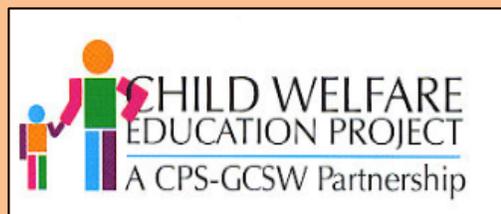


Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

Volume 14 Issue 1
August 2012



CWEP Website: <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

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Director's Corner



I would like to take this time out to welcome back our continuing students and embrace all of the new incoming students for the 2012-2013 academic year.

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and were able to get much needed rest.

I am excited that you have chosen to participate in the Child Welfare Education Project (CWEP). As a CWEP student you are given the opportunity to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work as well as provide professional work to the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. By furthering your education you will be able to increase your skills and knowledge as it relates to providing services to families and children who are affected by abuse and neglect. Remember that the families that you work with may lack appropriate parenting skills and may not understand child development. It is up to you to not only serve as a role model, but as an advocate and a support system for the client.

"There are still only 24 hours in each day."

Once the semester gets under way you all will begin to juggle classes, assignments, field placement, work and family. Remember to pace yourself and prioritize. There are still only 24 hours in each day.

Thank you for choosing the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. The CWEP staff looks forward to working with you.

Arnitia Walker
 CWEP Director

Student Spotlight:

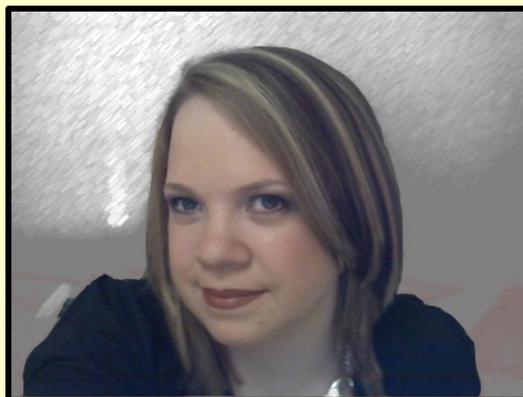
Christina Veillon

Tell us about yourself:

I am currently a second year clinical track student pursuing my MSW with a political specialization. I am a CWEP scholarship recipient and will be engaging in my second field placement with the CVS' intensive adoption prep unit at CPS in the spring. I am also serving as co-president for 2012-2013 with the GCSW Student Association. I am a single mother of two children. My oldest starts high school and my youngest starts 2nd grade in the fall. Working with families, particularly women and children, who are overcoming trauma and pursuing a positive future is my passion.

Why did you pursue an MSW?:

Personal and professional experiences with child abuse, women's rights, and the legal profession have inspired me for many years to pursue a career in a helping profession to improve, empower, educate, and advocate for opportunities and services to help women and children. I began my professional pursuits as a secondary school teacher, but I found that my aspirations to do all of these things would be more attainable in the field of social work. I completed my second Bachelor of Arts in sociology at the University of Houston and heard great things about the GCSW.



“Working with families, particularly women and children, who are overcoming trauma and pursuing a positive future is my passion.”

Tell us about your work in child welfare:

I served as a certified school teacher and volunteer mentor to high school teenagers for several years. During my first year of graduate study, I served in an internship with Tejano Center for Community Concerns where I gained valuable experience in managing home studies, performing child placement studies, bridging the gap between families and community resources, creating presentation materials for the agency and families, and participating in trainings related to child welfare. I also advocated for the collection of donations and resources for the agency. I am looking forward to completing my coursework and utilizing my experiences and education as an intern and employee with CPS.

Anything else that you want to add?:

I am genuinely looking forward to being a positive voice as a CWEP recipient, Student Association co-president, and graduate student during the coming academic year. I encourage all students to engage in opportunities – through classes, organizations, communities, etc. – whenever possible while in this program. In the words of William Butler Yeats, “education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.”

