Happy New Year!

As these pages will show you, the Fall semester was eventful for the Women’s Club. The intriguing speakers at the October and December programs brought in lots of longtime and new members. The Christmas pre-concert reception continued a holiday tradition, and the chili cook-off was eagerly anticipated and well-received by the hungry members of the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

The Spring semester features great upcoming events, with two more lunch programs in February and April, trips to the Holocaust memorial and the Pearl Brewery farmer’s market, and an end-of-year event in May to pass the baton to next year’s officers.

The transition from 2009 to 2010 includes some changes in our lives. Trinity University welcomes a new president (Dr. Dennis A. Ahlburg); we were honored to have his wife, Ms. Penelope Harley, as a guest at the chili cook-off. Also, in December a new baby girl was welcomed into my family—a delightful change, but one that makes me especially grateful for the helpfulness and teamwork of the Women’s Club officers and members.

The Women’s Club continues to succeed in its mission to provide scholarship funds for deserving women students. The Halloween bake sale and the Christmas card tree demonstrated the generosity of our members. At the President’s Reception, I had the pleasure of spending time talking to one of our appreciative scholarship recipients, Janae Contag.

I hope the programs, social events, and interest group activities in the Spring semester provide you with fun opportunities to get together and learn new things from each other.

With warm regards,

Inga Munsinger Cotton

President’s Note

Upcoming Lecture Promises to be a ....Sticky Topic

Join club members at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, February 11 at the Holt Center for a wonderful luncheon and a lecture entitled “A Brief History of 11,000 Years of Chewing Gum,” given by Dr. Jennifer Mathews, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Mathews will trace the history of chicle, a sticky resin from the sapodilla tree found in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, and how it gave rise to the chewing gum industry. Her new book, Chicle. The Chewing Gum of the Americas: From the Ancient Maya to William Wrigley, is the first comprehensive look at chicle, and includes chapters on how it was used by the ancient Maya and Aztecs, the botany of the sapodilla tree, the boom and bust of the chicle-based chewing gum industry, and the culture of the chicleros – workers who collected the chicle resin in the heart of the forests.
TUWC Meetings and Events 2010 (as of 1/29/10)

February 11 (Thursday)
REGULAR MEETING
Luncheon Topic: “A Brief History of 11,000 Years of Chewing Gum,” Dr. Jennifer Mathews, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Trinity University
11:30 a.m., Holt Center
RSVP: Brita Munsinger

March 27 (Saturday)
Social Event
Pearl Farmers Market Excursion
Participate in a relaxing morning stroll through the Pearl Farmers Market and beautiful new Museum Reach Project of the San Antonio River.
9:00 a.m., Off-Campus Location
No fee to attend.
RSVP: Debi Arbuckle

April 8 (Thursday)
REGULAR MEETING
Luncheon Topic: “Exploring the Underwater World of the Ancient Mediterranean,” Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld, Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, Trinity University
11:30 a.m., Holt Center
RSVP: Brita Munsinger

May 1 (Saturday)
Susan C. Komen Race for the Cure
Off-Campus Location
Contact: Carol Mansen

May 2 (Sunday)
Social Event
Holocaust Memorial Museum Tour
Tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum and hear an enlightening presentation made by a Holocaust survivor.
2:00 p.m.
No fee for attending.
RSVP: Debi Arbuckle

May 21 (Friday)
Social Event
End-of-Year Garden party
Enjoy the garden, celebrate the end of the year and congratulate newly elected TUWC officers.
11:30 a.m., Holt Center
$ Fee to attend.
RSVP: Debi Arbuckle

SEE page 3 for the contact information of the individuals listed above.
I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it—the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn’t show.

– Andrew Wyeth

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Contact Information
News and Events

Welcome Annika Cotton!

Congratulations to Inga Munsinger Cotton who welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world on December 16, 2009!

