

CWEP Staff Spotlight

This month we are highlighting **Shetal Vohra-Gupta, LCSW**

1. What is your current position with CWEP?
CWEP staff/instructor

2. What is your experience as a LEO mentor in the CWEP? What courses do/did you teach as a CWEP instructor?

I really enjoyed being a **LEO mentor**. I think it is unfortunate that this program was not utilized to its potential. The times that I was able to provide assistance to some students, I feel it **really benefited the students** as evidenced through their grade on the project/paper as well as their feedback to me. **It is my hope that students can ask for this program to be reinstated in the future.**

The courses that I have taught are Family Violence and Families in Transition. I am **currently teaching Critical Issues Affecting Children and Families**

3. What have been the greatest challenges you have faced in the current position? What have been the greatest rewards to be working in the CWEP family?

The greatest challenge that I currently face in this position is: am I doing enough to be an **effective instructor**? I am continuously reevaluating course structure, assignments, lecture style, and seeking feedback in hopes to become a more proficient instructor. Another challenge I face is **the balance of working on my dissertation**, being a **new mom**, and fulfilling my duties as **CWEP staff**. They are all a challenge because I love each role and I want to give **110%** to each one.

The CWEP family is a really tight knit group that is always ready to offer **support, assistance** at a minutes notice, and laughs when I need it the most. I could not be an effective instructor without the guidance of the CWEP family. They have also allowed me the **flexibility** to find my way as I attempt to balance my family, student, and professional life.



(...to be continued on p.2)



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Director's Comments

Joe Papick



We have received many **inquiries**  about **CWEP stipends** and how they are established and set. **Stipend amounts for CWEP students are established by contract between the CPS agency partner and the University.** They are based upon how many stipends that are made available, how long stipends are paid, how much match is available to pull down the federal money, and what the actual cost of tuition and fees. **We realize that both tuition and fees at the University have increased over the last years and in accordance with that increase, stipend amounts have also increased, although not enough to cover the increases completely.** This is especially true with payments for full time students, where the stipend amount does not fully cover the tuition/fees and other expenses for a semester of full time GCSW attendance. We have, however, insured the stipend amount for full time and part time students will remain stable for the next year. **There are no plans to increase the stipend amounts in the near future but we will always review the stipend amounts yearly and try when possible to keep student costs as low as we can.**



Please let me know of other questions that you may have that we can answer for you in coming issues of the Newsline and please remember to always check our web site for updated information.

Thank you for your commitment to child welfare!



CWEP Staff Spotlight

(continued from p.1...Shetal, Vohra-Gupta)

4. How do you balance your work, your doctoral studies, and your personal life?

One day at a time.

In the last several months, I have **learned to not be so hard** on myself when all that I have planned does not get done within the timeframe I have allotted. Also, I am learning to **celebrate the small wins** and at the same time challenge myself to **not become too static**. In addition, **my husband, extended family, and Dr. Latting** have been instrumental in keeping my sanity in line.

5. How did your work experience in the CWEP prepare you for setting up your child welfare research and teaching agenda for your future career?

Working with CWEP has opened up many avenues of research and put me in touch with many resources which I utilize in my classes. I have also had the benefit of **seeking guidance from Dr. Cheung and Dr. Taylor.**

6. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

I'll share some insight that I have gained from my time as a doctoral student here at GCSW as well as from the CWEP family: a) **Increase your own awareness** – I feel that this insight has helped me to become a more effective social worker and instructor; b) **Become a critical thinker** – with this insight I have learned I do have the power to change existing systems; and c) **Advocate for yourself** - well because...I realized no one else will and I have become better at advocating for my clients.

And most importantly take care of yourself. (I'm still working on this one!)

Many Thanks to Shetal!!!



Announcements

SPRING COURSE NEWS

CWEP related courses in **Spring 2008**: (Please consult Brunessia Wilson and Jan Leger):

A. New Curriculum Students Entering either CP or LAA Track:

REQUIRED COURSES:

1. SOCW 7397 Assessment

CP Track

2. SOCW 7397 Clinical Application of DSM or
SOCW 7397 Trans-theoretical Social Work Practice

OR

LAA Track

3. SOCW 7397 Strategies for Community Development

B. Continuous Students (Children and Families Concentration only):

REQUIRED COURSE: 7349 Child/Family Policy

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES (in the order of CWEP competency requirements):

1. SOCW 7340 Practice with Children & Adolescents

2. SOCW 7344 Family Violence

3. SOCW 7301 Psycho/Psycho (**Not** for New Curriculum Students)

4. SOCW 7366 Grief/Bereavement

5. SOCW 7397 SELF

6. SOCW 7321 Multicultural Practice

7. SOCW 7347 School Social Work

8. SOCW 7349 Child/Family Policy (as an

Elective for New Curriculum Students only)



