The Section Executive has had another very busy year -- Here are some Highlights!!!
In June, I presented with Stephan Kennepohl and Melissa Tiessen at the Canadian Association of College and University Student Service (CACUSS). The presentation was entitled; Why and How to Develop a Counselling Psychology Internship Program at your University Counselling Centre. For this presentation, Dr. George Hurley and Dr. Tim Osachuk provided videos wherein they discussed the advantages of developing an internship and provided some practical advice to directors of counselling centres. The presentation resulted in three counselling centres contacting me about developing an internship. One of these centres has accepted their first intern for Fall 2014. The PowerPoint slides for this presentation are available on the CPA website and the videos are on CPA’s new Youtube Channel: Tim’s video, George’s video.

Further, the section Executive is committed to continuing outreach and advocacy in order to develop counselling psychology internships. To this end, we are asking for volunteers to sit on the Committee for Counselling Psychology Pre-doctoral Internships. This committee is no longer Ad-hoc and will be an official section committee with the committee Chair being an Ex-Officio member of the Executive. The new mandate for this committee will be to develop strategies to encourage the development of new internship sites. These strategies may include, attending conferences like CACUSS, developing liaisons with directors of university counselling centres, and providing outreach and education to potential internship sites. If you are interested in being part of this exciting process please contact me at ada.sinacore@mcgill.ca.

In addition to our efforts with regard to internships, we have also been active making sure that counselling psychology is represented in the broader CPA. To this end, Rob Bedi, (Chair-Elect) attended the CPA Summit on Need, Supply and Demand of Psychologists in Canada held in Ottawa in November. For more information, please see his report on page 5 of this Newsletter.
Further, in order to build ties with counselling psychologists outside of Canada, the Section Executive agreed to participate in an international collaboration with counselling psychology associations from the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. That is, we are participating in the development and distribution of a survey examining, the roles, values, and activities of counselling psychologist in four countries. Part of the survey will be specific to Canada while other sections will be general in order to make comparisons across countries. Once we have completed the survey and secured ethics we will be sending a link to Section members. We hope you will participate.

Communication is another important component of the Executives agenda. As such, José Domene has been working on revamping the Newsletter and developing a Section blog in order to have more interactive communication about activities and events that effect Section members. We will let you know when the blog is up and running. As for the Newsletter, I hope you are enjoying the new format and find the information helpful.

To build better communication with students, Jennifer Titus has been working on developing a student network. She has created a student Facebook page where she will be posting information relevant to students and students can discuss concerns and share information. The page is labelled as, CPA Counselling Psychology Section Student Page. Please see Jennifer’s report on page 10 of this Newsletter for more information. Further, if you have any questions about the Facebook page or other student issues please contact Jennifer Titus at jennifer.titus@mail.mcgill.ca.

The upcoming CPA Convention is another area where the executive has been focused. The interest in counselling psychology is ever present as this year we received over 100 submissions for the convention. Thanks to Natalee Popadiuk (Member at Large - Convention) for coordinating the effort and to the 21 volunteers who reviewed proposals. We are hoping that CPA will send out the results of the review shortly, so all those who accepted will be able to attend, as this year will prove to be a, exciting convention.

Further, I would like to congratulate all of our award winners from the convention last year. They are J. Lauren Johnson (Best Doctoral Dissertation), Marnie Rogers-de Jong and Jennifer Williams (tied for Best Master’s Thesis), Dilyss Haner (Best Doctoral Poster) and Erin Buhr (Best Master’s Poster). More information and summaries of their work can be found on page 3 of this Newsletter. We encourage submissions to the 2014 Best Dissertation / Thesis awards (the nomination process can be found on page 11 of this Newsletter) and, as always, will be adjudicating the Best Poster awards at the convention.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Executive and the many volunteers who make the work of the Section possible. This year 2 positions will be opening on the Executive. They are, Secretary/Treasurer and Student Representative. If you are interested in serving on the Executive or getting involved with the section in another capacity please let me know. It is the tireless efforts of the Section members who volunteer that make the success of the Section on Counselling Psychology possible.
Best Doctoral Dissertation:
Shifting Focus: A Videographic Inquiry of Hope and Unplanned Pregnancy
J. Lauren Johnson, University of Alberta