Christina Veillon Published in *The Daily Cougar*

In addition to her participation in CWEP and the GCSW Student Association, Christina Veillon was published in *The Daily Cougar*, along with three of her MSW classmates: Maria Reyna, Scarlett Badal, and Amanda Deloy. As guest commentators in the April 25, 2012 opinion section, the authors used their column to advocate for the reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act*:

“According to the U.S. Department of Justice, nearly 20 percent of college women and six percent of college men will become victims of attempted or completed sexual assault.

This was made evident last week when a female UH student was attacked at a nearby gas station. She was luckily victorious in fighting off her three attackers who attempted to sexually assault her, but not many individuals are so lucky.

The Violence Against Women Act enacted in 1994, reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, is up for reauthorization again.

The reauthorization addresses campus disciplinary proceedings and would force campuses to hold perpetrators accountable to stricter punishments according to the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women.

Even the National Network to End Domestic Violence has shown that VAWA provides federal money to their Sexual Assault Services Program and prevention programs, created a National Resource Center on Workplace Responses, and

provides training to law enforcement and health professionals to improve their responses to domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

The costs associated with domestic violence and sexual assaults alone are staggering. According to the Bureau of National Affairs, domestic violence is estimated to cost US employers up to \$13 billion a year.

Costs to victims of rape are estimated by the National Institute of Justice to be \$127 billion a year.

Studies have shown that since enactment, VAWA has saved lives of countless individuals and money for the United States, up to \$12.6 billion in averted costs within the first six years.

VAWA is necessary because it creates safer communities, supports victims and holds offenders accountable. Support for reauthorization should not be a debate; it should be supported unanimously.

Please contact your local members of Congress to let them know you support VAWA reauthorization to end the war on domestic violence and sexual assault.”



Staff Spotlights:



Yi Ren

“I was an RA for CWEP for the 2011-2012 academic year. When I started this position, I was experienced in statistics and data analysis using SPSS. To me, the greatest rewards of working in this position were learning more about American culture and building relationships with other students, faculty and staff. As an international student, cultural shock is the biggest obstacle in my life and study. This position offered me a great opportunity to learn about American society, communicate with the others, and learn American culture from them. My advice for CWEP students is to be clear with what you want to do and what you want to learn. Don’t be afraid to ask any question and speak out your opinion.

The CWEP program does an effective evaluation every year, in which students are encouraged to freely state their opinions. This is a good opportunity to help shape CWEP into a program that helps students achieve their academic and career goals. In addition, I would suggest that students organize and manage their time in advance. Many CWEP students are also working a job, and time management is a very important issue. Finally, I would like to remind students that CWEP offers excellent funding and training for you to study child welfare. Participation in this CWEP program will allow you to become a skilled professional in the field of child welfare.”



Micki Washburn

“I was an RA for CWEP for the Spring and Summer. My duties included teaching a CWEP sponsored class and assisting with research and evaluation activities related to CWEP. I have had the opportunity to interact with some really top notch individuals, some of whom I would have not had the opportunity to work with, since they don’t work directly with the PhD program. The staff and faculty are very knowledgeable and are sincerely interested in the success of their students, and put a lot of time and effort into organizing events, including the end of the year ceremony honoring recent graduates.

I would encourage CWEP students to take advantage of every opportunity. Learn everything that you can from everyone you come in contact with. Even things that may seem like they aren’t going the way you would like are opportunities for your personal and professional growth. Don’t be afraid to ask questions, and really listen to what people are saying to you. I would also remind them to be thankful for the opportunities offered by participation in the CWEP program. There are very few Master’s programs that offer funding AND on the job training while you are completing your degree. Participation in CWEP allows more individuals the opportunity to make a difference in the field of Child Welfare, without having to quit their jobs with CPS or worry about tuition.”

Celebrating CWEP - 2012 -



Celebrating CWEP Awards

CPS Supervisor of the Year: Josephine Robinson



Josephine Robinson is currently a Program Administrator over the Adoption Preparation CVS programs, outlying CVS, and the Foster/Adopt program (FAD). Prior to her work in region 06, Ms. Robinson was the Regional Director in Region 4/5. Ms. Robinson has dedicated her life to Children's Protective Services and to protecting children, providing services to children and families, providing children in foster care with safe homes, and trying to find "forever" families for the children who cannot return home and are in the system.

