



University of Houston  
Graduate School of Social Work  
Child Welfare Education Project

## CWEP NewsLine

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### WELCOME BACK CWEP STUDENTS !

We wish a warm welcome to new and continuing CWEP Students and we hope you have a great semester. Please mark your calendars for the CWEP Symposium on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM at the CPS Office/Murworth. **This symposium is mandatory for all CWEP students.** The topic is to be announced.

The NewsLine is looking for a Houston Student Correspondent to report the good news from Houston CWEP students. For the past two years, Clara Trainer, the Corpus Christi Correspondent, has done a wonderful job keeping NewsLine readers informed about important Corpus Cohort News and we need a Correspondent in Houston to do the same. Please contact Mahasin Saleh if you are interested [mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu](mailto:mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu)

### The SELF Course to be offered Spring 2005

Dr. Cheung has developed a self-discovery elective course, which helps students integrate their personal and professional selves. "Integration" leads to improvement of relationship building skills, practice and cultural competencies and reduction of anxiety and burnout. The course focuses on self-care, personal bias, self-disclosure, self-awareness, and family of origin issues. The course is experiential in nature and includes small group and individual sessions with a licensed clinical social worker, videotaping, journaling, role-plays, and reading assignments. Space is limited, so if you are interested in taking this course please send an e-mail to Dr. Cheung [mcheung@uh.edu](mailto:mcheung@uh.edu) or call her at (713) 743-8107.

### Need CWEP Information? Check out the CWEP Website!

<http://www.uh.edu/ocp/cwep.htm>

The CWEP website is updated regularly. You will find important information on the site, including the CWEP Advising Guide, CWEP Syllabus Links, a Child Welfare Resource Guide, contact information for staff, and much more!

#### What's Inside

The SELF Course & CWEP Welcome Calendar	1 2
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#### CWEP Staff Members:

Dr. Monit Cheung  
Principal Investigator  
[mcheung@uh.edu](mailto:mcheung@uh.edu)

Joe Papick  
Director  
[jpapick@uh.edu](mailto:jpapick@uh.edu)

Kathy Clark  
Field Coordinator  
[klclark@uh.edu](mailto:klclark@uh.edu)

LeAnna McCowan  
Student Advisor  
[lmccowan@uh.edu](mailto:lmccowan@uh.edu)

Ann McFarland  
Student Stipends  
[amcfarland@uh.edu](mailto:amcfarland@uh.edu)

Trish Taylor  
Special Projects  
Coordinator  
[ptaylor2@mail.uh.edu](mailto:ptaylor2@mail.uh.edu)

Mahasin Saleh  
Graduate Associate  
NewsLine Editor  
[mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu](mailto:mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu)

Demori Driver  
Graduate Assistant  
[decurrid@mail.uh.edu](mailto:decurrid@mail.uh.edu)

## CWEP FALL 2004 Calendar

<b>Thursday-Friday, August 19 and 20</b>	New Student Orientation
<b>Monday, August 23</b>	First day of classes
<b>Week of August 23</b>	Field Instruction
<b>Monday, September 6</b>	Labor Day Holiday
<b>Saturday, September 11</b>	Field Liability Insurance Forms due
<b>Monday, September 20</b>	Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving a grade
<b>Friday, September 24</b>	CWEP Symposium 1-4 PM at CPS Murworth
<b>Wednesday, October 13-</b>	
<b>Wednesday, October 20</b>	Brown Bag Informational Meetings for Students Entering Field (See Field Office for more Info).
<b>Wednesday, November 3</b>	Last day to drop a course or withdraw
<b>Wednesday-Saturday, November 24-27</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>Saturday, December 4</b>	Last Day of Class

Mark your  
Calendars!



### Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO)

*A mentorship project providing help for CWEP students in the area of academic support*

Are you stuck on a paper? Do you need help sorting through your ideas? Effective communication is a critical part of a social worker's job, because your written word profoundly affects the lives of your clients.

Under the supervision of Dr. Monit Cheung, Mahasin Saleh (CWEP associate & doctoral student) serves as a mentor to the CWEP students to help in such diverse areas as computer research skills, APA formatting, paper organization, preparation of presentation materials, etc.

*We do not provide editing services, but we can offer suggestions to improve paper structure and organizational style.*

**If you need academic mentorship, you may contact Mahasin at 713-743-8338 or email her at [mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu](mailto:mfsaleh@mail.uh.edu)**

## Tips for Testifying in Court

By Sarah Guidry, Supervising Attorney for DFPS Special Litigation Unit

1. Don't panic or rush your answer. Ask to have the question repeated if you do not understand it.
2. Concentrate on the current question.
3. Be aware of multiple questions. Answer one at a time.
4. Do not be clever or funny.
5. Address the judge in limited circumstances.
6. Be pleasant, polite, and respectful to everyone.
7. It's okay to say "I don't know" and "I don't remember".
8. Always address the judge as "Your Honor".
9. Speak firmly. Do not nod or shrug your shoulders, as your answers need to be recorded by the court reporter.
10. Pause before answering questions to give yourself time to formulate the answers.
11. Avoid slang and jargon such as CPS, BSD, PPT.
12. Be objective.
13. Do not read directly from written materials.
14. Do not argue with counsel.
15. Do not take examination personally.
16. Stop talking when an objection is made.
17. Questions will include conversations, observations, and interaction with the child(ren) and family.

From CWEP Fall 2002 Symposium "Confronting Your Courtroom Fears" Legal Training for Social Workers in Child Welfare Settings. Sarah Guidry, Supervising Attorney.