In Remembrance

Virginia H. Stephenson, age 92 of San Antonio, passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2009. She graduated from UCLA in 1939 as a Junior Phi Beta Kappa and did graduate work at Mills College. Virginia spent 20 years as an Army wife and finally found a home in San Antonio. She was very active in the Belle Meade Garden Club and various organizations at Trinity University [including the TU Women’s Club].

Virginia was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Harry W. Stephenson, Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Lynne S. Parker and husband, David, and grandsons, David Michael Parker and Richard Lee Parker. The family gave special thanks to her beloved care giver, Adela Cordova.

(Porter Loring Mortuaries Obituary published in the Express-News, November 15, 2009)

Claire Smith and her family enjoyed a white Christmas in Boston and made this huge snowman!

Steve Faulk ’98, Founder/Partner of Bikram Yoga San Antonio, and Judy White at the October 8 TUWC luncheon

Jackie Sliker visited The Big Apple during Thanksgiving. What trip to New York would be complete without a Ruben Sandwich!

Women’s Club Members and hungry Trinity University athletes attended the Chili Cook-Off on January 5 in the Fiesta Room.

Tim Derk ’79 greets club members and signs copies of his book, Hi Mom, Send Sheep!, at the December 9 TUWC luncheon.
Dear Women’s Club:

I just returned from my 4-month study abroad trip to Costa Rica and I enjoyed it so much! My peers who have studied abroad before told me that the experience would be something I would never forget, and they were right! Here’s a little bit about my life that I had in Costa Rica:

In regards to school, I attended classes at a local university, called Universidad Latina. It is the largest private university in Costa Rica. I took a normal work load (5 classes-15 hours). My program was an Environment, Sustainability, and Development program, so all my classes are related to that. It was really my first time to take any sort of development class, so I really learned a lot.

When I wasn’t at school, I lived with a host family. I lived in a house with my host mother, Alice (75 years old), and her daughter, Cristina (48 years). Alice has 2 other children, 5 grandchildren, and a 4-year-old great-granddaughter who live in the area and visit the house often. I LOVED living with them! It was really nice, because I was included in the family and attended all the family events, birthdays, and gatherings. Also, my host mother is an AMAZING cook! There were so many new tropical fruits and vegetables that I tried! My favorite “new” fruit is called mamón chino, which sort of tastes like a lychee and a grape.

I have to say that living with my family truly helped my Spanish speaking skills. They didn’t speak any English, so the only way for communication was via Spanish. There are still words and language rules that I am learning, but I have improved greatly. It gets easier to understand when people talk. By far, my biggest improvement has been in my confidence to speak the language in front of the natives.

I also traveled a lot while abroad. I went to a lot of beaches, both on the Caribbean and Pacific side. My favorite beach was called Playa Conchal, which is on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. The beach is not sand, but instead tiny pieces of shells that are soft enough to walk and lay on. It was beautiful! I also visited many national parks and tropical rain forests. There, I did a lot of hiking and wildlife watching. Costa Rica has 4 different species of monkeys, and I was able to see 3 out of the 4. Some other animals I saw were toucans, crocodiles, sloths, and coatis. In addition, on one of my class field-trips, I toured a coffee and banana plantation. Two of my favorite things that I did involved more "extreme" sports. The first thing was white-water-rafting in a river! The second, was ziplining thorough the Monteverde Cloud Forest! So fun!

Now that I'm back home in the United States, I've had time to reflect upon on the things that I've done and seen. With your support, I have been able to travel and immerse myself in the Costa Rican culture, which now has a special place in my heart. I know that I want to return back to Costa Rica in the future and even travel more around Central and South America. Being on my own for 4 months has given me more confidence in myself, my abilities, and my independence. I feel much more at ease when traveling by myself in a foreign place, something that I was very nervous about 4 months ago.

Now, I'm really trying to adjust back to the pace of life here in the United States. In Costa Rica, everything was more slow and relaxed. It's been a little difficult to adapt back to the craziness and stress here! It is also much more cold here compared to the tropical weather in Costa Rica!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday and New Year! Merry Christmas! - **Rachna Turakhia**
You Won’t Want to Miss...

