



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

CWEP NewsLine



CWEP Website

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep.php>

Volume 10 Issue 1

August 2008

Welcome to All CWEP Students!

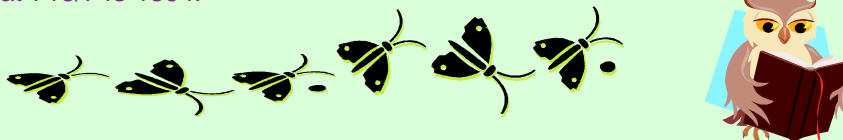
We wish a warm welcome to all new and continuing students and we hope you have a great semester!!



Director's Comments

Joe Papick

"I wish to warmly welcome back the 14 continuing CWEP students and welcome all of our new incoming CWEP students for this academic year. January, 2009 will mark the tenth year of the CWEP program and over that time period we have accomplished many good things but most importantly there are over 100 CPS employees who have gone through the MSW program with the support of CWEP and are, with all other CPS employees, actively providing quality professional social work at the agency. I believe that furthering education by gaining a Master Degree in Social Work helps individuals in furthering their career, improving their growth opportunities, increasing their knowledge of treating families and children, and increasing their retention in CPS. I also believe that obtaining a **social work degree is an excellent choice for those who care about human dignity and social justice.** Social workers are advocates for change and in CPS are advocates for not only the children but also work to support families to try to help prevent problems that may result in child abuse and neglect. Therefore, I am truly grateful that you have chosen to come to the University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work, to pursue your MSW and more importantly to participate in the CWEP program, which represents your commitment to serving families and children. I look forward to our new year together and again I want to ask you to please let me know what questions you may have over the year so I may try to respond to you in our future NewsLines. Please send your questions or concerns to me at jpapick@uh.edu or call me at 713/743-1394."



CWEP Staff

Director's Comments	1
Alumni Spotlight (Kelli)	2
Finding Families for	2
Children in Foster Care	
A Fruitful Experience, an	3
Unforgettable Touch	
with a Turkish Family	
Graduation Memories	3
Alumni Spotlight (Monet)	4
Alarming News about	4
Child Abuse & Neglect	

CWEP Staff

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

Joe Papick
 Director
 (Rm 432, 713-743-1394)
jpapick@uh.edu

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

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)
bwilso2@central.uh.edu

Venus Tsui
 Newsline Editor, Graduate Associate
 (Rm 430, 713-743-8338)
sftsui@uh.edu

CWEP Alumni Spotlight

This month we are **highlighting**

Kelli Guidry



1. What is your current position?

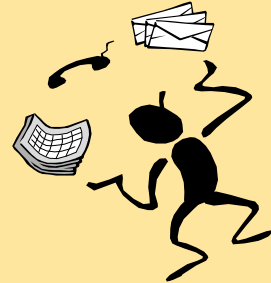
I am a **Conservatorship Program Director** in Region 5.

2. What did you like most about the CWEP program?

The CWEP program provided me with a tremendous level of **support and guidance** through my coursework at the GCSW. The **Supervision and Consultation course** was my favorite. The course provided me with an understanding of the role of supervision in social work from a **historical perspective**.

3. How did CWEP prepare you for your job?

CWEP assisted in **strengthening my skills in the areas of supervision and administration** through coursework and field practice.



4. Do you have any advice for current CWEP students?

The best advice I could give is to **never lose your focus or determination**. I commuted two hours one way to attend classes, while working full time, with two small children at home. While obtaining an MSW is not easy, it is well worth the time and energy spent.



5. What are your plans for the future?

I plan to continue my **employment with Child Protective Services until retirement**. I have considered some contract work with Lamar University and possible volunteer work with a local adoption agency.

Many Thanks to Kelli!!

Finding Families for Children in Foster Care

North Carolina is pursuing collaboration through the Multiple Response System, System of Care, and child and family team meetings. The same concept applies to recruitment and retention of resource families.



What are Resource Families?

“Foster families. Adoptive families. Relatives who provide kinship care, Legal guardians.”

The term **“resource families”** refers to anyone who provides **a safe, stable, loving home for a child** when the child’s birth parents are unable to provide one. These include **Instead of dividing families into categories, we are choosing to use a term that leaves the possibilities as open as possible.**

With resource families, we stand a better chance of:



- ▶ **keeping siblings together**
- ▶ **decreasing the length of foster care stays**
- ▶ **increasing placement stability**
- ▶ **eliminating unnecessary residential placements**
- ▶ **placing children in their communities**
- ▶ **achieving the core outcomes of safety, well-being, and permanence.**

You Can Help

Finding and supporting families for children in foster care is everyone’s job. This issue of *Practice Notes* offers information and ideas to help you with this critical task. For details and contents of this issue, please visit

<http://www.practicenotes.org/v13n3.htm>



A fruitful experience, an unforgettable touch with a Turkish family

Venus Tsui, doctoral associate of CWEP

A kiss, a hug and a warm touch! What an unforgettable experience with the children and families from a **Eurasian country-Turkey!**

Sponsored by the Institute of Interfaith Dialog (IID), I was very grateful for the opportunity to join the study tour led by our UH-GCSW faculty members to Turkey in June 2008. Turkey is a Eurasian country filled with rich culture and long history.

