



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

CWEP NewsLine

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Happy NEW YEAR!

CWEP Student Spotlight

This month we are highlighting Lucinda Thomas. Thanks Lucinda!

How did you come to social work?

Social Work has very definitely come from my experiences in mission work! and corporate business over seas in places like Kenya, West Africa; Caracas, Venezuela; Croatia; Guatemala, and Mexico. I try not to ever take for granted how blessed and fortunate I am to have experienced these amazing and yet tragically impoverished places. The experience of oppression in these countries is palpable. I have always known after these experiences, on some level that I wanted to be, at the very least, however small or large some kind of force for compassion and change.

What has been your favorite class?

I love the unexpected and as it turns out I had not expected to really enjoy Policy with Dean Colby as much as I did. One of my favorite things in life is to experience what I refer to as those "ah ha" moments; the moments you feel intrinsically connected and excited about something. Throughout the semester I continued to feel increasingly more impassioned about Social Work through Policy and even more certain as well as committed to my decision to become a social worker.

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Mark Your Calendars for the First

CWEP TOWN HALL MEETING

The Meeting will be held **Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006** from
4PM to 5:30PM in **SW Bldg. Room 231.**

This is a critical meeting to attend. Students will be informed about major changes that will impact you. Also you will also have the opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions.

CWEP Spring 2006 Calendar

Tuesday, January 10	Field Orientation for Students entering Field Practicum I in Spring 2006 9:30-12 noon Room 231 SWK Building
Wednesday, January 11	Field Orientation for Student entering Field Practicum I in Spring 2006 5:00-8:00pm Room 231 SWK Building
Thursday, January 12	Field Orientation for Students entering Field Practicum I in Spring 2006 1-4pm Room 231 SWK Building
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Tuesday, January 17	First Day of Classes & Field Instruction begins
Tuesday, January 24	CWEP Town Hall Meeting Room 231 SWK 4-5:30pm
Saturday, February 11	Educational Contracts due



Mark your
Calendars!

CHILD WELFARE INTERNET RESOURCES

Visit the new Children's Bureau website for better access to information on promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Users are now able to search the entire site by topic, locate Children's Bureau-sponsored conferences, and find details about the Children's Bureau's various Divisions. Other enhancements include:

- *New sections, such as Training and Technical Assistance, Frequently Requested Information, Statistics and Research, and Federal and State Reporting Systems

- *Information Memoranda and Program Instructions that can be sorted by topic or year (in the Laws and Policies section)

- *Full text of all 52 Statewide Assessments, Child and Family Services Reviews, Key Findings From the Child and Family Services Reviews, and Program Improvement Plans that can be searched and downloaded (in the Child Welfare Monitoring section)

- *Links to specific research funded by the Children's Bureau

The new website is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb



UPCOMING CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG

Announcing the 5th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health: Living in Harmony Promoting Creative Synergy in a Stressful World

The conference will be held in Hong Kong, China December 10-14, 2006. Dean Ira Colby and Dr. Patrick Leung have served on the International Program Advisory Committee. Dr. Leung and Dr. Cheung will be presenting child welfare related topics.

Two prizes will be awarded to social work students for outstanding studies or projects on social work in health and mental health. The deadline for application for these awards is March 31, 2006. Please visit the website for further details: www.swh2006.com

Did You Know.....GSSW is now GCSW?

The UH System Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved a proposal to change the Graduate School of Social Work's name to the **Graduate College of Social Work**. The name change will reflect the organizational model used by UH to refer to academic units that are led by a dean and report to a provost as colleges. The University uses the term school to label structures that are not independent units and are housed within larger colleges.

The committee determined that the change from school to college would better reflect the range of programs and activities offered by the social work graduate program and align the graduate programs at UH with those at other national universities. The name change will not affect programming or administrative structure within the GSSW because it has been operating as a college, not a school, despite its name, Colby said.

By: Jessica Robertson @ The Daily Cougar Volume 71, Issue 48, Thursday, November 3, 2005



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 left side click on Certificates, Licenses and Permits when this page comes up, scroll down to Professional Licensing and Certifications 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.

