April 2010

Dear Incoming Student:

As officers of the Social Work Student Organization (SoWoSO), we would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to the UNC-CH School of Social Work and welcome you to the community of students! Every social work student is automatically a member of SoWoSO and SoWoSO would not exist without you!

SoWoSO is an open and flexible organization that we hope will enrich your graduate experience at Carolina by:

- Providing a collective voice for student ideas and concerns
- Helping students cultivate a sense of connection and cohesion within the School of Social Work and the larger community
- Supporting and encouraging all forms of student initiative
- Promoting and developing leadership within the field of social work
- Organizing and facilitating various educational, cultural, social and political opportunities
- Being the umbrella and funding organization for the individual School of Social Work student caucuses

SoWoSO meetings are typically held the first Monday of every month during the break between morning and afternoon classes, at 12:00 PM in the fifth floor lounge. All students are encouraged to come to the meetings to share concerns, ideas, and to get a feel about what's going on in the school.

A large portion of what SoWoSO does happen through the caucus structure. The following caucuses concentrate on specific issues. They include:

- Black Student Caucus
- Social Justice Caucus
- International Caucus
- Self-Care Caucus
- Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex & Queer Caucus (GLBTIQ)

In addition, SoWoSO encourages students to volunteer with the Student Health Action Coalition (SHAC) and Mobile SHAC. SHAC is collaboration between students from UNC Schools of Social Work, Public Health, Pharmacy, and Medicine who convene at the Carrboro community health clinic every Wednesday night to serve clients who present with a variety of concerns. Mobile SHAC is an outreach program that provides social worker services to homebound individuals in their homes once a month.
Stay tuned for more information on the various caucuses and other venues for involvement at our first meeting of the semester. And, caucuses are always in flux depending on the interests of the current students. If there is an area you would like to address that does not have a caucus already, new caucuses are always encouraged! We will be recruiting for many positions within SoWoSO when you get to campus, and we welcome your involvement in the organization. We look forward to your input in shaping what you want your student organization to be.

We understand how hectic and nerve-wracking the start of the school year can be. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of us about SoWoSO, the caucuses, or any general questions you might have before you arrive. We look forward to meeting you soon!

Best to you,

The 2010 SoWoSO Chairs
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