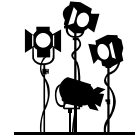


University of Houston
Graduate School of Social Work
Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

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CWEP Student Spotlight



This month we are highlighting Osvaldo Gomez. Thanks Osvaldo!

How did you come to social work?

I've always worked for a social services agency in a human resources function. Although my contact with clients and the community has been limited, I've worked extensively with employees by providing a variety of human resource services. Through the years, my desire to work closer with clients and the community has grown and pursuing a degree in social work is the next step in my professional development.

What are some of your hobbies?

I love to travel and visit different countries. I enjoy digital photography and seeing life through a camera lens. I have four colorful lovebirds (parrots).

What has been your favorite class?

Dr. Magner's Social Work Values and Ethics class. Dr. Magner makes the class fun, interesting, and I am always amazed at his body of knowledge.

If you work for CPS, how long have you been there and what is your position? I've worked for CPS for 11 years. I am currently a Program Specialist (Human Resources).

Is there anything else you'd like to share with your fellow students about yourself?

I am fluent in Spanish.

SPRING 2005 COURSES SPONSORED BY CWEP

SOCW 7397 Self Evaluation of Life Foundations (SELF) (Elective for CWEP students only), taught by Trish Taylor and individually arranged with students. This experimental course has not been taught since Spring 2002. You may take this course, **when offered**, at any point in your degree program. SELF is a self-discovery course, which helps students to 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. For the past year or so, Trish has been researching this course for her dissertation. She has looked at a variety of aspects of SELF and discovered some significant findings. Due to her research, the good news is that the course will be offered in Spring 2005. **Only 10 CWEP students will be able to take this course and we still have some spaces left.** Please contact Trish immediately if you are interested (ptaylor2@mail.uh.edu or call her at 713-743-8081) to schedule a brief phone interview. If you would like to take this course, she will give you the section number to register.

SOCW 7340 (12054) Social Work with Children and Adolescents (Practice Elective for Concentration students only), taught by Mahasin Saleh and Trish Taylor on Tuesdays, 1-4pm. The course will explore intervention models for working with children and adolescents. It will provide ample practice opportunities that should prove helpful as you work in child welfare. Both instructors have clinical experience in working with this population. **Dr. Cheung** (mcheung@uh.edu) will help you modify your degree plan if you are a concentration student but this course is not on the degree plan yet. You may notice that this course is offered in the same time slot as Psycho/Psycho; however, please also note that Psycho/Psycho will most likely be offered in Summer '05 if you are planning to take it.

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CWEP FALL 2004 CALENDAR

Thursday, November 25
and Friday, November 26 Thanksgiving Holiday

Saturday, December 4 Semester Ends
Last Day of Field Instruction



RESEARCH

Client-Worker Relationship Is a Factor in Parenting Behaviors

According to a study published recently in the journal *Research on Social Work Practice*, a good client-worker relationship can have a positive impact on parents' discipline and emotional care of their children. This study was conducted using 100 families formerly involved with the child welfare system in Long Beach, CA. Of these families, 45 percent were from a family preservation (FP) program and 55 percent were from a traditional family management casework program (FM). Researchers used the Parent Outcome Interview to measure children's academic adjustment, children's conduct, physical child care, discipline and emotional care of children, children's symptomatic behavior, parents' coping, and parents' relationship with the social worker. Findings from the study included:

- Higher scores in discipline and emotional care were related to parents' perceptions of their relationship with the caseworker as positive.
- There was a somewhat weaker association between client-worker relationship and the physical care of children and parent coping.
- There were no associations between client-worker relationship and child outcomes (i.e., academic adjustment, children's conduct, or children's symptomatic behavior).
- Ability to openly communicate and frequency of visits were predictors of a good client-worker relationship.
- FP clients, who have more frequent visits with their caseworkers, were generally more satisfied with their worker than FM clients.

Based on these findings, the authors conclude that the client-worker relationship can directly impact parents' actions but not a child's outcomes. In addition, they suggest that relationship-building between caseworkers and families should be a priority for child welfare agencies and training programs.

The full article, "Is the Client-Worker Relationship Associated with Better Outcomes in Mandated Child Abuse Cases?," is available in the September 2004 issue of *Research on Social Work Practice* (<http://rsw.sagepub.com/content/vol14/issue5/>).

