Study shows clear water fluoridation benefits

The addition of fluoride to mains water in Australian cities has markedly reduced the prevalence of dental disease in children, according to ongoing research in the Faculty of Dentistry.

The research by the Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) also shows that the poorest in society benefit most from water fluoridation.

The DSRU — an external unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare located in Dentistry — aims to improve the range and quality of dental statistics in Australia.

As part of this task, the Unit has undertaken a Child Fluoride Study over the past five years to measure the effectiveness of water fluoridation in reducing the prevalence and incidence of dental caries in children.

The study, encompassing several grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council, includes more than 23,000 children in South Australia, the ACT and Queensland.

The study includes children with differing exposures to fluoridation, and examines other factors such as exposure to other fluorides and socioeconomic status.

Mr Michael Davies, an epidemiologist who is carrying out the work with DSRU Director Professor John Spencer, said the study showed water fluoridation significantly reduced the prevalence of dental decay by 34% in permanent teeth and 44% in infant teeth in contemporary Australian children.

"In the 1960s, the rate of dental decay in Australian population was amongst the highest in the world," Mr Davies said.

"Health authorities responded by implementing water fluoridation, adding fluoride to toothpastes, and creating the Australian School Dental Scheme for providing free care to school children.

"Today approximately two thirds of Australians receive reticulated water with adjusted fluoride levels. 98% of tooth brushing involves a toothpaste with fluoride, and school children across Australia receive care from a network of State dental services.

Continued on Page 5

Andrew Thomas: a day in the life

Adelaide-born NASA astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas has been formally recognised as one of the University of Adelaide’s “Distinguished Alumni”.

In May this year the 44-year-old Mechanical Engineering graduate became the first Australian astronaut to play a key role on board a space shuttle. He was the payload commander and mission specialist for the shuttle Endeavour.

Dr Thomas was presented with his Award — in recognition of his “unique pioneering role as an astronaut, and for his inspiring of our school children in the engineering sciences” — at an event held on 24 September by the Chapman (Engineering) Chapter of the Alumni Association.

At the function Dr Thomas gave a slide and video presentation of his shuttle mission, and was interviewed by the University’s Professor of Natural Philosophy, Paul Davies, about the aerospace industry.

Dr Thomas then presented the Faculty of Engineering with a signed plaque, which contained a patch worn by the NASA astronauts, a small Australian flag, and photos of the shuttle Endeavour and its crew.

During his “return home” visit to Adelaide (which was sponsored by the Institution of Engineers Australia) Dr Thomas was also handed the key to the city of Adelaide by the Lord Mayor, Mr Henry Ninio, and spoke to hundreds of school children at the Investigator Science & Technology Centre at Wayville.

—David Ellis

Call to act on bowel cancer screening

A national screening program would significantly reduce the mortality of bowel cancer, according to Professor Graeme Young, the Michell Professor of Medicine at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Young, co-editor of a new textbook titled Prevention and Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer, said the results of studies into the effectiveness of screening for bowel cancer were extremely encouraging.

He said additional results of key studies were to be published soon. However, all the evidence suggested that screening for bowel cancer was effective.

Bowel cancer is one of the most common and deadly forms of cancer in Australia, killing about 4000 people every year. The disease is fatal in about 50% of sufferers.

"If you detect it in the early stages, it is certainly curable," he said.

The incidence of bowel cancer in Australia is high (five times higher than in developing nations) due largely to poor diet — too much fat and too little fibre, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Countries such as Japan, which has traditionally had a low incidence of bowel cancer, have seen increasing rates of bowel cancer due to the westernisation of their diet.

"Bowel cancer is a disease of Westernised, modern society," Professor Young said.

"If you migrate to Australia from a low-incidence country like Japan or Greece, then you will be exposed to an increased risk of cancer, primarily because of a change in diet."

Professor Young said an effective national screening program could be set up for less than $100 million — a small amount compared, for instance, to the marketing budgets of high-fat food manufacturers.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Meeting the needs of general staff women at the University

I recently went to a meeting of the Women’s Professional Development Network. The WPDN had sponsored a talk on Working Women and Menopause.

Almost the first question the presenter asked was, “How many of you told your colleagues that you were going to talk about menopause?” Some of us rather sheepishly put up our hands, and we all laughed. Most of us had not felt this was a proper subject to mention to colleagues or supervisors.

The talk set us straight on the importance of bringing out into the open something that all women go through in some form or other, but few people feel able to speak freely about, particularly in the workplace. The session was about empowering women to take control of their own working lives in relation to the changes brought about by menopause.

Empowerment is essentially what the WPDN is about. It was established in 1995 as a result of a training needs analysis of women general staff of HEO 5 and above.

A Steering Committee was then formed by a group of women to focus on issues affecting the professional and personal development needs of women general staff of HEO 5 level and above.

It has initiated a number of activities for the benefit of women staff. These include:

- lunchtime networking forums, where guests are invited to speak on topics of interest. Recent guests have included Janine Haines, Adelaide University Council member and patron of the WPDN, Vini Ciccarello, Mayor of Kensington and Norwood, and Frank O’Neill, who spoke about skills, experiences and people that had helped him in his career. There are also networking meetings involving small group discussions around topics of interest.