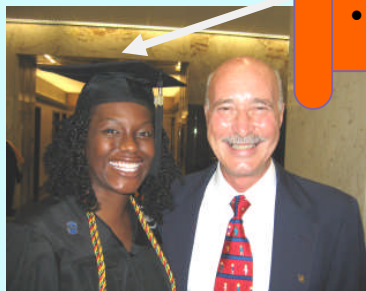
During the 13 days' journey, visiting host families was one of the most important programs. I, together with our faculty members and a few students, were arranged to **visit a Turkish family** of four, including the parents and two daughters. **Remembered not only were the delicious Turkish food, the hospitality of the host family, but also the interaction, the conversation and direct contact with the kids and their parents.** The younger daughter was very cute and active in talking and playing with us. She showed us her bedroom and took pictures with us. Her elder sister, suffered from Down Syndrome and a bit shy though, kindly greeted us with her father's encouragement. When we initiated some conversations with her, she just hugged her father or mother, and appeared to seek warmth and support from them while trying to speak up for herself in front of people. (That absolutely requires courage and support!)

In this visit, the couples shared with us their family activities like visiting the Mosque, going to the seashore and enjoying their weekend with family, etc. The couple also said that they had joined a self-help group for the parents with Down Syndrome kids, in which they shared information regarding the illness and parenting skills as well as provided mutual support to each other. While we were talking, the host family kept serving us with Turkish tea and dessert "Kadayif". Close to the end of our visit, the elder daughter showed us her various paintings, accompanied by her parents, and sincerely presented one as a gift to our Dean Colby. Besides expressing thankfulness and appreciation for her gift and efforts, our Dean said he would keep this painting in our UH-GCSW. We, including the host family, were all in a great wave of happiness. At that time, what I could hear was joy and laughter. But what impressed me most was a *precious moment*-when the mother held the elder daughter tightly, hugged her and kissed her wholeheartedly. Without a word, this just warmed my soul. I was thinking the mother might be touched and proud of the daughter's effort being recognized while the daughter wearing a smiling and content face felt the unconditional love and care from the mother/parents. A kiss, a hug and a warm touch is needed by a child. and indeed. so is everyone!



(to be continued on p.4)

Congratulations to all Graduates!



- **Ben Pratt**
(CWEP GA for 07-08)
- **Monet Morgan**
- **Paige Scarborough**

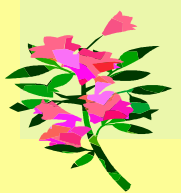


**May 2008
At Graduation!!**

ALARMING NEWS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- 1 in 50 US infants are victims of child abuse/neglect
- More than 91,000 infants less than 1 year old were abused or neglected in 2006
- Approximately thirty-three percent "of the maltreated infants -- 29,881
- Children who suffer maltreatment are at higher risk for engaging in risky behaviors – such as alcohol and drug abuse -- during adolescence and adulthood

Source: The Texas Association for the Protection of Children. For details, please go to <http://www.sw.uh.edu/documents/cwep/AlarmingNewsaboutChildAbuseNeglect.pdf>



CWEP Alumni Spotlight

This month we are highlighting

Monet Morgan

1. What is your current position?

*My title is **CPS Specialist II**. Basically, I am a caseworker for the conservatorship department of Children's Protective Services (CPS). I manage the cases of the children who are under the guardianship of the state.*

2. What did you like most about the CWEP program?

*I liked the opportunity to **bond with some of my colleagues**. My classmates, who are now my coworkers, will be there if I need help or advice. Regular meetings with tenured workers enhanced my learning experience.*

3. How did CWEP prepare you for your job?

*From the beginning, the instructors made an effort to educate us about our future job and what to expect. Every semester, **CWEP held training sessions on various issues** essential to the CPS process. Our Field Instructor also helped by having regular meetings with students individually and as a group to discuss any questions we had about the agency.*

4. Do you have any advice for current CWEP students?

***Children's Protective Services is in need of dedicated social workers**. Making sure that children's safety is your number one priority coming into this job. Otherwise, you will get sidetracked by other matters, such as office politics and paperwork.*

5. What are your plans for the future?

My plan is to get my LMSW this fall (right before I go on vacation in Europe!). Right now I cannot foresee where my career path will lead. Currently, I am content to work with CPS and learn how to help children who have been neglected and/or abused. Thank you CWEP!



Many Thanks to Monet!!



A fruitful experience, an unforgettable touch with a Turkish family

(...continued from p.3, Venus Tsui)

When I returned from this trip, the precious moment that I mentioned was always on my mind. This reminds me that my passion in working with children and families for years in Hong Kong will continue here (and everywhere) where I am now pursuing my doctoral study. Finally, I just want to say "tehshekkiewr" and "mahsallah" to this host family, as well as express my heartfelt thanks to our faculty members and the IID for organizing this meaning trip that has enriched my life experience. *"Thanks!"*

~"tehshekkiewr" means "thanks"; "mahsallah" means "wonderful"