CWEP Field Preceptor of the Year: Christie Fleming

Christie has a BS in Criminal Justice with dual minors in Psychology and Sociology. She has been with CPS for 14 ½ years. She has worked in both CVS and Adoption Prep. She is currently a supervisor in an Adoption Prep Unit, and she works closely with Child Advocates on their life book program. She enjoys being a mentor for the new workers at CPS.



CWEP Field Instructors of the Year:

Bella Alex



Bella became a CPS caseworker in October of 1980. She advanced to the ranks of supervisor from 1984 through 1991, and became a trainer with the Regional Training institute. When she finished her graduate studies in May of 1996, she went on to become a CPS Program Director for 6 years in several different capacities, followed by 10 years as a Program Administrator. With thirty years of dedicated service, Bella retired from CPS. She is now a medical social worker with Texas Children's Hospital specializing in CPS cases.

&

Micol Rosen

Micol graduated with a BSW from UT Austin in 1999, and completed her Master's degree the following year. She began working for CPS in October of 2000 in Williamson County, and held positions in Conservatorship, Intensive Family Based Services, and Investigations. When she transferred to Houston in 2006, she began working in the Interstate Compact and was promoted to supervisor of that unit for 2 years. Currently, she is the supervisor of the Intensive Permanency Planning Initiative unit, working closely with children who have serious behavior problems and supervising 2-3 interns each year.



“Celebrating CWEP”

Student Committee Members



Amber Riaz

“Celebrating CWEP” was a very rewarding experience for me. The best part was that we all worked as a team and contributed to all aspects of the event, including selecting the event title, sending out E-vites, finalizing the program, menu planning, awards, decorations and much more. Dr. Cheung gave us the opportunity to try new ideas and supported us in implementing them. Even though I had initially signed up for the independent study to learn more about mentoring programs for CWEP students and CPS employees, I was definitely more excited for the event by the end of the semester. “Celebrating CWEP” was a huge success as it was attended by CWEP graduates and their families, CPS employees, Dean Colby and CPS Regional Director Scott Dixon. Everyone loved the food, decorations and speeches.”

“At the end of the fall semester in 2011, I was informed about a class being offered dealing with new CWEP programs. I really enjoyed working alongside University of Houston staff members as well as my 2 other classmates who helped to develop the mentoring program and plan the 1st annual CWEP graduating ceremony to celebrate those completing the program as well as the staff members who were involved in their education. I am glad that there were so many alumni and third year students who were willing and excited to participate in the mentor matching event. This program will provide incoming students with a connection to individuals and information to enhance their professional development. CWEP has given great opportunities to so many, the students are now able to return the favor and offer their guidance to others. I predict we will continue to get positive results as the years go by.”



Jamelle Gibbs



Dalen Dilieto

The 2012 - 13 CWEP Student Committee has been formed. Please contact one of the officers if you would like to communicate about CWEP issues or praises:

Dalen Dilieto : dalend@hotmail.com
 Jamelle Gibbs : jamellegibbs@aol.com
 Amber Riaz : ajaved2@gmail.com
 Christina Veillon : cmv1001@yahoo.com



Announcements:



Fathering Survey Participants Needed

Professor Monit Cheung and Mr. Mark Trahan of the University of Houston are conducting a study entitled “Fathering Behaviors as Perceived by both Parents.” **Male and female** adults who are living with their partner and at least one child are invited to participate by identifying their perceptions about the fathering behaviors toward this child. The purpose of this study is to understand the involvement of the father in a child’s life from either the father’s or the mother’s perspective. The role of a “father” may be held by a stepfather, adoptive father or other fathering figure within the child’s household. **Please participate or forward this message to those who may be interested in voluntarily participating in this study.** They are also welcome to forward the survey link to other potential participants. There are two versions of this survey; you will be directed to complete the survey relevant to your parenting role (mother or father). [Click here to begin the survey](#) or cut/paste this link to access the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/gjwbyd2 (each computer can only access the survey once; please uses another computer if your spouse also wants to participate).