What happens when women, so long the subjects of art rather than the authors, turn the camera on ourselves? This question informed the basis of my dissertation research on women’s experiences of hope and unplanned pregnancy. In a medium-sized Western Canadian city, I engaged in a videographic inquiry (an arts-based qualitative research study) to address the following questions: (a) how is unplanned pregnancy described by women who have lived through it? (b) what role does hope play in the mothers’ unplanned pregnancies? and (c) what might helping professionals do to help women facing an unplanned pregnancy? When asked to create short videos about their unplanned pregnancy experiences, the co-participants in this study created stories that had been entirely unexpected; although a great deal of the literature on unplanned pregnancy in the fields of health and psychology tells a story of woe and misfortune, we performed our stories as love stories, comedies, and fairy tales. Given the great disconnect between what has been written about unplanned mothers and the tales we told about ourselves, I explored this chasm from a feminist perspective. Using narrative, discourse, and film analyses, I address the contrast between the grand narrative told about us in the literature on unplanned pregnancy and the narrative of resistance that we told about ourselves through the audio-visual medium of video. In this dissertation, I discuss my understandings gathered through this research experience and invite a feminist, and indeed feminine, revision of the grand narrative on unplanned motherhood, and serve as the impetus to author a new story—our own story—of hope and resilience in the face of unplanned pregnancy.

Best Master’s Thesis (tied):
Co-constructing Stories of “We” and “Us” With Cohabitating Couples
Marnie Rogers-de Jong

In this research, I examine how cohabitating couples co-constructed stories of mutuality and “we-ness” in conversations with me. Using Gubrium and Holstein’s (2009) approach to analyzing narrative reality, based within a social constructionist perspective, I study how participants and I co-narrated and co-edited stories of relational identity. I pay particular attention to my role as researcher, and how I was active in inviting and shaping these stories of “we-ness.” In my analysis, I also attend to how participants and I co-managed the stakes of storytelling as we were developing plotlines about who they were as a couple and where they were going as partners. In their interviews, participants indicated that talking with me about “we-ness” had strengthened their sense of relational identity. I discuss the implications of my results for both research and counselling, and particularly for how counsellors can actively invite clients into telling stories of “we-ness.”
Jennifer Williams is a PhD student in Counselling Psychology at the University of Alberta. Her research interests include depression, anxiety, self-compassion, and resiliency among children and youth. She plans to continue working with at-risk adolescents for her PhD research.

Best Master’s Thesis (tied):
Examining the Moderating Effects of Adolescent Self-Compassion on the Relationship Between Social Rank and Depression
By Jennifer Williams, University of Alberta

Depression among today’s youth is associated with detrimental risk factors, including suicide. The social rank theory of depression suggests that humans naturally engage in social competition to achieve status and when perceptions of inferiority arise, depression may be triggered. The current study examined self-compassion as a resiliency mechanism against depression among adolescents with perceptions of low social rank. It was proposed that low social rank and decreased self-compassion would predict depression, and that self-compassion would moderate the relationship between rank and depression. A sample of 126 adolescents completed questionnaires measuring depression, social rank (defined by social comparison and submissive behaviour), and self-compassion. Results indicated that negative social comparison, increased submissive behaviour, and decreased self-compassion predicted depression. Furthermore, high levels of self-compassion weakened the relationship between rank and depression, while low levels of self-compassion strengthened the relationship. These findings may have important implications for counselling psychologists working with depression in adolescence.

Best Master’s Student Poster:
Relational Dynamics in Couples Following the Loss of a Child
By Erin Buhr, Trinity Western University & Derrick Klaassen, Trinity Western University

