

Canadian Psychological Association Section for Students
2004 Annual Report

Over the past year, the primary goal of our section executive has been to improve communication with both our section members and the association. To accomplish this, we focused on a number of initiatives both internally and externally. First, we set out to increase our section representation at universities across Canada by increasing the number of Campus Representatives. To date, the primary responsibility of these individuals has been to disseminate information about the section or association (e.g., conference information), and to recruit new CPA student affiliate members. Over the past year, our Campus Representative Coordinator (Rebecca Pillai), has done a tremendous job at expanding our network of student reps across the nation. Second, we attempted to further improve our communication within our section by establishing a listserv (hosted by CPA) with all existing members. With over 800 student affiliates, relaying information, thus far, has been a daunting task. To improve communication with links external to our section (e.g., the association), we plan to hold a bi-annual teleconference between our section Chair, the CPA Executive Director (a.k.a. John Service), and a representative from the board of directors. While working together with CPA staff, we will be better equipped to address the needs of our student affiliate members. Furthermore, we are currently exploring the possibility of developing an electronic quarterly newsletter that will be made available through our section website. The purpose of this initiative will be to provide another vehicle for the executive to communicate relevant information and upcoming events to all of our members. We are currently exploring the logistics of such a task, and plan to have a plan in place for the upcoming year. Finally, it is the ultimate goal of the student section to obtain representation on each section of CPA. Currently, many sections have student leaders involved in a variety of ways. Although many sections have already done so (e.g., Clinical Section), it is our goal to promote the importance of having a student representative on each section executive committee. Our section represents has the largest CPA membership body, highlighting the importance of meeting the diverse needs of Canadian students across all disciplines. After all, we are the future of Canadian psychology!

Michael Coons, Chair