

ASSA



AVSA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA 2013

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the 2013 Newsletter of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. This newsletter is filled with awards and achievements and "Congratulations" are in order! Thank you to each and every one that contributed to this newsletter and a special note of thanks to those who submitted on time.

A special thank you to the previous editor, Dr Jacqui Friedling, for her assistance and advice. I now know what it means to BEG and NAG! :)

An extra special thank you to Mr Leon du Plessis for his assistance with the formatting and layout of the newsletter!

Well done to the ASSA2013 organizing committee from UKZN, for a wonderful conference and all the best to the organizing committee from US, with all the logistics involved for ASSA 2014.

The festive season is almost upon us and I wish you all the best for the last stretch of the year!

Best wishes,

Desiré Brits

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSA

Greetings from the Mother City.

Welcome to our final edition of the ASSA newsletter for 2013, and may I extend my sincere thanks to Desiré for all her hard work in preparing this edition for the enjoyment of our readers.

We are all entering the final stages of the academic year now, and I wish everyone the strength and patience that we need to complete the examination cycle successfully. Both staff and students alike comment on how rapidly the years seem to pass these days!

ASSA Council had its first “virtual” meeting this week (14th October). We linked up at four main centres (Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Durban) via Polycom, and had a video-conference-type of meeting via the Internet. It all worked well apart from the odd dropped call, Daleen who disappeared off our monitors for a while and MR who never appeared on anyone’s monitor and it was a hugely successful 3-hour meeting. This is certainly the way to go, and is far more efficient than flying people all over RSA for such meetings. It saved ASSA a whack of money and saved the environment as well. So all thanks are due to Albert for putting together this meeting with the able assistance of the very kind IT folk from each of the four centres that we used.

As Sanet and her team prepare for the upcoming ASSA conference in April, 2014 in Stellenbosch, our thoughts are with her as we wish her everything of the best for those preparations. We look forward to welcoming you all down here to the W Cape for that week.

Just a reminder that in 2014 there will be a special event in Greece to mark five centuries of the influence of Andreas Versalius, considered to be the founder of modern anatomy. In the week

of 4-8 September, we will celebrate five hundred years since his birth with a number of events and a congress on the island of Zakynthos: “Vesalius Continuum.” The full calendar of events is available at: <http://www.vesalius2014.be>. Beside the congress, exhibition, a new monument and a music concert, the organisation is working on another project, a documentary film: *Fabrica Vitae*, reflecting on the fabric of life and collecting funds through the following link: www.kickstarter.com/projects/3602722/fabrica-vitae-reflecting-on-the-fabric-of-life.

For those fortunate ones who are heading east to the IFAA Conference in China in August of next year, we wish you all well as you prepare for this event and ask you to remember to carry the flag high for ASSA and RSA. I wish only good things for you as you head towards the end of this year and a period of rest and recovery.

May 2014 be one of the greatest years ever!

With best wishes,

Graham Louw



41st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASSA 2013)



ASSA 2013, Westville Campus, UKZN, Durban

The 41st ASSA was hosted by the Discipline of Clinical Anatomy from The School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences. Like many other institutions, UKZN has been reconfigured to consist of schools rather than autonomous departments. What this means in the long term, we can only hope turns out for the best. The College of Health Sciences at UKZN, headed by Prof Rob Slotow, a non-medical head, now consists of four schools, viz. our school, the School of Clinical Sciences, the School of Nursing, Public Health and Family Medicine and the School of Health Sciences. Interestingly, only one of the Deans, the Dean of the Clinical Medicine is medically qualified. No big monetary saving in the last one, no doubt. Only the School of Clinical Medicine has retained its old (sensible, in my opinion) independent departments. The new bureaucracy was recognized by the School of Clinical Medicine to be rather fraught with unnecessary administrative complexities. Our school, however, appears to be getting well-bedded down in its new form now.

The conference venue was in the Main Hall of the Graduate School of Business, originally the recital hall of the School of Music, an eminently suitable venue with naturally good acoustics. Prof William Daniels, a physiologist, opened the meeting which was followed by entertainment from the

mixed experimental dance group, the Siwela Sonke Dancers, headed by Prof Suria Govender, of the School of Humanities. The academic program opened with an applied neuroanatomy symposium convened by the Clinical Anatomy Interest Group (CAIG), which was happily well attended and hopefully stimulating.

The second afternoon’s symposium was hosted by Prof Maryna Steyn (Forensic Anatomy Interest Group – FAIG) and Prof Jules Kieser from Otago University, New Zealand, who, conveniently for us, happened to be coming up to Durban at the time. Lucky for us.

