



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 Lauren McLaughlin. Thanks Lauren!

How did you come to social work?

My mother has been a social worker for over thirty years. I grew up learning about the profession through listening to her stories. Ever since I was young, I admired what she did and knew I wanted to do the same thing. I wanted to help people in their time of need.

What was your favorite class?

Since this is my first semester in the program, I have not been able to pick a favorite class yet. I am really looking forward to taking Grief and Bereavement because I feel that learning about how to help people through a loss is imperative to the “bag of tricks” we need as social workers.

What are your hobbies?

I love to shop! It is my superficial release. I think that as social workers, we are so emotionally charged every day, we need a non-emotional activity. However, I can get emotional about a shoe sale! I also love to read non-fiction books.

Check out our new CWEP Web Page:

http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep_title_IVE.php

You will find helpful links and contact information, including recommended courses, the Child Welfare Resource List, the CWEP Library catalog, APA style link, and Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO) information

National Adoption Month

National Adoption Month has been observed throughout the United States for more than a decade. Its 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. It eventually became a tradition to celebrate Adoption Week in November. As awareness and participation grew, so did the number of states proclaiming the observance.

National Adoption Week became National Adoption Month in 1990. Today, National Adoption Month is celebrated during the month of November throughout the United States. Its purpose is to provide national awareness, celebrate children and families, and call the nation to action to ensure safety, permanency and well-being for all of our children.

Source: <http://adoption.about.com/od/adopting/a/historyofnam.htm>

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CWEP Fall 2006 Calendar

Wednesday – Saturday
November 22-25: Thanksgiving Holiday
Saturday, December 2: Last day of classes
Wednesday – Thursday
December 6-14: Final exam period



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 in sorting through 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, Shetal Vohra-Gupta, (CWEP associate and doctoral student) serves as a mentor to the CWEP students to aid 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, as well as provide feedback on your presentation format and materials.

If you need academic mentorship, you may contact Shetal at 713-743-8338 or svohra-gupta@uh.edu

The CWEP Town Hall Meeting & Symposium:



When: Friday, March 23, 2007 1PM - 4P

Where: Child Protective Services 2525 Murworth, Conf. Room D36A

The first hour will be a meet & greet and town hall discussion, followed by the 2 hour symposium. The symposium is being presented by Kelli Connell-Carrick, GCSW Assistant Professor. She will present on "*Working with Adolescents Transitioning to Adulthood: Four Principles to Guide Your Practice*".

** Please notify LeAnna @ Lmccowan@uh.edu or 713-743-8147 if you are unable to attend. Remember, that if you cannot attend you must view the symposium video, write a one-page summary, and return it to LeAnna within 2 weeks.

SPRING COURSES

It is time to do your pre-registration for the Spring semester. Please log on to <http://www.sw.uh.edu/courseschedule/spring2007.php> to check your schedule. CWEP would like to recommend the following concentration elective courses, in the order of courses recommended by CWEP. If your degree plan does not have these courses and you would like to take them, please consult with LeAnna McCowan (lmccowan@uh.edu) or Jan Leger (jeleger@uh.edu). Additional curriculum questions can also be directed to Dr. Monit Cheung (mcheung@uh.edu) or Dr. Trish Taylor (ptaylor2@central.uh.edu).

- 7321 (12827) **Multicultural Practice** (Practice Elective)
Mondays, 1-4pm, Instructor: Ms. Sandra Lopez, Clinical Associate Professor
- 7340 (12831) **SW Practice with Children & Adolescents** (Practice Elective)
Tuesdays, 1-4pm, Instructor: Dr. Monit Cheung, Professor
- 7346 (14241) **Families in Transition** (Practice Elective)
Mondays, 5:30-8:30pm, Instructor: Ms. Shetal Vohra-Gupta, CWEP Staff
- 7366 (12837) **Grief & Bereavement** (Practice Elective)
Thursdays, 5:30-8:30pm, Instructor: Ms. Sandra Lopez, Clinical Associate Professor
- 7397 (Interviewed by Dr. Taylor) **Self Examination of Life Foundation** (General Elective for CWEP students only)
To be arranged, Instructor: Dr. Trish Taylor, CWEP Curriculum Coordinator
- 7301 (12823) **Psychodynamic Theories and Psychopathology** (HBSE Elective)
Tuesdays, 1-4pm, Instructor: Dr. Dale Alexander, Associate Professor



Student Spotlight

(Continued from pg.1...Lauren McLaughlin)

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

I am an advanced standing student, so this is my first semester. It has definitely been a whirlwind. I am looking forward to next semester when I get to use some of my new knowledge and get some hands on experience. I am currently not working for CPS, but I am really excited about working in an urban setting as opposed to the rural county I was used to. I previously worked for CPS in Williamson County, Texas.

