

REPORT TO ALUMNI AND SOCIAL WORK COMMUNITY RE: CSWE SITE VISIT

From Dr. Janet Furness, Associate Dean and MSW Program Director

On September 26-28, 2011, the site team consisting of Dr. Tom Gregoire and Dr. Susan Egan represented the CSWE Commission on Accreditation to review the MSW program for initial accreditation. The team's report indicated 100% satisfaction with the program and readiness to recommend to the Commission that the MSW program be granted initial accreditation. This visit brings the program close to the last steps in the accreditation process. The team's report and recommendation will be reviewed by selected Commissioners, whose responsibility it is to make the final recommendation to the February 2012 meeting of the Commission on Accreditation.

The faculty is gratified by the results of this visit and happy to acknowledge the support of students, alumni, field instructors, Advisory Council members, the University administration, and other supporters who have traveled this long journey with us. We are uplifted and energized to engage this fall semester with this hurdle behind us. Together we can remain patient, though eager, for the meeting in mid-February when we will once again publish an announcement at this location.

REMINDER CONCERNING LICENSURE OF MSW GRADUATES FOR SOCIAL PRACTICE

Graduates of the MSW program at Union will take the licensing exam only after the MSW program accreditation is granted. Tennessee provides a temporary license (unlike some other states who do not), and students qualifying for that license may accumulate hours toward their LCSW upon graduation.

The School of Social work (SSW) at Union University will inform all graduates when accreditation of the MSW program is granted. The news will be posted on the SSW web page, Union's web page, available for publication in the Jackson Sun, and a letter will be sent to the last known address of every graduate. It is up to graduates to keep the SSW informed as to contact information. Once the program is accredited, graduates will have 60 days to submit an application for the LMSW credential. The Board of Social Worker Licensure will inform applicants if they are eligible to sit for the LMSW exam.

The Social Work Faculty at Union University will offer trainings for the LMSW exam at a significantly reduced cost to all graduates of Union's MSW program classes 2010 and 2011. Please contact me if you have any questions about these important developments.