



CDUNews

July 2017

CDU Welcomes College of Medicine Class of 2021 Onto Campus

When it came time for CDU's incoming Class of 2021 to choose an institution for continuing their medical education, one defining aspect of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science stood out to them: our mission statement. During their first day of orientation on July 7, many students cited the university's dedication to social justice and eliminating health disparities in underserved communities as the deciding factor to commit to CDU. Incoming student Angela Reese noted that CDU's mission statement was the only one she could find that mentioned themes of social justice. "I just felt like [CDU] was the place I was supposed to be," Reese said.

For many, the decision to attend CDU this fall signaled not only a commitment to becoming compassionate health professionals, but also something deeper – returning home. Sasha Parra noted that she recently returned to the Los Angeles community after a six-year absence and was interested in seeing how she could help the community she grew up in. The close-knit class of 28 – many hailing from the South LA area – came to CDU from top-rated schools all over the country, ranging from UC Irvine to Cornell University.

For other students, different characteristics of CDU's charm won them over. For Marquis Doctor-Smith, it was the feeling of unity: "I was impressed by the campus's sense of community and close-knit family environment."

In his first address to the new class, Provost Steve O. Michael encouraged them to become advocates, activists and the "voice of the voiceless" within underserved communities. "You are the answer that [people] have been praying for," he said.

A large crowd of friends, family, faculty and supporters came to the CDU campus on July 21 to witness the new students' orientation culminate with an official White Coat ceremony. As CDU President David Carlisle greeted the event's attendees, he observed, "Of all the events we have at CDU, the White Coat ceremony is the most special. Today is the day you all embark on the final steps to being called 'doctor.'"

Dr. Camara Jones delivered the event's keynote address and left a lasting impression on the audience as she offered her thoughts on the allegories of racism. Dr. Jones received a standing ovation after leaving the incoming class with these wise words: "Go forth, learn a lot and matter."



President's Message

Photo courtesy of LA Southwest College

Greetings,

While it is helpful for any well-organized and well-run business to have a clear Vision and Mission as well as Values, these lofty statements are only of benefit if the people of the company buy in to the philosophy behind them and use them to guide their behavior and reach the organization's goals.

I think we do that at CDU. I really believe that what distinguishes us from all other universities is not the words in our Vision, Mission and Values—though I think they are incredibly expressive and descriptive of our true purpose as an organization—but what we do with them. CDU was founded not merely to educate people but to raise up excellent leaders dedicated to address health inequities among underserved populations. No other university of which I am aware can make this claim. Our Vision, Mission and Values have been refined and are now clear, concise and inspirational. That was the easy part. The more challenging part is living up to them and using them to direct our work. At this moment in our evolution, we must be ever mindful of who we are (contemplating our present), why we are (rehearsing our past) and what we intend to accomplish (anticipating our future). Our Vision, Mission and Values were not developed to simply live on paper, or as the introduction to our Annual Report. Everything we want to do and be revolves around these principles: to serve our South Los Angeles community and other under-represented/underserved communities nationally and internationally. I think everyone at CDU knows that.

I have always found it especially exciting to hear faculty, staff and students explain that they chose CDU because of our Mission. Or, that the work they do each day is inspired by our Vision or Values. So, I'd like to close this month's column with an invitation for you to share with me—and allow me to share with everyone else on campus, since we are family—examples of the CDU Vision, Mission and Values in action that you see around us every day. I know there are many out there.

Please reach out to me via email at President@cdrewu.edu, and I'll include them in this column and the newsletter.

I've included the Vision, Mission and Values below.

VISION STATEMENT

Excellent health and wellness for all in a world without health disparities.

MISSION STATEMENT

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is a private non-profit student centered University that is committed to cultivating diverse health professional leaders who are dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, research, clinical service, and community engagement.

VALUES: Community, Leadership, Excellence, Diversity, Integrity, and Compassion (CLEDIC).

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President and CEO

CDU Signs MOU With LA Southwest College, Honors Students

CDU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) on July 13 as a part of our continuing efforts to grow the student population over the next five years. The signing is yet another example of CDU's dedication to create more access to medical education while graduating additional healthcare professionals who will practice in chronically underserved areas of Los Angeles. Karen Jackson, Enrollment Management Consultant and Program Lead, noted, "The partnership established between CDU and LASC tells students that there is a plan in place that they can trust."

