



Obituary

Johannes Andreas Myburgh 1940 - 2018

Nadine Butler

Hans was born in Laingsburg, the second of four children. He began school in Worcester, then the family relocated to Cape Town. There he attended Harold Cressy High School, which was challenging because it was a completely English-speaking environment.

He began studying medicine at the University of Cape Town for a while, then transferred to the University of the Western Cape to pursue pharmacy studies.

Having obtained his B Sc Pharmacy degree, in 1972 Hans started as a junior lecturer in the School of Pharmacy. It was the start of a long academic career, which lasted until his mandatory retirement in 2005. He eventually left the university after completing a two-year post-retirement contract position. The younger generation will have trouble with the concept of a 35 year stint for one employer!

Post retirement, he became involved with training pharmacists' assistants at the Medipost Academy.

Throughout his working life he maintained a business interest in community pharmacy at NuKrane pharmacy.

My association with Hans really began when I too started studying pharmacy at UWC in 1971 and I was taught by him from my second year.

From 1976, Hans and I became School of Pharmacy colleagues, both teaching in the Pharmaceutics department. We embarked on our Masters research projects working with the same supervisor on related Pharmaceutical Microbiology projects. Hans had by this stage also obtained his BSc Hons Pharmacy degree.

There were moves afoot to incorporate more patient-oriented content into the pharmacy curriculum and Hans and I were soon co-teaching new courses in Pharmacy Administration and Health Education. I left for a few years and during this time Hans was single-handedly responsible for the establishment of a new department of Pharmacy Practice – only the second such department to be established at a South African university. He chaired this department for a few years until I took over. Until his retirement we worked side by side to build the discipline. Hans was instrumental in designing and driving the building of the new Pharmacy Practice laboratory and the establishment of our undergraduate workplace learning programme (externship).

Hans was a dedicated teacher, one who really cared about the well-being and academic progress of the students. He was always willing to advise and assist students with employment recommendations as he was so well connected with the community pharmacy community. But equally he cared about the pharmacy profession so he would never permit students who were not up to scratch to enter the profession. He also served the profession through his many years of association with the PSSA.

It is rare to meet an academic who enjoys committee work, but this was Hans' favourite. Whether it was Faculty Student Affairs or Senate Examinations committee, he gave it his all. Year after year, he never complained when he was the last staff member on campus in December finalising promotions and applications.

Besides his work commitments at UWC, Hans left a much larger legacy.

I've been asking myself how I will remember Hans:

The dedicated professional and one of the good guys of pharmacy?
Yes

The proud father and family man? I cannot forget the pride with which over the years he shared his children's achievements.

Kind-hearted and helpful? The go-to guy who was ever ready to give advice, be it on buying property or car troubles.

Loyal friend? Definitely, as he so ably demonstrated during the illness of our colleague Peter Eagles.

Consummate extrovert who derived his energy from other people? Again, definitely yes. How can I not remember his frequent appearances at my office door, wicked grin in place saying "I'm sure you don't know ..." and then the stories would follow.

The crossword puzzle fan? His abiding interest evolved into an obsession as he conquered the cryptic way of thinking.

The old-fashioned gentleman who believed in opening doors and allowing a woman to go ahead?

No one of these will stand out in my memory more than another.

He was and will always be simply "mi amigo", my friend.

Rest well, my friend.