This anonymous survey may take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The paper version of the survey can be requested (indicating either the mother or father survey, or both) by email to mtrahan2@uh.edu or phone at 713-743-8107 or mail to Dr. Monit Cheung, UH-GCSW, 110HA Social Work Building, Houston, TX 77204, USA. The researchers will not be keeping your contact information once the survey is mailed. All personal information, including names and addresses, will be destroyed immediately after the mailing.

This project has been approved by the University of Houston Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, 713-743-9304. See the above link for details.

Thank you for your assistance.

Dr. Monit Cheung & Mark Trahan





**Prevent Child Abuse
Texas**

Newsletter from Prevent Child Abuse Texas

“I am writing about an organization that means a great deal to me. As a member of *Prevent Child Abuse Texas*, I would like to share with you some sad facts about an epidemic that is affecting the lives of America’s children. More than three million children are reported as abused or neglected in America every year, with one million of those cases being confirmed. And, sadly, over 270 children died in Texas alone last year from child abuse or neglect.

While these statistics are horrifying, there is hope. We know that child abuse and neglect are preventable. There is no reason for this many children to not enjoy a sense of security in the one place they should expect it most – home.

I am asking you to consider joining *Prevent Child Abuse Texas* in our efforts by (click hyperlinks or visit www.preventchildabusetexas.org to explore details):

- [Becoming a member](#)
- [Being a part of our Walk to Action for Children](#)
- [Joining our 5-K Walks for Children](#)
- [Attending our 27th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse](#)
- [Attending on of our training programs](#)

But there is still much work to do. Child maltreatment has more than one solution, and you’ll find them all around us—they’re our neighbors, friends, faith groups, medical professionals, and schools. Research shows that abuse and neglect are much less likely to occur when families are supported by a caring community.

Engaging communities in the important work of strengthening families and valuing children are the core values of *Prevent Child Abuse Texas*. We provide community based programs and services that support parents and reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment.

You can make a difference in the lives of children. With your help, we can stop this violence—and bring hope to America’s children. I encourage you to join us in our efforts today. You can make a difference in the lives of children.”

A Letter from Bryan Samuels, *Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families*



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20024 www.acf.hhs.gov

July 24, 2012

Dear Colleague,

Since the *Adoption and Safe Families Act* (ASFA) of 1998, the number of children in foster care has decreased by almost 30 percent. ASFA established clear timelines for child welfare cases, emphasizing the achievement of timely permanency for children in foster care. Back then, we didn't know all we know today about what works to keep children safely in their homes or move them quickly to reunification, guardianship, or adoption. Experimentation, determination, and a system-wide emphasis on permanency made this reduction possible. There is still much work to do, but examples of successful approaches to achieving permanency are abundant.

As Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, (ACYF) I have worked to develop a national child welfare strategy that builds on this progress and pushes us to achieve even better outcomes for young people who have experienced maltreatment. Promoting social and emotional well-being for children and youth is the cornerstone of this strategy. This focus, which is grounded in extensive research, integrates the knowledge we have gained in the last two decades and allows us to fully embrace ASFA's emphasis on safety, permanency, and well-being. Most importantly, it has the potential to dramatically improve the odds for children, youth, and families who receive child welfare services.

Even States that have seen large reductions in their foster care populations can benefit from taking a close look at how they might address the social and emotional well-being of the children who remain in care or receive services in their homes. I'm writing today to tell you about a few of the ways that we are encouraging States to think about more fully integrating a focus on social and emotional well-being into their child welfare work. While we don't today know all of the ways to effectively improve social and emotional functioning and well-being, a decade from now we will be able to look back and understand how we achieved the improvements to come.

In April, the Children's Bureau released an **information memorandum** (IM) articulating a framework for social and emotional well-being in child welfare. Emerging evidence shows that many of maltreatment's most devastating impacts are social and emotional, seriously affecting how children relate to their world. However, growing research also demonstrates that evidence-based interventions, when carefully selected and delivered with fidelity, can restore healthy, developmentally appropriate functioning. ACYF-CB-IM-12-04, "Promoting Social and Emotional Well-Being for Children and Youth Receiving Child Welfare Services," describes child welfare strategies for achieving real,

measurable, and long-lasting improvements in well-being for children and families. Find this IM at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2012/im1204.pdf.