When parents experience the death of a child, instead of feeling close, they often become isolated from one another (Barrera et al., 2007; Wing, Burge-Callaway, Clance, & Armistead, 2001). Bereaved mothers report more anxiety and depression than bereaved fathers (Krecbergs, Valdimarsdottir, Onelov, Henter, & Steineck, 2004) and typically openly express grief (Hooghe, Neimeyer, & Robert, 2011; Oliver, 1999), while fathers provide support for others, but do not necessarily show their grief (Badenhorst, Riches, Turton, & Hughes, 2006). Despite these findings, it has been suggested that men and women grieve similarly, but do not show this because of society’s expectations of what is appropriate for one’s gender (Oliver, 1999). Whether acting in accordance with prescribed gender roles or not, differences in grieving styles often create conflict between spouses (Toller & Braithwaite, 2009). The purpose of this study was to develop a better understanding of grief in romantic relationships after the death of a child, what couples do that increases conflict, and what they do to support one another. Based on a phenomenological approach, eight individuals were interviewed about their experience with bereavement and the relationship with their significant other. Findings are discussed within the context of the literature with a focus on grieving styles, communication, and emotional expression between partners.
Best Doctoral Student Poster:
Adolescents Experience Positive Changes in Distress, Confidence and Clarity after Single-Session On-Demand Chat Counselling with Kids Help Phone
By Dilys Haner, York University & Tina Wilson, Kids Help Phone

Kids Help Phone (KHP) is Canada’s only free, anonymous, bilingual, national and on-demand professional counselling service for adolescents. Emerging technologies and social media have fostered a demand from this population of digital natives to receive counselling services on-line using the instant messaging (chat) medium. To better understand the contexts of adolescent problems for which they seek help, demographic characteristics of participants were investigated using an anonymous questionnaire. Geographic location, community type, gender, age, and problem topic of participants (N = 347) are reported. Seventy-five percent cited anonymity and 53% cited an inability to talk to anyone around them as reasons for chatting with KHP instead of someone in their community. Chat clients reported a significant decrease in distress after counselling. Clients reported similar significant increases in clarity regarding what to do about their problem and confidence that they could cope with their problem after counselling. Differences in phone and chat client problem topics are discussed in terms of subjective values of the two service media. Adolescent reasons for choosing chat over telephone counselling are reported. The importance of this unique counselling medium to adolescents experiencing severe or ongoing mental and emotional health struggles requires further exploration.

Report on CPA Summit on the Need, Supply, and Demand of Psychologists in Canada (November 8th and 9th, 2013)
Robinder (Rob) P. Bedi

It was a great pleasure to represent the Counselling Psychology Section at the CPA Summit on the Need, Supply, and Demand of Psychologists in Canada. As one of CPA’s largest sections, the Section Executive thought that it was important that the Section stay abreast of key developments in Canadian Psychology as well contribute the perspective of counselling psychology in affecting how the field moves forward in Canada. Attendance was by invitation and the Summit was primarily attended by various other section chairs and key CPA stakeholders (e.g., CPA CEO, CPA Deputy CEO, CPA Board of Directors), in addition to the presenters who participated in all summit activities.

The Summit arose out of the recommendations of the 2010 CPA Task Force on the Supply and Demand of Psychologists in Canada. Among their many conclusions was that there is relatively little known about the supply of and demand for Canadian psychologists other than that a large proportion are approaching retirement, and that a key next step was to focus on data gathering to facilitate the development of policy, inform government, and help current and future psychologists make career-related decisions.

The two day summit was jam-packed with 21 non-overlapping different speakers and three break-out sessions in which small groups of attendees brainstormed
questions posed to us. The list of speakers was quite broad representing various organizations/agencies and each talk was focused on either sharing data on supply, on demand, or both. This new availability of actual data were quite welcomed although inconsistencies in conclusions derived from the data were noted and discussed in length. It was determined that there is a substantial unmet need for psychologists (although I would comment that much of this need was not psychologist-specific and could be addressed by other mental health disciplines) but that need/demand varied across various areas/types of psychology and area in Canada.

Some particular things that especially stood out to me were:

- Many trained in psychology are choosing to identify themselves otherwise (e.g., neuroscientist) or work in non-psychology departments or occupations. What does this say about identity and what are the pros and cons?

- Health care reforms have led to the restructuring of many publicly-funded services such that psychologists are being replaced by other service providers (with less than doctoral training). This includes at the largest national employer of psychologists in Canada (Correctional Services of Canada).

- An acute shortage of academic faculty is projected.

- Biggest barrier (80%) to accessing a health services psychologist is cost.

