Concern over drivers’ vision: new study

According to statistics, older drivers in Australia, Europe and the United States are over-represented in crashes at intersections. Worldwide research into the reasons why has had mixed results.

Research by University of Adelaide Master of Psychology student Elissa Corlett has been looking at the quality of older people’s peripheral vision. Her results could have future implications for drivers’ licence regulations and road safety.

Ms Corlett studied two separate groups of adults, and found that the young adults (aged 17-37) could identify 32% more of the visual targets than the older adults (aged 70-90), indicating a decline in peripheral vision with increasing age.

In one of the tasks, on average older adults only identified 53.5% of the targets just outside of their central vision, whereas young adults identified 85.7%.

Nevertheless, Ms Corlett also found that some adults in the older age group had excellent peripheral vision, while some in the younger group did not.

“As we age, everything begins to decay, so it is quite natural to see these decrements occurring in visual ability—that is, the older adults discriminated less objects using peripheral vision,” Ms Corlett said.

The results imply that vision is declining at a very individual and unique rate, and that could have wide-ranging implications for the testing of drivers.

“Peripheral vision is of major importance to drivers, as it can help prevent road accidents, particularly at intersections,” she said.

Ms Corlett’s interest is the environment and how people perceive and interact with it. She said she became aware of a lack of research into this area during a placement at Transport SA.

Her studies used a test called ‘Crowding Across the Visual Field’ which is believed to measure the underlying central mechanism of the Useful Field of View (UFOV), which is a good predictor of elderly drivers with poor crash histories.

New research at the University of Adelaide is asking serious questions about the quality of older drivers’ peripheral vision.
Concern over drivers’ vision: new study

continued from page 1

Ma Coletti’s research has validated the “Crowding Across the Visual Field” test developed in Adelaide by Michael White, a former University of Adelaide Psychology student and now Research Coordinator at Transport SA.

“The test could potentially find its way into a licensing procedure in the future. However, additional validation and further research into peripheral vision is also required,” she said.

While my study has identified some important issues, we were using a relatively small sample group of 60 people. Much more work needs to be done on order to gain a better understanding of peripheral vision among drivers.”

Ma Coletti’s research has earned her the $1000 John Kirby Road Safety Trust Award for new researchers at the 2003 National Road Safety Research, Policing, and Education Conference in Sydney.

Jazz great premiers Koehne’s High Art

Australian jazz supremo James Morrison will perform the home town premiere of a new Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra by Adelaide composer Graeme Koehne.

The concert, with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, will be the final 2003 Master Series concert, at the Dixon, on November 21 and 22 at the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

Graeme Koehne, a Lecturer in Composition at the University of Adelaide’s Elder School of Music, said he aimed to cross a musical divide with his new work, entitled High Art.

“Throughout my life, I have been a sucker for ‘cheap music’. I find enjoyment in music from the strangest, ‘lowest’ sources: cartoons, pop, lounge music and musical kitsch,” Koehne said.

“Unlike most of my colleagues in the world of classical music, I don’t discount this music, but feel compelled to bring the infectious spirit of the musical vernacular into the realm of the ‘classical’.

“With the increasing popularity of jazz as an art form, the fusion of jazz and classical music offers a relatively new platform for composers. This concerto challenges James Morrison to employ both his disciplined classical virtuosity and rich jaz experience within one major work.”

Koehne was born in Adelaide and completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Adelaide, studying composition with Richard Meale.

He gained national attention at the 1982 Adelaide Festival when he was awarded the Young Composers Prize, and in 1984 was awarded a Hawthorn Fellowship to work at the School of Music at Yale University. There he studied with the deans of American composers, Virgil Thomson, and also worked with visiting Dutch composer Louis Andriesson.

Koehne has been commissioned to write ballet scores for the Australian Ballet, the Queensland Ballet and the West Australian Ballet, and has enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration with choreographer Graeme Murphy of the Sydney Dance Company. He has composed music for theatre and film, and his most recent orchestral works include the ever-popular Powerhouse, Elevate Music and Inflight Entertainment.

Koehne is currently Musica Viva’s Featured Composer for 2003.

