Dear Students and Friends,

We’re bursting with extreme joy and rejoicing for all of you at this holiday season! We wish you could see how much fun we’ve had in the office working with you this year. In fact, we’ve had to force Dr. Ochoa to go home a few times because she has such a good time she stays way too long.

We’ve been joined by so many new students (Welcome!), and an avalanche of coursework has come in. Many of you have re-caught your vision of midwifery, recommitting yourselves to completing your program. Many of you have been working focused and consistent, and many of you are just hanging in there no matter what. We congratulate all of you for the work that you have done, the sacrifices you have made, and the service given to your communities throughout the year.

We wish to express our appreciation for your patience and graciousness as we’ve been behind or slow in responding to your needs and requests. May we say that we love you and are interested in and concerned about each of you individually. You are consistently in our prayers and we specifically ask that your lives be filled with blessings of abundance in all you may need. We are especially mindful of you and your families at this Holiday Season. Our great hope is that your homes will be filled with abundant love and rejoicing.

We’d like to share a few items of interest and importance with you below. Please take note and respond immediately to anything that you should respond immediately to (this is your Coach talking). In addition, we are swinging the doors wide open for feedback regarding anything and everything about MCU. Please respond. Email us at office@midwifery.edu or call toll free 888-489-1238.

We wish you a most warm and wonderful holiday season.

Love,

Jodie Fisher
President

Sonia Ochoa
Director of Distance Studies

Suzanne Smith
Academic Dean

Yahoo!

It looks like those of you who belong to the MCU Yahoo! Group are really enjoying it. We’ve been watching the flurry of activity from the office and are so excited and pleased! Give us feedback about how the group is working for you and if you have suggestions for other ways to connect with each other. We’re all ears!

For those of you who are not yet members, the MCU Yahoo! Group is intended to help you connect with other MCU students all over the world. So far, issues regarding clinical sites, special trainings, problem solving, midwifery specific questions and general MCU community building have been the topics of conversation. The MCU Yahoo! Group is a great resource of information and support for you.

Join the MCU Yahoo! Group by sending a blank e-mail message to mcwstudents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Happy Holidays
Get Ready for 2005

Call the office now to set up an appointment with a Coach for a program evaluation and plan. See where you are and what you need to do to complete your program by your goal date. Make 2005 your most productive year yet!

Fellowship Program

MCU is offering a Fellowship Program that will allow students to do MCU special projects for tuition credit. Projects may include research, newsletter publishing, website development, editing, just to name a few. Call the MCU office for details, 888-489-1238.

2005 Conference Retreats

2005 Winter Conference Retreat, March 7-12
See the MCU website for details and an enrollment form.
HLTH 131 Health Skills Lab, .5 cr
MDWF 142 Apprenticeship Training, .5 cr.
MDWF 335 IV Skills, 1 cr.
MDWF 445 Obstetrical Pharmacology, 1 cr.
MDWF 446 Suturing II, 1 cr.

Enroll right away in any courses you would like to take. You will need to complete the syllabus before attending the conference.

For the Summer and Fall Conference Retreats we want to know what courses or labs you need. What other workshops would you like us to offer? Contact the school immediately regarding your ideas.

2005 Summer Conference Retreat, June 6-11
2005 Fall Conference Retreat, October 3-8

MDWF 144 Second Attendant Orientation

We are excited to announce a new course, MDWF 144 Second Attendant Orientation. This course was originally designed for our Canadian students and will replace their requirement for MDWF 142 Apprenticeship Training. However, this course is extremely valuable if you really want to hone your skills as an apprentice or doula. Course materials include a six-hour DVD set which you can watch over and over again or use for a local study group. For details on exactly what the course covers visit our website at www.midwifery.ca and click on Canadian Information, then click on information for MDWF 144 or call the office at 888-489-1238 to see if this course could be valuable for you.

Tuition Increase

Tuition for academic credits will be increasing to $185/credit starting February 1, 2005 FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS ACCEPTED AFTER February 1, 2005. Students previously accepted to an MCU program will remain at the current tuition rate of $115/credit for two years (February 2007), after which all students will pay the 2007 catalog tuition price.

Curriculum Review

MCU is preparing for a significant curriculum review early in 2005. All students are encouraged to contact MCU regarding curriculum needs and improvement ideas. Take a few moments to review your experience over the last year with your coursework and jot down some ideas on where the curriculum and its delivery systems need improvement. We’d like to hear it all, the good the bad and the ugly.

Congratulations

Many of you have accomplished so much this year! We want to hear about what you’re doing. We want to congratulate a few of you who we know some specifics about. Congratulations to Dessa Cooper and Paula Hostler on the arrival of new babies to their families. Dessa delivered Emma Jene Ruth on July 26th and Paula delivered Owen Reese on August 23rd. Way to go moms!

We also want to recognize Lainna Wheatley for her outstanding Master’s thesis article “Second Attendants in British Columbia: A New Training Model.” This article has been or will be published in five different arenas including Midwifery Today, Empower and AIMS BC. You may access this article at http://www.midwifery.ca/wheatleyarticle.pdf.

Congratulations also to Dina Davidson for publishing a number of papers from her HIST 184 History of Midwifery course, two of which are “Raven Lang: Founding Mother of Modern Midwifery”, published in Midwifery Today #69; and an article on Ina May Gaskin published by Birthing Alternatives. You can access this article at http://www.birthingalternatives.com/PDF/Newsletter4-2.pdf.

Happy Holidays