The Trinity University Distinguished Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

**Thomas Friedman**, foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times* and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, has been called “the country’s best newspaper columnist” by *Vanity Fair*.

All lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium and are free and open to the public. Visit “News and Events” on Trinity’s website for more campus happenings.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

**Condoleezza Rice**, presided as the 66th secretary of state of the United States from January 2005 to 2009 before serving as America’s chief diplomat, she served as President George W. Bush’s national security advisor from January 2001 to 2005. She is currently the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution and professor of political science at Stanford University.

Interest Groups

*Join one of the Women’s Club Interest Groups!*

**Contact the corresponding Interest Group Chair for more information (SEE page 3 ).**

**Book Review Group**
Read and discuss books.

**Couples Night Out**
A fun opportunity to try some great San Antonio restaurants with your spouse or significant other. Scheduled for September, December, March and June.

**Culinary Capers**
Try a new recipe or share a favorite one.

**Dutch Treat Luncheons**
Lunch around town.

**Film and Fiction**
Discuss movies and related novels.

**Girls Night Out/Cards**
Enjoy a game of cards, light refreshments and friendly conversation. For all levels of card players. Monthly evening meetings.

**Stitch in Time**
Stitch, chat and have a cookie ... or two.

**Walking for Women**
Take fun walks around the campus and join Race for the Cure on May 1 and make a difference in the battle against breast cancer.

TUWC Membership

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Trinity University Women’s Club extend an invitation to them to join us! Membership is open to all female Trinity faculty, staff, female spouses, and retirees. The club has existed since 1946. In addition to rendering service to the university community, the club also awards scholarships to highly talented Trinity women students. Funds for these scholarships are raised throughout the year with bake sales, membership dues, and other events. A membership application is available on the Women’s Club’s website www.trinity.edu/org/womens_club. Annual membership dues are $35.00.

Contact Crystal Benavides at 999-7416 or crystal.benavides@trinity.edu for more information.
TUWC Minutes from October 8, 2009 Meeting

TUWC President Inga Munsinger Cotton presented the introduction to our October meeting. The chair for the meeting was Claire Smith, and hostesses were Donna Fiedler, Kris Howland and Susan McMahon. First Vice President Elizabeth Ford reminded members about our December 9 meeting, featuring speaker Tim Derk, former Spurs Coyote and 1979 Trinity grad.

Second Vice President and Membership Chair Crystal Benavides announced that we have two new members, Carolyn Orange and Jennifer (Rosie) Porreca. There were two guests present: Sylvia French attended as Judi White’s guest and Christine Sun attended as Mary Kay Cooper’s guest. [Note: Both ladies have subsequently joined Women’s Club—Welcome!]

Inga Cotton thanked Carissa Gilles for her outstanding work on our yearbook. Third Vice President and Social Chair Debi Arbuckle was not present at the meeting. Inga Cotton thanked Debi for her work on the Open House, as well as Janice Brazil for hosting the event.

Recording Secretary Brita Munsinger presented the minutes from our previous meeting, which were voted on and approved. Corresponding Secretary Nelda Cortez had no news to report.

Treasurer Susan McMahon reported on our budget. The previous balance was $3549.07 and the current balance was $3773.61. Mary Kay Cooper moved to approve the budget, Janice Brazil seconded the motion and the budget was approved.

Scholarship Chair Jackie Sliker reported that the two scholarship recipients from last year attended the brunch. She reminded members of the Halloween Bake Sale on October 30, whose proceeds fund the scholarships. Inga Cotton passed out a sign-up sheet for participation in the bake sale. Items for the bake sale should be wrapped and ready to go, and may be sweets or craft items.

