The Sam Moss Memorial Award 2007

Lynn Ambler

The Sam Moss Award was instituted by the Natal Branch of the Community Sector to acknowledge the selfless contribution Sam made over many years to the profession as a whole and the community sector in particular. Sam died shortly after its institution and so it became the Sam Moss Memorial Award which is presented annually, if an appropriately suitable recipient is nominated.

At the PSSA conference 2007, in the Drakensberg, the convener of the awards committee, Lynn Ambler, announced that there had been a nominee in Carl Michael Schnell who, during his long career, had fulfilled all the criteria. As Carl was not able to be present, a long time colleague and co-founder of the CPS Branch in KZN, Mike Sparks, was asked to receive the unique trophy, designed and crafted each year by fellow pharmacist, Kingsley Appleby. A small delegation visited Carl and his wife Sue at his home in Everton to hand over the award.

Carl Schnell, FPS, recipient of several honours and awards, recently retired for a second time, after being persuaded to return to rescue the KZN branch of Alphapharm from what appeared to be certain disaster, was one of the founders of the Natal Branch of The SA Retail Chemists and Druggists Association, forerunner of the CPS, in 1961. He served for many years on the executive committees both locally and nationally of the retailers association and the PSSA. He was a member and President of the SA Pharmacy Board. At school, he acquitted himself well both academically and in sport and was chairman of the DHS Old-Boys Club, which he represented at competitive Surf League Fishing.

An active Rotarian, he also served as Chairman of the Pirates Surf Lifesaving Club of which he was awarded Honorary Life Membership.

Carl hails from a family dynasty of pharmacists including his father, uncle, daughter, cousin, nephew, and some in-laws. In spite of his long list of honours, achievements and high positions, Carl has always remained a true champion of independent pharmacy as the backbone of the industry, upholding the Sam Moss legacy.