FIlled with the opening to the exuberant finale… tapping seamlessly into the musical vernacular that underscores our everyday life.

The program for At the Dixon also includes Nielsen’s exotic Aladdin and Shostakovich’s suave symphonic Twelfth Symphony “The Year 1917”.

The concert is led by one of the world’s most exciting young conductors, Kristjan Järvi, in his first appearance in an Adelaide Festival participation next year.

Details:

The concert is held at the Adelaide Festival Theatre, Friday, November 21, 8.00pm and Saturday, November 22, 8.30pm

Tickets $39 adult/$35 concession/$30 Go Card (secondary students) $10 Go Card (primary students) $5 in advance, $10 on the door

Tickets are available from the Powerhouse Box Office (8212 1238, 8212 1239) or through Inflight Entertainment (1300 786 267).

The program is presented at the Adelaide Festival Theatre as part of the Adelaide Festival and is supported by the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia.

For further details contact the Adelaide Festival of Arts 0411 877 709.
A collaborative research team headed by the University of Adelaide has been awarded the $450,000 Florey Research Grant to undertake a major study into the health and ageing of Australian men.

The project, which aims to study 1000 men in Adelaide’s north-west suburb, is believed to be the first of its kind in Australia to attempt to identify the wide range of factors that contribute to Australian men’s health (reproductive, physical and emotional), and their relationship with the ageing process.

The winning research team is headed by Associate Professor Gary Wittert from the University of Adelaide’s Department of Medicine, and involves researchers from the university’s Department of Public Health and the School of Molecular & Biomedical Science, as well as the Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA Department of Human Services, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Hanson Institute, CSIRO and Glenside Hospital.

“Compared with women, Australian men of all ages are less healthy and therefore do not enjoy as good a quality of life as they should,” Dr Wittert said.

“The project will examine Aboriginal men, as well as men from the south of South Australia and the northern part of the state, to understand the health problems of all Australian men,” Dr Wittert said.

Young scientists vie for top prize

The 2003 Young Investigator Award finals will be held on Friday, November 14 in the University of Adelaide’s Napier Lecture Theatre.

The award recognises the best in science and science communication among young researchers studying women’s, children’s or young people’s health. The winner will receive a prize of $1000 plus the Biobinnovation SA Conference Plate of $1500, and will become the South Australian “Young Investigator of the Year”.

On the night, the three finalists will present their work to a panel of media judges and members of the public.

The finalists are: John Bromfield (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Jonathan Hutton (Child Health Research Institute) and Amanda Sferruzzi-Peri (Obstetrics & Gynaecology).

For more information about the finals night contact Dr Edna Bates: (08) 8161 7165, www.health.adelaide.edu.au/yia2003/
Chemical car goes the distance for engineering students

Adelaide Chemical Engineering students, this task wasn’t so easy. For starters, their “car” is a model that has to fit in a normal-sized shoebox. The car has no steering, and no brakes. But Thoa Nguyen, Daniel Duffy, and Henry Huang and David To were more than equal to the task. “Getting the car moving wasn’t the main problem—it was getting it to stop!” said another member, Henry Huang. “Because it had no brakes we knew we had to be able to control the chemical reaction, and using the plastic bag as a reservoir of air definitely made this a lot easier.”

The Adelaide team managed to get their entry to carry 300ml of water to within 1.4ml of their target of 16.5ml.

ChemECar Downunder competition for 2003. The five students departed Adelaide for Europe in early October after being awarded scholarships by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the University of Mannheim’s International Office. The scholarship includes travel costs, accommodation, and living expenses, with additional scholarships to study German language courses also offered.

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The students worked very hard on their project, and thoroughly deserved to win—and to do it on “home soil” was an extra bonus!”

Story by Ben Osborne

Young lawyers are masters of international experience

Five Adelaide lawyers have commenced their studies in the unique Master of Comparative Law degree jointly conducted by the universities of Adelaide and Mannheim, Germany.

