ON SUPERVISION

There is something about learning...something about a connection to what is simultaneously new, fresh, and current, and that which is tried, tested, and solid. Such is the experience of partnering with the BC School Psychology Internship Consortium to host an intern throughout the 2013-2014 academic year. You can feel that sense of intrigue and fresh knowledge as soon as she walks through the clinic doors each Monday morning, and this same sense permeates every intake interview, every assessment session, and every debrief review.

It is this that drew our clinic to the idea of hosting an intern, and it is this that has been the most important aspect of welcoming her to our team. As practicing professionals out in the world, we can become absorbed in the grind of our day-to-day work very quickly, losing some sense of connection to that which is current and contemporary. Through supervision of an intern, this all comes rushing back. As supervisor, you stretch your competencies, are provoked to intrigue about something new or different, rush to review something you haven’t considered for some time, and feel that connection – very directly – back to your formative days of training.

The lasting impact of this year's intern on our practice will be that infusion of such a current and joyful pursuit of knowledge and understanding. As a team of 15 clinicians providing mental health supports and assessment services to families and children, we are a very busy environment with much on the go. To be reminded of the centrality of lifelong learning as a part of how we are and what we need to hold on to in order to provide the best possible service to our clients has been a wonderful thing indeed.

About the Wishing Star Clinic:

At The Wishing Star Lapointe Developmental Clinic, we provide support through counselling, psychoeducational assessments, learning support, parent consultation, parent groups and professional workshops. As a clinic focused on child development, our client base ranges from infancy to young adulthood. The various services that we offer are provided by a range of professionals including Registered Psychologists, Registered Clinical Counselors, Educational Consultants, and Registered Social Workers. Our team has a collective goal of ensuring each of our clients and families has their needs addressed skillfully, with compassion, and in a manner that is both child-focused and family-centered.

Dr. Vanessa Lapointe, Founder, The Wishing Star Lapointe Developmental Clinic
The Trajectory of Change

The 2013-2014 year has continued to bring changes in our efforts toward adopting national and international standards and affiliating with the broad community of professional psychology internship programs at the doctoral level. First, we made nomenclature changes to adhere to requirements for membership in APPIC (Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers) and in keeping with CPA (Canadian Psychology Association) accreditation standards. We are now (and again) using the descriptor “consortium” and have adopted the title *B.C. School Psychology Internship Consortium: Pre-Doctoral Internship Training Program* in our ongoing efforts toward accreditation. We have retained the concept of two training programs (doctoral and master’s) with separate criteria for completion, but with overlap in many functions including a monthly Advanced Skills Training Program for interns, and supervision skills training and support for all supervisors. Our Consortium community is comprised of public school districts, independent schools, post-secondary institutions, mental health and other provincial agencies, and special service clinics in B.C. We anticipate and look forward to working to further establish relationships among all placement sites and with the host agency, the Psychoeducational Research & Training Centre at UBC.

In the fall, we participated in the APPIC match process by offering placements for two pre-doctoral interns. In total, we ranked three applicants for positions across Phase I and II but were unsuccessful in the final match. We have re-applied for APPIC membership and will participate again for the 2015-2016 year.

Our 2014-2015 handbooks have been enlarged and renamed the *Policy and Procedures Manual*, one for the pre-doctoral Training Program and a second for the Master’s Training Program. We also have developed an abridged brochure at the pre-doctoral level, the *Guide to School Psychology Internship Training in B.C.* All materials will be posted on our website this month. Our Self-Study document is almost ready for submission to the CPA Accreditation Committee and we look forward to working through the accreditation process. As part of that, the Consortium Executive Director and Director of Training are participating in accreditation workshops and the internship fair at the CPA Annual Convention in Vancouver in June.

Finally, we shamelessly self-promote as a proudly school psychology internship specialty program with a cohort of 6-12 master’s interns annually and two pre-doctoral interns this academic year. We look forward to continuing our upward-and-onward direction and to keeping you advised of our progress as we go. For now, we congratulate this year’s interns and supervisors for a year well spent and wish the interns all the best in their new roles as autonomous practitioners in September.

Dr. Barbara Holmes, Director of Training

Ethical Dilemmas

On April 11, 2014, interns and supervisors got together for the morning portion of our Friday Consortium session to discuss ethical dilemmas that they encountered throughout the internship year. The discussion centred around potential issues and practice considerations related to electronic filing systems, the use of e-mail and other electronic media, responding to requests for second opinions, the school psychology intern’s role in contributing to a positive school climate, and limits to confidentiality.

The following sources were quoted and emphasized throughout the discussion as guidelines in decision making processes: BCASP Ethical Conduct and Professional Practice: Principles and Standards for Members of BCASP; CPBC Code of Conduct; and NASP Principles for Professional Ethics.
The Friday Professional Development Program consists of monthly meetings to bring together all interns and supervisors. There are three components: seminar-type activities; a didactic component; and additional skill building sessions.

