



## Pharmacy Department showcases final year Student Research Projects



The winning Research Elective group : From left to right - Lana Strydom, Blandine Meesher, Prof Chris Stubbs (Aspen), Nyashadzashe Zizhou, Mangaka Mphuti, Esaie Fossouo, Leokeditswe Goitseman, Atherton Mutombwera, Alvyva Mohamudally, Abigail Oloo.

The annual Pharmacy Department BPharm Final Year Research Evening took place on Monday 21 October 2013 in the Goldfields Auditorium. The prestigious evening was generously sponsored by Aspen Pharmacare. After the official welcome by the Head of the Pharmacy Department - Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Prof Piet Naudé (DVC Academic at NMMU) delivered an inspiring keynote address. Thereafter, the students presented their projects. Each group had 10 minutes to present, followed by 5 minutes for questions. The format of the research projects this year was different from previous years, in that no individual research projects

were offered. Students had the opportunity to choose one of five elective courses, and students were selected from each of these five groups to present their research. The five elective courses offered this year were: Changing Face ; Pharmaceutics and Therapeutics Committee ; Pharmaceutical Product Development ; Drug Utilization Research; and Veterinary Pharmacy. The winning group was the Pharmaceutical Product Development elective with the presentation entitled "Formulation and manufacture of ferrous sulphate and ascorbic acid tablets and capsules", supervised by Mbali Keele and André Kritzingner (more on page 3).

### Message from Head of Department .....

The end of the year has arrived with a flurry and what a year it has been for the Pharmacy Department. A few of the varied activities in the Department during 2013 were: presentation of two new programmes - the new integrated BPharm programme and the Higher Certificate in Pharmacy Support (Pharmacy Technical Assistant course); facilitated by AIHA the St Louis College of Pharmacy twinned with the Department to enrich training of midlevel workers; graduation day in April saw 51 BPharm, one MSc and 2 MPharm graduates capped and two staff members graduated with a PhD; the first Pharmacy Department Career Fair was held; Paché Oranji, a BPharm student was crowned Miss NMMU; staff and postgraduate students presented research findings at several international conferences

and participated in academic exchanges in the USA, UK and Sweden; and a short learning programme for Life Health Care pharmacists "Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists" was initiated. These are a few of the many activities the Department was involved in during the year in addition to the presentation of the core academic programmes and associated enrichment activities.

Enjoy reading about the activities during the 4th term. In ending I would like to congratulate all the students on their November examination results and wish all students, Pharmacy staff, NMMU colleagues, alumni and stakeholders well over the holiday season.

Happy reading . . .  
**Shirley-Anne Boschmans**



## Two Mandela Rhodes Scholars in the Pharmacy Department



Shabeerah Ramkhalawon



Atherton Mutombwera

The goal of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship program is to offer educational opportunities to young Africans with scholastic, intellectual and leadership potential to study at suitable tertiary institutions and to create a network of principled future leaders, with the capacity and will to advance themselves and their countries. The programme aims to give expression to the legacy of academic excellence, leadership, education, reconciliation and entrepreneurship to help in building leadership excellence in Africa. A Mandela Rhodes Scholarship is more than a bursary, it offers young Africans who exhibit academic prowess as well as broader leadership potential an educational opportunity. The Scholarship provides full funding for up to a maximum of two years of postgraduate study, to qualified citizens of African countries, at recognised South African tertiary institutions. The Scholarship provides funds for tuition, accommodation, meals, a book allowance, and a travel allowance for each Scholar in residence. The Scholarship is currently offered only for students pursuing an Honours or Masters degree or their equivalents.

Two Pharmacy graduates have been awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Foundation Scholarship -

- **Miss Shabeerah Ramkhalawon**, for her Masters on the role of the clinical pharmacist in antibiotic stewardship in a hospital setting. She is originally from Mauritius, and has been studying at NMMU for the past five years. She completed her BPharm at NMMU and graduated in April 2012. Currently she is in the second year of pursuing her Masters degree.

**A word from Shabeerah** : "For me personally, obtaining this scholarship, has given me the means to achieve my dream of making an impact in other people's lives and unlock new possibilities."