Sunday evening saw Graham Louw and Lester Davids host the new ice-breaker ASSA quiz - with too few beers, we understand – in the evening before retiring. A fun time was had by all. The gracious winning hosts, UKZN (naturally), passed the prize down to the team that came second, UP, followed by a close running UCT. Well done! And thank you especially to Graham and Lester, and the sponsors of the prizes.

The academic programme was full and the spectrum and depth that it covered was, once more, a wonderful reflection of our members’ consistent quality and strength.



From left: Prof Jules Kieser, Prof Maryna Steyn and Prof Steve Symes

in those provinces where there seems to be some truculence in dealing with the issue, while the province sits with unclaimed and unburied paupers accumulating in the mortuaries.

The Gala Dinner was well attended at Docklands, with music provided by the Steve Newman, a renowned South African son and wonder-guitarist, not unknown to Capetonians, and his lovely vocalist, the one and only, Lu Dlamini. Thanks to Graham Louw for once again hosting us and keeping us entertained with his "Oscar" awards to members whose peculiar behavior we all notice, but rarely translate into such hilarity. And lastly, thank you to all for the annual Honoured Member's Award to Prof Alex Nganwah-Bagumah.

Prof Bagumah has been a quiet father-figure to the council and the society with his quiet reserve and wise counsel for so many years. We wish him well in his retirement in 2014...if he really retires. As you may know, every time he prepares to leave, WSU begs him to reconsider. God speed, Alex! The ground is waiting to be tilled!



From left: Prof John Soley, Prof Sanet Kotzé and Dr Martina Crole at the Gala Dinner

And finally, with Alex leaving, and many clinician anatomists joining soon, how will our society guarantee a good mix of scientists and clinicians to train the health professionals of the future over the next decades? Over to you...

Prof M R Haffajee

The old arrangement of mixed sessions over the day has the advantage of everyone staying and listening to varied research across many fields, and encouraging a little cross-fertilization of ideas. Let's not go the way of some international meetings where, because of parallel sessions, sometimes there are often only an half dozen or so delegates listening to one's presentation.

One noticeable trend in ASSA is the enthusiasm and participation in a field that affects us all and that is education. Naturally, we have a deep interest in this in Southern Africa with its myriad and complex nuances. Yet, interestingly, our academic managers place a much higher score on research, rather than teaching. Of course, there is much scope for the research in education today, especially with the new technology growing daily. Perhaps this will help us to better understand what works, why it works, and vice versa?

The short but important seminar on the current difficulties experienced by UKZN, and others, in procuring cadavers and human tissues for research, and even for dissection, has become an important matter that council has been charged with addressing, at the national level, if necessary. Council has, in its last meeting, taking a decision to address the issue, hopefully at both national and provincial level, especially

University of Stellenbosch Division of Anatomy and Histology, Department of Biomedical Sciences



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42nd Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

13-16 APRIL 2014



Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies | (STIAS) | STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTANT DATES

Closing date for **abstract submission**: 31 January 2014

Closing date for **early registrations**: 14 February 2014

Release of **block accommodation bookings**: 14 February 2014

Closing date for **late registration**: 26 March 2014

For more information visit the website at: www.assasun2014.com

ASSA 2014 Conference

Our department is hosting the ASSA 2014 Conference to be held from 13-16 April 2014 in Stellenbosch. We would like to invite delegates to register and submit abstracts for the conference. Please visit our website for all the latest info.

Other News

Mr Vusi April, a technical assistant in our department was recently elected as the chairperson of Families South Africa (FAMSA). Mr April has joined FAMSA in 2010 and served as a deputy chairperson between 2012 and 2013.

FAMSA is a non-profit organization (NPO) which focuses in rendering counselling and therapeutic services to any person with emotional needs. These services include counselling after traumatic events, relationship problems or personal problems.



Mr Vusi April

Dr Venant Tchokonte-Nana attended the Islet Society meeting from the 14-16 July, in Vancouver-Canada. The meeting was hosted by the Jim Johnson laboratory at the University of British Columbia; discussions centered around cutting-edge islet biology topics such as Islet Survival and Function, Islet Cell Plasticity, Islet Programming, Islet-Specific Immunity and Islet Transplantation. Dr V Tchokonte-Nana and his research group the PDL-DORP (Pancreatic Duct Ligated tissues as Donnor Organ) will host the next Islet meeting in South Africa.



