

THROWBACK

THURSDAY

Celia O'Flaherty, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

Meet Celia, a Barton Lab graduate!

- Graduated with a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education and specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis from Vanderbilt in 2018
- Currently works as a BCBA at Kingdom Autism and Behavioral Health in St. Johnsbury, Vermont



Swipe for her story!




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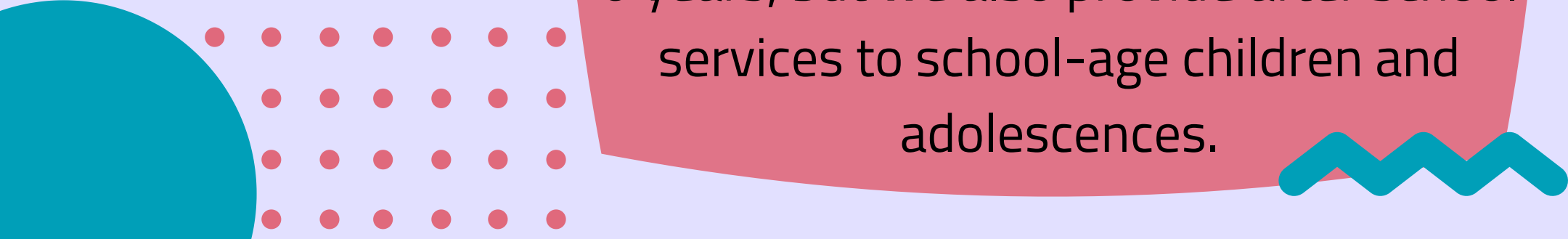
Celia O'Flaherty, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

What does your
role look like?

I am currently a clinical BCBA and a school consultant. I manage a small caseload of early-intervention learners at our clinic and provide Autism consultation at 4 schools in rural Vermont and New Hampshire.



At Kingdom Autism and behavioral Healthy, we provide ABA services primarily to children ages 18 months to 6 years, but we also provide after school services to school-age children and adolescences.



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How did VU
prepare you
for this role?

In the most fundamental way, Vanderbilt provided me with the highest quality training in ABA and early childhood education, which helped me to gain confidence in my skills as a practitioner. However, even more valuable to me was the training I received in how to be a part of a team, and how to actively analyze the ethical impact of my cases and our general work in the field. I understand that I am a part of an imperfect field that can only grow in its efficacy, and I attribute that understanding to the wonderful professors I had exposure to at Peabody!



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What are two of your greatest accomplishments since graduating from Vanderbilt?

1 My proudest non-work related moment since graduating has been marrying my now wife, Lily.

2 My proudest ABA-related accomplishment has been successfully learning, developing, and implementing Dr. Hanley's Skills Based Training program for a very high-needs client (who now displays over 80% less aggression and bolting compared to pre-SBT baseline levels!).

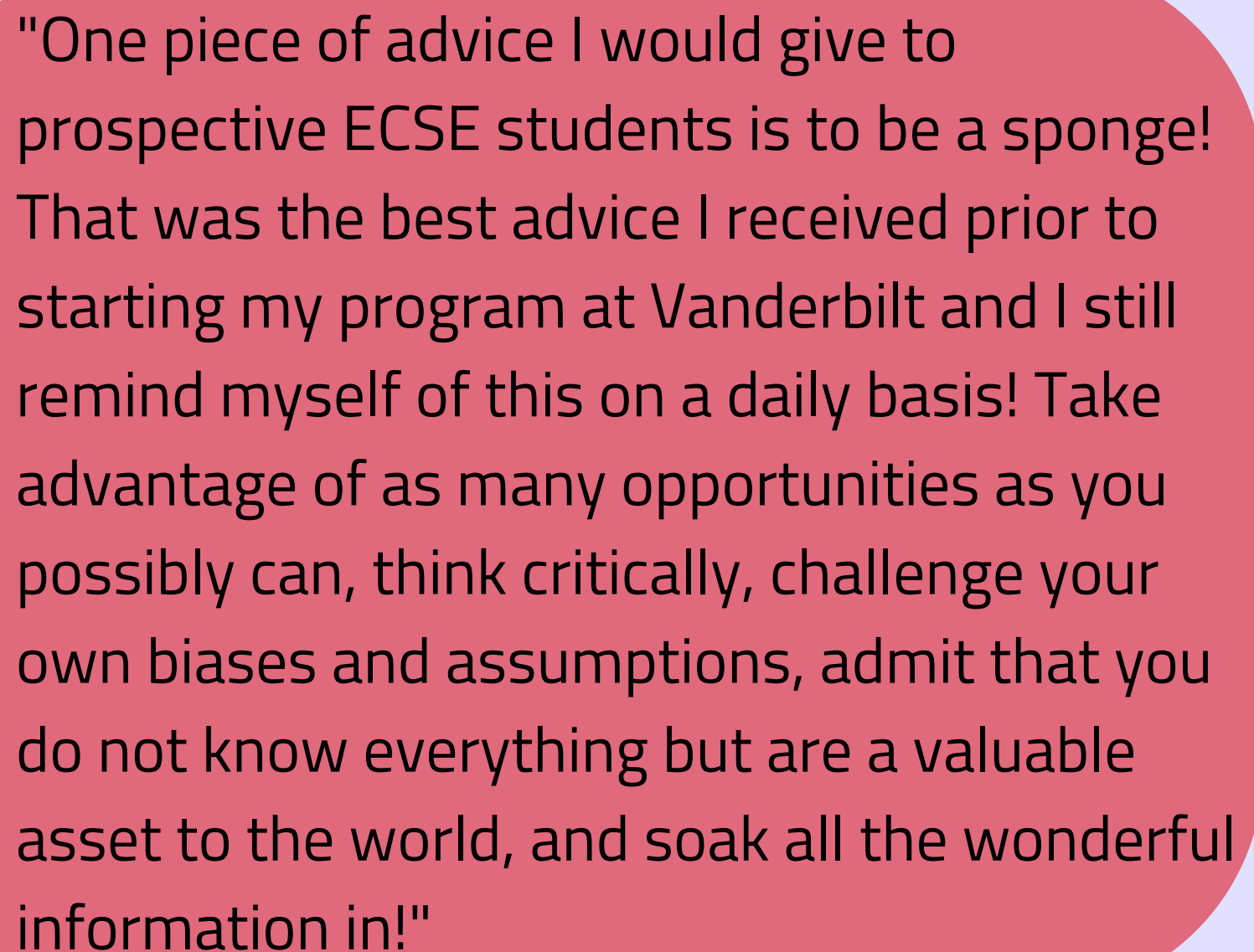
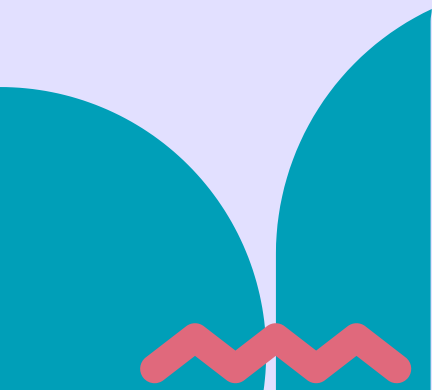


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What is one piece of advice you would give to current or prospective Early Childhood Special Education students?



"One piece of advice I would give to prospective ECSE students is to be a sponge! That was the best advice I received prior to starting my program at Vanderbilt and I still remind myself of this on a daily basis! Take advantage of as many opportunities as you possibly can, think critically, challenge your own biases and assumptions, admit that you do not know everything but are a valuable asset to the world, and soak all the wonderful information in!"

