From the President

Welcome to Winter 2008 with the Medical University of South Carolina Women’s Club! As MUWC enters its 42nd year, we are so pleased to have 20 new members, giving us an active participation of over 120 MUSC women. We are experiencing one of the most exciting years ever.

The annual MUWC holiday brunch was held on the first Sunday in December at our “favorite winter place,” the home of Dr. Paul and Peggy Underwood. Many, many thanks to Peggy, Paul and family for the splendid occasion with all of the beautiful decorations. There was an excellent turnout, good food – I note the shrimp and grits – and fine weather. We also offer thanks to all the great MUWC cooks for baking the tasty desserts.

Speaking of great cooks, some of you may recall that the club has published two cookbooks. Following The Morsel Board release (circa 1973), sales from the even more popular Charleston Cooks (1984) further contributed to our scholarship fund. With the board’s encouragement, we are seriously considering a third cookbook, which would be a joint effort between MUWC, Health 1st of MUSC and Pediatric Cardiology dietitians. If you would like to be involved in planning this project please contact me at lgpatri@comcast.net or 884-4380.

While on the topic of projects, last autumn I proposed forming an ad hoc committee to identify new club activities for the coming year. This committee has now been formed but it is not too late for you to join and help with planning. This group will be meeting in February and March to...
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discuss possible projects and fund-raisers to be launched within the near future. If you would like to join, please contact JoAnn Rampton at joatennis@aol.com or 852-9052. What if you don’t have time for fund-raising? Not to fear! Your membership itself supports the foremost priority of the MUWC: offering much needed scholarships to MUSC students.

A 2007 highlight for the Club was the exceptional finds that our historian Cecily DiPiro, Jane Locke and I made at Jane’s dining room table back in November as we opened each box and the Club history unfolded. And oh so remarkably, everything will now be archived at the Waring Historical Library through the gracious offer of curator Susan Hoffius (see new member article). Among our most exciting finds were the original club charter, the bylaws and original minutes. These were typically handwritten or typed using carbon paper – remember when? A special thanks to Betty Kinard, and to all past historians for their diligence. One of my personal goals since joining MUWC in 1993 has been to see our papers housed on campus. Never did I dream that they would be archived, and on display, in the prestigious Waring Historical Library. As a teaser…. Wait until fall to see what Cecily and Susan have for everyone’s viewing.

In this issue of the Distaff we hope to excite you with our upcoming programs and involve you in such popular projects as “Posies for Patients” on Valentine’s Day and the Todd Carter Memorial Teddy Bear Day on May 8th. In three short months, I will be turning over the gavel to our very dedicated president-elect, Katy Kuder. Please join our annual installation of officers and Spring Luncheon scheduled for April 30th at our “favorite spring place,” the home of Dr. Kerry and Cindi Solomon. I hope to see you there.

My warmest regards,

Laura Patrick

P.S. Whenever possible, please carpool. Our Club is “Going Green”!

What have we been doing?

On Thursday, November 15th, seventeen members participated in a “hard hat” tour of the new hospital. It was interesting to get behind the scenes and view the state-of-the-art operating rooms, Chest Pain Center and private rooms and ICUs.

Lunch Bunch ballooned in December with a visit to Magnolia’s. There are even more ladies at the table behind this one.

We have been pleased to welcome several new members to this monthly get-together and to book club.

The New Year started off with a Brown Bag Lecture from Dr. Patrick O’Neil, Director of MUSC’s Weight...
Management Center. You’re not wrong, fat tastes better so we eat more of it. The good thing about weight loss however is that even losing 5 to 10 percent of your body weight conveys a significant health benefit. Don’t give up on that New Year’s resolution yet!

What are the plans for Spring?

**Coming soon** – Valentine’s Day is just around the corner and we’re looking forward to putting smiles on faces with “Posies for Patients”. On Thursday, February 14th we need flowers, vases, filler leaves and YOU. Please bring or drop off your loose or pre-arranged flowers on that morning. At 8:30 a.m. we will meet at the Volunteer Office in the Children’s Hospital to start arranging and making our deliveries. If you can’t get the flowers to us, just send a check and we’ll pick up some flowers for you. Please come and join in the fun – we need 10 members to make this run smoothly. For more information and to RSVP, contact Cecily DiPiro at 216-6060 or southpole@comcast.net.

The following Thursday, February 21st is our third and last Brown Bag Lecture. February is Heart Month and we are fortunate to have Dr. Pamela Morris speak to us on “Care and Maintenance of the Feminine Heart”. See you at noon at Gazes Room 125.

Women’s History Month kicks off with an art reception in the Courtney Gallery at the Harper Wellness Center Thursday, March 6th from 5 to 6:30. Come and enjoy refreshments and the work of women photographers.

April showers will usher in an evening wine tasting, date and time TBA. Then mark your calendars for our annual Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers on Sullivan’s Island April 30th. Bring your stuffed animals for our Todd Carter Memorial Teddy Bear Day that will be held on May 8th. Then join in the graduation celebration at MUSC where we’ll sell roses for commencement on May 16th.

Meet a new member……

Susan D. Hoffius, MS, was born in Schenectady, NY. She graduated from Smith College with a degree in Greek and Latin and earned a Masters in Library Science at Simmons College. She came to Charleston in 2005 to join the MUSC family as curator of the Waring Historical Library.

Susan loves her job and feels that every day she has the opportunity for discovery of interesting photographs and books in the Waring collection. She has met interesting people when they bring their materials to donate as well as researchers who use the resources at the library. The Waring Historical Library serves the whole community and she encourages everyone to “stop by and check us out!”

Susan is married to Steve and they have two children. In her spare time she’s a crossword puzzle “junkie” and she also enjoys knitting and gardening.