Dr Tchokonte-Nana and the Islets Society's President (Prof Shahidul Islam)

Ms Mandi Alblas was awarded the prestigious HB and MJ Thom Award for postgraduate studies in order to pursue a PhD in Biological Anthropology. The award included training overseas, for which Mandi attended a two week (1 June to 16 June 2013) "Introduction to Forensic Anthropology" short course at Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA. The intensive course included hands on field- and laboratory methods in different aspects of forensic sciences such as modern field archaeological methods to effectively and efficiently search, locate and record skeletal remains found in clandestine graves or scattered on the surface.

Another aspect covered was laboratory analyses of skeletal remains.

The focus of these analyses was to identify human bone from non-human bone, manner of death, taphonomy and biological profile (including determining the chronological age, ancestry, stature and sex) leading up to the ultimate goal i.e. to identify the individual. These courses fit in perfectly with the workshop Mandi attended during August 2012 at the University of Pretoria on bone trauma interpretation in medico-legal investigations.



Mandi Alblas (second from right) busy with a searching, locating and recovering exercise of a clandestine grave in the mud at Mercyhurst University (USA)

Prof Sanet Kotzé attended and presented at the AMEE 2013 Conference which was held in Prague in August. As usual more than 3000 delegates with an interest in Medical Education attended. Sanet presented: "Do students use what they ask for? Reflections on anonymous student feedback following the introduction of a novel way of teaching surface anatomy to second year medical students". Sanet also presented this talk at the 2013 Annual Academic Day at our faculty in August where she won the Best Presenter Award in the session of the Centre for Health Sciences Education.



Prof Sanet Kotzé (left) with other delegates from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences including Prof Marietjie de Villiers (right), the Deputy Dean of Education (Prague in the background)

Outreach Open Day

As usual our department was involved with the promotion of Medical Sciences and particularly Anatomy. In Augustus 2013 the annual Open day was held at the "Rooi Plein" at the campus of Stellenbosch University. This event promotes and informs thousands of high school children and their parents about different academic programmes available at Stellenbosch University. Visitors came from as far as Rustenburg and Mpumalanga. Our departmental museum display was very popular and included a visit from the Rector of Stellenbosch University, Prof Botman.

Eskom Expo for Young Scientists: Stellenbosch regional competition

As in previous years, members of our department acted as judges for this competition. Poster presentations by scholars from various primary and high schools in and around Stellenbosch were judged. The competition is aimed at stimulating interest in scientific research among scholars and serves to promote proper research approaches in scholars in amongst others, health sciences.

Prof Sanet Kotzé

University of Cape Town Department of Human Biology

IACI Conference Attendance

The International Association for Craniofacial Identification (IACI) held their 15th meeting at Mopani Rest Camp in the Kruger National Park from 3-7 August, 2013 – the first time the conference has been held on African soil. Entitled "Facing an African Experience", and co-hosted by IACI, the University of Pretoria (UP), UP's Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC), and the South African Police Service (SAPS), the conference focused on research and practical applications in the field of craniofacial identification, with special attention given to local innovations and experiences in the forensic setting.

Devin Finaughty and Carrie Clarke (also MSc (Med) Anatomy) from the Forensic Anthropology Cape Town (FACT) Laboratory, both first time presenters at an international conference, were in attendance. Devin presented his Honours research on the reliability of the Manchester Method of craniofacial reconstruction, and Carrie presented preliminary results from her Master's research on facial fatness as a complicating factor in forensic facial reconstruction.



Devin Finaughty (left) and Carrie Clarke (right)



A stunning sunset during a game drive on the second day

The conference was highly informative and demonstrated that South Africa is at the forefront of research in facial reconstruction and identification alongside their international counterparts, and there is great potential for further research on our largely-unstudied population.

17th Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference

Kyle Paulssen presented a poster on his Honours project at this RRI conference on 20-22 March, 2013. The conference aimed to bring together delegates from all across the globe that, although working in different aspects and ways, all have the communal goal to improve the quality of life for women with breast cancer.

This support conference focuses on all aspects of the disease such as biology, survivorship and psychological health; bringing together, teaching and sharing different perspectives on services, stigma and policies that apply to survivors. Kyle displayed his work on the side-effects of breast cancer treatments on the fascial tissue network in order to understand more about the destructive nature of the treatments which have a direct link to the pain and discomfort that the patients experience, decreasing their quality of life tremendously.

UCT Biomedical Sciences Honours Open Day

On 31 July 2013, the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences hosted its annual Open Day in the Wolfson Pavilion at the UCT Medical Campus. The event served to inform students interested in enrolling in one of the fourteen programmes that form part of the Biomedical Sciences Honours Degree about current work and future studies in each of the divisions. The Applied Anatomy/Biological Anthropology exhibit was run by previous and current Master's students and drew much attention with the display of interesting pathological specimens and anatomical models made by students in previous years.