Source: Children's Bureau Express http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?issue_id=2004-11&article_id=884

China Hong Kong Study Abroad Report

By Trish Taylor



Trip of a lifetime! Spectacular! Awesome! All words that don't even come close to describing the fabulous trip to China that Dr. Leung led during Summer, 2004. Leaving the day after graduation my husband, Dennis and I were among 17 GSSW affiliated students, faculty, staff or friends who toured Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Xian, and Beijing from May 22nd to 30th. Every aspect of the trip was so carefully planned with every detail considered! It is very difficult to single out any particular event to highlight for you.

The time spent in Xian among the Terra-Cotta Warriors was a dream come true for me. In 1986, I had traveled to Hong Kong with a one-day excursion into Shenzhen. This was when the Mainland was not as open as it is today. In that trip, I was first exposed to the story of the Terra-Cotta Warriors and their discovery by local farmers digging a water well around Xian in the late 1970's. Not able to travel to that part of China at that time, I hoped to return to China someday to see these amazing figures first hand. This trip brought me there! We know so much more about the origin of these figures now and the stories of the emperor and his cruelty. Seeing these figures created so many centuries ago to "protect" the burial spot of a ruthless emperor was worth the trip! It is remarkable how these life size figures have been repaired and preserved for the world to see -- each with a different face, fashioned from sketches made by an artist on orders from the emperor.

The other highlight of the trip for me also occurred in Xian. I met a couple from Iowa who had come to Xian to adopt a 2 year old Chinese girl through an American adoption agency. China has had a "one child" policy in place for a generation. This couple that I met in the Xian hotel had been waiting for about a year to adopt their little girl and were willing to share openly about the adoption process.

Corpus Christi Cohort News

Congratulations to the Corpus students who presented at the 28th Annual Texas National Association of Social Workers Conference in Austin October 21-23, 2004.

Lisa Cortinas, Lois Castillo and Carmela Quintanilla presented on parental involvement and incarceration.



Above: Left to Right LeAnna McCowan (CWEP Staff), Lois Castillo, Lisa Cortinas and Carmela Quintanilla

Marivel Garza, Tara O'Connell and Marianne Vogt at the NASW conference on critical issues effecting Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Youth.



Above: Right to Left Marviel Garza, Tara O'Connell and Marianne Vogt



Above: LeAnna McCowan and Rumulda Lee

History of National Adoption Month

National Adoption Month roots can be traced back more than 25 years. In 1976, the governor of Massachusetts first proclaimed Adoption Week and, later that year, President Gerald Ford made it official nationally. The number of States proclaiming the observance of Adoption Week in November grew, and in 1990, National Adoption Week became National Adoption Month. Today, National Adoption Month is celebrated throughout the United States during the month of November. Source and for more information on adoption month see http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/about_adopt_month.cfm

FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIPS FOUND TO PROMOTE PERMANENCY

Fostering Results released a new study in October, "Family Ties: Supporting Permanence for Children in Safe and Stable Foster Care with Relative and Other Caregivers," that illustrates the benefits of having the option of federally subsidized guardianship in helping to move children from foster care "limbo" into permanent placements. The study used recently released 2002 federal data to estimate that 19,250 children in long-term relative foster care are in "permanency limbo" because courts determined "they cannot be safely returned to their parents nor is adoption an option." The report found that when states were allowed to use "waivers" of federal foster care financing rules, and other flexible funding dollars, 9,636 foster children left foster care within a year for permanent homes with legal guardians, underscoring the benefits of federally subsidized guardianships as an option for children, families and the entire foster care system. To read the full report, go to: http://www.fosteringresults.org./results/reports/pewreports_10-13-04_alreadyhome.pdf

Information about Children in Texas

Recently CHILDREN AT RISK, a Houston-based advocacy organization has published Growing Up in Houston 2000-2010: Assessing the Quality of Life of Our Children. The following are some statistics from this publication.

993,250 Number of children ages 0-17 in Harris County/City of Houston

5,968,378 Number of children ages 0-17 in the State of Texas

Confirmed cases of Child Abuse or Neglect (per 1,000) Harris County/City of Houston 6.4; State of Texas 7.2

Children Receiving Food Stamps: Harris County/ City of Houston 5.2%; State of Texas 9.3%

Poverty Rate: 19.9% Harris County/City of Houston

Source : CHILDREN AT RISK



Check out the new book arrivals in the CWEP library!

See the updated CWEP Library Catalog on our Website. Go to <http://www.uh.edu/ocp/cwep.htm> and click on CWEP Library Catalog. CWEP students can check books out for 2 weeks.