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

I love animals! My fiancé and I have a pug and a mainecoon cat. They can always be counted on for some good laughs and unconditional love. I enjoy coming home to them because no matter what happened during the day, I know they love and accept me.





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



DEBORAH KUMAR-MISIR, LMSW

What is your current position?

I am currently an OJT Supervisor - On the job trainer. I work with all of the new hires into the agency. I assist them with completing their BSD training and getting all of their objectives met. I follow the workers for two months after they graduate from the training academy to make sure they are doing well and not getting too many cases. Although, I just received a promotion to the Program Director of Galveston County. I will be responsible for the investigation program for Galveston County. I will be working closely with the Galveston County Board in providing services to the families and children of Galveston County. I will begin with my new position in the middle of October.

What did you like most about the CWEP program?

I really enjoyed being back on campus and being involved in the learning process. There is an excitement that comes with just being on campus again. I liked being connected to the group and having the extra support from the CWEP staff.

How did CWEP prepare you for your job?

I was already employed with CPS while I was in school. I feel that completing the CWEP program gave me an advantage in my current position, especially since I came from Canada originally. It gave me the background of policy, program and development of laws that I had been missing.

Do you have any advice for current CWEP students?

I strongly encourage the CWEP students to stick it out as it is a wonderful program. I know that it is difficult and challenging, especially when you are working full time, but the benefits of having your MSW are worth it. The program goes by fast. I have completed the program and have already completed my payback time with the agency. I would suggest trying to stay connected with students not enrolled in the CWEP program as they sometimes have different information then that which we have, especially when you are going part-time.

What are your plans for the future?

I hope to continue working with CPS. I am looking forward to my new position as PD. I plan on learning my new job and getting comfortable with my new role. This is my second promotion since completing the MSW program and I would like to encourage students with this.

[Student Opportunities for ACF Grant Review](#)

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is recruiting undergraduate and graduate students to serve on panels that review and make recommendations on the award of Federal grants. **Students who are selected to be reviewers will receive compensation for their time, as well as valuable experience in the Federal grant review process.**

For more information, download the ACF Student Grant Reviewer brochure:

www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/June_2006_Brochure.pdf

Permanency Planning Core Elements

Impact of Placement on Children

- Extended stays in out-of-home care can have negative and lasting effects on child development.
- Negative impact increases with multiple placements
- Children placed close to family and communities are more likely to have parental visitation and to return home.
- Parents who visit regularly are more likely to be reunited with their children.
- Children who remain in care longer than 12-18 months are less likely to return home.

Permanency for children requires families who:

- **Intent**: while a permanent home or family may not be certain to last forever; it is one that is intended to last indefinitely and offers the hope of lifetime connections and support.
- **Commitment and Continuity**: a permanent family is meant to survive geographic moves and vicissitudes of life because it involves sharing a common future –whether within the family of origin, an adopted family, or a guardianship family.
- **Sense of belonging to a family**: evolves from commitment, continuity, and social/legal status- is critical to security and positive self-esteem, and paves the way to healthy growth and development.
- **Legal and social status**: there is a need to overcome the second class status associated with temporary or long term foster care, and legitimize a child's place in a legally permanent family, a family that offers a child a definitive legal status separate from the child welfare system, protects his or her interests, and promotes a sense of belonging.

*Adopted from National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning, March 2002 from <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/assessing-adult-relatives-as-preferred-caregivers.pdf>

Independent Study Opportunity for CWEP students

Dr. Monit Cheung is recruiting four students to conduct an independent study with the GCSW Reciprocal Educational Exchange Program. If you are interested in gaining cross-cultural learning experiences with the exchange students from Hong Kong in Spring 2007 (as a 2 or 3 credit hour elective course), please contact Dr. Cheung immediately (mcheung@uh.edu or 713-743-8107).