



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

CWEP NewsLine

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CWEP Student Spotlight

This month we are highlighting Maria Rodriguez. Thanks Maria!

How did you come to social work?

Helping others has always been something I have loved to do; hence pursuing a career in social work was the most natural thing for me to do. Since I went to UH for my undergrad, I had always been exposed to the Graduate College of Social work, especially since that is where the main computer lab is. The semester I graduated from undergrad I applied at the GCSW and here I am two years later....graduating!

What was your favorite class?

My favorite class was Ms. Reibenstein's micro class because in that class I learned so much. Just to name a few things, I learned how to assess, how to write assessments, how to put several theories into practice, and overall, I really became comfortable with the idea of practicing therapy.



Self Portrait: by Maria

Summer Course News SOCW 7301

Sponsored by CWEP

Psychodynamic Theories and Psychopathology "Psycho Psycho" (SOCW 7301) will be offered in Summer III on Tuesdays from 5pm – 9pm. Dr. Trish Taylor, CWEP Curriculum Coordinator, will teach this CWEP sponsored course. The content of this course includes a review of the DSM and mental illnesses, introduction to psychobiosocial models and roles of social work in medication management. Classes will begin May 30th and meet weekly until August 9th.



FALL Course News SOCW 7344 Sponsored by CWEP

Family Violence (SOCW 7344) will be offered in Fall of 2005 on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30pm. Shetal Vohra-Gupta, LCSW, will teach this CWEP sponsored course. The content of this course focuses on major theories of family violence and their practice implications. Emphasis is on developing practice skills in work with adult and child victims/survivors perpetrators.



What's Inside

Spotlight	1
Calendar	2
Licensure Information	2
Quick Tips	3
Alumni Spotlight	4

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CWEP Spring 2006 Calendar

May 1st - Last Day of Class

May 12th – Graduation Commencement Ceremony

May 30th – Summer Classes begin



LMSW Licensure Information

Did you know that you can apply for LMSW licensure when you are in your final semester of the program? Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us to download and print the application from the site or apply online. On the left side click on Certificates, Licenses and Permits, when this page comes up scroll down to Professional Licensing and Certifications, then scroll down to SOCIAL WORK and click on it. The Table of Contents will allow you to read/print the information you would like. In order to apply you will need the application, application fee, and letter from your dean stating graduation date with your name and Social Security. The Dean's office has indicated that they will take requests for letters after March 3rd.

2nd Annual International Conference on Youth Empowerment (ICOYE): Empowering Youth Through Volunteerism

If you are interested in submitting for this conference please email Shetal at shetalv@yahoo.com and an application form, rules, and regulations will be emailed to you.

Place: City University of Hong Kong

Dates: June 5th – 8th 2006

Dr. Monit Cheung and Dr. Maxine Epstein have been invited to be plenary speakers. Dr. Cheung will be speaking on: *Project Passport: Empowering Youth Minority Women Through a Volunteer Program*, and Dr. Epstein will be speaking on: *Young Fathers and At-risk Adolescent Boys: What Works and What Needs to be Done*



Congratulations!!

Jessica Carnesi,
CWEP Graduate Assistant
on being selected as

Baylor Department of Psychiatry's Social Work Clinical Fellow for 2006-2007

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Texas and across the nation. It is a time to focus on ways to not only protect children from abusive environments, but more importantly to prevent abuse from ever occurring. Unfortunately, child abuse and neglect exists in our state and will not go away by simply ignoring it. It's up to each of us to arm ourselves with the facts, learn the warning signs and watch out for our most innocent Texans. It's up to all of us to prevent a child from becoming another heartbreaking statistic.

Story of the Blue Ribbon

The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign had its early beginnings following the death of a very young child. In spring 1989, Bonnie Finney, a Virginia grandmother received the devastating news that her beloved grandson had died of injuries inflicted by his parents. In an expression of her grief and outrage, this grandmother did something that has given us a symbol, around which we rally for the cause of child abuse prevention.

She tied a [blue ribbon](#) to the antenna of her van as a way to remember "the bruised and battered body of her grandson" and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. In Bonnie's own words: The [blue ribbon](#) serves as a constant reminder to fight for protection of our children. Please wear a [blue ribbon](#). Put one on your car. Give one to your friends. Tell them what it means. You may save a child's life!

Her simple idea, to wear or display a blue ribbon to show support for her child abuse prevention was picked up by grassroots organizations across the county. The act of one grandmother thousands of miles away leads us to this day. Just think what could happen if each one of us helped to spread the word to a few of the people that we come in contact with each day? The groundswell of support that would follow just might be enough to move us towards the day when our homes and communities are completely safe.