Brendan Grigg has worked at the South Australian Crown Solicitor’s Office since 1998 in the native title section. He speaks German and Italian, and lived and studied in Italy for a year. In September 2001 he travelled to New York to undertake an internship with the United Nations. Ellie Palmer has a keen interest in international law and aspires to work for the International Court of Justice. She worked for the Southern Cross Group on issues involving international law, and again this year she conducted research at Mannheim’s law school. Sharon Kelsey’s background is in occupational health and safety, having studied in Australia, Japan and the USA. She undertook a Bachelor of Laws to gain an insight into the legal complexities of occupational health and safety and hopes the Master of Comparative Law will enable her to bring a valuable international perspective to her specialised field of work.

The Masters program coordinator is Ms Cornelia Koch. Her background serves her well in this role as she is a native of Mannheim and holds law degrees from both Germany and Australia, including a Master of Comparative Law degree from the University of Queensland. In 2001 and again this year she conducted research at Mannheim’s law school. Apart from Australian and German candidates, Ms Koch said the program had so far attracted lawyers from Ireland, the USA, Nigeria, China, Poland and Bulgaria. This international composition of candidates gives students the opportunity to make invaluable international contacts and gain a deeper understanding of various cultures, she said.

The cut-off date for applications to the Masters program in semester one 2004 is November 30.
$10.7m research funding to make an impact

Industry, the environment, the community and culture—they all stand to gain from the latest research projects funded at the University of Adelaide.

The university's standing as an international-class research institution has been further underlined after winning more than $10.7 million in the most recent funding round from the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Adelaide will receive the funding in three main areas:

• $1.60 million for infrastructure, equipment and facilities in four projects to be based at the University of Adelaide.
• $1.50 million for 13 research projects in partnerships with industry and research organisations, known as “Linkage” grants;
• $1.50 million for discovery work in four projects to be based at the University of Adelaide.

Adelaide was also one of only three universities in Australia to receive a special Discovery grant for indigenous researcher development.

“We are very happy that the Australian Research Council continues to acknowledge the exceptional work our researchers are doing,” Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said.

“I am particularly delighted that we have performed so well in the area of Linkage grants. To receive the second-highest amount of Linkage grant funding in the nation highlights not only how much importance we place on our partnerships with industry and other research organisations, but also how successful those partnerships are becoming.”

Some of the major projects funded at the University of Adelaide include:

• four separate projects underpinning the mineral exploration and energy industries with total combined funding of $1.72 million, including a $686,000 infrastructure grant for the South Australian Virtual Reality Centre to be established with industry and research partners at the University of Adelaide;
• a Discovery grant of $625,000 over three years with chief investigator Professor Margaret Smith, investigating self-fertility of almonds;
• a $5.1 million Discovery grant over three years with chief investigator Professor Fiona Crichton, investigating migration’s impact on Australia;
• a $4.5 million Discovery grant over three years with chief investigator Professor David Day of the University of Western Australia.

Dr Bremt Kaiser, a lecturer at the university’s School of Agriculture and Wine (Discipline of Wine and Horticulture), is chief investigator in two successful projects and co-investigator in another two (one of which is listed under the institution of the chief investigator, the University of Western Australia).

It’s not bad going for someone who only started at the university in February this year! Originally hailing from Canada, Dr Kaiser is a plant molecular biologist who completed a PhD at the Australian National University in 1999 and has since worked in his homeland, France and now back in Australia.

His three University of Adelaide projects were awarded a total of almost $750,000 in ARC funding. The projects are also significant because they form the “trifecta” of available ARC funding: a Discovery grant, a Linkage grant and a Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant.

Dr Kaiser’s projects were:

• a $2.25 million Discovery grant over three years to investigate improving nitrogen use in crop plants;
• a one-off $301,321 Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant to purchase: state-of-the-art robotic equipment for high-throughput DNA analysis to simplify gene selection and screening; a sensitive nucleic acid and protein imaging system, and a reconfigurable computing platform for bioinformatic research;
• a $2.1 million Linkage grant over three years with chief investigator Professor Margaret Smith, investigating the self-fertility of almonds.
• a $450,000 Discovery grant over three years with chief investigator Professor David Day of the University of Western Australia.