- **Mr Atherton Mutombwera** completed his Pharmacy studies at the end of 2013 and he will graduate in 2014. He will start his Master degree in Pharmacy in 2014 in the area of Pharmaceutical formulations.

**A word from Atherton** : "To me the scholarship serves as an opportunity to network with fellow scholars with different educational expertise, but the capacity to lead. I hope to both contribute and inspire my fellow scholars."

## PTA students gain invaluable experience with visits to Aspen Pharmacare and Dora Nginza Hospital Pharmacy Store

Aspen Pharmacare's Oral Solid Dosage (OSD) Plant welcomed the Pharmacy Technical Assistant students on a tour of their facility - as part of the practical aspect of the module, Practical Pharmaceutics. The students were able to follow the manufacturing process, from dispensing to granulation and blending, all the way to tablet compression and packing. The theory they had been learning was brought to life on a very grand scale, leaving everyone with a three-dimensional view of their notes and a new-found interest in the subject. A big thank you to Aspen for making the tour a reality and a special thank you to the interns who gave the students a fascinating insight into the world of drug manufacture.

The PTA students also visited Dora Nginza Hospital Pharmacy Store - as part of the Medicine Supply Management Module. This was organised by Mr Lindile Mabuya and sponsored by SIAPS who covered the transportation cost of the students. The students were given a tour of the facility by the Store Manager, Byron Mpako. They had to complete checklists detailing GPP requirements for Pharmacy Stores relating to infrastructure and storage. In addition, students were requested to review two stock cards and transpose stock movement for those stock cards. Many thanks to Mr Pakade, the Pharmacy Manager at Dora Nginza Hospital, and his staff, for so willingly setting aside the time to host the PTA students.

In the words of the students:

*"Not only was the visit very informative and gave me a better understanding of how a hospital pharmacy runs, but it was also quite fun."* - **Nuska Abrahams**

*"It was really good to see things that we had learnt in the class practically."* - **Semaka Machete**

*"The Aspen visit was a real eye opener."* - **Megan Felix**



### **Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme**

This year eight of our pharmacy students - Johannes Rungwe, Dumisani Sifelani, Rangarirai Murinda, Given Makoko, Phiona Banda, Tapiwa Matibiri, Kwabenah Kwesseh and Nancy Sarpong participated in and graduated from the *Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme*. The programme is a voluntary leadership module run by the University's Department of Student Governance and Development and sponsored by the African Unity Foundation. It is designed to introduce students to the practical requirements of leadership in a creative manner and assists them in developing skills necessary for effective, ethical leadership. During the year-long programme students are required to complete 20 hours of community service and no fewer than 13 different projects – ranging from sport coaching to homework assistance - benefit from this NMMU initiative.



From left to right: Given Makoko, Kwabenah Kwesseh, Johannes Rungwe, Dumisani Sifelani, Lia Kritiotis, Sue Burton, Tapiwa Matibiri, Phiona Banda and Rangarirai Murinda

### **Final year Student Research Projects**



(cont. from page 1.) The runners-up were the students who enrolled for the Drug Utilisation Research elective supervised by Ilse Truter and Brent Knoesen. The title of their presentation was "Exploring Dutch Remedy use in the Nelson Mandela Metropole" presented by Karen Naidoo and Yumna Adam.

From left to right are : Prof Chris Stubbs (Aspen), Ogochukwu Mbachu, Karen Naidoo, Josephine Chirimanyemba, Thatoyaone Kenaope, Leigh Ah Shene, Yumna Adam, Gaofengwe Nkomba, Kudzai Mtisi, Kudzanai Chimhini, Kudakwashe Mbalekwa

### **NMMU Graduate – Phumeza Mlonzi wins the Brian Seymour Award**



Two NMMU Pharmacy graduates, Raydon Juta and Charl Botha, both past recipients of the Brian Seymour Award with Phumeza

Every year the Natal Coastal Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society recognises an outstanding pharmacy student with the Brian Seymour Memorial Award. The recipient of the award is a South African Pharmacy student, who has completed his/her final year of academic study and is currently registered as an intern. Furthermore, the student must have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership qualities and been involved in local and national student affairs. This year the award was given to one of our NMMU graduates – Phumeza Mlonzi. Whilst at NMMU Phumeza was a dedicated student and an above average academic achiever. She was an outstanding leader, serving on all levels of PEPSA. As chairperson of PEPSA in 2011/2012 she was awarded both the best individual contribution to the South African Pharmacy Students' Federation (SAPSF) Vice President project, and the best member of SAPSF award, based on her involvement in PEPSA. She has also served on the SAPSF executive for two terms. Phumeza is currently completing her internship at Clicks Pharmacy in Lyttleton. Congratulations Phumeza we are very proud of you!

