



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

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CWEP Website

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

Director's Corner



Welcome back! I hope that you all had a peaceful break and enjoyed the time that you spent with family and friends.

Over the holidays I constantly thought of the many children who have aged out of the system and didn't have anyone to call "family". These youth had no place to go and there was no family to celebrate the traditional holidays with. We all know that the outcomes for many children who reach the independent living stage are not very positive. They tend to face numerous challenges and engage in risky behaviors which include criminal activity, drug involvement and sexual promiscuity.

It is critical that permanency planning begin as soon as a family is brought to the attention of CPS. If we fail to collect appropriate information from the family, it could have a devastating effect on a child's future. If at all possible children need to maintain relationships with their families of origin. We must remember that what made a home unsafe for a three year old may not be an unsafe situation for an older child who is verbal and able to protect themselves at some level. Children need lifelong family connections.

Foster care was designed to be temporary and not serve as a long-term placement for children. We must consider all related and unrelated kinship placements when we are exploring permanency options for our children and youth.

All children deserve to be a part of a nurturing and stable family. As the child's advocate, we must take more responsibility for ensuring that their long term goals are achieved.

Arnitia Mitchell, CWEP Director

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CWEP Staff

Dr. Monit Cheung
Principal Investigator
(Rm 424, 713-743-8107)
mcheung@uh.edu

Arnitia Mitchell
Director
(Rm 432, 713-743-1394)
amitchell3@uh.edu

Kathy Clark
Field Coordinator
(Rm 434, 713-743-8157)
klclark@uh.edu

Dr. Patrick Leung
Project Evaluator
(Rm 412, 713-743-8111)
pleung@uh.edu

Ann McFarland
Stipend Coordinator
(Rm 444, 713-743-8145)
amcfarland@uh.edu

Dr. Patricia Taylor
Curriculum Coordinator
(Rm 438, 713-743-8081)
ptaylor2@uh.edu

Brunessia Wilson
Student Affairs Coordinator
(Rm 436, 713-743-8147)
bwilson3@uh.edu

Jackie Duron
LEO Mentor, Doctoral Associate
(Rm 420, 713-743-8115)
jfduron@mail.uh.edu

Gabrielle Montoya
NewsLine Editor, Graduate Associate
(Rm 430, 713-743-8338)
gmontoy2@uh.edu

CWEP Alumni Spotlight

This month we are highlighting **Will Walker**.
Mr. Walker graduated from GCSW in 2008 and is currently a manager at
Harris County Protective Services.



Will Walker, MSW,

is currently the Assistant Director of the Region 6 Training Institute for Harris County Protective Services (HCPS) for Children and Adults. In this capacity he plans the direction and coordinates the development, implementation, and evaluation for all HCPS instructional program areas. This includes participating in developing training priorities, developing standards for achieving training goals, and evaluating training activities. This also includes developing curriculum and facilitating internal and external trainings on behalf of HCPS. He has been in this position for more than three years and has grown immensely. Prior to this position, Mr. Walker was employed with Children's Protective Services for eleven years and served in different capacities from caseworker to supervisor to training specialist. Those experiences included working in different program areas from substitute care, investigations, to foster care and adoption. Recently, Mr. Walker has fused his knowledge of music with his passion for social work, by conducting workshops utilizing music as a tool for self-care and stress relief. He is a dynamic speaker and has conducted trainings for numerous agencies and organizations, such as Houston's Area Women Center, Lone Star College, National Association of Social Workers' Houston, Chapter, Texas Children's Hospital and The South Texas College of Law. Mr. Walker is passionate about educating people especially in the area of maltreatment of children, fatherhood services, and self-care for child welfare staff.

CWEP Graduate Spotlight

This month we are highlighting **Shannon Manning**. Ms. Manning is a December 2011 graduate of the GCSW, and a Project Specialist for CPS.

What is your current job position and responsibilities at CPS? I currently work for the Regional Director, Scott Dixon. I am his Program Specialist and I coordinate regional and state office projects and track program information. I am a jack-of-all-trades, as I do a little bit of everything in this job. I have been with the agency for 18 years, and I field phone calls from clients and staff who need to know who to contact or what to do next. The Deputy Regional Director, James Castille, calls me "can-do"...I have to say, it is pretty accurate.

What motivated you to join the MSW program? Well, as a CPS employee, I have always known that the next step in my career was to get a resistant to going back to school. One me to go back to school and to get my could not go back to school; he was on the U of H website figuring out GCSW!



I joke about how he "made" me go always, always be eternally grateful to and my education to encourage me to go back to school. My time in the MSW program was wonderful. I learned a lot, made great friends, and had once in a lifetime experiences.