- a mentoring scheme for women general staff of HEO 5 level and above. This scheme has recently got under way for eighteen pairs of mentors and mentorees, with a half day training session for each group on the benefits and issues of concern and the skills and expectations of both groups. The mentors include both females and males, and members of both the academic and general staff. It will run for four months, with regular evaluation, and may be extended if it proves successful.

- establishment of a computer list server to which interested individuals can subscribe and receive information about the Network electronically.

- review of University policies and procedures that affect women general staff.

So far this has involved looking at the University’s recruiting and appointment policies, which are currently under review by Personnel Services Branch.

While these activities are specifically directed to women at HEO 5 level and above, all staff, particularly women from HEO 2 to 4, are welcome to attend the lunchtime networking forums. The Steering Committee is now preparing a questionnaire through which it hopes to find out if it is meeting the needs of women general staff, and in what other areas women would like it to be active.

In its short history it has attracted plenty of comment, both good and bad. Members of WPDN have been intrigued to hear disparaging comments directed at the Network. But we have also had very good feedback from those who have attended the sessions.

Because the Network directs its energies particularly to the needs of women, some of these adverse comments are not unexpected, as there is still some resistance in the University about recognising that women general staff may have particular professional development needs.

WPDN strives not only to meet the needs of those women who support it, but also to challenge the attitudes of those who minimise the aspirations of women general staff.

Our vision statement is that by the year 2000, the WPDN will be actively promoting change within the University, so that women general staff are empowered and enabled to achieve their personal and professional potential.

At present, women are 47% of all staff at HEO 5 level, 44% of those at HEO 6, 35% at HEO 7, 32% at HEO 8, 30% at HEO 9, and 17% of the level 10 and Chief Officer classifications. These figures have changed little over the last ten years.

It is of benefit to women and to the University that there should be greater representation of women at the more senior levels of the general staff, and there will need to be changes in the organisational culture of the University if WPDN is to reach its goals.

But enough of the heavy issues. WPDN is interesting, and it’s fun. We don’t plot the overthrow of patriarchy, and we don’t paint our nails — we get together to hear interesting people talk, to meet staff we don’t usually come into contact with, to exchange ideas, and to renew ourselves as women and workers. Please feel free to join us.

by

Kay Rollison

Member, Women’s Professional Development Network Steering Committee

The Great Universities Guide

As readers of my press releases in recent times will know, I have been having a running battle with The Good Universities Guide over the way the ratings for Australian universities are calculated. The current method of calculating the ‘Getting a Job’ rating is based on the proportion of last year’s graduates in full-time employment expressed as a percentage of those available for full-time employment; the relevant information is supplied by the GCCA’s Graduate Destination Survey. This analysis excludes nearly 50% of our graduates who do not continue in full-time study. Using the GDS statistics for 1995, when graduates in further study are excluded, the rate for the University of Adelaide is 12.8%. This is well below the State average of 39% and the National average of 41% and is one of the lowest in the country.

I have been arguing that one of the important statistics that should be published for universities is the percentage of women who enter high degree-by-research studies. These places are highly sought after and it is only the very best graduates who achieve one. I have become so cranky about this issue that I’ve come to privately label the guide as ‘The Bad Universities Guide’. Indeed, I have begun to wonder whether I shouldn’t publish a more informative publication, and have contemplated writing ‘The Great Universities Guide’.

I must confess this track of thought originated in my research into an issue that interested me. I have done a bit of local sampling, which backs up my initial opinions. Universities that are the top international five or ten, I think would naturally attract even more excellent staff who win Nobel and other major prizes which attract large amounts of industry funding and endowments, tend to be the favoured “great”. These universities also tend to be the ones that are particularly to the needs of women, some of these adverse comments are not unexpected, as there is still some resistance in the University about recognising that women general staff may have particular professional development needs.

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The newspaper of The University of Adelaide

Contributors

Adrienne Eccles

Geoff Sauer

The University of Adelaide is undoubtedly a great university in Australian terms, and I’m sure that we are on the path to international greatness. While we may not (yet!) be in the top international five or ten, I think the formula for greatness is pretty simple. Of course, applying formulas as those of us who are scientists know, is not always quite as easy as devising them but we can always give it a go in good experimental fashion.

MARY O’KANE
Landmark Indonesian training agreement for AITEC

The Australian Information Technology Engineering Centre (AITEC) has signed a landmark joint venture agreement with the Indonesian human resources company PT Bina Mitratel Nusantara to provide training to Indonesian telecommunications company PT Telkom and emerging telecommunications organizations including PT Pramindo.

It is the third major international education contract won by AITEC in the past twelve months.

The training program is part of a Masters course in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) which also provides for a number of graduate certificates and diplomas and allows multiple entry and exit points.