Dr. Monit Cheung and Dr. Patrick Leung have published a new book **"Multicultural Practice and Evaluation"**

This volume addresses the growing imperative for **multicultural awareness** in the helping professions. The text facilitates a holistic practice-evaluation perspective, which

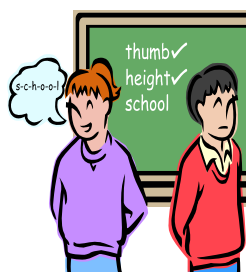
- ❖ provides **innovative strategies** to **assimilate practice theories to diverse family structures** from a variety of cultural backgrounds;
- ❖ emphasizes **evidence-based practices** and provides counseling dialogues for role-play, evaluation methods, and topics for discussion;
- ❖ highlights **applicable techniques** in each chapter, using a standardized case throughout, to provide therapeutic demonstrations of how theories are put into action.



Self Examination for Life Foundations (SELF) **SOCW 7398 (Spring '08)**

- ❖ If you want to improve your practice effectiveness when working with children and families;
- ❖ If you are interested in examining the relationship between the personal and professional self in practice with a specific focus on child protective services, **this individualized course is right here for you. The class is limited to 6 CWEP advanced level students.**

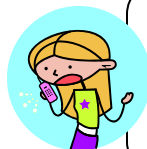
*If interested, please email **Dr. Trish Taylor** at ptaylor2@uh.edu for a pre-enrollment interview.*



SOCW 7344 Family Violence (Instructor: **Shetal Vohra-Gupta**)

This course will be offered in **Spring 2008**. It is a highly recommended CWEP course (and Children & Families Practice Elective) for those who want to learn skills to deal with three types of family violence: **Child abuse, partner abuse and elderly abuse.**

*Please talk with **Jan Leger** (your academic advisor) if you would like to take this course as your practice elective.*



Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO):

A CWEP mentorship program to enhance students' learning in the MSW program

"Since no one has utilized **LEO** in the past year and very few of you consulted our LEO mentor in the past, we cannot justify the continuation of this mentorship program. If you feel a need to continue this program, please contact **Dr. Monit Cheung** via email (mcheung@uh.edu) **before November 30, 2007.**"



CWEP in the News!

Program trains students for CPS

Social Work College encourages careers in child welfare profession

By Christopher Morrison

(Issue date: 10/30/07 Section: [News](#))

THE DAILY COUGAR—The Official Student Newspaper of the University of Houston since 1934

"CPS work is challenging and demanding, but at the same time rewarding, which is why I, along with many others, have been dedicated to the agency's mission of protecting the unprotected," said Deckard, who has been employed by the **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services since 1996** and is **part of the Graduate College of Social Work Child Welfare Education Program (CWEP)**, which *prepares master's level students to work for child protective services*.

About 65 percent of the Child Welfare Education Program students are currently employed as CPS workers and are looking to better their skills in their respective fields, **Joe Papick, Director of the CWEP**, said.



GOALS

"A main goal is to **expand professionalism in the field of child welfare** so that they are doing work appropriately and professionally," **Principal Investigator Monit Cheung** said. "We try to **provide training and educational opportunities** for people employed as social workers." Papick has several goals that he and his staff try to help students reach. "We try to **improve and strengthen the quality** of case workers for families and children...to make sure CPS workers know how to interact with children and families by assessing problems and issues and knowing how to interact with others."



DIFFICULTIES

Papick agrees that many difficulties come with CPS work.. "The difficulty comes in having to (handle) **life and death situations facing children and families**," Papick said. "There is lots of anger and hostility that is faced when staff visit homes where there may be abuse and neglect."

The Child Welfare Education Program has provided students the opportunity to overcome those challenges and handle the tough situations more easily, Deckard said, "UH GCSW has provided me with **invaluable knowledge and tools to enhance my professionalism and ability to serve the children and families in the community**."

STIPEND

Child Welfare Education Project **students receive a stipend** to help them earn a degree while working as a CPS employee. Full-time students receive \$3,500 per semester for up to six semesters, while part-time students receive \$5,000 for the first semester and \$2,500 for each following semester for up to 10 semesters, according to the GWS' Web site.

For every semester in which a student receives a stipend, they **must repay with eight months of employment**, Cheung said. "Students **sign a contract** which indicates that after graduation, they will remain in CPS for a certain amount of years to pay back their time in exchange for the stipends they received," Cheung said.

The Child Welfare Education Project is open to all GCSW students.

Those UH students interested in a career involving CPS or who want to learn more about the project can contact **Project Director Joseph Papick** at jpapick@uh.edu or visit www.sh.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep.php.

This text is summarized from the source:

<http://media.www.thedailycougar.com/media/storage/paper1206/news/2007/10/30/News/Program.Trains.Students.For.Cps-3065118.shtml>

Happy Thanksgiving!!! Happiness, Joy, Health, Happiness, Joy, Health!!!