MSW. However, I had always been day at lunch with Mr. Dixon, he advised MSW. I gave him several reasons why I adamant. Let's just say the next day I what I needed to do to apply to the

back to school, but really, I will always, Mr. Dixon for caring enough about me

What has been one of your favorite classes at the GCSW? Without question, my favorite class at GCSW is probably the one most of students hate--Evaluation of Practice. I loved that class...the statistics, research designs, validity, etc. I had Dr. Parrish and she is a fabulous professor! My love of research makes me seriously contemplate getting a PhD!

What has been your favorite experience at the GCSW? I had the opportunity to see Walter Kase speak at the GCSW. Mr. Kase is a Holocaust survivor and listening to his story really changed my perspective on life. It's hard to complain about the little things that go wrong after you have listened to someone who survived unimaginable pain and suffering. It was an eye-opening experience and if given the opportunity, I encourage everyone to hear him speak at least once. He is a walking, talking piece of history.

Do you have any advice for future students? If you are interested in school, go back! And even if you think you aren't, consider it! Learning is a wonderful thing, and you meet so many different people from so many walks of life at U of H. I cannot imagine not having had this experience.

CWEP Student Spotlight

This month we are highlighting **Richard Holst**. Mr. Holst is current a CWEP student at GCSW. He has just been nominated to receive a Wall of Fame Award at Harris County CPS.

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

I work in the Adoption Prep Program in the Houston area. Currently I process email broadcasts for children in CPS conservatorship. Children that are identified as not having a permanent placement are referred to me and I put together a broadcast that is sent to child placing agencies to ask for studies of families that might be an appropriate match for our child. I then schedule a staffing so that everyone can sit down and process through potential families and select the most appropriate match for our child.



What motivated you to join the MSW program?

My Supervisor, Dalen Dilieto, had the CWEP packet sitting on a shelf in her office. Over the span of two years we kept talking about why we should get into the program and the benefits that it would bring later in our career. Finally we both decided to enter at the same time. I would guess you can call this, positive peer pressure.

Tell us about your achievements in child welfare.

My favorite achievement has been in growing the selection process over the past several years. Each year we have increased the number of broadcasts completed as well as the number of selection staffings. Currently we complete about 300 broadcasts and 225 staffings each year. Each one of those staffings represents a potential match for a child or sibling group with a family.

CWEP Staff Spotlight

This month we are also highlighting **Gabrielle Montoya**. Gabrielle has been a CWEP Graduate Research Assistant and editor of the NewsLine in the Fall semester of 2011.

"My time working as a Graduate Research Assistant in CWEP has been such a rewarding experience.

As a first year MSW student, I had no idea what to expect when I started this position in August. But as the months have passed, I have had the opportunity to get to know and work with the CWEP faculty and staff; especially CWEP Director, Arnitia Mitchell, Dr. Monit Cheung, and Professor Brunessia Wilson.

I can honestly say that CWEP students are so fortunate to work for and with such amazing people. The staff, student workers, and faculty are truly gracious and kind people. Not to mention some of the smartest people I have had the pleasure to meet! One thing I will definitely take with me is the relationships I have made with the people of this child welfare educational program.

I would urge students to really tap into the resources they have prepared both on the CWEP website and onsite at GCSW. The faculty and staff really are here for you.

I have enjoyed this experience immensely and have learned so much as a Research Assistant. This has been a memorable semester that I will always take with me and remember." --*Gabrielle Montoya*



Announcements

Child Maltreatment 2010 Report Shows Decrease in Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released its annual report on child abuse and neglect. *Child Maltreatment 2010* marks the 21st issuance of the report and, for the fourth consecutive year, shows a steady decline in the number of victims who suffered maltreatment.

"We are heartened to see maltreatment on the decline, but even one child being a victim of abuse and neglect is too many," said George Sheldon, acting assistant secretary for children and families. "The report reminds us of the continuing need for investment in prevention efforts and the importance of coordination between federal, state and local agencies."

The full report, *Child Maltreatment 2010*, is available at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10>

Additional information on prevention of child abuse is available at Child Welfare Information Gateway: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing>

*Congratulations to our
December 2011
Graduates!*



Christine Underwood



Ashlee Marshall



Mary Davis



Shannon Manning

CWEP Events Spring 2012

CWEP Brownbag

Highlights

- ◇ Student Involvement
- ◇ Field
- ◇ Summer Independent Studies
- ◇ Q & A

CWEP students are invited to attend this important meeting.

When: **Fri., Jan. 27th, 2012**

Where: CPS Murworth

Office, Room D36B

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Bring your lunch.

RSVP bwilson3@uh.edu

Drinks will be provided

Workshop Format Changed!