Interest Group Coordinator Donna Blystone reviewed the many available interest groups for members (such as Girls’ Night Out, Book Review, Couples Dining Out, Film & Fiction, Culinary Capers, Stitch in Time, and Walking for Women). She recommended members check their yearbooks for further information.

Inga Cotton continued the meeting with new business. She asked members to please bring guests to our meetings, even if they are not directly affiliated with the University. Guests are always welcome as long as they RSVP for meetings and bring $5 to cover food. She also asked members to make suggestions for recruitment.

There was no old business. Claire Smith reminded members to add their names to participate in a drawing to win the Buddhas decorating each table. Inga Cotton thanked Claire Smith, Donna Fiedler, Kris Howland and Susan McMahon for their work organizing the meeting.

First Vice President Mary Kay Cooper introduced our speaker, Steve Falk ’98, manager of Bikram Yoga San Antonio. Mr. Falk discussed the different types of yoga and the health benefits of yoga. He showed an inspirational video of a veteran who regained mobility after practicing yoga. He also handed out free passes to try out classes at his yoga studio.

Claire Smith gave a closing reflection, a poem entitled “Why are we on this planet?”

Respectfully submitted,

Brita Munsinger
Recording Secretary
President Inga Munsinger Cotton opened our December meeting. She thanked our Meeting Chair Mary Denny and Hostesses Donna Blystone, Stacey Lenderman, Mary Elaine McElreath, Mary Roehl, and Carol Roy.

Vice Presidents Elizabeth Ford and Mary Kay Cooper discussed upcoming programs and reminded members that our next meeting is on February 11.

Membership Chair Crystal Benavides could not attend. There were several guests present at the meeting. Sandra Kurtin brought Helene Treat. Helene was President of TUWC in 1973-4 and her late husband, Herb Treat, was a professor in the engineering and computing departments. Carmen Garza brought Angela Rendon, a new employee in Academic Affairs. Andrea Spanley brought Amy Smith. Kris Howland brought four guests: Margie Boggus, Patsy High, Harriet Nelson, and Audrey Stone. Elizabeth Ford brought Monica Reina, who works in Alumni Relations.

Social Chair Debi Arbuckle could not attend. President Inga Munsinger Cotton read the following updates from Debi. The Christmas Concert Reception had good turnout and was an enjoyable way to start the holiday season. Upcoming events include the Pearl Farmer’s Market excursion on March 27, Holocaust Memorial Museum tour on May 2, and Garden Party luncheon on May 21.

Recording Secretary Brita Munsinger presented the minutes from our October meeting. The minutes were voted on and approved.

Courtesy Chair Nelda Cortez announced that Virginia Stephenson had passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at the age of 92.

Treasurer Susan McMahon reported on our bank balance, noting that it is currently inflated due to the $477.50 in proceeds from our Halloween Bake Sale.

Scholarship Chair Jackie Sliker thanked participants for a very successful Halloween Bake Sale. She also mentioned that, according to her quick tally, members had donated over $1200 to the scholarship fund through the Christmas Card program this year.

Interest Group Coordinator Donna Blystone said the groups are going very well and that there is too much to report!

President Inga Munsinger Cotton thanked Janice Brazil for her numerous contributions to the Trinity University Women’s Club. Janice’s husband John is retiring from the presidency at Trinity. We wish them both all the best!

Margaret Farris reminded everybody to be sure to take some lemons from the basket at the front, as she had a bumper crop this year.

Genie Calgaard and Judy White handed out the door prizes.

Vice President Elizabeth Ford introduced our speaker, Tim Derk. He gave an inspiring and humorous talk, including many wonderful stories reminding us to be thankful for what we have. A continuing thread in his talk was his ongoing connection to Trinity and the positive impact that connection has had on his life.

Following Tim’s talk, there was a brief question and answer period and then he stayed to sign copies of his book, which were available for purchase. President Inga Munsinger Cotton closed our meeting with reflections on the season and the spirit of giving. Respectfully submitted,

Brita Munsinger
Recording Secretary