, two franchise stores - KliniCare Gelvandale and KliniCare Kabega Park, owned by independent pharmacists, a nursing services business and a medical homecare store. There are plans to expand the business throughout the Eastern Cape.

He enrolled to do a diploma in pharmacy at the then College for Advanced Technical Education in 1976, which would later become the PE Technikon. In 1984 he took a major risk when he successfully secured a loan to buy the pharmacy at the Westway Centre in Cape Road. He worked 14 to 16-hour days, including weekends, to grow the business. "I still work 12-hour days now. Young people think that if they are qualified they will automatically make money but it just does not work that way." In 1989 he returned to university to study towards a Masters degree in pharmacy and during the course of the next 10 years he acquired six more pharmacies. New government regulations in 2004 meant big retailers could open pharmacies in stores, changing the industry. Determined to adapt, he attended courses and tried to become an expert on the new regulations. He developed the Klinikare brand and placed all his pharmacies under the same brand.

A THOUGHT FROM DOWN UNDER

Prof TJ McCarthy, now living in Australia, was the first Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) now NMMU and Head of the Pharmacy Department from 1984 -1991.

The 'Questionnaire on job satisfaction' on the right was written by Prof McCarthy... *"During the three hour bus ride back from our daughter, I wrote what I enjoy writing, I hope it will give you the odd chuckle. Love Terry McCarthy"*



Prof T. McCarthy (right) with his wife, (centre) and their children in Australia

Questionnaire on job satisfaction

Answer how you find or entered your job ?

Accountant....taxing.
 Archeologist ...ground-breaking.
 Architect..... a bit sketchy.
 Baker..... I needed dough.
 Barman.....fulfilling.
 Barefoot dancer.... Sole-destroying.
 Cardiologist.....heart-rending.
 Carpenter.....s'awful!
 Dentist..... filled a need.
 Entomologist.... creepy!
 Furniture man..... a moving experience.
 Geologist..... ore-inspiring.
 Magician..... spell-binding.
 Oil driller....boring.
 Pro. Rugby forward..... a pushover.
 Pharmacist.....I could dispense with it.
 Proctologist....crappy!
 Ploughman.... Harrowing!
 Plumber....draining.
 Refrigeration engineer....a chilling experience.
 Retiring filmstar....exacting.
 School teacher.....classy.
 Vegetarian chef.... Appealing.
 Undertaker....too much rehearsing.

(TJM. Oct., 2014.)

Student activities

Annual Pharmacy Ball

The annual Pharmacy Ball was held at Cubanna on October 11th. With the help of our sponsors, Medi-Rite and Clicks, PEPSA was able to create a beautiful evening where memories could be made and the fourth years could celebrate the end of their journey at NMMU. The repartee between the speakers during the fourth years' speech had the

entire hall in tears of laughter and eyes glistening with nostalgia. A few giggles were also provided when awards were given to students who had built a reputation in some very unique categories.



Between the myriad of masks and with the sea as background, a mysterious and en-



chanting