Based at the Waite Campus, Dr Kaiser said he was pleased to receive funding for all four projects he applied for, and that he was excited about the partnerships with other chief investigators his research involved.

“My Discovery grant involves working with a researcher in Canada who uses a cyclotron (particle accelerator) to generate short-lived isotopes to study real-time nitrogen transport in plants,” he said.

“The infrastructure grant is very exciting, because it won’t be helping just my research. There are a whole host of organisations and individual groups, like the new Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics and the Australian Wine Research Institute, who are co-investigators on the grant, that will be able to benefit from automating what used to be a labour-intensive and time-consuming chore for humans.”

The four research projects come on top of an already hectic schedule which includes lecturing and supervising numerous postgraduate students—but Dr Kaiser wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It’s certainly going to keep me busy for the next few years,” he said. “I enjoy my teaching and my research, and I’m going to be doing a lot of both for a while!”

Story by Ben Osborne

Brent has four times the research success

The latest round of ARC funding has brought four times the joy to one University of Adelaide researcher.

It is easy to overlook a project receiving only $33,512 in the latest ARC funding round when other projects receive many hundreds of thousands of dollars. But the Indigenous Researchers Development grant given to Gender Studies PhD student Sonja Kutzner is quite significant.

It was one of only three given nationwide this year, and Ms Kutzner is the University of Adelaide’s first such recipient. She will use the funding to help with her PhD research, which is examining the issues of identity, place and belonging in recent works of Australian autobiography, including works by indigenous writers.

“My PhD research involves working with a researcher in Canada who uses a cyclotron (particle accelerator) to generate short-lived isotopes to study real-time nitrogen transport in plants,” she said.

“For my research, I’m particularly interested in the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people and how indigenous writers are interpreting this.

“Theyers such as Kim Mahood and Fabienne Bayet-Charlton are still feeling the need to speak about these issues because, like a lot of Australians, they are personally affected by them.”

Dr Kutzner’s project was:

• a Discovery grant over three years to investigate improving nitrogen use in crop plants;
• a one-off $301,321 Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant to purchase: state-of-the-art robotic equipment for high-throughput DNA analysis to simplify gene selection and screening; a sensitive nucleic acid and protein imaging system, and a reconfigurable computing platform for bioinformatic research;
• a $2.120,000 Linkage grant over three years with chief investigator Professor Margaret Smith, investigating self-fertility of almonds;
• a $450,000 Discovery grant over three years with chief investigator Professor David Day of the University of Western Australia.

Based at the Waite Campus, Dr Kaiser said he was pleased to receive funding for all four projects he applied for, and that he was excited about the partnerships with other chief investigators his research involved.
**Nutrition, health to benefit from research links**

“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.”

This maxim, by Greek physician Hippocrates, the founder of modern medicine, is being taken into the 21st century by the University of Adelaide and CSIRO thanks to a visionary research partnership designed to advance the understanding of the relationships between nutrition and health.

The new alliance aims to use modern scientific techniques such as genomics (the study of all the genes of a living organism) and proteomics (the study of proteins produced by cell type and organism) to develop novel nutritional approaches for the management of disease.

“The alliance brings together the expertise of both institutions to enable us to better understand the effects of different foods in our bodies—enabling us to better understand the relationship between genetic make-ups, and vulnerability to or protection from disease,” Professor Cornish said.

“In recent years, it is known, for example, that an excess of certain types of dietary fats may increase the risk of heart disease and cancer, while others may be protective. Many of the foods we eat provide active components that, when tested in the laboratory, appear to be beneficial in reducing the risk of lowest cancer.”

It is now possible to identify, using new technologies, the relationship between genetic make-ups, responsiveness to food components and vulnerability to or protection from disease.

“Definition of the activities of food components will allow improvement in health through dietary modification and fortification, the production of novel foods, and development of ‘nutraceuticals’, or ‘functional foods’ (foods designed to have specific health effects),” she said.

The first new project under the Adelaide-CSIRO alliance involves CSIRO’s funding of a post-doctoral fellow for three years to drive research into nutrient-proteome interactions.