## Top Clinical Pharmacy Student of 2013

In their final year, all pharmacy students participate in the hospital based experiential programme for 15 weeks during terms 2 and 3. This intensive programme sees students learning to apply their knowledge in the clinical setting as they spend three mornings a week in various clinical sites in local public hospitals. The students submit a file of clinical evidence on completion of the programme, which provides evidence of the clinical skills developed in the hospital environment. The written assessments utilise an open book format, and consist of clinical case studies, so the students have to identify medicine related problems and make appropriate recommendations in order to optimize therapy. Each year, the top students are recognized for their achievement in this programme. This year's Top Clinical Pharmacy Student is Lana Strydom, with finalists Chris Aresti, Atherton Mutombera, Valerie Gibendi and Martin Weder.



From left to right : Valerie Gibendi, Martin Weder, Lana Strydom - winner , Atherton Mutombera, Chris Aresti and Prof S-A Boschmans (HOD)

## SANTRUST PROGRAMME

The Pharmacy Department would like to congratulate two members of staff, NomaChina Kubashe and Jane McCartney, who attended the SANTRUST programme in 2013. The SANTRUST PhD programme was created with the aim of assisting NMMU staff with the development of the proposal for their PhD and initiating the research for the PhD. Both NomaChina and Jane successfully completed the programme. Their proposals were submitted to the Faculty of Health Sciences FRTI and the Department congratulates NomaChina and Jane on the successful completion and approval of both proposals. The Department looks forward to enrolling through further staff members in the programme in 2014.

Thank you to NMMU for this great initiative.

## Twinning partnership to strengthen Pharmacy Technician programme



In September 2013 Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans and Teri-Lynne Fogarty jetted off to the United States of America to visit the St Louis College of Pharmacy (STLCOP) in St Louis, Missouri. Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and STLCOP have a twinning partnership facilitated by the American International Health Alliance and funded by the President's Emergency Fund for HIV and Aids (PEPFAR). The overall goal of the twinning partnership is to strengthen the Pharmacy Technician (PT) and Pharmacy Technical Assistant (PTA) programmes at NMMU. Prof Boschmans and Teri-Lynne met with more than 40 STLCOP staff to discuss the main partnership objectives and determine how elements of the STLCOP programme can be adapted for use at NMMU. They also had the opportunity to visit a Walgreens store and dispensary, as well as the Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the largest hospital in the U.S. state of Missouri, to learn about the functions and activities associated with pharmacy technicians in different settings in the United States. The visit was a productive one with a work plan being drawn up with goals to achieve from Sept 2013 until the end of 2014. STLCOP faculty will be back in South Africa in February 2014 to facilitate a Practice Analysis and present various workshops including a preceptor training workshop.

It wasn't all work and no play. Ken Schafermeyer, Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Director, Office of International Programmes at STLCOP was a very gracious and generous host and made sure that Shirley-Anne and Teri-Lynne saw many of the St Louis sites, including the Gateway Arch, St Louis History and Art Museums, the Botanical Gardens, and the Bevo Mill. They were also treated to the All American experience of attending a baseball game and couldn't go home without a taste of Ted Drewe's Frozen custard.

**Visit by Dr Therése Kairuz**

Dr Therése Kairuz from the University of Queensland in Australia visited the Department of Pharmacy and DURU from 18 to 29 November 2013. Dr Kairuz completed her PhD in Pharmacy Practice at UPE and was also a staff member in the Department of Pharmacy at NMMU until 2002. Dr Kairuz presented a talk entitled “Learning Styles and Effective Teaching – Experiences from three continents” on Thursday 28 November 2013 to a group of academics and postgraduate students in the Clinical Laboratory in the Department of Pharmacy. Dr Kairuz is collaborating with NMMU on two research projects.



