TO: New First-year Full-time Students  
FROM: Anna Scheyett, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
DATE: May 10, 2010

Congratulations and welcome to the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill! We are pleased that you have chosen to spend the next two years with us pursuing professional social work education. We are especially looking forward to our face-to-face welcome and orientation activities with you in August, which we are planning now. This online information will help you get ready for the upcoming academic year and will help us prepare for you.

**Orientation will be held Thursday, August 19, 2010.** We will begin at 8:45 am with registration and a continental breakfast in the lobby of the School of Social Work. We have a full day of orientation activities planned including a meeting with the Student Ambassadors, a welcome assembly to meet the faculty and staff, and meetings with your faculty advisors. You will receive more information in late June that will include a more detailed orientation schedule with activities that continue through the end of September. The Graduate School has also scheduled an orientation day on August 19; however, the departmental orientation day takes precedence, so we look forward to seeing you at the School of Social Work August 19.

The School of Social Work will be hosting the annual Students Achieving Graduate Education (S.A.G.E.) pre-orientation program for entering students of color and international students on **Saturday, August 14, 2010.** All incoming students are welcome to attend.

**JumpSTART! Preparation for Social Work Practice begins on Friday, August 20, 2010** and continues **August 23-26, 2010.** You will receive a more detailed schedule in June. This required program is intended to prepare you for social work graduate education, ground you in knowledge and understanding of the profession and introduce you to skills needed to successfully complete the MSW program.

**Writing Assessment** Before classes start we are asking you to complete an online writing assessment. Now, before your anxiety gets too high, let me explain. This is a writing assessment, not a writing test. You will not receive a grade for it. The purpose of this assessment is to help each student identify his/her areas of writing strength and weakness. This MSW program is very writing intensive, so having good writing skills is important. By helping you identify areas where you need to build your writing skills, and then connecting you with the resources to help you do so (including writing workshops and in-house editorial support), we hope to provide you with the tools you need to be successful in our program. You must complete this assessment by **June 30, 2010.** If for some reason that timeframe does not work for you, please let me know as soon as possible.

Once you obtain your ONYEN (see “Computer Tips”) send it to Linda Wilson at LWilson@unc.edu and she will make sure you are registered in Sakai (the learning platform we use), so you can take the writing assessment. Detailed instructions for how you access and complete this assessment accompany this letter.

**Online History of Oppression Course** Another online activity you will need to complete is an online training, The History of Oppression. This is a pre-course that will be available starting **July 7** that you must complete prior to enrolling in SOWO 501, Confronting Oppression and Institutional Discrimination, Spring 2011. Completing this course counts as 10% of your SOWO 501 grade. That means you must be finished with the course no later than **November 1, 2010.** However, I strongly encourage you to do as much as possible over the summer, since the course can take 30-40 hours to complete. Prior to July 7 you will be sent a URL for an information packet that includes instructions for this online course.

**Field Placement Planning** Field education is an important part of your graduate experience and you will begin your Foundation field placement during the Fall semester. Prior to beginning the placement process, we need to learn more about you, your experiences, and your interests. In the Field Education memo you will find information about how to locate the online forms and complete your Foundation Practicum Planning Guide. Complete the Foundation Practicum Planning Guide as soon as possible, but **no later than May 21, 2010.**
**Registration and Tuition**  You must register for your courses, and pay tuition and fees, before you arrive on campus. You may begin to register for courses July 1: registration should be completed by July 15, 2010. Tuition and fees must be paid by August 10, 2010. Foundation classes begin on Friday, August 27, 2010, immediately following JumpSTART.

You may register by using the internet or by contacting the School of Social Work Registrar Beth Sauer at bhsauer@email.unc.edu. For more details review the information in the Registration memo from Registrar Beth Sauer.

