

## STUDENTS

# Internship Training Opportunities Becoming Even Scarcer in Ontario

KAREN R. COHEN, Ph.D., C. Psych.  
CPA Associate Executive Director and Registrar

**T**he Accreditation Office was very concerned to hear that two Ontario internships are scheduled to cease operations in 2005-06. Both were administrative decisions, made with regret, for budgetary reasons. In at least one instance, the decision was made as an alternative to eliminating any staff FTE's.

When internship programmes and hospital departments of psychology have closed in the past, CPA has endeavoured to advocate and intervene with the institutions' administrations. Although intervention does not necessarily save the programme or department, it has, on occasion, resulted in fewer cuts and has always been an opportunity to educate and advocate for psychology and its training programmes in public institutions. In some instances, out of concern for their staff positions and relationships with administration,

local psychology staff has asked that we not contact administration. Although in the past CPA has respected these requests, experience tells us that more, rather than less, feedback and outcry to administrations is needed. Although intervention may not redress the problem, not intervening will most certainly not redress it.

CPA, in concert with the Ontario Psychological Association, is taking these two latest and imminent programme closures very seriously. We have made contact with the Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. At the time of this writing, we are endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the ministry officials to discuss its support of our professions' graduate students. Accreditation data indicates that in 2003-04, the provinces' seven accredited doctoral programmes had 78 students out on internship. The 13 (and soon to be 11) accredited internship programmes offered a total of 41 (soon to be 36) positions. Although many students leave their province of study to complete their internships, Ontario provides internship positions for only half its number of doctoral students in professional psychology who will eventually need one!

Accepting students into graduate programmes with prescribed programme requirements, and then not affording the students access to the means of meeting these prescribed requirements, is

a serious problem and one we hope to redress. Although, as far as we are now aware, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care only funds medical internships and residencies, we know that Nova Scotia, for example, funds doctoral psychology internship programmes and assigns a set number of positions to institutions throughout the entire province.

In addition to pursuing discussions with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, members of CPA's Accreditation Panel and Board have discussed the changing practice landscape for professional psychology and the possibilities of other training venues for interns. Recently, the Accreditation Office had an inquiry from a group private practice interested in developing an internship programme. This kind of internship opportunity would be excellent for current cohorts of doctoral students who

increasingly embark on clinical careers in private rather than public practice. We recognize the significant time and expense involved in running and maintaining an accredited internship programme, and we can begin to consider ways in which these expenses might be shared among stakeholders (e.g., doctoral programmes, the provinces, public institutions). For example, the community might consider an internship consortium among public institutions and private practices – each providing a portion of the training and assuming some of the cost.

CPA is committed to pursuing solutions to these training concerns. Anyone with information or interest in this important issue is invited to contact Karen Cohen at head office (888-472-0657 or 613-237-2144, ext. 344). We will provide an update on our initiatives in the winter issue of *Psychopsis*.

## The Department of Psychology at Bishop's University

KATHLEEN MCALLISTER-MUNN & KERRI GIBSON,  
CPA Undergraduate Representatives

**Location:** Lennoxville, Quebec; in the heart of the Eastern Townships.

**About us:** The Department of Psychology at Bishop's University was established in the fall of 1960, at which time its lone faculty member taught a complement of three undergraduate courses. The Department has since flourished and now offers more than 45 undergraduate courses. Students have a choice to pursue a (Honors, Major, or Minor) B.A. in Psychology as well as three different concentrations in Human Resource Management, Neuroscience, and Gerontology.

The faculty currently consists of seven full-time professors. The focus of the department is to provide a sound and liberal education. The faculty is active in research, including the areas of: neuroscience, clinical psychology, child psychology, social psychology, abnormal psychology, psychometrics, and statistics, among others.

An advantage of the small class sizes is that they allow students and faculty to work closely together. There are currently 151 full-time students enrolled in the Department of Psychology.

The graduates of the Bishop's University Psychology Department have chosen many different career paths, ranging from graduate school, addiction counselors, school psychologists, and positions with numerous companies.

**Best kept secret:** Bishop's boasts the best student-professor ratio of any University in Canada!

**Web address:** Please check out our website at <http://www.ubishop.ca/cc/cdiv/soc/psy/index.html> for more information about the Department and its various programmes.



An aerial view of Bishop's University

## CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Department of Psychology Montréal, Québec

ZINNIA MADON, CPA  
undergraduate representative,  
Concordia University

The psychology department predated the formation of Concordia University. It was established at Sir George Williams University in the academic year of 1961-1962. Currently, the department is housed in the PY-building and the Richard J. Renaud science complex, located at the charming Loyola Campus. The science complex, which was completed September 2003, is an 85 million dollar building, with state of the art laboratories and equipment.

Psychology is one of the largest undergraduate departments at Concordia, with 1,504 students (2003). We currently have 121 honour students, 360 specialization students, 854 major students, and 169 minor students. The average class size is approximately 63 students, and therefore, offers students a comfortable learning environment. The program offers bachelor degrees in both science and arts. Students may choose to do a behavioural neuroscience option, and all psychology students have an opportunity to be a part of the science college at Concordia University, made up of various science faculties. Students may also enter directly into the



Honours program upon completion of high school or Cegep, if they have excellent grades. The Concordia University Psychology Association (CUPA) is extremely active in promoting academic and social events for all students, and aims at making the undergraduates experience at Concordia fun.

The graduate department of psychology currently has 103 students and is intended for students interested in pursuing a Masters and PhD in experimental or clinical psychology. The department also has 35 tenure track faculty members, who are dedicated to their research and to their students. Students are given individualized attention by their professors, and establish a good working relationship with them. As research is extremely important to the department of

psychology, it is estimated that approximately 2.5 million dollars is given per year for research funding. There are four areas of strength for research in our department. They are defined broadly as Cognition/Perception, Behavioral Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology and Clinical Psychology. There are also three centers, loosely affiliated with the psychology department: Centre for Research in Human Development, Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology, and Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance.

For more information regarding the department of psychology at Concordia University, please visit the website: <http://www-psychology.concordia.ca>