The initial 13-month pilot program begins on 8 October and will provide Indonesian employees with a high level of skill in the technologies, business practices and strategies needed by world class telecommunications organizations.

AITEC’s Managing Director, Mr Peter Hamilton, said the pilot program was an opportunity for significant opportunity for AITEC, for its shareholder institutions, and for South Australia.

“This is a high value-added contract which represents a major business opportunity for AITEC, indicating a possible income of $10 million,” he said.

Mr Hamilton said with the steady move to the liberalisation and privatisation of the telecommunications markets in the Asia-Pacific region, the growth of business opportunities for AITEC was “quite dramatic.”

“This contract has enormous significance not only for AITEC, but in positioning South Australia as a centre for IT & T education,” he said.

AITEC is jointly owned by the SA Department of Employment, Technical and Further Education (DETAFE) and the three South Australian universities.

Roseworthy Open Day provides plenty of ‘Food for Thought’

If you’ve always wanted to pat an alpaca or taste a Cabernet, munch on pulses or even eat an emu, then the forthcoming Roseworthy Open Day is for you.

For the first time in several years the Roseworthy Campus will open its doors to the general public from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Sunday 27 October, with the aim of showing country and city people alike the enormous range of research and education which takes place at Australia’s oldest agricultural training institution — and how food production and management in particular are changing rapidly.

“The Open Day will show that agricultural science is indeed a ‘growing career’ with lots of employment options for people in agriculture and agribusiness,” said the Chair of the Open Day Committee, Mr Peter Fuller.

Visitors will be able to follow the “Food for Thought Super Highway”, checking out alternative crops such as coriander and fenugreek and diverse animal enterprises such as deer and ostriches. A special attraction will be a “Food for the Future” outdoor restaurant where guests can try venison and emu — washed down by some of SA’s top wines.

They can also test their palates in the Wine Marketing Taste Tunnel, which will explore the sensory differences between major wine varieties.

• For further information contact Mrs Margaret Hague on (08) 8303 7892.

Adelaide Show Blitz

The Roseworthy Dairy Team enjoyed great success at this year’s Royal Adelaide Show, taking home nine ribbons including Senior Champion Holstein Fresian and Champion Holstein Bull.

Nine student volunteers attended the Show and were responsible for preparing the stock in the weeks leading up to the Show, and then for the preparation and showing of the cattle during Show Week. They were also involved in the running of the Royal Adelaide Show Dairy, undertaking routine dairy work including the herd testing of all the milking cows on the show ground.

—Elizabeth Butler

Jazz Goes to Hollywood

History’s Professor Trevor Wilson will bring a longstanding passion for jazz and his work as a historian together in a seminar “Jazz goes to Hollywood” at the University of Adelaide later this month.

Jazz presented Hollywood with severe problems, because of the people who performed the music, and because of the music they performed.

“Many of the greatest artists were black, and this was difficult for movie moguls,” Trevor Wilson said. “How were coloured actors and musicians to be made acceptable to predominantly white audiences? And there was a strange dichotomy in the music itself, a challenging mixture of vulgarity and high art — and Hollywood was ill at ease with both.”

Yet Hollywood could not ignore jazz because it was too much a talisman of its time. Jazz is ‘in’ jazz age of the 1930s and the “swing era” of the 1940s and 1950s.

Trevor Wilson’s talk, in Room 420 of the South Australian Heritage Library, will explore the musical contributions of jazz to Hollywood.

Pincus elected as new Academy Fellow

Professor Jonathan Pincus from the Department of Economics is one of twenty new Fellows recently elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Fellowship is based on a distinguished and internationally recognised contribution to one or more of the social sciences.

Professor Pincus is considered one of Australia’s most eminent economic historians, and among the key figures shaping the economic theory of federalism.

He has joint authored works on the economic history of the public sector in Australia in the 20th century, on economic theory of rent seeking, and on economic theory of federalism and intergovernmental relations.

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A ward honours dedication to migrant welfare

A University of Adelaide PhD candidate who migrated to Australia from Iran nine years ago has been honoured for her work to promote equal opportunity in the community.

Tahereh Ziaian received an Equal Opportunity Achievement Award from the Commissioner of Equal Opportunity in a ceremony at Adelaide’s Hyatt Hotel on 20 September.

Since she arrived in Australia, Ms Ziaian has worked for a range of organisations - the Migrant Health Service, Women’s Health Statewide, and the Eastern Division of General Practice - as a project co-ordinator and advocate for migrants.

This included a period as an ethnic health educator in the Iron Triangle region, based in Whyalla. Overall, her involvement has brought her into contact with more than 80 migrant communities.

“I feel responsible for migrants, because they are going through many of the same difficulties I experienced when I arrived here,” Ms Ziaian said. “I want to be a voice for them, and to help them have better access and opportunity here in Australia.”

After she came to Australia, Tahereh Ziaian continued her education, completing a Master of Education in Educational Psychology at the University of Adelaide before winning a scholarship to undertake PhD studies in the Department of Psychology.

Tahereh Ziaian — dedication to migrant welfare honoured. Photo David Ellis.