CWEP Networking: Health Promotion

The Feb 24, 2012 workshop has been changed to individualized meetings for you to learn how to use a software available at CWEP to do biofeedback and relaxation at a date/time convenient to you. Email mcheung@uh.edu to schedule your meeting date/time now.

All students and alumni re welcome.

CWEP Symposium

Has been moved to Fall 2012
Topic to be announced
Email Dr. Cheung if you have a topic/speaker to recommend

CWEP Annual Recognition Event

A group of CWEP students and alumni will be organizing the first CWEP recognition event in May 2012 for the graduates and field instructors. More information will be announced in the next NewsLine. If you would like to be involved in planning, please email or call Dr. Cheung or Ms. Mitchell.

NASW/Texas 2012 State Conference

Saturday - Monday, September 8-10, 2012

The Westin Galleria, Houston, TX

Call for Presentations

[Click here](#) for information on how to submit a proposal. Deadline to submit is **February 3, 2012**. Proposals are **NOT** to contain names or identifying information.

[Click here](#) to download a checklist for the proposal/presentation process.

*If you have any questions about the online submission process, please contact the Chapter Office at 512.474.1454.

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE ONE CHILD AT A TIME:

Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse

A Professional Development Workshop for Child Care & School Personnel

January 14, 2012

College of the Mainland
1200 Amburn Road
Texas City, Texas 77591

Registration Form-

Name:

Title:

School/Business:

Address:

City/St/Zip:

E-Mail:

Phone:

***Pre-registration:** \$20 if postmarked by January 13

***On-site registration:** \$25.

*Mail completed registration form and payment to:

PCAT, 13740 Research Blvd. #R-4,
Austin, TX 78750

*Make checks payable to: Prevent Child Abuse Texas.

**For questions, call 512.250.8438 x 118 or email Rene@PreventChildAbuseTexas.org

Title IV-E National Roundtable Conference

May 29 - June 1, 2012

Galveston, Texas

Sponsored by the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Family Strengths and the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, this conference builds on the 14 year history of the IV- E Roundtable sponsored by the Center for Children & Families at Texas State University-San Marcos.

The conference will focus on knowledge transfer for best practices for major IV- E topics including:

- Field Placements for IV- E
- Administration and Contract Issues
- Child Welfare Curriculum and Courses
- Recruitment, Retention and Employment
- Research and Evaluation

Conference Registration

-Early-bird Registration: \$275.00 (Expires May 11, 2012)

-Regular Registration: \$325.00 (After May 11, 2012)

✚ [Registration](#) can be completed online.

✚ Please make checks payable to UH-D

**Contract education hours are available for no additional fee.*

Location & Accommodations

(Reservations and payment paid by attendee)

-Galveston is located 45 miles south of Houston Hobby Airport.

-Rooms are \$101.00 at the [Moody Gardens Resort Hotel](#), Galveston.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION PROJECT**

CWEP Calendar of Events
Spring 2012 * Summer 2012



SPRING 2012

January

- 16th - **MARTIN LUTHERN KING, JR., HOLIDAY**
- 17th - **Classes Begin for Spring Semester**
- 27th - Brown Bag at CPS from 12:00pm-1:00pm

February

- 4th - Field Educational Contracts Due
- 24th - **LAST DAY: ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SPRING GRADUATION (FEE - \$25)**
- 24th - ~~Social/Networking Event (Self-Care) 12 pm – 1 pm~~ **Email Dr. Cheung for an individual self-care learning lesson**
- 25th - Late Period for Spring 2012 Graduation / Late fee \$50

March

- 9th - ~~CWEP Symposium~~ **Symposium has been moved to Fall 2012**
- 12th - 17th - **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- 23rd - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)
- 26th - 30th - CWEP Student Advising for Summer / Fall 2012
- 28th - Field Integrative Paper Due for Field IV Students
- 30th - Field Agency Marketplace

April

- 6th - Field Applications Due For Summer/Fall 2012
- 13th - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)
- 30th - Field Grade Evaluations Due
- 30th - Last Day of Classes

May

- 2th - 10th - Final Examination Period
- 4th - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)
- 9th - Field Preference Forms for Concentration Year Summer/Fall Placements Due
- 11th - **CONVOCATION (DATE TO BE FINALIZED; SEE GCSW ANNOUNCEMENT)**

SUMMER 2012

May

- 28th - **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- 29th - 1st - TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE: GALVESTON, TX

June

- 4th - **Classes Begin for Summer**
- TBA - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class
- 8th - New Applicant's Deadline to turn in CWEP Application for Fall 2012
- 18th - Field Educational Contracts Due

July

- 16th - Field Integrative Paper Due for Field IV Students

August

- 1st - Field Grades Due