- The number of psychologist per capita is increasing most of Canada except BC, ON, and Newfoundland. Highest per capita is in Quebec then Alberta. Lowest is in Newfoundland.

- Many external organizations (e.g., StatsCan) use the term “clinical psychology” to refer generically to applied/professional psychologists (including clinical and counselling) which causes great confusion and can disadvantage counselling psychologists (e.g., some do not know that counselling psychology even exists as an independent entity).

- There are some potential downfalls to having psychologist services covered under provincial health care plans. For example, creating a national licensure for psychologists in Australia and having psychologist services covered under national healthcare has backfired for various reasons. The unexpected outcomes have included: fragmentation of the field, drastically lower reimbursement, lower training standards, less support for accreditation, and less autonomy for the health service psychology profession. Therefore, any movements towards having counselling or psychotherapy covered under public healthcare should be approached with great forethought. In addition, the speaker recommended that psychology in Australia should have played a larger role in overseeing/supervising to those providing lower level psychological services or those with less training (as nationalization has led to increasing blurriness of scopes of practices).
A little time was also spent talking about the insufficient internship capacity in Canada by a few speakers (especially CCCP). I also broached this topic on several occasions with various others informally during breaks or during break-out small groups. Many of the people I talked to still held some strong misconceptions about counselling psychology and viewed counselling psychology as inferior or inappropriate/inadequate training for working with psychopathological populations or in settings such as hospitals. For example, I talked to two training directors and neither accepts counselling psychology students at their internship sites. One based this on a really awful experience with a counselling psychology student intern and one based this on lack of information and inaccurate information about counselling psychology. I did engage in some informal advocacy highlighting that there are always problematic students in all fields (including clinical psychology) and the dangers of overgeneralizing on the basis of a sample size of one. I also did some educating that counselling psychologists get training in psychological assessment, including with psychopathological populations.

Another interesting point I gathered in discussions was that the creation of counselling psychology accredited internships is unintentionally hampered our connections and success at placing our students at non-accredited internships. Because almost all counselling psychology doctoral students end up securing an internship in their first year of applying (albeit often a non-accredited one) and one that is usually paid (data was presented), many foresee a bigger problem for clinical psychology in this regards (in which many students each year do not get an internship or get an unpaid one). Therefore, this was one reason that more attention was paid towards clinical psychology internships (another key variable was the large number of clinical psychologists in attendance; I believe that I was the only counselling psychologist there).

I did come out with some good ideas for developing counselling psychology internships, which I will share with our Section’s internship committee:

- Approach provinces to fund internships in rural/under-served communities to address mental health deficits that are widely recognized (there is documented evidence with difficulties in recruitment and retention).

- Contact all provincial psychology associations to see if they already have or will develop a professional issues committee interested in supporting the development of counselling psych internships.

- Explore internships in non-traditional settings or non-traditional career paths in which a small number of counselling psychologists do exist (e.g., business settings, program evaluation/development).

- Correctional Services Canada is having difficulty recruiting enough psychologists and would be interested in developing (additional) internship positions, either directly or as part of a consortium.

The Summit ended with discussion about (a) how to advocate for the science and
Footnote

1 Including but not limited to the following: CPA Board of Directors, Canadian Institute of Health Information, Statistics Canada, Association of Canadian Regulatory Organizations, Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs, Canadian Association of Post-Doctoral Scholars, Applied Psychology Program at Claremont Graduate University, Mental Health Commission of Canada, Correctional Services of Canada, Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces, Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research, CPA Aboriginal Section, College of Family Physicians of Canada, and the Australian Psychological Association.

Students’ Experiences of Counselling Psychology Programs: University of Alberta

Allison Foskett (interviewed by José F. Domene)

With this article, we are beginning a new series for the Section Newsletter, in which we interview current students of different counselling psychology programs across Canada to ask them to briefly talk about their experiences with their programs, and to share their advice and wisdom. Today’s interview is with Allison Foskett, a third year student in the PhD program at the University of Alberta. More information on the PhD in Counselling Psychology program at the University of Alberta can be found on their web-page: http://www.edpsychology.ualberta.ca/GraduatePrograms/CounsellingPsychology/PhD%20Program.aspx

1. Based on your experiences in the doctoral program at U of A, what would you say are the distinctives and strengths of your program?