Her PhD thesis is examining the effects of migration on Persian women, particularly the ways in which the role of Persian women within the family may have changed after migration, and the effect this has on their health and well-being.

Ms Ziaian will be sampling 200 Persian women from South Australia, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales for her research. The community in South Australia numbers some 2000, with about 20,000 Australia-wide.

She believes that there have been significant improvements for migrants since the time of her arrival in 1988, although (like many others in the community) she is uncertain about the directions in which this aspect of Australian public policy is likely to head under the current Federal Government.

“If the Australian people have a positive attitude to migrants, it will be beneficial for everyone, by giving migrants the chance to share their skills and knowledge with the community,” she said.

Ms Ziaian said it meant a lot to her for the work of a migrant such as herself to be recognised through the Equal Opportunity Achievement Award.

“I am deeply honoured,” she said. “The award proves that equal opportunity exists in practice, and gives me more energy and encouragement for the future.”

—John Edge

Many angles on Playford’s South Australia in new book

The University of Adelaide is strongly represented in a new study of South Australia during the Playford years which was launched by the Governor, Sir Eric Neal, in Edmund Wright House on 20 September.

Playford’s South Australia, essays on the history of South Australia, 1933-1968, was published by the Association of Professional Historians (APH), with support from the City of Adelaide and the History Trust of South Australia.

Its editors are Bernard O’Neil (a Visiting Research Fellow in the History Department), the Department of Community Medicine’s Dr J udith Raftery, and Dr Kerrie Round (also from the Adelaide History Department). Other staff, students and graduates among the contributors are Geography’s Professor Graeme Hugo, Politics lecturer Dr Jeny Stock, History doctoral candidate Carol Fort, Dr Pauline Payne (an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in History), Dr Noris Ioannou, Dr Susan Marsden, Dr Leith MacGillivray and J ohn Raftery.

The 17 essays in Playford’s South Australia focus not only on developments most often connected with Playford (immigration, industrialisation, mining, urban and suburban growth), but also on the arts, entertainment, and heritage preservation, as well as personal accounts of life in the Playford period.

Apart from the essays, there are also 24 “snapshot” accounts of well-known people and aspects of South Australian life (such as league football, test cricket and the popular Argonauts’ Club) during the period.

The book does not pretend to be a comprehensive history of the State during this period, Dr Raftery says, but rather reflects the expertise and interests of its contributors.

Thus it “neglects some topics which readers might have expected it to cover”, but “tackles others which are less standard fare” — such as Kerrie Round’s analysis of the reasons why South Australia was relatively slow to preserve and celebrate its past, or Carol Fort’s argument that war, rather than Playford’s policies, was the real engine of South Australia’s industrialisation.

Dr Raftery emphasises that the book is not about Playford so much as South Australia during his period of political office, so that Playford figures largely in some chapters, less so in others.

She says this underscores an argument advanced in many of the essays, that “developments frequently attributed to Playford may be more accurately understood as the outcome of a complex web of events, ideas and trends, many of them outside his control or influence.”

The book thus challenges a “simplistic ‘big man’ version of the history of the period”, while acknowledging Playford’s enormous contribution, Dr Raftery says.

“We believe that it makes a valuable contribution to South Australian historiography, and hope that it will encourage others to add to and refine the picture.”

• Playford’s South Australia is available in a hardcover edition of 367 pages, with over 100 illustrations and a comprehensive bibliography and index, for $45 (pp) at good bookellers, and also from the Association of Professional Historians, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000 for the same price (includes postage & handling in South Australia).

—John Edge
October graduation to relive a match made in Adelaide

Graduation ceremonies are always an important event for families, but this month's commemoration ceremony will be even more special for one family.

Husband and wife Brent and Fiona Harrison will graduate together at the University of Adelaide on Monday 14 October, having completed a two-year Master of Engineering (Information Technology & Telecommunications) degree.

Brent and Fiona first met each other at the University of Adelaide earlier this year. They began to develop from there. Almost a year after they first met the two were engaged, and they were married in February this year.

Although eligible to graduate earlier this year, Brent and Fiona opted to wait until the October commemoration ceremony, when they could collect their degrees together.

"We didn't graduate in the first semester of this year because Fiona was in America at the time doing a training course for her new job," said Mr Harrison.

"It's important for us to be able to graduate together as a husband and wife, because we went through the whole experience of the course together and we wanted to finish it off the way we started."

"It's also important for us to graduate in person, as opposed to just having our degrees sent to us, because of all the hard work we put in. We thought it would be nice to celebrate it with our families, and graduating in person will give us an opportunity to do that," he said.

Fiona, originally from Canberra, said there were two main reasons for her decision to study at Adelaide.

First, the Master of Engineering (run by AITEC, the Australian Information Technology Engineering Centre) was recommended to her by the then Dean of Engineering at the University of Canberra, and now the University of Adelaide's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane.

Second, her father had studied at Adelaide, and her mother had been a staff member here. Ironically, they also met and fell in love at the University of Adelaide.