The estimated cost of tuition and fees per semester is $4,056 for in-state students (includes a $300 field fee) and $11,130 for out-of-state students. Please note this is an estimate. The cost of books and supplies for any semester can range from $400-$600. Hidden costs such as paper, computer disks, and travel costs to field practica are sometimes overlooked in planning. For the most current updates on tuition rates, access the Cashiers Office website at: [http://finance.unc.edu/asst-vc-controller/student-account-services/student-billing.html](http://finance.unc.edu/asst-vc-controller/student-account-services/student-billing.html).

Fall 2010 tuition invoices will be issued in July and will only be available online at [http://my.unc.edu](http://my.unc.edu). Students will be notified by email to their UNC email account when their bill is ready to be viewed. You can pay your tuition online at this link: [https://cps1.its.unc.edu/SISCPS/cps/cashiers/CSWebParentSignIn.jsp](https://cps1.its.unc.edu/SISCPS/cps/cashiers/CSWebParentSignIn.jsp).

Students expecting to receive a Tuition Remission, Merit award, Weiss Fellowship, Federal Work Study, or a loan from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid should complete a request to defer tuition and fee payment.

**Health Insurance**  The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with all the other UNC system campuses, will require students (undergraduate and graduate/professional) to have health insurance coverage beginning with the Fall 2010 semester. Eligible students are required to show evidence of an existing “creditable” health insurance policy or they will be automatically enrolled in and billed for the UNC system student health insurance plan, which is administered by Pearce and Pearce, Inc. For more details including waiver deadlines and eligibility requirements, see the “Health Insurance Requirement” document.

**Residency**  The Graduate School handles residency concerns. If you have a question, please contact Residency Coordinator Sylvia Roberson at sbr@email.unc.edu. Please note that even though you may have lived in North Carolina all of your life, you still will need to complete an online residency form if you are claiming North Carolina residency for tuition purposes. The form is on the Graduate School’s website at: [http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/).

**Financial Aid**  Students receiving Merit awards, Tuition Remissions, Weiss fellowships, Dean’s Research Awards and scholarships from the School of Social Work have been notified. If additional scholarship resources become available, students will be notified this summer. Students should contact the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid to discuss loans to cover tuition and fees. For questions about scholarship funds from the School of Social Work, contact Sharon Thomas at sharon_thomas@unc.edu. See the “Financial Aid” section of this website for information about research assistant positions.

**Special Needs**  It is helpful for us to know if you have needs that require special accommodations to attend classes and field practice. Not all UNC-Chapel Hill classrooms are handicapped accessible, and some field sites may not provide accessibility. For classroom needs, please inform us in a return letter. The Field Planning Guide will have a place for you to note special field-learning needs. Also, if you need to obtain accommodations for your classroom instruction you must speak with the Office of Disability Services. Their website is [http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/).

**Purchasing Books**  In general, textbooks will not be available for purchase until after July 15. Textbooks can be purchased by logging into the Course Materials portal, [http://my.unc.edu](http://my.unc.edu) at UNC Student Stores. Another option is to get the title of the textbooks from the course syllabus and place an order online or at any local bookstore. The Social Work Student Organization (SoWoSO) will be coordinating a book sale in August for those students wanting to buy used books. There is usually a NC Tax-Free Weekend in August. Due to the challenging economy it may be cut this year, but historically it is the first weekend in August.

**Change of Address and UNC Email Address**  Please notify Student Services Manager Linda Wilson at LWilson@unc.edu to update address changes you may have over the summer. We will need a current mailing address, phone, and email, as we will be mailing additional information to you throughout the summer. Address changes should also be made at [http://my.unc.edu](http://my.unc.edu). Ms. Wilson will also need to know your UNC email address as soon as you set up your ONYEN. (See the Computer Tips document for instructions on how to set up the email address.)

We look forward to spending the next two years with you as you prepare for professional social work practice. The faculty and staff are involved in a variety of research, program planning, evaluation and training projects on local, state, national, and
international levels. We are working to bring you the best opportunities to expand your knowledge and develop your skills. We welcome you to our learning community. Expect to work hard, question assumptions and meet life-long friends.