From left: Kyle Paulssen, Carrie Clarke, Belinda Speed, Devin Finaughty and Petra Maass running the Biological Anthropology and Applied Anatomy display at the UCT Biomedical Sciences Honours Open Day.

UCT MPhil Biomedical Forensic Sciences Open Day

The first UCT Forensic Sciences Open Day was held on 13 September 2013 in the newly renovated Pathology Learning Centre at the UCT Medical Campus. Pupils from schools in the surrounding communities were treated to exhibitions of the fingerprint, footprint, DNA and anthropology components that form part of the Forensic Sciences Masters programme. The anthropology exhibition consisted of interactive stations where pupils were given an overview of sex estimation using the cranium and pelvis

and then challenged to estimate the sex of an "unknown" individual. They were also shown how bones can provide information about the age and stature of an individual and how different forms of disease or trauma could change the appearance of bones. The day was a great success with several future "CSI's" being discovered.

Awards won

Prof Alan Morris was recently awarded the 2013 WW Howells Book Prize by the Biological Anthropology Section (BAS) of the American Anthropological Association for his book *Missing and Murdered: A Personal Adventure into Forensic Anthropology*. In the book, Prof Morris tells of his career as a forensic anthropologist in South Africa, illustrating the importance of the anthropological, medical, legal, political and social issues in forensic anthropology. Prof Morris will be presented with the award at the BAS business meeting in November, in Chicago. The Departments of Human Biology and Clinical Laboratory Sciences hosted their fifth research day on the 4th of September, 2013. This biannual event aims at giving postgraduate students an opportunity to communicate their research data to the departments, while at the same time exposing student researchers to the diverse research that is done in these departments, as well as promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. Kyle Paulssen won the first prize out of 47 posters for his poster presentation on his Honours project titled "The efficacy of ultrasound imaging in determining fascial changes after surgery and radiotherapy".

Fulbright Visiting Scholarship

Prof Alan Morris visited the Department of Anthropology in The Ohio State University during his sabbatical from September 2012 to June 2013 as part of the Fulbright Visiting Scholarship initiative. Besides working on topics aligned to the 'Global History of

Health Project' convened by Clark Larsen in Anthropology, and Rick Steckel in Economic History, Prof Morris spent some time tracking African skeletons in American Museums. Using Columbus as a base, Prof Morris was also able to visit the University of Denver, Illinois State University at Normal, Northwestern in Chicago, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University and museums in Cleveland, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston and New York. Despite his early apprehension about Columbus being in 'Middle America' – away from the big centres – it turned out to be an ideal location academically, geographically and socially.



Kyle Paulssen (centre) receiving his prize

Devin Finaughty, Petra Maass & Kyle Paulssen (MSc (Med) Anatomy candidates)

University of Johannesburg
Anatomy Section of the Department of
Human Anatomy and Physiology

As part of consolidating the Faculty of Health Sciences on the Doornfontein campus of the University of Johannesburg, the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology will be the proud owners of three new laboratories in 2014. These will include a new Physiology, Osteology and dedicated Computer lab. All laboratories will be interlinked to accommodate students passing from one laboratory to another and therefore facilitating different methods of teaching Anatomy and Physiology. The department will also be servicing an additional 400 students from 2014 onwards which will include students from Optometry, Nursing and Sport programmes.

Some news from the Anatomy section of the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology at UJ.....

Nkosi Xhakaza graduated in April this year with his MSc in Arterial variations and is currently busy building his publication record.

Shahed Nalla successfully completed his PhD and was part of a team who published on the Malapa fossils in Science. He has also been awarded a HELM LEAD fellowship that provides individuals opportunities to develop their experience to serve as middle managers in the university sector. We also welcome Pilani Nkomozepi to our Anatomy section as full-time lecturer and look forward to his contributions.

Elaine Swanepoel

University of the Free State
Department of Basic Medical
Sciences

Several clinical workshops have been presented in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, UFS, during 2013.

The Department of Neurosurgery presented a workshop on 23 April 2013, demonstrating a new vascular bypass procedure in a patient with a cerebral aneurysm, assisted by a cardiothoracic surgeon. This procedure was performed for the first time ever in an academic complex.



Neurosurgery workshop: Vascular bypass procedure demonstrated

On 21 June 2013, a knee replacement workshop was presented to familiarize the orthopaedic surgeons with new instruments and procedures. This workshop was repeated in July 2013.



Knee replacement workshop: New techniques and procedures

A Cardiothoracic workshop was also presented in June 2013, demonstrating laparoscopic techniques in lung surgery.