"It's very spooky, I suppose, but quite good as it all turns out," Mrs Harrison said.

"Graduating together will be extremely special, because it celebrates the end of what for me was a very challenging time, and it means a lot to celebrate it with the person I decided to marry at the end of it all, the person I met in the course.

"Our families will be there, and they'll be able to share that time with us as well," she said.

Mr and Mrs Harrison are now both living and working in Brisbane. Brent as a systems engineer for Conalgo Smetting, and Fiona as a management and information technology analyst with Andersen Consulting.

They both consider themselves very lucky to have successful careers and a successful relationship, due in some small part to the University of Adelaide.

"The University has been doubly important for us," said Mr Harrison.

"It's given us something that will take away for the rest of our lives. Not only has it given us our degrees, but more importantly it's given us each other. That's something we'll never forget."

—David Ellis

Local academic is new Fellow of Polish Academy

The Department of Education's Professor Jerzy Smolciz AM has been honoured with election to a Fellowship of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Her Excellency Dr Agnieszka Morawinska, the Ambassador of Poland to Australia, officially presented Professor Smolciz with a parchment conferring the Fellowship in August.

She also hosted a luncheon in honour of the occasion; guests included the Director of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Mr Ian Castles.

Professor Smolciz is shown right with Dr Morawinska. (Photo courtesy of Professor Smolciz)

Study shows benefits of water fluoridation

From Page 1

"Declines in tooth decay have been dramatic. In 1954 only one per cent of 12-year-old children had no caries experience (defined as decayed, missing or filled teeth due to caries), whereas this increased to 54% by 1993. Children in SA, for instance, now enjoy dental health that is amongst the best in the world."

The study also found that exposure to multiple sources of fluoride — from toothpaste, fluoridated water, and professional fluoride treatment — had an additional benefit.

Water fluoridation also significantly reduced the gap in dental health between children from families of different income levels. Children from socially disadvantaged families experienced greater benefits from fluoridated water.

Together, the findings of the Child Fluoride Study showed the interactive roles of environmental, social and individual factors in the prevention of dental decay.

"With more sophisticated preventive care, increasingly smaller percentages of the child population account for the majority of dental decay experience," Mr Davies said. "Providing appropriate and well-targeted preventive and therapeutic care requires continued study of these interacting factors."

Research to complete the project will take a further two years.

—David Washington

Bowel cancer screening call

The overall cost benefit has now been shown to be about the same as for breast cancer screening.

"The trend of all the evidence is to show that screening works," Professor Young said. "Questions about how well it works and how much it costs could take a further five to 15 years to answer."

But bowel cancer is killing so many people that I believe it's time to act — we shouldn't wait any longer."

Screening could include several options. Firstly, it could involve testing a person's faeces once a year for microscopic amounts of blood (an indication of the early stages of the disease). If this blood was present a colonoscopy would be carried out.

The second approach would be to carry out an endoscopic examination of the bowel every five years, combined with regular testing of the faeces.

Those targeted for such screening would include people aged 50 years and over, and those people in a high-risk group. People in this high-risk group would include those with a family history of the disease or related bowel disease.

—David Washington

Student fundraising benefits two charity groups

The student-organised fundraiser PROSH 1996 has donated over $4000 to two worthy South Australian causes.

CanTeen and TRICCs (a service of the Spastic Centres of South Australia) each received $2100, thanks to money from this year's PROSH, which was held in May.

The first cheque to be handed over by PROSH 1996 was accepted last month by Mr Neville Potter, a board member with Access Services and himself a beneficiary of TRICCs (Technology Recreation Information Communication Computer Services), which helps provide mobilisation and communication for people with severe disabilities.

—David Ellis

Above (from left): University Chancellor Bill Scammell, PROSH organiser Jill Thorpe, and Community Access Services CEO Hilary Lambour with board members Linton Reynolds and Neville Potter.
UPDATE

"SMG Update" will appear regularly in the Adelaidean to provide an overview of business coming before the Senior Management Group. It is not intended to be an exhaustive listing. Further information may be obtained from the Director, SMG, Ms Susan Graebner or from Heads of Divisions.

1997 BUDGET

SMG continues to work on the University’s budget for 1997, bearing in mind the cuts to Operating Grants and load that are to be implemented by the Federal Government. The working parties have been busy, grappling with the issues in an innovative and comprehensive way. Their reports are due at the end of November, and will feed into budget planning for the 1997-99 triennium.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

SMG is developing an idea that has come out of the HECS and Fees Working Party, and is exploring the establishment of some undergraduate scholarships, in addition to the 20 Equity scholarships to be funded by the Commonwealth, so that the University can maintain its ability to attract good students in an increasingly competitive tertiary environment. It is hoped these will complement the initiative already shown by the Division of Science in establishing its postgraduate scholarship program. SMG will then focus its attention on promoting the whole scholarships program (including postgraduate scholarships) in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, and will be seeking input from the University community, including students, staff and management.

