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President's Message

The energy and elegance of the WDS luncheon in Washington, DC is a powerful memory that lingers within us. Who can forget the imagery of the stunning up-lit roses on the walls? The breathtaking sparkle of the grand chandelier down the center of the room still twinkles in my mind. The gathering of nearly 700 luncheon attendees was another milestone for the WDS, our largest attendance yet. Equally exciting was the celebration of our 1,000+ members. The warm memories of the gathering of our friends, families, and colleagues have sustained me during the coldest days of our Washington winter. I am deeply honored to be your WDS President for the next year. These memories serve to energize and inspire us towards the future of the WDS. Building upon the past successes of the WDS and my predecessors allows for tremendous opportunities for growth of the WDS.



SANDRA READ, MD

One of my main goals for this year is to continue to provide an organization that nurtures the professional growth and development of our membership. This is the essence of the WDS Vision and Mission Statement.

The WDS has fulfilled a need in my life, and I want to make sure that it is there for

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ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

1,000 Roses and Blooming

By Michael Ming, MD, MSCE

Awonderful time was had by all at the 29th WDS Annual Luncheon, held on February 8, 2004 during the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme of the sold-out luncheon, attended by nearly 700 members, was "1,000 Roses and Blooming: a celebration of extraordinary membership growth," commemorating the addition of the 1,000th member to the society. Befitting the WDS message that the society should not be considered an organization exclusively for women, the thousandth member was **David Pariser, MD**, who was recognized during the luncheon.

In recognition of the theme of the luncheon and of the rose as the symbol of the WDS, the banquet hall was decorated with light projections of roses on the walls, and an individual rose was present at each place setting. With the exception of a few tables set

aside for reunions, members were randomly seated to enhance networking and to increase member interaction.



NEARLY 700 GUESTS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON, DC ON FEBRUARY 8.

The luncheon was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and see old ones.

At the beginning of the luncheon, **Richard Odom, MD**, was honored as the recipient of the 2004 Rose Hirschler Award. The award, named after the first known woman dermatologist in the United States, is presented to a physician chosen for having made significant contributions to

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