**Deputy VC takes senior job at Monash**

The University of Adelaide’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Edwina Cornish, has been appointed to the equivalent role at Monash University in Victoria.

“A leading biotechnologist, Professor Cornish has been DVC at the University of Adelaide since February 2000. She joined the university from Melbourne-based biotechnology company Florigene Ltd.

“Over the past three years, Professor Cornish has played a leading role in the advancement of research and research education programs at the University of Adelaide, and in South Australia’s research community generally.”

“Her contribution to this university, particularly through her leadership on a number of collaborative research ventures and in research commercialisation, will have a lasting impact on the University of Adelaide in the 21st century,” Professor Cornish’s key achievements in her time at Adelaide include: a 33% increase in research revenue (from $59.3 million to $78.9 million); an increase in enrolment of domestic research students; a restructure of commercialisation activities at the university; a restructure of the Faculty of Sciences; and improved collaboration with other South Australian and national research bodies and overseas.

“Those three years at Adelaide have been a great source of pride for me, not just in terms of the many high-profile achievements that I’ve witnessed over that time but also because I know that the quality of research and research education at the University of Adelaide is of an international standard,” Professor Cornish said.

“It has been a pleasure to see the successes of so many talented staff and students, and to oversee the development of new research collaborations that will enhance Australia’s reputation for quality research and innovation.”

Professor Cornish will remain at the University of Adelaide until the end of the year.

**Young entrepreneurs win $70,000 challenge**

Five young South Australians have taken a major step closer to seeing their business dreams become reality.

The five are members of a business team called Genii, which has won the University of Adelaide’s $70,000 Entrepreneurs’ Challenge (EChallenge) for 2003. The challenge is a relief in a competition in which teams—each supported by at least one University of Adelaide student—come up with new business ventures that have real commercial value.

Genii’s business idea is in a location device no bigger than a 20-cent coin that could help improve safety at ski resorts. It could also be used as a cashless point of purchase for all locations within the resort, freeing consumers of the worry of carrying cash and credit cards.

“With our product, there is no search and rescue—only rescue,” said winning team member Austin.

Among the five-member Genii team are two current University of Adelaide students and one graduate: Monique Bowley, studying for a Media Studies degree; Commerce/Law student Rebecca Schwartz, and Commerce/Law graduate Jason Watson. The other team members are Andrew Hardacre and Austin. “Winning the EChallenge is a great stepping stone for Genii,” Austin said. “The prizes supplied from [major sponsor] Hewlett-Packard, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and the other fantastic sponsors will enable Genii’s dedicated and talented team to take the next important steps in its development.”

As winners of the 2003 EChallenge, Genii receives $50,000 in cash and prizes, and a chance at taking their business idea to the next level.

The runners up were Genecombe, winning $17,000 for second place, and Bioprotective Innovations, with $6000 in cash and prizes for third. The Sahain Lounge won the $11,000 People’s Choice Award. EChallenge project manager and University of Adelaide Commerce/Law student Marissa Halts said the winning teams represented South Australia’s best and newest entrepreneurs.

“When you consider the calibre of the competition, with 60 teams originally stepping up with new business ventures, and we are proud that the competition has helped to develop entrepreneurial skills in a new generation of South Australians.”

“With EChallenge all possible success with your new venture, which has the potential to make a huge impact on resort operations and patron safety worldwide.”

**From right: Winning team members Austin, Rebecca Schwartz, Andrew Hardacre, Monique Bowley and Jason Watson, with EChallenge project manager Marissa Halts. Photo by Phil Martin**
Plant biotech cultivates brain gain: new director

South Australia’s international reputation for research into plant biotechnology is resulting in a “brain gain” for Adelaide.

That’s according to the newly appointed Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, the University of Adelaide’s Professor Geoff Fincher. The Waite Institute, established in 1924, has long been recognised as the premier agricultural research precinct in the southern hemisphere. As its new Director, Professor Fincher is charged with the task of further enhancing the research and education capabilities of the University of Adelaide’s Faculty of Sciences on the Waite Campus, and extending the strong linkages and education capabilities of the Waite.