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

SMG has approved the establishment of two new University-Industry awards, to be offered under similar terms and conditions to the APA (Industry) Awards, and in Special Circumstances scholarships for students who are disadvantaged during their undergraduate years by circumstances beyond the control of the student. Scholarships will be administered by the Scholarships Registrar through the Board of Graduate Studies.

CONSULTING FUNDS

SMG has discussed some fundamental issues concerning consulting and consulting funds. SMG recognises that consulting is a substantial source of income to the University and provides significant support for the research activities of departmental and individual academic staff. However, there are increasing pressures from Governments and auditors for the University to account for expenditure on consulting funds (which often contain income from sources other than consulting); and SMG is sure that the University is receiving its entitlements in accord with its policy on consulting. SMG has established a working group, Report on the Development of a University Consulting Fund (Research), to tease out some of the issues and develop a policy paper for consideration.

INTERNAL AUDIT

SMG has approved the outsourcing of the Internal Auditor role, for a trial period of 12 months. The procedures for calling for tenders are now being developed.

ENROLMENT/EARLY RE-ENROLMENT

SMG is very much in favour of improving enrolment processes to make them more “student-friendly”, and has encouraged Arts, Dentistry and Law in their enrolment procedures to consider how they can make the processes easier for students to navigate. SMG is also pleased to see an increase in full-time enrolments. SMG will be seeking details of the new enrolment processes to ensure they are being used.

SPLIT PHD PROGRAM

SMG has agreed to a mechanism that will encourage departments to be more active in offering split PhD programs. SMG has heard examples from PhD students who have been able to remain in Adelaide completing the Structured Program and the balance in the student’s country of origin doing the laboratory work (but visited by the supervisor). The Dean of Graduate Studies will provide more information on the support available for such programs.

19 October, 1996 marks the fifteenth anniversary of Elsie Marion Cornish’s death. An obscure name to many at the University, but you pass her name daily as you climb or descend the red brick embankment steps on the North Terrace campus.

The plaque on one pillar reads: “In memory of Elsie Marion Cornish who laid out these gardens and lovingly tended them for many years, 1927-1947.” The plaque, dated a year after her death, commemorates Elsie’s significant contribution to the gardens and plantings of the lower part of the North Terrace campus.

Elsie was the most prominent landscape designer in South Australia in the 1920s to 40s. Her commission on the University campus was to establish and maintain a garden covering the original railway escarpment, from below the Elder Conservatorium to the GM Badger Laboratories Building. Pieces of the gardens containing the distinctive Aloe, succulents, Italian cypresses and Kurrajong trees date from her time.

Elsie resided at 26 Palmer Place and regularly walked to the campus. This was the same house previously rented by prominent Adelaide architect, Henry Stuckey and Edmund Wright in the 1850s. Former Adelaide Lord Mayor Wright was later to extend the original cottage, and academic Gavin Walkley to demolish it upon his purchase some 14 months after Elsie’s death.

Walkley recalls the back of the property with its raised nursery beds, full of rows of succulents apparently destined for replanting on the escarpment. He incorporated two grape vines into the rear verandah of his Robin Boyd designed residence, and selected a Silky Oak from Elsie’s nursery and planted it in the front garden.

Elise’s contribution to Adelaide’s landscape design heritage spread outside the University campus. She personally designed, constructed and planted the formal Pioneer Women’s Memorial Garden in King William Street below Government House in 1938-39. She is known to have been regularly consulted by Eva Waite on the design and planting of Broadleaf at Stirling.

She also appears to have stayed with and advised her brother and sister-in-law, the Reverend Raymond and Gwynth Cornish, on their garden design at Stangate House in Aldgate. Elsie was also a regular worker of the North Adelaide Christ Church.

A number of former University students, enrolled in the 1930s, remember seeing and talking to Elsie as she regularly tended, weeded and planted the embankment gardens. One spurred his interest in landscape architecture. Another recalls a discussion with her where Elsie castigated the use of Kikuyu grass: “never plant Kikuyu in your garden.”

Elsie was engaged by the University in September 1934, on a salary of £212, and died on 19 October, 1936 while still on contract. She was hired on the personal recommendation of prominent University architect Walter Bagot. At the same time the University purchased “a 16 inch motor lawn mower” [its first] for the Waite Institute, giving Elsie the “small hand mower.”

Adelaide L Mietheke, Chair of the Women’s Pioneer Memorial Trust, personally wrote to the City of Adelaide Town Clerk, CD Veale, following a controversial incident during the planting of the Women’s Garden, supporting the design opinion of Elsie. “All this must be said in fairness to Miss Cornish whose reputation as a Landscape Gardener stands high in the community.”

Her obituary records that she was “one of Adelaide’s best known landscape gardeners, and was responsible for the design and care of many of the city’s most beautiful gardens.”

—Dr David Jones

Architecture
**Alumni IN BRIEF**

AFUW Breakfast
The AFUW SA Inc Breakfast Club next meets on Monday 14 October. The speaker will be Professor Kyoko Sheridan, of the Graduate School of Management. She will speak about the status of women in Japan and the participation of Japanese women in business and professional life.