Cardiothoracic workshop: Laparoscopic techniques in lung surgery

Dr D Raubenheimer

University of Kwazulu-Natal
School of Laboratory Medicine and
Medical Sciences

Plastination Training, Plastination Unit and
Technical Skills Training Programme 2014

I am happy to say that once more the Plastination Unit at UKZN (Westville Campus) has been revived.

Training of staff and students have commenced. Some staff are about to complete the course. They have to undergo intensive practical sessions under my supervision.

The B Med Science students, as a part of their curriculum, have had their lectures on all three techniques (S10, E12 and P40) and with their limited time in the department are willing to sacrifice part of their available time to continue on practical sessions.

During the ASSA conference many technicians had shown a keen desire and interest on learning the techniques of plastination. The department and the society's technical members are keen to begin training programmes for other institutions. It is very likely that the Dean of the school would support training as it could make the Plastination Unit semi-autonomous in the long run. Naturally the authority of the Dean will be sought once the numbers of technician's wishing to train are made known to us. It has always been the wishes of myself and the staff at UKZN to facilitate a national training programme. Now that ASSA constituency has indicated support for training in plastination and other skills here at UKZN as well, we hope to begin getting a programme sometime next year after the maceration and defatting workshop is completed at UCT.

The other issue that needs to be addressed is the holding of a 'Technical Workshop' as a parallel session during the ASSA. This had been discussed several times but due to financial implications technicians were not able to attend such workshops. It is essential for technicians to have updated technical knowledge and skills as any anatomy museum needs constant upgrading and improved methods of preservation and display.

Mr G Mathura

University of Limpopo – Medunsa Campus Department of Anatomy

Students Show Professor Lebona Some Love

Students across South Africa took to Facebook in the second semester to show their lecturers some real appreciation, by nominating them in the Van Schaik Bookstore “Love Your Lecturer” Competition.

The competition entries streamed in as students posted photographs of their favourite lecturers and encouraged their friends to vote for them. Professor GT Lebona, Anatomy lecturer at The University of Limpopo Medunsa campus, (who dressed as a pirate for his entry photo) was chosen by the Van Schaik panel as this year’s best-loved lecturer.

He was nominated by student Edward Kgabo. Professor Lebona has been lecturing for 31 years. Edward says Professor Lebona “puts fun into learning, and he is charismatic and approachable.”



Professor Lebona with Jeanette Sibiyi, store manager at Van Schaik Bookstore Medunsa campus and student Edward Kgabo

Lané Prigge

University of Pretoria Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Health Sciences

News in the Department

The Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria has had a fruitful year and we are proud of the achievements of our members of staff.

- Prof Marius Bosman was officially appointed as the Head of Department of Anatomy.
- Prof Maryna Steyn was elected president of the International Association for Craniofacial Identification for the period 2013 – 2015, and she was named an Outstanding Academic Achiever by the University of Pretoria.
- Dr Nanette Oberholzer was awarded a Y2 NRF rating.

Books Published

Books:

Prof Maryna Steyn:

- MY Iscan and M Steyn. 2013. The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine, 3rd edition. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas.

The book will be officially launched at the University of Pretoria on 21 November 2013.

Dr Albert van Schoor:

- Abrahams PH, Spratt JD, Loukas M, van Schoor A. McMinn & Abrahams’ Clinical Atlas of Human Anatomy (7th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier Mosby. 2013.

Book Chapters:

- Steyn M. (2013) Sexing. In: Siegel JA and Saukko PJ (eds.) Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences, Second Edition, pp. 34-41. Waltham: Academic Press
- Symes SA, L’Abbé EN, Stull KE, La Croix M, Pokines JT. Taphonomy and the Timing of Bone Fractures in Trauma Analysis. Manual of Forensic Taphonomy. Pokines JT, Symes SA, eds. CRC Press. Pp. 341-365.

- Symes SA, L’Abbé EN, James T. Pokines, Taylor Yuzwa, Diana Messer, Amy Stromquist, and Natalie Keough. Thermal Alteration to Bone. Manual of Forensic Taphonomy. Pokines JT, Symes SA, eds. CRC Press. Pp: 367-402.

Graduations

Congratulations to the following staff members and students who graduated from the University of Pretoria in 2013:

- MSc (Anatomy): Ms Anja Ackermann (with distinction), Ms Suvasha Jagesur and Mrs Lané Prigge (with distinction).
- MSc (Cell Biology): Mrs Antonette Buys (with distinction) and Mrs Claire Venter.
- MA (Information Design): Mrs M Pretorius (with distinction).
- PhD (Anatomy): Dr Wendy van der Spuy.

