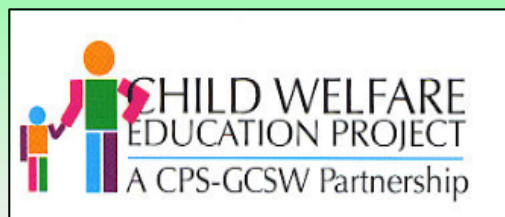


Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

Volume 17 Issue 2
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CWEP Website: <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

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Director's Corner



Families are constantly being torn apart due to abuse and neglect issues and it becomes problematic for all involved. When children are separated from their siblings it can become even more traumatic. Although it would be in the children's best interest to place them together, sometimes this is not possible. They may have to be separated due to the special needs of one or more of the children or there may not be sufficient space in a single foster home to accommodate them all. There have been instances where children were placed separately and contact was lost forever. In today's society with all the available technology, this should not be happening. There should be "creative" ways to make sure that children do not lose contact with one another. Professionals and caregivers should work diligently to ensure that children maintain contact with their siblings while they are in out of home placements.

This can be accomplished by:

- Allowing the caretakers to schedule after-hours visits
- Taking photos often and provide each child with a copy
- Arranging for frequent phone contact, e-mails, etc. With modern technology, children can maintain contact through Facebook, Skype and other social media.
- Ensuring that children are placed in close proximity to one another
- Inquiring as to whether or not the caretakers will allow sibling visits in their homes, i.e. overnight sleepovers, birthday celebrations, etc.
- Creating "life" books with the children
- Advocating for the children's best interest
- Planning visits at the local CPS office or a more "family" oriented location, i.e., McDonald's, the park, etc.

It is heart wrenching to watch youth and adults reunite with the siblings they lost while being shifted around in the foster care system. These visits should become a priority to ensure that these children and youth do not become lost within the child welfare system.

Armitia Walker

CWEP Director

Advisor Tip



CWEP students with registration around the corner in April. Always keep in mind that planning is key to being successful! Therefore, always check in with your advisor to ensure you are on the right path!

Brunessia Wilson

CWEP Student Affairs Coordinator

CWEP Staff Spotlight: Trish Taylor

- 1. What is your current position with CWEP or CPS? How long have you been working in this position? What prior experience(s) did you bring with you to this position?** I am the Curriculum Coordinator and I have been in this position for 9 years. I was previously a Graduate Associate with the program while I was attending the GCSW doctoral program. I have had a lot of experience in private clinical practice working with adoption issues, including placement of special needs children at private adoption agencies, work with birthmothers and post adoption adjustment. My area of clinical expertise is trauma work, particularly with adults abused as children and issues of complex trauma, including torture and other forms of systematic abuse.
- 2. What have been the greatest rewards working in the CWEP or CPS family?** The greatest reward to me is seeing the growth of the students as they open up a new world through their study of social work. I have also seen resiliency in clients and growth from processing the trauma of their early life to a future that was not anticipated before the therapy was undertaken. In short, I have seen hope for the future come out of my work with both clients and students.
- 3. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?** Take care of yourself mentally and physically so that you can extend your professional life doing this very important work for families and children. It is well worth the effort.



CWEP Student Spotlight: Roicia Banks

1. What is your current job position (if you are working at CPS)? Or, tell us about yourself.

As a child, CPS has always been a part of my life. My mother was a foster parent at least 10 years before I showed up at her door. I was adopted into her loving one parent home, and was given motivation for achievement and academic success. Because of her, my life changed and my course on life was redirected. My name is Roicia Banks. I am currently in the Conservatorship program working out of the Galleria location. I am half Black and Native American, 23 years old from a small country town called Winslow, Arizona. I will be completing my Master of Social Work this spring at the University of Houston; however I will always be a Sun Devil first!

2. What motivated you to join the MSW program?

My involvement with undergraduate non-profit programs is where I began to see my passion in helping others. I want to be able to help communities and the people within them; because I know that it only takes one person to make a difference. I chose social work because of my past. I feel that if I can reach a child I would tell them I used to be in their shoes. I will tell them they do not have to be a product of their environment and with hard work they too can change the course of their lives.



CSWE Public Policy Monthly Review

January 24, 2013

New this month:

CSWE Advocacy and Outreach

****CSWE Reaches Out to New Congressional Social Workers and Social Work Champions***

Capitol Hill News

****Congress Passes Fiscal Cliff Deal***

(American Taxpayer Relief Act 2012); DeSequestration

****Diversity in the 113th Congress***

113th congress is the most diverse Congress in the U.S. History (including 98 females representatives)

****Bill Advocated by Rep. Lee Calls for More School Social Workers***

Reintroduction of the Student Support Act

White House & Federal Agency News

****National Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Council Drafts Recommendations for HHS***

Member Resources and Opportunities

****HRSA Mental Health Training Grants Competition Delayed***

For any questions or concerns, please refer to the [Council on Social Work Education](#) website



Helping Foster Youth REACH their Dream of a College Education

Save the Date:

**Texas Reach Conference 2013
Lone Star College June 3rd and 4th**

For every 100 students leaving foster care approximately:
50 will complete high school...