Meetings are held at 7:15am at Queen of the Apostles Restaurant, 62 Hutt Street in the city. $10 per person, payable to the coordinator at the meeting. Please call Adrienne Buckland on 8303 4275 to make a booking.

The last Breakfast Club meeting for the year, on Monday 4 November, will be a general networking meeting.

Buckland Park Field Station visit
Alumni are invited to visit Buckland Park Field Station, near Two Wells, on Sunday 27 October. Staff will conduct a tour of the facility and explain aspects of the University’s research work in the field of atmospheric physics and high energy astrophysics carried out at Buckland Park.

A barbecue lunch will be provided. Why not make it a family day out? High school-aged children interested in Science are encouraged to come along.

Please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to obtain directions for travelling to Buckland Park.

Gothic Revival Architecture talk
Alumni with an interest in architecture and history are invited to an illustrated talk at 7:00pm on Wednesday 16 October in the Benham Lecture Theatre.

1996 Churchill Fellow Mr Brian Andrews will speak about Gothic Revival architecture in South Australia. This talk is FREE, but to assist with planning please call 8303 4275 to indicate that you are coming. Both individuals and group bookings are welcome.

Golden Jubilee/SRC
The Alumni Association would like to extend sincere thanks to all those people who have helped to locate past members of the Student Representative Council. The advice we have received has enabled us to contact over 100 former SRC members to invite them to the Golden Jubilee/SRC 50th Anniversary. The Golden Jubilee Commemoration Ceremony and Reunion Dinner, incorporating a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Student Representative Council, will be held on Thursday 24 October.

The Commemoration Ceremony will also include the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards. The ceremony will commence at 6:00pm in Bonython Hall. All members of the University community are welcome to attend. Any alumni who would like to come to the Reunion Dinner following the ceremony should contact the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to make a booking ($35 per person, three courses, drinks included). The Dinner will be held in the Upper Refectory and will start at around 7:30pm.

Planning for Victorian event
Mel Yuan (BSc 1992) has offered to coordinate planning for an alumni event in Melbourne for later this year or early in 1997. More details to follow.

The Alumni Association held its first gathering of alumni in Brisbane recently. The event was hosted by Alumni Director Geoff Sauer and Activities Coordinator Adrienne Eccles and coincided with professional development meetings. Forty alumni attended and spent time renewing acquaintances and doing some professional networking. Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O’Kane prepared a special message for the alumni and this was read on the occasion by Geoff Sauer. Above (L to R): Ray Specht (DSc 75), Mervyn Neely (MBBS 56), Fred Leditschke (MBBS 57) and Margaret Leditschke (BA 55). Photo courtesy of Geoff Sauer.

The Wakefield Press’s facsimile reprint of Sir Douglas Mawson’s The Home of the Blizzard has enjoyed enormous success since it was launched by Dick Smith in July this year.

The reprint attracted substantial articles and reviews in major Australian newspapers, as well as radio and television coverage. More significantly, its popularity saw the paperback edition of 5000 copies selling out in just a few weeks, necessitating three further runs of 5000 copies each. (The paperback version retails for $24.95 at bookstores Australia-wide, with royalties going to the Mawson Antarctic Collection Appeal.)

The limited-edition hardcover version, signed by a member of the Mawson family, has also proved very popular, with nearly 80% of the 500 copies now sold. This version sells for $49.95, is available exclusively through the SA Museum Bookshop, with sale profits going directly to the Appeal.

At the July launch of The Home of The Blizzard, Dick Smith mentioned that as a child he had been inspired by Mawson’s story, and that he was delighted sales of the book would be helping the Mawson Antarctic Collection Appeal. Mr Smith announced a personal donation of $20,000 at the launch.

**Gold CD-ROM**

In another Mawson fundraising initiative, the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-1914) has been committed to posterity in the form of a limited-edition gold CD-ROM, containing many of the images taken by the talented Australian photographer Frank Hurley, whose work offers some of the best examples of early Antarctic photography.

This unique offering is priced at $195, and sales will contribute to the preservation, access and promotion of the Mawson Collection.

Only 200 Gold CDs are being produced, and orders will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Further details are available from Yvonne Routledge, Curator of the Mawson Collection at the newly renovated Coachhouse Museum on the Waite Campus (tel 8303 7425).

Information about the Appeal can be obtained from the Campaign Coordinator, Ms Daina Shaw, at the University of Adelaide (tel 8303 3413).

---John Edge

**MAWSON a bestseller again!**

Engineering graduate Mr Moh Hak Serh (BEng 1966) was awarded the Public Service Medal for Social and Community Service in the Singapore National Day Honours announced in August.

Moh Hak Serh joined Singapore Telecom in 1986 and is presently that organisation’s Vice President (National Network). He is responsible for planning, installation and maintenance of the national telecommunications network.

He is the Chairman of two Joint R&D Management Committees which Singapore Telecom operates with the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, and a member of the advisory committee of the National Technology Research Centre (NTRC).