IACI Conference 2013

The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre and Department of Anatomy, in collaboration with the SAPS, hosted the 15th International Association of Craniofacial Identification conference at Mopani Rest Camp, Kruger National Park from 3-7 August 2013. This conference was attended by 60 national and international delegates and four accompanying persons. Mrs Marinda Pretorius presented a workshop “Photoshop skills for post-mortem facial depiction”, Prof Ericka L’Abbé presented a workshop “Craniofacial variation among 20th century black, white and coloured South Africans” and Dr Steven A Symes presented a workshop “Craniofacial blunt force trauma”. Mrs Natalie Keough received a prize for the best young presenter for her presentation “Skeletal changes to the cranium after post-mortem exposure to fire as an indicator of decomposition stage”.

ASSA Conference 2013

27 staff members and students from the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria attended the 41st annual ASSA conference hosted by the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Our staff and students performed exceptionally well, with the following prizes being awarded at the conference:

- Ms Stephany van der Walt received the Antoinette Kotzé prize for the best first-time presenter for her oral presentation entitled: Evaluation of five dental calcification formulae for estimating age in South Africans.
- Ms Jolandie Myburgh received the SV Naidoo prize for the best poster for her poster entitled: Assessing the effects of age-related changes on the accuracy of the Phenice method.
- Mrs Natalie Keough received the Bob Symington prize for the best presentation by a young researcher for her oral presentation entitled: Transition analysis: Skeletal changes after post-mortem exposure to fire as an indicator of decomposition stage.
- Mrs Marinda Pretorius achieved first runner-up for the best medical education presentation for her oral presentation entitled: An exploration of medical student’s use, comprehension and preference of anatomical illustrations as a learning tool.

Cochlear Implants and Advanced Temporal Bone Dissection Course

The Department of Anatomy, UP, in collaboration with the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, UP, and the Hass Group presented a Cochlear Implants and Advanced Temporal Bone Dissection Course for Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists from 29 August – 1 September 2013. The presenters included, amongst others, Prof Marius Bosman and Prof Louis Hofmeyer, an ENT surgeon. The course was well attended and received by the delegates.

Palaeopathology Symposium: 12-15 May 2014

The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre will be hosting a paleopathology symposium from 12 to 15 May 2014. It will be aimed at both forensic practitioners and bioarchaeologists who have to deal with skeletal remains. The aim is to elucidate the most common pathological changes seen on the human skeleton, with most possible differential diagnoses. Non-specific signs of disease and stress will also be covered. The programme will be scheduled so that there are time for lectures and practicals (demonstrations), but attendees are invited to bring along case studies or short presentations to elucidate diagnostically problematical cases from their own experience. All presenters are medical doctors, but with extensive experience in assessment of human skeletal remains. CPD points will be awarded. Presenters include Prof George Maat from The Netherlands, Prof Neels Lynnerup from Denmark and Prof Maryna Steyn.

Clair Ventur

University of Pretoria
Department of Anatomy and Physiology,
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Undergraduate Teaching

2013 has gone by in a flash and just when we thought we would never see a bigger class, we are preparing for next year's intake of 40 extra students. With a couple of staff members due to retire next year this extra intake should keep us on our toes. Unfortunately our facilities and staff do not see a concurrent increase in size and it will become physically impossible to teach almost 200 students the way we used to teach 120. Testing such a large group on wet specimens will be unfeasible due to time and space constraints, so this has pushed us in the

direction of computer testing and multiple choice questions. Although this is not all bad, the onus will be on the lecturers to maintain the student's interest and participation in wet dissections. 2014 will be a completely new challenge for the Department and one which we welcome with open arms.

Departmental Achievements and Visitors

The Department saw the highest number of graduates conferred with PhD's at a single graduation during the April graduation; Lizette du Plessis, Mario Elias and Wahabu Kimaro, congratulations are in order. At the annual Faculty Day the Department was well represented and John Soley was named in 3rd place for the Researcher of the Year Award which recognises the top researchers in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. John Soley's PhD student, Martina Crole, has submitted her thesis for examination. The Electron Microscopy Unit has been busy this year with two visitors from Nigeria, Dr Debo Olukole who is working on turtle testis and epididymis and Dr Magdalene Ali who is working on the endocrine glands of African giant rats. These visitors travel far to enjoy the facilities and expertise offered by the Unit.