TIP SHEET FOR SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

Possible Substances

- Alcohol;
- Illegal Drugs (Street Drugs); and
- Prescription Drugs (Depressants, Benzodiazepines, Barbiturates, Amphetamines and Opioids and Morphine Derivatives).

Tools To Help Assess

- **Kentucky: Administrative Office of the Courts Checks:**

- Look for drug and alcohol charges; and
- Theft by Deception or multiple bad checks could be an indicator that money is being used to purchase drugs.

- **CPS Checks:**

- Look at case history to determine prior involvement with DCBS and past substance abuse. Consider past referrals that identified chemical use or abuse as a safety factor and determine if treatment was completed;
- Interview children/spouse/paramour/significant others, collaterals (friends, grandparents, neighbors, relatives);
- It is helpful to have collaterals write out statements when they are first interviewed explaining the substance abuse of a caretaker. Children can draw pictures to explain the caretaker's behavior; and
- If there is reason to suspect drug use, the worker may ask the client to participate in a drug screen and present the results to the worker.

Possible Indicators of Substance Abuse

- Frequent Job Changes/Job Instability;
- Doctor Shopping/Multiple Doctors;
- Multiple pharmacies being used for medications;
- Money and or food stamps are running out too quickly;
- Selling household items for cash;
- History of drug/alcohol abuse;
- Children report caretaker sleeping excessively or being difficult to wake up; and
- Family or friends are known to use/abuse drugs.

Source: State of Kentucky: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Division of Protection and Permanency SOPs

http://manuals.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs_manuals/dpp/Resources.asp

A Great Resource for your Cantonese-Speaking Clients and Friends

Houston has just started a **new** Cantonese radio station, **Houston-Hong Kong Radio**. This radio channel has its air time Monday through Friday, 9-10am, at AM-1050. As a community volunteer Dr. Monit Cheung is now hosting a live program, "Talking and Listening" on every Thursday around 9:20am to address mental health issues that affect families and children. Audience can phone in to ask questions or express feelings, and Dr. Cheung will answer to their concerns. Please pass this information to all your Cantonese-speaking clients, friends or colleagues, and encourage them to participate in this phone-in program.

CALL FOR PAPERS: THE POLICY CONFERENCE

<http://www.vcu.edu/slwwweb/PolicyConf06.html>

June 16-19, 2006

Washington, DC

Theme: "Shifting the Tide: Challenges for Policy Practice." **Deadline: February 1, 2006**
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work and Influencing State Policy are pleased to announce that the Call for Papers (CFP) for The Policy Conference 2006 in Washington, DC, June 16-19 (formerly in Charleston, SC) is available. Outstanding policy makers and analysts are being invited to speak. Many opportunities to communicate your latest research or present policy practice ideas are available. Plan to attend and/or submit a proposal, panel, roundtable, or workshop. **Students are especially encouraged to attend and submit a proposal of their policy work or experiences** (\$50 three day registration for all students). See URL above to read about the scope of the conference, tracks, agenda, CFP directions, hotel rates, registration, etc. For more information, email: swpolicyconf@vcu.edu or mlorithomas@msn.com for CFP questions

Lucinda Thomas CWEP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Continued from Page 1

What are your hobbies?

The first thing is, it is certainly a good thing I like to read!!!! Love running, movies, small dinner parties with friends along with extended visits (and debates) around the table, long after the meal has ended. The arts, in particular the symphony, plays, some musicals and dance are all terrific and a bonus to see, time permitting.

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

I have just completed my first semester in the program and do not currently work for CPS.

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

Not about myself personally per se but about the invaluable tutoring I received from Mahasin Saleh and Shetal Vohra-Gupta with CWEP's Learning Enhancement Opportunity of academic support. If not for the terrific guidance and tutoring of these two gifted people I am certain that I would not have done as well as I was able in my research class. I had actually forgotten about this amazing support system until far later into the semester than I would have liked and regret not having connected with these excellent mentors earlier in the first semester. I would highly encourage and remind my CWEP colleagues that we have this incredible resource available to us and say go for it! Thank you again Mahasin and Shetal.