Mr Moh has been active in community services in Singapore and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Greigland

Inaugural Brisbane get-together

**Alumni News**

The Alumni Association held its first gathering of alumni in Brisbane recently. The event was hosted by Alumni Director Geoff Sauer and Activities Coordinator Adrienne Eccles and coincided with professional development meetings. Forty alumni attended and spent time renewing acquaintances and doing some professional networking. Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O’Kane prepared a special message for the alumni and this was read on the occasion by Geoff Sauer. Above (L to R): Ray Specht (DSc 75), Mervyn Neely (MBBS 56), Fred Leditschke (MBBS 57) and Margaret Leditschke (BA 55). Photo courtesy of Geoff Sauer.

Dick Smith at the launching of The Home of The Blizzard in July. Photo courtesy of SA Museum.
**ADELAIDE**

University of Adelaide student Mr Josh Francou is this year’s winner of the most prestigious award in South Australian football — the Magarey Medal.

A final-year student in the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, 22-year-old Mr Francou, who操控 the medal by 11 votes on Tuesday, 17 September.

The North Adelaide ruckman polled a total of 26 votes, ahead of Port Adelaide's Fabian Frans.

"It's unbelievable... I guess it’s somewhere near as good as I thought," said Mr Francou, whose name has now joined the list of some of the finest footballers in Australian history.

"The Magarey Medal's not something I really dreamed of... it’s been nice to win, it would have been a great honour, but I never really thought I would win," he said.

Josh Francou's rise to the top of the South Australian National Football League has been a great honour, but it hasn't really sunk in yet," he said.

With just the last few weeks of university life ahead of him, Mr Francou is concentrating on his main career goal — football.

"I'm really looking forward to finishing my degree and graduating next year. My main ambition now is to play in the AFL — that's always been my ambition, even as a kid."

"I guess the ultimate would be playing in an AFL Grand Final. To play in front of 100,000 people would be fantastic," he said.

But Mr Francou is not letting his football success get the better of him.

"For now I'm just going to focus on the game and try to enjoy it without the whole thing," he said.

"As my dad said to me, you can be at the top of the pile one day but if you’re not playing at all, you're at the bottom again. So you can’t get too carried away.

"If for some reason I don’t make it with the AFL I think I’ll just stick with SANFL. So at this stage I'm not getting too worried about it.

"It happens, it happens, but if it’s not meant to be then I get too disappointed," he said.

—David Ellis

Josh Francou with his Magarey Medal. Photo: David Ellis

The Blacks won 21.12 (138) to Edwards-town's 13.9 (87), with Adelaide full forward Todd Fargus kicking 10 goals for the match and reaching his 100th goal for the season.

Meanwhile, Adelaide University's "Hayburners" also won the A4 Reserve Grand Final, defeating Port District 16.11 (107) to 7.9 (51).

**SOUTH ADELAIDE**

Josh Francou's Magarey Medal win wasn't the only good news for University of Adelaide football supporters recently.

On Saturday, the Adelaide University University defeated Edwardstown in the Grand Final of the South Australian Amateur Football League (Premier Division) at the Adelaide Oval.

ACCOMMODATION

**ADELAIDE**

One room in modern townhouse. All mod cons. Excellent location. $50 pw. Ph: (08) 8224 0030.

Available: Furnished townhouse, all shops and transport. 2 br and study. Only 5 min walk to Flinders Univ. Close to shops and schools, on quiet route to Flinders Univ. Easy care garden with heated pool. Avail mid Jan '97 to end Jun '97. Ph: Mary or Henk (08) 8431 5202 or email: mft@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.

**FELIXSTOWE**

Fully furnished 150 sqm 3 br house, 3 km from Waite, ph (08) 8302 3449 (B) or (08) 3731 3184 (h).

**FELIXSTOWE**

Female to share female. 3 br house, avail mid Jan until end of Jun '97. Close to Linear Park, Klemzig O-Bahn station and Marden Shopping Centre. Ph: Liz (08) 8267 7642 or (08) 8267 4560.

**GLENELG**

26 sqm room to share with a mature, female student. 15-18 hrs pw commitment. 6 months min. Ph: (08) 8362 9262.

**GLENELG EAST**

17/33 Sage. Waite, ph (08) 8303 7209 or 4166 (ah) , (08) 8303 5841 ph: (08) 8303 4862, 4523. Moving sale: 1987 Toyota Corolla, manual, new (7 mth old). Features: Sunroof, air con, radio/CD, hi fi, tv, camping gear, etc. $300 or best offer.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

GOING AWAY? Need some one to care for your house, plants and pets? Professional female with refs avail to care for your belongings at no charge. Contact Jenny Kir (08) 8431 5088.

HOUSESITTER: Mature, experienced, willing to care for pets and property, avail from Nov '97 for up to 4 mths. Contact: Jenny Kir (08) 8431 5088.

TIME SAVERS: The trusted home cleaning professionals are offering a $25 "introduc tion clean" on an average size home. North Adelaide and Eastern suburbs only. Ph Louise or Neil (08) 8363 2643.