There are many strengths of the Ph.D in Counselling Psychology program at the University of Alberta. It is a very rigorous and intense program that offers both a breadth and depth of experience with theory and counselling. It is very distinct in that most courses have a practicum attached, so you are constantly involved in counselling or assessing clients, or working on projects at various organizations as part of your coursework. Our Clinical Services division, where many students will complete a practicum, offers the opportunity to work with many clinical issues and diagnoses.
Another strength that I appreciated was the 500 hour assessment practicum which offers the chance to learn multiple assessments and administer them with clients. This involves diagnosing, treatment planning and recommending various programs or resources for clients.

Finally, another benefit is the opportunity to work with several supervisors, and to learn from their different perspectives. The program also has a very cohesive and supportive network of students who work together, share resources, and lend their expertise to one another.

2. What have you enjoyed the most about your time in the program?

One of my most enjoyable courses was a family and couples counselling course which offered the opportunity to observe live family counselling and participate in reflection teams. Practical learning began in the second week of classes as we observed live family therapy sessions.

I also enjoyed having the opportunity to work as a Research Assistant for my supervisor, Dr. Jessica Van Vliet, on a project that examined the impact of a mindfulness-based stress reduction program on youth mental health, and as a Teaching Assistant for undergraduate and graduate level courses. There are many work opportunities within the program to help fund students’ tuition; I have actually had to turn down a few offers for work opportunities in order to achieve my specific professional goals.

3. What advice would you give to students who are thinking about applying to the PhD program at the University of Alberta?

Be sure to connect with a few faculty members ahead of time to explore their research interests and to determine whom you’ll have the best fit with. Then you can put together a strong research proposal that fits with this faculty member’s research interests. In addition, you may want to talk to students working with your preferred faculty member as well as a few students in the program to learn more about their overall experiences and perspectives.

The program is extremely intense in terms of required practicum hours and coursework load. It is important to plan your schedule in advance to ensure you can strike a good balance between scheduling your client appointments, balancing your coursework and having some self-care time. Also, if you do not drive you may find it helpful to have easy access to public transportation as you may be working at three different practicum sites at any given time.

Overall, the investment of your time and efforts is well worth it in the end, as you will develop many new skills, professional connections, and you will receive exposure to many great opportunities that will be valuable to your professional development and learning.
Jennifer Titus is a currently a third year doctoral candidate in the Counselling Psychology program at McGill University. Her current research focuses on how artists with acquired impairments use art-making to manage their multiple and intersecting identities.

Student Rep. Update

Hello from your Student Representative!

I would like to give you all an update about what I have been doing as your student rep and have some exciting news to share with you. My role is to promote student engagement in the section and bring any students issues and concerns to the student executive. So in line with promoting student engagement and dialogue, I am happy to announce that the counseling / counselling psychology student network is up and running! Thanks to all of you who have emailed me and expressed interest in being in the network. For others, don’t worry it is easy to become part of this growing network, as all you have to do is email me at jennifer.titus@mail.mcgill.ca to be added to the contact list! Being part of the network will help you to stay in the loop and for example hear about upcoming events, like the section student social being planned for the upcoming CPA conference in Vancouver.

I am also very excited to announce the launch of the CPA Counselling Psychology Section Student facebook Page! This page was created with the aim of further aiding students to connect, help and mentor one another, so please visit and like this page.
Further, each week, there will be questions posted on page to help foster discussion, so please check in regularly and respond, sharing any info you feel comfortable. As well, I want your help creating content on the page. First, please let me know about any ideas you have for the profile picture. Second, if you have any questions or comments you want to post to the page, please let me know. Third, if you have any pictures from the previous conference or from the Inaugural Canadian Counselling Psychology Conference (ICCPC) that you would like to share, again let me know. Additionally, as the second part of my role is to attend student issues or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me if there is something you would like me to bring to the section executive meeting that I attend.

So please, become part of the network and check out the facebook page, that will be able to make connection with students across Canada and you won’t miss out on important connections.

