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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The temperature outside of the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC may have been bitterly cold, but inside the Independence Ballroom, at the 32nd Annual Meeting Luncheon of the Women's Dermatologic Society, the atmosphere was as warm and inviting as a cozy fire. Long time friends, separated by time and distance, were joined in celebration with those making new best friends at this joyful event that celebrates the support and friendships that are possible because of WDS.



By **MARY LUPU, MD**

I'd like to personally thank the Annual Meeting Luncheon Committee and especially co-chairs, **Drs. Cheryl Burgess** and **Sandra Read** for their tireless hard work and meticulous attention to detail that made this luncheon the very best yet. The décor, music, and food were not the usual banquet fare. Instead, it felt as if we were all personal guests of Cheryl and Sandra in their hometown. Our speaker, **Dr. Deborah Tannen**, gave us a warm and enlightening talk that made so much sense and rang so true

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32nd Annual Meeting Luncheon Was Inspirational, Sensational & Conversational

The WDS Annual Meeting Luncheon on February 4, 2007 was a huge success. The day was full of accomplishments, friendships, and a fabulous speaker.

The room at the Grand Hyatt held over 70 tables set with beautiful pink and white roses. Tables of 8-10 attendees were arranged and table facilitators were encouraged to get the groups acquainted. Two large projection screens ran with highlights of our members over the past year. Out-going president **Dr. Elizabeth McBurney** opened the event by welcoming everyone and introducing a video montage of media clips that WDS members had been involved with in 2006. The accomplishments of **Dr. Suzanne Connolly** and her Task Force for WDS *Families Play Safe in the Sun* were prominently featured.

Brittany Lietz, **Miss Maryland 2006**, was present to lend her support to the WDS. At age 20, she was diagnosed with melanoma after years of tanning bed use. She made melanoma awareness her platform issue for the Miss America contest and it continues



Over 700 were in attendance at the Annual Meeting Luncheon in Washington, DC on February 4.

to be a large part of her public service work. She has partnered with the AAD to get the word out about the need for skin checks and about the dangers of tanning beds (<http://www.aad.org/public/News/News-Releases/PSA.htm>).

The 2007 annual awards were given to **Drs. Libby Edwards** (Mentor of the Year), **Dorinda Shelley** (Rose Hirschler Award), and **Jean Bologna** (President's Award). Accepting the President's Award, Dr. Bologna summed up what many in the room were thinking, "I am proud to be a dermatologist, but I am extremely proud to be a member of the WDS."

The brief business meeting spotlighted many of the important WDS

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