“Prior to his appointment as Director of the Waite Institute, Professor Fincher spent 10 years as Head of the university’s Department of Plant Science. Professor Fincher has a distinguished research career in cereal science and has made contributions both in Australia and abroad, and he was one of the principal applicants for the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFG) based at the Waite Campus. He has been Deputy CEO of ACPFG Pty Ltd.

“Under the directorship of Professor Fincher, the Waite Campus will continue to provide world-leading research and teaching in a host of agricultural disciplines—including plant breeding technologies, plant functional genomics, integrated pest management, earth sciences, horticulture, oenology (winemaking) and viticulture,” said the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Peter Badham.

“This is an exciting time not just for the University of Adelaide but also our campus partners, industry and government, as the Waite continues to show the world what we are capable of.”

Ugly Man pays a visit to Adelaide

A dramatic feast is on offer with the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild’s final production for 2003, The Ugly Man.

Directed by Geoff Crowhurst and written by Canadian playwright Brad Fraser, The Ugly Man is a darkly-humorous and occasionally shocking play which marks the Theatre Guild’s début into the Fringe Festival.

Based loosely on the 17th century tragedy The Changeling, The Ugly Man is set somewhere in the south of the USA, where the same geologist Drillmettoes on a farm one oppressively hot summer day.

Despite the Gothic humour of the murder, gore and vengeance, there is a serious core to the play and with the intrigue and tension, the audience is never quite sure where it’s heading,” he said.

The Ugly Man cast comprises Nick Bennett, Irena Danger, Scott Edwards, Tamara Lee, Emma Mandall, Roger Pravas and Tim Ross and features original music by Ben Platt. The Ugly Man will be performed at the Little Theatre on Saturday November 1, Tuesday–Saturday November 11–15. Tickets are $20/$15 and are available from BASS on 131 246, or at the Theatre Guild on 08 8303 5995 or online at www.adelaide.edu.au/clubs/theatreguild
The University of Adelaide: From a small farm in the South East near Naracoorte. During his time at the Roseworthy Campus he was actively involved in the Social Committee, assisting with the College’s jubilee year dinner in 1933, athletics and a long-standing member of the Intermediate Rodeo Team. Jim was also a trooper in the College’s Light Horse Mounted Gun Section.

Jim and his wife Mildred had four children: Clive, Jan, Brian and Helen. Both Clive and Jan are Roseworthy graduates and his grandson Andrew and his wife Kath carried on the Roseworthy tradition a generation later. Mildred died in January this year, aged 84.

James Hamilton (Jim) Newland (1913 – 2003)

James Newland was a passionate Roseworthy Agricultural College graduate. On display in his home Mr Newland had an art print of the Main Building, which he said constantly reminded him of the absent clock.

In late 2002, James decided that he was going to make a gift of the clock to the university. The installation of this state-of-the-art Swiss precision clock, which adjusts automatically with a global positioning system connected to Greenwich Mean Time, took place in March this year.

Due to failing health, James unfortunately was unable to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the clock on March 12. However, the ceremony was videotaped and the day before, Jim’s 90th birthday, Bernard Arnold of the Roseworthy campus, who had been instrumental in the commissioning of the clock, and Judith Edwards from the Alumni office, visited Mr Newland at his aged care facility and presented him with the video. James was delighted to see the clock (portaited above right) and asked for the video to be replayed to ensure that he did not miss anything. He was thrilled at the prospect of being able to keep the video to show to his family.

On Wednesday, November 12, members of the Newland family will visit Roseworthy to see the clock gifted by their parents and view the plaque on the Main Hall honouring this gift. Andrew Newland, James’s grandson, said one of the last things his grandfather asked him was: “How’s that clock going?”

Dr Jeanette Linn OAM provided the Golden Jubilee address highlighting the unique community that existed on campus during that period and in particular the wonderful blending of returned servicemen and women and recent school leavers.

Graduates and their guests relished old friendships and reminisced about their days at the university during a reunion luncheon.

The biographies and memories of university days sent in by graduates for the reunion booklet highlighted the vibrant campus culture that brought together students from different disciplines, and the significant impact those graduates have made. This impact has occurred not only in their chosen professions but also through many spheres of society in so many ways over the past 50 years.

