Jenny Ashcroft retires

After 24 years of managing the course, Dr Jenny Ashcroft retired at the end of November. Jenny has been a joint Director on the course since 1985, first of all as Academic Director and, since the course moved to Lancaster in 2001, Programme Director. Jenny steered the course from being a British Psychological Society (BPS) Diploma In-Service training to a Doctorate, first of all by affiliation with the University of Wales, Bangor in the early nineties. With the move of the course from its NHS base in Blackpool to Lancaster in 2001, the award of the degree transferred to Lancaster University.

Jenny has also held a number of important roles within the national training community. She was an examiner for the BPS Diploma Award in Clinical Psychology and Secretary of the Committee of Regional In-Service Courses in the early nineties. She then became a member of the BPS accreditation body, the Committee for Training in Clinical Psychology (CTCP) from 1993-1998 and served as Chair of that committee from 1996-98. She has also served as a member of other BPS committees including the Committee for Continuing Professional Development; the Membership and Qualifications Board; the Postgraduate Degrees Committee; and the Committee for Quality Assurance in Psychology Training. She became a National Assessor for posts relating to Teaching Training and Research in 1999 and since 2001 has been the Lead National Assessor for all such posts in the UK. She has served as an External Examiner on six of the Clinical Psychology courses in the country. She was awarded Fellowship of the BPS in 2003 for her work introducing core competency assessment into clinical psychology training.

Jenny said about her time on the course: “Over the last 24 years I have seen the course grow from an intake of six students every two years, to a course with an intake of around 22 students each year. I feel privileged to have been instrumental in that development. I have enjoyed watching the trainees learn and then go into the NHS to become proficient practitioners. I have relished meeting the challenges that come with change. Mostly I have enjoyed the interactions with the people who have been a part of my work life, sharing the load, sharing the responsibilities, and then sharing the triumphs.”
Jenny intends to spend her time “having fun and doing things to excess”. This includes plans for extensive foreign travel with her husband and family and, when at home, enjoying the company of her children, pets, and wide circle of friends.

Many tributes to Jenny’s contribution to the profession and training have been received. For example, Dr Isabel Hargreaves, Course Director on the Bangor training course, said: “Jenny's long standing involvement with training both in Lancashire and nationally ensured she had a great deal of knowledge, wisdom and sound thinking to bring to the development of the profession. I was always impressed by her ability to problem solve and to think about issues clearly and dispassionately. She always had keen interest in promoting, facilitating and empowering junior colleagues which is what I was when we first met all those years ago.”

At the moment there are no immediate plans to replace Jenny’s post, with her current duties being shared among the two other Directors, Jane Simpson and Laura Golding.

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### HPC Work in Progress

From July 1st the Health Professions Council (HPC) took over the responsibility of accrediting DClinPsy training courses. While the Lancaster course’s accreditation from the British Psychological Society (BPS) has been ‘rolled over’, the course needs to be working to the HPC’s standards in training for future accreditations. And while there are similarities between the two sets of criteria, there are also differences, such as the need to agree more policies, the need to make feedback loops explicit and the need for more detailed learning outcomes for each placement. A working party of course staff has been set up to look at the five key areas outlined in the HPC training criteria: admissions, assessment, curriculum, placement, and programme management and resources.

Tim Atkin, the senior clinical tutor who is leading the work on making sure our placement practice meets HPC standards, said: “The programme team will be working hard on this over the next few months, and we will keep you updated. Several of the standards...
Our team:

Download PDF for current staff details...

emphasise showing how we work with our partners who support the programme in providing teaching and placements and we will looking to start discussions with our local partners in meeting these new standards.”

Another change effected by the involvement of the HPC is for the course to send ‘pass lists’ to the HPC of trainees who, having passed this course, become eligible to be considered by the HPC for the practitioner lists. As a consequence, the course can no longer describe its training as producing clinical psychologists. As the HPC have commented: “Successful completion of an approved programme only provides eligibility to apply to the HPC register. It does not guarantee someone will become registered. Individuals must meet the registration requirements of the HPC which include health reference, character reference and payment of fees. Only when registration is complete can an individual use a protected title.”

The course aims to send the HPC the details of trainees who have successfully completed the course within a week. The HPC estimate a period of two to three weeks from when a candidate applies to entering the relevant list. More information on all things HPC from: www.hpc-uk.org.

Admission update

The new cycle of admissions to the programme is about to get underway. From December the course will start receiving the applications of candidates who wish to join the programme. Although the exact number of the new intake has not been confirmed by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA), it is likely to be around 24. This is the timetable of events for 2010:

- February 15: Online completion of written test
- March 8: Campus completion of written test
- March 15: Shortlisted candidates informed
- April 19-22: Interviews and presentations
- April-June: Offers made to successful applicants
- June 11: Deadline for candidates to accept/decline offer
- August: 2010: intake starts

One of the new innovations which took place last year was the involvement of service users in the admission process. This is being developed and refined and will be included again this year. The course is also still committed to its use of the written test as a way of shortlisting candidates, a development which is being increasingly adopted by other DClinPsy courses.

The course is extremely grateful to all the local clinical psychologists who join in on the interview and presentation part of the admissions process. Says Anna Daiches, senior clinical tutor and admissions officer: “We couldn’t do this without the commitment and
involvement of local clinical psychologists. We are always keen to recruit more colleagues to this process and will be holding more training around April time.” If you are interested in becoming involved in this, please contact Anna on a.daiches@lancaster.ac.uk.

Upcoming Events

Research Seminars

Psycho-emotional disabilism
Dr. Donna Reeve, 01/03/10 (1-2pm) Lancaster University
Conference Centre, Meeting Room 5

Attachment and recovery from Psychosis
Prof. Andrew Gumley, 07/06/10 (1-2pm), Lancaster University
Management School, LT4

For further details, contact Sarah Alderson at s.alderson@lancaster.ac.uk or on 01524 592754

Workshops

Supervisor Training Days 1 & 2
Dates: 26/01/10 & 27/01/10
Time: 9:30am-4:30pm
Venue: Conference Centre, Lancaster University

Examiner’s Workshop
Date: 25/02/10
Time: 9:30am-4:30pm
Venue: Preston Marriott Hotel

Selections Training
Date: 23/03/10
Time: 9:30am-4:30pm
Venue: Info Lab 21, Lancaster University

For further details, contact Jen Whitfield at j.whitfield@lancaster.ac.uk or on 01524 592972

LUPIN Meetings

Learning Resources Sub-Group Meeting
Date: 13/01/10
Time: 11am-1pm

Selections Sub-Group Meeting
Date: 13/01/10
Time: 2pm-4pm

All meetings will be held at the Gujarat Centre, Preston with lunch provided from 1 – 2pm. For further details, contact Paula Foster at
Coming your way

- Specialist training workshops for markers of service related projects and professional issues essays
- New rates for markers
- More news on CPD opportunities for markers and teachers

Contact Christina Pedder with any questions about the contents of this newsletter.
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