States have an exciting opportunity to test these and other transformational strategies in new **title IV-E child welfare waiver demonstration projects**. With the authority to approve up to thirty demonstration projects over the next three years, ACYF encourages States to submit bold proposals for projects that are likely to improve child and family well-being outcomes. The first round of applications were due July 9; States that have not yet submitted are encouraged to continue developing their applications and send them in as soon as they are ready, as approvals going forward will be provided on a rolling basis. For more information about this opportunity, see ACYF-CB-IM-12-06, "Child Welfare Demonstration Projects for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2012-2014," at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2012/im1205.pdf.

We are also targeting all of our **discretionary funding** toward efforts to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and youth. For example, the "Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare" will fund five grantees to develop comprehensive and integrated screening, assessment, and treatment for the children they serve. Another set of grantees will test "Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System" for families that face the dual risks of homelessness and placement of a child in foster care. These and other funding opportunity announcements can be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2012-ACF-ACYF-CA-0538>. Grantees will be announced by the end of September, and findings from their projects will be actively disseminated.

Another way we are working to promote social and emotional well-being is supporting States in addressing **psychotropic medication** use among children and youth in foster care. In April of this year, we released an IM, ACYF-CB-IM-12-03, "Promoting the Safe, Appropriate, and Effective Use of Psychotropic Medication for Children in Foster Care (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2012/im1203.pdf)." In August, we will bring together State child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health leaders to support cross-system efforts to strengthen oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications for this population. Additionally, the Children's Bureau has made electronic resources, including a series of technical assistance webinars, available to the public on the Child Welfare Information Gateway (<http://www.childwelfare.gov>). The IM, the August meeting, and other resources all emphasize that efforts to improve management of psychotropic medications ought to be integrated into broader efforts to address the social and emotional well-being of children and youth.

Although these may seem like discrete activities, we see them as part of a larger whole – a coordinated effort to drive the next wave of reform in child welfare. These initiatives and activities amplify one another and move us steadily in the direction of meaningful, measurable improvements in well-being for our most vulnerable children. I encourage you to explore these opportunities and communications and consider how you might integrate them into your ongoing efforts to promote positive outcomes for your State's children, youth, and families. Thank you for all you do to support our nation's children, youth, and families.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bryan Samuels
Commissioner



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Mark Your Calendars!



Center for Family Strengths and CHILDREN AT RISK Present:



The Third Annual Family Strengths Symposium: Community Partnerships and Programs for Evidence Based Child and Family Well-Being

September 5-6, 2012

Houston, TX

Early Registration - \$160 (Whole conference) or \$85 (One day)

Regular Registration - \$210 (Whole conference) or \$100 (One day)

See program listing at: www.uhd.edu/cfs

To register as an attendee please visit:

http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/sos/family_strengths/cfs_registration2.html.

Please make checks payable to UH-Downtown Center for Family Strengths:

One Main Street, Suite N – 1037 Houston, TX 77002

Keynote Address:

Roger Friedman, Psychologist

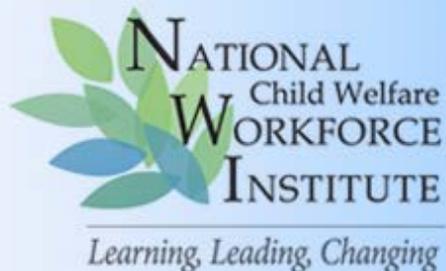
&

Deshaun Ealoms, Parent Program Specialist for Child Protective Services

Hotel Accommodations @ [Houston Marriot at the Texas Medical Center](#)

6580 Fannin Street – Houston, TX 77030 USA

Conference Code: CFSCFSA – Rate: \$109 (Single or Double)



A Service of the Children's Bureau, Member of the T/TA Network

National Workforce Webinar #5: *Coaching to Support Solution-based Casework in Child Welfare*

Where:

This is an online event. You will receive information on how to attend the webinar in your confirmation email. Please click on the "Register Now!" button to register.