Some helpful websites for you:

www.PreventChildAbuseTexas.org

www.ChildTrauma.org

(The Child Trauma Academy also sends out a newsletter.
To receive a copy email ctanewsletter@aol.com)



Student Spotlight

(Continued from pg.1...Maria Rodriguez)

What are your hobbies?

My biggest hobby is my boyfriend Russell Crake! But when I can't be with him, I love to draw and paint, and when I have cash, I love to shop.

What year are you in the program? Do you work for CPS now?

Currently I am in my last semester of the program. I was a full time student so I have spent a total of 2 years at the GCSW....man, time really flies by! Upon graduating I will be working full time for CPS.

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

I just want to say that my hat's off to everyone who chooses social work as a field...it's an admirable profession and I want to encourage everyone as they go out to advocate and help the world. I also want to thank all the teachers who have mentored me, taught me, and encouraged me these last two years...I couldn't have done it without ya'll! and to my fellow students...Congratulations Class of 2006!

Saying Goodbye to our Graduate Assistants...

Demori Driver... Working with CWEP has enriched my graduate education experience immensely. Having worked in the field of education for a few years, I was greatly heartened when I re-entered the academic setting and saw the high-quality research and evaluation that CWEP applies to determine best practices in child welfare. Seeing the theory I was learning in the classroom be applied in the real world setting was a great experience, and it influenced my decision to pursue employment in a research or administrative setting. CWEP has allowed me opportunities to build my research and administrative skills while participating as a member of the professional team. I am deeply grateful to Joe Papick, Dr. Monit Cheung, Dr. Patrick Leung, LeAnna McCowan, Kathy Clark, Mahasin Saleh, Ann McFarland, and Dr. Patricia Taylor for their patience, guidance, and support for the three years I have worked here.

Jenny Lao.... I will be graduating from GCSW in August 2006. Although I joined CWEP as a graduate assistant for only a few months, I have learned so many things that will be beneficial to my future practice, especially related to any potential work in the child welfare system. Working closely with Dr. Cheung, Dr. Leung, Mr. Papick and other staff members, I have developed professional skills in research and documentation. My understanding of the CWEP curriculum has helped me develop an interest in child protection work. I strongly feel that I can use many therapeutic tools delivered in the curriculum to help children and their families because creativity is a must when helping abused children. I would like to appreciate my professors and colleagues in the CWEP program who have taught and helped me during my studies. Thank you and I will miss you all.

Jessica Carnesi... When I first accepted a graduate assistant position with CWEP, I was excited and eager about the job opportunity. It was one of the few available part-time positions with a convenient on-campus location and the added perk of tuition reimbursement was quite appealing. However, I did not anticipate that the knowledge and experience gained from working with CWEP would be truly invaluable. The opportunity to work with Dr. Cheung on the editing of numerous journal articles for publication, a book, and several conference presentations has been challenging and rewarding. Through the research work with Dr. Cheung, I have gained substantial knowledge beyond the classroom about cultural competence and evidence-based practice in the field of child welfare. Beyond the work experience as a graduate assistant, some of my best memories are with the CWEP team. The group of coworkers on the CWEP team, who I have shared the past two years with, is an amazing group of intelligent and supportive individuals. Their passion and commitment to the field of social work, especially that of child welfare, provides both a positive memory for me and just the enthusiasm and inspiration that I need as I step foot into my social work career. A special thanks to Dr. Cheung and all of the members of the CWEP team for two very wonderful years.

Mahasin Saleh... Working for the Child Welfare Education Project for the past four years has been a delightful experience. I have had the opportunity to work hard and undertake many duties, some of which include teaching courses, research, the LEO mentoring program, and working with Dr. Cheung in the MSW distance program in Corpus Christi, TX. I have really enjoyed working with the CWEP team and students. As I have taught courses and interacted with students often, I am impressed by their high caliber work, their commitment to child welfare, and service in the community. It has been exciting to see many students further expand their understanding and skills in working with children and families, which will make a difference in the lives of many. I wish all of the CWEP students, alumni and colleagues much continued success. It has been wonderful to be a part of a group of people that are committed to making our community a better place for children and families.



Congratulations to CWEP PHI ALPHA Honor Society Graduate:
Elizabeth Bright

* Phi Alpha is an honors society which recognizes students who maintain 3.7 or above GPA



Congratulations to CWEP Students who
Have applied for Spring Graduation 2006:

**Elizabeth Bright, Anjali Deshpande,
Maria Rodriguez, Faida Stokes, Philia Stewart**

Congratulations to CWEP Students who
Have applied for August Graduation 2006:

Rhonda Freeman and Charlayne Rigbsy