10 - 15 will enroll in post-secondary education...

7 will receive an associate's degree or certificate...

2 will earn a bachelor's degree (eventually)

Save the date if you have a passion or interest in helping students in the foster care system! There is always an ongoing need for programs and support.

For any questions or concerns, please refer to www.texasreach.org

Or contact: Elaine DuBose, LCSW

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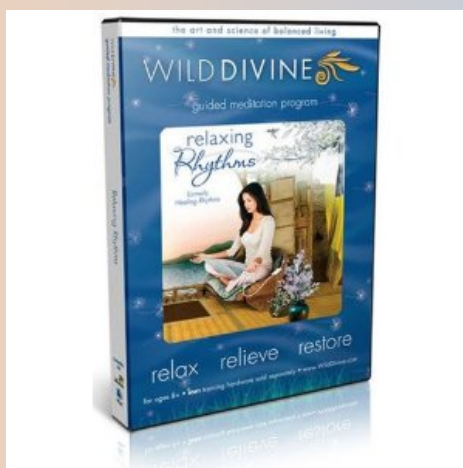
Do you feel stressful and burned out in the middle of the semester?

It is important to practice self-care in the social work profession. Wild Divine is a biofeedback device that promotes stress management and facilitates self-care through the use of breathing, meditation, energy control, emotions control, and relaxation skills. In Wild Divine, you are going to complete self-regulatory tasks in a computer system. You will be able to gain calmness and happiness after completing the tasks.

Do you want to try it and experience the powerfulness of Wild Divine?

It is now available for CWEP students.

Make an appointment with Dr. Monit Cheung at mcheung@uh.edu



News Flash!!

Congratulations to CWEP for the establishment of CWEP-SOA

"The mission of this organization is to promote the positive image of the Child Welfare Education Project (CWEP) and Child Protective Services (CPS) both at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The leadership committee, faculty liaison, and staff liaison of this organization serve as a communication channel for students to connect with DFPS/CWEP staff and faculty which can be achieved through many activities organized by the students each year."

This is a very exciting milestone for the CWEP program. We look forward to seeing great contributions to the social work community within the DFPS agency!

For more information, please refer to:
<http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

**CWER Students and
Alumni Organization
invites you to a
HAPPY HOUR event!**

Date

Friday, March 8, 2013

Location

Teotihuacan Mexican Cafe

1511 Airline Blvd.

Houston, TX 77009

713-426-4420

Time:

5:00pm-7:00pm

***Drink Specials end at
6:00pm***

**Featuring Food, Margaritas, Networking
Opportunities and Door Prizes!**

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS
THIS!**

CELEBRATING

CWEP!



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 2, 2012

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Rockwell Pavilion

We will be celebrating with our CWEP graduates and recognizing CPS Supervisors, CWEP Field Preceptors, and CWEP Field instructors through three categories of “Award of the Year.” So be on the lookout for your chance to vote for your favorite in March.

Evites will be sent out soon. Your families are invited also. Come and show your CPS colleagues and your families the beautiful UH campus.

Can't wait to see you all there!

UPDATED CWEP CALENDAR!

SPRING 2013

January

- 14th - Classes Begin for Spring Semester
- 21st - MARTIN LUTHERN KING, JR., HOLIDAY
- 25th - Brown Bag at CPS from 12:00pm-1:00pm: RM# D36A(Murworth)

February

- 21st - Mentor Networking Event – From 12 PM – 1 PM: RM# D36B(Murworth)

March

- *online* - CWEP Symposiums (will be available online)
- 11th – 16th - **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- 25th -29th - CWEP Student Advising for summer/fall 2013

April

- 29th - Last Class Day spring semester

May

- 1st -9th - Final Examination Period
- 2nd - CELEBRATING CWEP at Rockwell Pavilion (UH) from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
- 10th - **CONVOCATION (DATE TO BE FINALIZED; SEE GCSW ANNOUNCEMENT)**

Summer 2013

May

- 27th - **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- 28TH-31ST - TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE-SAN LUIS HOTEL GALVESTON, TX

June

- 3rd - Classes Begin for Summer I, II, III
- 7th - New Applicant's Deadline to turn in CWEP Application for fall 2013

July

- 1st - Last Class Day Summer II
- 4th - Independence Day Holiday
- 8th - Classes Begin for Summer IV
- 23rd - Last Class Day Summer III

August

- 1st - Last Class Day Summer I
- 5th - Last Class Day Summer IV

***Do you know about the Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO)?**

Learn more about it at <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>
(under "The LEO Mentor Program")*

**** See GCSW Calendar for GCSW events and other deadlines at www.sw.uh.edu**