Local Conferences

Prof John Soley and Dr Martina Crole attended the 41st Annual ASSA Congress in Westville, Durban, where Martina presented research from her PhD entitled: "Rostral nostrils: a unique feature distinguishing the Australasian ratites". Members of the Department will also be attending and presenting at the 51st Annual Microscopy Society of Southern Africa (MSSA) Conference to be held at The Farm Inn, Pretoria. Martina will again present work from her PhD entitled: "Distribution and structure of taste buds in the emu", John will be presenting on behalf of Lizette du Plessis, on her work entitled: "Morphology and origin of acephalic sperm in the emu" and Erna Van Wilpe

will be presenting research on "Sperm structure in the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*)".

International Conferences

Ken Booth was invited, as a keynote speaker, to the 2013 International Symposium on Mechanisms of Animal Behaviour which was organized by the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, in Wroclaw, Poland in May 2013. The title of his address was: "The role of the Vomeronasal Organ (VNO) on the regulation of parental and reproductive behaviors in small ruminants."

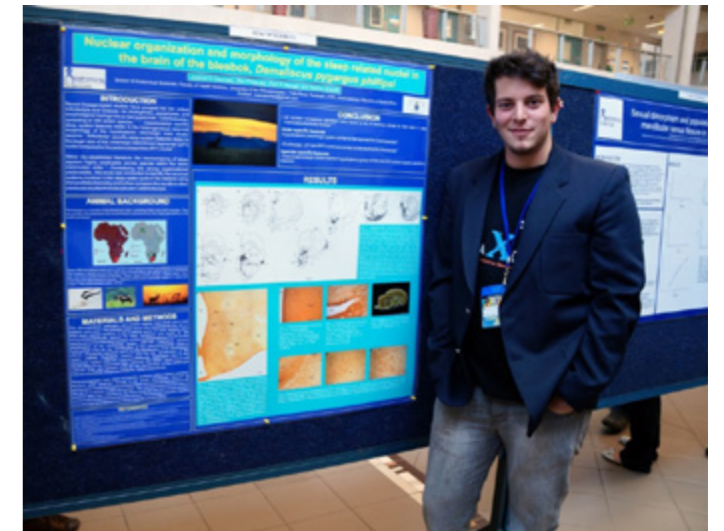
Martina Crole

University of the Witwatersrand
School of Anatomical Sciences

News from the School

We congratulate Dr Wendy van der Spuy on receiving her PhD from the University of Pretoria. Her thesis was entitled "Effects of oestrogen on the neural tissue, thrombotic and inflammatory profiles of rats in transient experimental cerebral ischaemia" which was supervised by Prof E Pretorius and co-supervisor by Prof MC Bosman from the University of Pretoria.

During the University of the Witwatersrand 5th Cross Faculty Symposium, Ms Andrea Kolkenbech-Ruh did an oral presentation while Ms Tshogofatso Ramphaleng, Ms Candice Small and Mr Joshua Davimes did poster presentations. Mr Davimes won first place for his poster presentation for the Faculty of Health Sciences. His poster was entitled "Nuclear organization and morphology of the sleep related nuclei in the brain of the blesbok, *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*".



Mr Joshua Davimes at the University of the Witwatersrand 5th Cross Faculty Symposium, where he won first place for his poster presentation

Conferences

Local Conferences

Mrs Desiré Brits and Ms Melissa Pininski both delivered oral presentations at this year's ASSA conference in Durban. Ms Pininski received 2nd place for the Bob Symington award for the best presenter younger than 35 for her presentation entitled "Stature estimation from the sacrum in South Africans".

International Conferences

Our staff and students have attended a number of international conferences.

In June of this year Mrs Desiré Brits attended and presented at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Balkan Academy of Forensic Sciences which was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The presentation was entitled "Assessing the accuracy of the anatomical method for the estimation of stature in back South African females".

Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney and Ms Candice Small attended the 15th Meeting of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification: Facing an African Experience, held in the Kruger National Park. Dr Randolph-Quinney gave a plenary lecture entitled "Out of Africa: Functional and evolutionary constraints on modern human facial morphology" and Ms

Small presented her research entitled “Assessing the effects of tooth loss in adult crania using geometric morphometrics”.

A number of staff members and students attended the 11th International Conference of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa in Morocco this year and our students, Leigh-Anne Dell, Jean-Leigh Kruger, Nina Patzke, Ayanda Ngwenya, Tanya Calvey, Illke Philander and Joshua Davimes won the IBRO Alumni Poster Prize.