**Interns 2013-2014:**
Front (left to right): Paulina Biernacki; Erin Fleming; Alina Lyons; Shungu Mushayandebvu; and Virginia Tze

Back (left to right): Leigh Yang; Lauren Johnston; Gabrielle Goodbrand; and Aly Fielding
LOOKING BACK: DIDACTIC CALENDAR, 2013-2014

The Friday Professional Development Program consists of monthly meetings to bring together all interns and supervisors. In 2013-2014, Interns and supervisors attended the following workshops and skill building sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Speaker and Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August, 2013</td>
<td>Promoting Mental Health in BC Schools</td>
<td>Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health, Halifax</td>
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<tr>
<td>September, 2013</td>
<td>BC’s Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools</td>
<td>Lisa Pedrini, Manager, Social Responsibility and Diversity, Vancouver School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>October, 2013</td>
<td>WISC-IV Workshop</td>
<td>Dr. Ted Wormeli, Registered Psychologist, POPARD</td>
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<td>Special Education: Policies and Guidelines</td>
<td>Kathy Guild, Director of Instruction, Special Programs, Delta</td>
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<tr>
<td>November, 2013</td>
<td>PREPARE</td>
<td>Sue Dorey, Manager, Youth Services, Burnaby</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report Writing and Recommendations</td>
<td>Sandy Stanton, Certified School Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December, 2013</td>
<td>PATH Program</td>
<td>Jennifer Tong, Director of Special Education, CISVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 2014</td>
<td>Positive Behaviour Support</td>
<td>Joanna Kelm, Doctoral Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 2014</td>
<td>An Overview of programs at KGMS</td>
<td>Rosita Tam, Director of Instruction, Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2014</td>
<td>An Introduction to CBT</td>
<td>Dr. Lynn Miller, Professor, UBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May, 2014</td>
<td>Vanier Centre and S.W.I.S. TEAM</td>
<td>Krisztine Trumley, Principal, Vanier Centre</td>
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The BC School Psychology Internship Consortium didactic training program operates without a budget; we very much appreciate the continued support and time of the individuals listed above.
Background

The PRTC is the host organization to the Adult and Child Assessment Clinics and the BC School Psychology Internship Program. The Clinics delivers a much needed service at a vastly reduced cost to children, post-secondary students and adults. The Clinic has for many years accepted referrals for assessing grade school students and has incorporated this service into the training program for school psychology. Since 2010, the PRTC has also been providing low-cost services to post-secondary students with questions about their learning or those seeking accommodations for university exams.

Growth

The innovative nature of the services provided by the AAC has been recognized by post-secondary institutions: we currently receive referrals from 16 post-secondary institutions within British Columbia and are receiving requests for services from post-secondary students from outside province. The low cost of assessments and immediacy of services are unique attributes of the services offered. A steady increase in referrals (a 27% increase documented in 2013) attests to the success of our model. The clinic also provides a unique and dynamic placement experience to school psychology graduate students and interns, who typically work with younger (school-aged) populations. As such, the experience at the AAC contributes to the BCSPIP goals of providing interns with a diverse experience leading to the mastery of a comprehensive range of competencies. (Dr. Suretha Swart, AAC Clinic)

Research: What do we know? What can we do next?

The AAC has also spurred research. Three of our current interns, Virginia Tze, Lauren Johnston, and Joanna Kelm are preparing to present a poster at the CPA Annual Convention, June 4-7, 2014, in Vancouver. Below is an excerpt from their poster:

In light of an increasing number of referrals and completed assessments, the primary goal of this poster is to present the results of an evaluation study that both depicts the characteristics of our clientele (e.g., demographics and referral concerns) and examines what clinical diagnoses are typically made in response to these referral concerns. Along this line, we also investigate which approaches to conceptualizing general intelligence (e.g., WAIS-IV Full Scale Intellectual Quotient, General Ability Index; Cattell–Horn–Carroll factor scores) are most commonly endorsed and used by clinicians when confirming a diagnosis. Furthermore, we evaluate the extent to which a common cognitive profile exists in our adult clients who are diagnosed with different subtypes of learning disabilities. Finally, we examine the extent to which cross-battery assessment measures have been incorporated into clinical assessment in order to develop an insight about the range of complexity in the referrals being handled in the AAC. The goal of this evaluation study is to inform our future practices and approach to psycho-educational assessment in the adult, post-secondary student population.
Upcoming Conferences

- CPA Annual Convention, Vancouver, BC
  June 4-7, 2014

- BCASP Annual Conference, Location: TBD
  November 12-14, 2014

- NASP 2014 Annual Convention, Washington DC
  February 18-21, 2014