Wishing everyone a great semester,

Jennifer

Announcements

Newsletter Submissions

Our newsletter is an important way for the section to communicate to its members. If you have feedback about the Newsletter, ideas about its content, or would like to submit a brief articles that you believe would be of interest to section members, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. You can email me, the Section Chair, at ada.sinacore@mcgill.ca

Calls for Nominations

Section 24 (Counselling Psychology) Distinguished Member Award

The Counselling Psychology Section Executive is seeking nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Member Award. The award is intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the field as a practitioner or as a researcher. The nomination criteria and process can be found in the section web-site.

Please send nominations for the award to Member at Large- Awards, Freda Ginsberg (fgins001@plattsburgh.edu). Nomination deadline is May 15, 2014.

Calls for Nominations

Best Thesis/Dissertation Student Awards

The Counselling Psychology Section Executive is seeking nominations for the 2014 “Best Master’s Thesis” and “Best Doctoral Dissertation” Awards. The awards are for outstanding research by students from Canadian counselling psychology programs.

The nomination criteria and process can be found in the section web-site. Please send nominations for the award to Member at Large- Awards, Freda Ginsberg (fgins001@plattsburgh.edu). Nomination deadline is May 15, 2014.
Calls for Submissions
LUMA 2014 AWARD--Lesbian Unpublished Manuscript Award

Purpose: The Association for Women in Psychology encourages theoretical and empirical scholarship that addresses the psychology of lesbians. Topics: Unpublished manuscripts focusing on any topic relevant to the psychology of lesbians are invited.

Eligibility: Manuscripts (conference papers, dissertations, or other manuscripts) must be unpublished and not in press or under review for publication at the time of submission. Both sole and jointly authored papers are eligible. Maximum 50 pages. You do not have to be a member of AWP to be considered.

Deadline: June 1, 2014

Review: Submit an anonymous manuscript to Lhyers@wcupa.edu by midnight on the due dates. Put contact information on a separate pages. A panel of AWP members will conduct a review of the anonymous manuscripts. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of sound methodology, clarity of writing, and relevance to the advancement of the psychology of lesbians.

Award: The award winner will be notified individually via email and also announced at American Psychology Association convention in August (the winner is not required to attend the APA award ceremony). The winner is invited to present the manuscript at the Annual AWP conference and will receive up to $250 in transportation expenses and waived conference registration.

Calls for Nominations
CPA Section 24 (Counselling Psychology) Section Executive

Nominations are now being accepted for the following positions on the Section Executive:
1. Secretary-Treasurer
2. Student Representative

Each position is for a two year term, beginning in June 2014. Elections will be held during the section business meeting at the 2014 annual convention in Vancouver, BC.

Nomination process: Candidates should inform the Chair of the Section, Ada Sinacore (ada.sinacore@mcmillan.ca) by email of their intent to stand for election, at least 1 week prior to the section business meeting. In 2014, the nomination deadline is May 29th, and will only be extended if no candidates are nominated by that time.

Nominees are encouraged to provide a 1-2 paragraph description of who they are, what position they are seeking election for, and why they would like to serve the section in this way. The descriptions will be distributed to the Section members prior to the election.
Interested members are encouraged to stand for election even if they are unable to attend the section business meeting for the election. Their descriptions will be read to the membership prior to voting.

If you thinking about serving the Section in either of these roles, please contact Ada for more information about the duties of the positions and to notify her of your intent to stand for election. Note that notifications will only be accepted from the individual who intends to stand for election. If you wish to nominate a colleague, please talk to them and have them contact Ada for themselves.

**Section Executive & Ex Officio Members**

**Chair**  
Ada Sinacore, Ada.sinacore@mcgill.ca

**Chair-elect**  
Robinder (Rob) Bedi, Rob.Bedi@wwu.edu

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Anusha Kassan, akassan@mail.ubc.ca

**Member at Large (Review Coordinator)**  
Natalee Popadiuk, popadiuk@uvic.ca

**Member at Large (Student Awards)**  
Freda Ginsberg, fgins001@plattsburgh.edu

**Student Representative**  
Jennifer Titus, jennifer.titus@mail.mcgill.ca

**Web Master**  
Chao-Mei Chiang, chao-mei.chiang@mail.mcgill.ca

**Newsletter Editor**  
José Domene, jfdomene@unb.ca