From left: Dr Nina Patzke, Dr Constance Maseko, Jean-Leigh Kruger, Ayanda Ngwenya, Illke Philander, Leigh-Anne Dell and Joshua Davimes in Morocco for the 11th International Conference of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa

2013 African School of Forensic Sciences and Human Rights

This international school ran from 11th November to 6th December, and was jointly hosted by the Argentine Forensic Team (EAAF) and the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, in partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights of South Africa, and the African Network of Forensic Medicine. This was a month-long course which was attended by forensic delegates from across Africa, and was intended to help fill a deficit in forensic science training in many African countries, with special application to human rights investigations. The course was held in the School of Anatomical Sciences, and was jointly delivered by forensic anthropology

and archaeology specialists from EAAF and Wits, with additional input from forensic experts from the United States and Europe.

The course specifically aimed to offer forensic practitioners from African countries specific training on the uses of forensic disciplines in human rights investigations; how to recover ante-mortem data from relatives; survey and excavation of mass graves; forensic archaeology and anthropology; forensic genetics; identification of human remains; analysis of trauma in bones; the uses of forensic pathology in human rights investigations; presentation of reports; and cultural and religious issues on dealing with dead bodies and exhumations. The course included delegates from Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe and South Africa. All were forensic pathologists or specialists in human rights advocacy. They were tutored by a Luis Fondebrider (EAAF), Claudia Bisso (EAAF), Amanda Esterhuysen (Wits), Patrick Randolph-Quinney (Wits), Ivana Wolff (EAAF), Desire Brits (Wits), Henriette Stratman (EAAF), Mariana Segura (EAAF), Steve Symes (Mercyhurst), Brian Kuhn (Wits), Maria Dolores (EAAF), Ignacio Tredici (EAAF), and Mercedes Salado (EAAF).



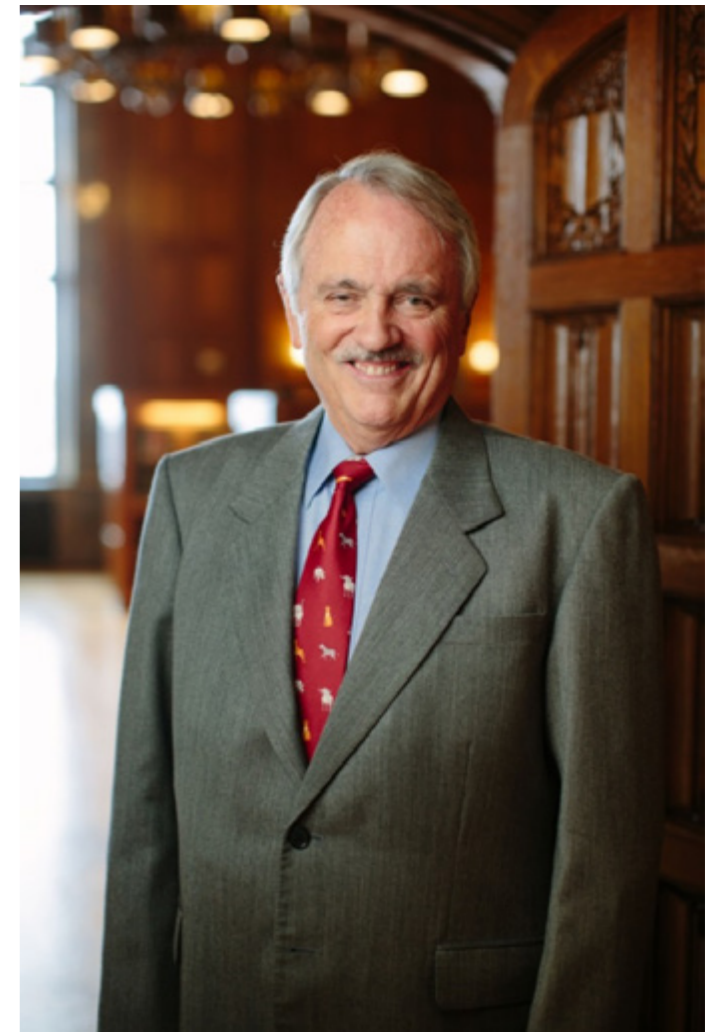
Delegates of the Forensic School and members of the Argentine Forensic Team conduct a simulated mass grave excavation on Wits University Campus as part of their field training

Desire Brits

News From Our International Members

Prof Stephen Carmichael from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN USA was recently named the recipient of the Mayo Clinic 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award which was recognized by the Department of Anatomy at a dinner in his honour at the Mayo Foundation House in Rochester. This award honours individuals who exemplify Mayo Clinic's ideals and mission.

Prof Carmichael is a world renowned leader in the field of anatomy having taught, conducted research and published extensively in the field. He has filled the President's chair of the Mayo Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Histochemical Society and the Association of Anatomy and has been a member of American Association of Anatomists for numerous years. He was a founding member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists and was the Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Anatomy for 12 years.



Prof Stephen Carmichael