Universe still strong 50 years on

More than 100 University of Adelaide graduates returned to their alma mater last month to celebrate a milestone.

They were all graduates of 1953, making this year the Golden Jubilee of their graduation.

In all, 100 alumni were welcomed back to the University of Adelaide for the celebration on October 19. The graduates, in full academic dress, were re-presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha, during the Convocation Ceremony in Bonython Hall.

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Rhodes scholar follows in Bob Hawke’s footsteps

Phillip Killicoat from Bordertown, South Australia, has become the latest University of Adelaide student to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Phillip, 23, is the second person from Bordertown to become a Rhodes Scholar, the first being former Prime Minister Bob Hawke (Rhodes Scholar for Western Australia, 1953).

This year is the 100th year of the Rhodes. During that time more than 90 University of Adelaide students have been recognised with Rhodes Scholarships.

The scholarship, to study at Oxford University in the UK, is one of the world’s most prestigious scholarships and is offered annually in every State in Australia, plus three for Australia at large. Winners of the Rhodes are not only gifted students but must also demonstrate excellence in sporting and/or community endeavours.

Phillip Killicoat is a graduate of Bordertown High and also completed some Year 12 subjects by correspondence through Open Access College. He won the prestigious C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship, which allowed him to become a resident at St Mark’s College while studying at the University of Adelaide.

He has already graduated with two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) and a Bachelor of Economics, in which he was awarded the Citigroup Australia Prize for being the top graduate in Economics. This year he is completing his Honours in Economics.

Phillip is a former State Triathlon Champion and national representative in Duathlon. He has also contributed to a number of community organisations and charities through volunteer work.

“It is a great honour to win the Rhodes Scholarship, not just because I’ll be representing South Australia but also country South Australia,” Phillip said.

He said living at St Mark’s College had not only been of “tremendous help” to his studies but has also been important “in maintaining the kind of well-rounded experience that Rhodes required of his scholars”.

The campus life of the University of Adelaide has also been a major contributor to his success.

“The academic standing of the university is very high, with outstanding teachers that have made my learning experience all the more rewarding,” he said.

“As well as being strong academically, the University of Adelaide also has an active campus life, and I’ve thrown myself into it, especially the triathlon club and the debating society. “Those extra-curricular activities have been all-important in helping to develop a range of skills and experiences. For me, going to university is not just about earning a degree.”

Thanks to the Rhodes Scholarship, in 2004 Phillip will study for a Masters degree in Economics at Oxford. Prior to that he will take up a three-month internship with the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, which aims to alleviate world hunger and improve nutrition in Third World nations.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha congratulated Phillip on his scholarship win.

“The award of a Rhodes Scholarship is a very significant achievement which reflects on the all-round attributes of the awardee and also on the institutions where studies were undertaken,” Professor McWha said.

“The University of Adelaide is proud of its Rhodes Scholars and I am sure that Phillip will be a worthy successor to the long line of Rhodes Scholars from this university, some of whom are currently among our fine academic staff.”

Story and photo by David Ellis

String quartet ends the year with passion

Fresh from their successful seven-week tour of Europe, the UK and Asia, the Australian String Quartet is finishing the year in Adelaide with power and passion.

The ASQ is Australia’s only professional full-time string quartet, and is quartet-in-residence at the University of Adelaide’s Elder School of Music.

For their final concert in the 2003 subscription season on November 10, the quartet will be joined by two special guests—Brett Dean (viola) and David Pereira (cello)—in a performance of Schoenberg’s emotionally charged Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night).

Haydn’s Opus 33 No 6 quartet—which inspired Mozart to return to writing for quartets—and Brahms’ glowing String Quartet in A, written in the autumn of his life, complete the concert.

7pm Monday, November 10
Adelaide Town Hall
wine-tasting from 6pm,
pre-concert talk at 6.10pm
phone BASS on 131 246 or
visit: www.bass.net.au

ASQ season 2004 is now on sale.
Call 1800 040 444 or
visit: www.asq.com.au