Dr Therése Kairuz presenting

**Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference**



Aloysius Abahamye, Sue Burton, Shirley-Anne Boschmans and Ilse Truter

Five members of the Pharmacy Department - Ilse Truter, Sue Burton, Brent Knoesen (photo to the left), Shirley-Anne Boschmans and Aloysius Abahamye - attended the Academy conference (PSSA) in Cape Town from Friday 4 - 6 October. As well as attending the conference and participating in podium presentations, several poster presentation and chairing sessions the members of the Department also won two awards. Ilse Truter was awarded the Academy Johnson and Johnson Teacher of the Year Award and Shirley-Anne Boschmans was awarded the Academy Boehringer Ingelheim Award for the Best Publication in the discipline of Pharmacy Practice. Congratulations Ilse & Shirley-Anne !

**Prof. Ilse Truter  
A very busy term**

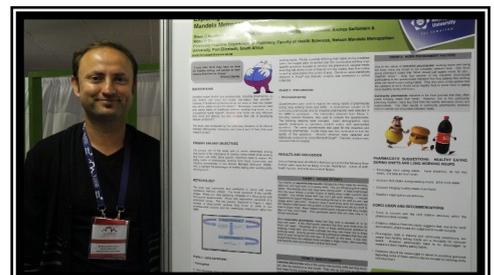


Prof. I Truter - Distinguished researcher/teacher

Prof. Ilse Truter was awarded the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award (2nd time) at The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Annual Conference in Cape Town on 4 - 6 October 2013. “I am very proud and very grateful, it is the ultimate in any Pharmacy academic’s career” - Ilse.

She had also :

- ⇒ attended and presented at the PHASA Conference – Public Health Association conference
- ⇒ attended the ARESA (medical ethics) Seminar in Cape Town
- ⇒ spoke together with Brent Knoesen at the SACENCU meeting and EDH Mental Health Symposium held on the 28 October (an article on it was published in the Burger )



Brent Knoesen with his Poster Presentation at PSSA Conference

## Student activities ....

### 40 DAYS Celebrations .....



On 4 October 2013 the 4<sup>th</sup> year B.Pharm class celebrated 40 days until the start of our final exams. Normally this is a tradition when leaving school in Matric, but we saw this as a befitting way to honour our long and emotion-laden journey in pursuit of our B.Pharm degree. We decided to dress up, with most adopting the “superhero” theme inspired by the design of the hoodies that PPS had so generously sponsored and presented to us on the same day. A variety of characters showed up including Superman, Batman, Cleopatra, Cat Woman, a minion from Despicable Me, and even a couple of escaped convicts. It was a great opportunity to bond as a class and simply to enjoy each other’s company later at the Boardwalk, celebrating the friendships made that would last long beyond the end of our studies. B.Pharm has been full of learning curves, both inside and outside the classroom and it has been an honour to share these 4 years together.

### Final word from PEPSA

The final quarter of the year is always the most challenging, as a result of the short time period we have to get everything done - lectures, practicals, assignments, tests and to top it all off we have the dreadful November exams. But in the midst of all of this, the PEPSA committee remained hard at work and planned lovely formal events and socials that allowed the pharmacy students to take a step back and relax. These events included academic evenings which gave us insight into both the medical field as well as the industrial side of pharmacy. Last but not least we had the Pharmacy Ball which proved to be a highly successful evening. With stunning draping, amazing food, good music and great company how can anything go wrong. It was a night to remember. With the theme of crystal ball, all the girls pulled out all the stops and looked ravishing and so did their dates. The ball took place on the 19th of October at the Bojangles suite at St. Georges Park. Speeches were made and the delectable food was served, which was followed by a night of fun and dancing. The night was a complete success. Special thanks to Shamelle Govender who organised this amazing event.

Yet again another year has gone by; some of us are saying goodbyes and others we will see again. No matter what we have been up to this year, we have all learnt more coming out of the year than we did going into it. After a long year I think everyone is glad that it is finally here, we can do everything we like- although some of us are doing our hours... Whatever you are up to this festive season, remember to relax a little. So lighten up, enjoy the free time and be safe.

Amber Cheng (PEPSA Chairperson)