When:

Wednesday September 26,
2012
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM Eastern
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Central
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Mountain
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Pacific

[Add to my calendar](#)

Greetings!

We are pleased to open registration for **Coaching to Support Solution-based Casework in Child Welfare**, the 5th webinar in our popular series *What Works for the Workforce: Leadership Competencies in Action - A National Webinar Series on Leading Change to Strengthen the Child Welfare Workforce*.

Scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, from 3 - 4:30 pm ET, this session will highlight the coaching elements and related workforce competencies necessary for successful solution-based casework and practice model implementation at Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration.

Click on the link below to learn more

[About this Session](#)

or simply

[Register Now!](#)

If you have any questions about this session or wish to register a large group, please contact Sara Munson at smunson@albany.edu

We look forward to your participation at this free event.

Sincerely, *The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute*

NASW/Texas 2012 State Conference

Friday - Sunday, September 7-9, 2012
The Westin Galleria, Houston, TX

***Greetings Students!**

Are you registered to attend the state conference which is being held here in Houston on September 7th-9th? Little to no travel, on a weekend, hours toward field, learn about the social work profession, network with future employers, NO EXCUSES! Student members pay

\$60 for the entire three day conference, and you get \$20 back on-site after you volunteer four hours. Only the first 250 volunteers are accepted, and this is from all the schools across Texas.

Click [here](https://m360.naswtx.org/event.aspx?eventID=49679) to register (or visit

<https://m360.naswtx.org/event.aspx?eventID=49679>)

Januari M. Leo, MSW

NASW Houston Branch Chair



National Association of Social Workers

CWEP Calendar of Events

(Also available via <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/events/index.php>)

(Updated 8/23/2012; Subject to Change)

Fall 2012

August

- 2nd - CWEP Annual Stipend Student Meeting
- 13th - GCSW New Student Reception at Rockwall Pavilion from 5 PM- 7 PM
- 23rd & 24th - Classes begin for Foundation Students in the New Curriculum
- 27th - Classes begin for Continuing Students

September

- 13th - New CWEP Student (CPS Employee Only)/Supervisor Meeting (Murworth, RM D64, from 10 AM- 12PM)
- 3rd - **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**
- 20th - New CWEP Student (CPS Employee Only)/Supervisor Meeting (Murworth, RM D64, from 1 PM- 3PM)

October

- 5th - Mentor Networking Event – From 12 PM – 1 PM (Murworth, RM D64)
- 22nd -25th - CWEP Student Advising for spring 2013

November

- 2nd - Brown Bag at CPS from 12:00pm-1:00pm in RM D36B
- 21st-24th - **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

December

- 8th - Last Class Day fall semester
- 11th-19th - Final Examination Period
- 24th -1st - **WINTER BREAK**

SPRING 2013

January

- 14th - **Classes Begin for Spring Semester**
- 21st - **MARTIN LUTHERN KING, JR., HOLIDAY**
- 25th - Brown Bag at CPS from 12:00pm-1:00pm



February

21st - Mentor Networking Event – From 12 PM – 1 PM (Location TBA)

March

TBA - CWEP Symposium
 11th - 16th - **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
 25th -29th - CWEP Student Advising for summer/fall 2013

April

29th - Last Class Day spring semester

May

1st -9th - Final Examination Period
 TBA - **2ND Annual “CELEBRATING CWEP”**
 10th - **CONVOCAION (DATE TO BE FINALIZED;
 SEE GCSW ANNOUNCEMENT)**

Summer 2013May

27th - **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
 TBA - TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

June

3rd - Classes Begin for Summer I, II, III
 7th - New Applicant’s Deadline to turn in CWEP Application for fall 2013

July

1st - Last Class Day Summer II
 4th - Independence Day Holiday
 8th - Classes Begin for Summer IV
 23rd - Last Class Day Summer III

August

1st - Last Class Day Summer I
 5th - Last Class Day Summer IV

****If you need academic assistance, please contact Jackie Duron, LCSW, a GCSW doctoral student who volunteers her time to be your Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO) mentor. Learn more about it at <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php> (under “The LEO Mentor Program”).**