The event, which featured addresses from CDU President Dr. David Carlisle and Provost Steve O. Michael, was well-attended by members of the CDU and Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) communities. "Our mission is the magnet that draws people to CDU," Dr. Carlisle said.

Two students who are students of both LASC and CDU were honored at the event. Ashley Swartz, an RN-to-BSN student, characterized the relationship between the LACCD and CDU as "so important," since CDU offered her a "truly wonderful experience" that allowed her to spend time with her family while still pursuing her studies. Shenita Anderson, a Watts native, found that the traditional teachings in other schools did not resonate with her experiences growing up in an underserved community. CDU's program offerings, however, piqued Shenita's interests and before long she found herself at orientation. "I chose CDU because it helped me realize my vision," Anderson said.

The budding relationship between CDU and LASC is synergistic, as only five miles separate the schools and both serve diverse communities. The significance of this MOU is two-fold, as LASC's campus extends CDU's pipeline to students who participate in dual enrollment as well. "Students enrolled in many LAUSD-South schools from the 8th grade and on now have a pathway to medical education," noted Dr. Denise Noldon, LASC Interim President.

LACCD chancellor Dr. Francisco Rodriguez had high praise for CDU and its mission. "CDU is not just a place to serve, but a place to uplift," he said. "I can't wait for the day that all nine LACCD colleges have a dedicated agreement with CDU."

Dr. Camara Jones Addresses Impacts of Racism at M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series

Dr. Camara Jones was the featured speaker in this month's M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series, which was created to honor Dr. Alfred Haynes, an early CDU faculty member and pioneer in addressing health disparities. The M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series strives to educate through a CDU curriculum that elevates, promotes awareness, and engages discussion around health disparities, social determinants and educational approaches for the advancement of wellness in underserved and under-resourced communities.

Dr. Jones hosted an interactive and thoughtful discussion on the allegories of race and racism, touching on themes of equality versus equity, social determinants of health and the varying levels of racism. While these societal issues are complex, tense and systemic, Dr. Jones' tactful approach and relatable anecdotes prompted attendees to engage in an open flow of conversation and ideas.

"I thoroughly enjoyed returning to CDU and seeing the institution thriving," Dr. Jones said of her visit to the CDU campus. "The faculty, administration, and staff are clearly committed to making CDU an outstanding learning environment, and the students are intelligent, inquisitive, and committed to improving our communities through professional excellence combined with social activism."

Dr. Camara Jones is a family physician whose work focuses on naming, measuring and addressing the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation. As a teacher, her allegories on race and racism illuminate the topics that are otherwise difficult to discuss. Through her work, she hopes to start a national conversation on racism that will mobilize all Americans in a national campaign against racism.

SCIENCE DAY



CDU hosted its First Annual Science Day on July 22, a campus-based event designed to provide a fun and engaging venue to introduce college ready students to some of the scientific and medical activities occurring in our classrooms.

Science Day was conceptualized by Dr. Tina L. Kandakai, Executive Director, Office of Faculty Development and Assessment, and brought to life by Dr. Monica Ferrini, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Health and Life Sciences. Both are serving as members of the President Scholars Program (PSP) Committee, which is responsible for structuring the year long curriculum and activities. “The idea was to expose students to the various facets of science, from chemistry to medicine. It was really exciting to find activities to showcase what we do here at CDU,” said Dr. Ferrini.

“The PSP committee entrusted Dr. Ferrini and I to have the foresight, enthusiasm, and talent to bring this event to our campus. I truly thank them for working through the process with us,” Dr. Kandakai said.

CDU Science Day was created to achieve three key goals: to build upon the partnerships that CDU established with local school districts through recent pipeline initiatives; to increase the visibility of CDU to college-ready students; and to provide a grand atmosphere to publicly congratulate participants of the new President Scholars Program.

The event saw 76 early career college students and 21 high school students attend. Patricia Duran, a Job Corp student participant, said of the event: “I’ve been to many other science day events at other schools, but they’ve never put this kind of money and exposure into the program. I’ve never attended a science day like this. [The CDU faculty] really seems to care about students’ success.” In fact, post-event student feedback results showed that 40% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, “*One day I would like to attend CDU as a student, staff or faculty.*”

Daniela Martinez was recognized by President David M. Carlisle as an inaugural participant in CDU’s President Scholars Program. She and other participants are among South Los Angeles’s high-achieving students who have vested interests in science, health, and/or medicine. Over the course of one year, the President Scholars will take part in community engagement, research and mentoring activities designed to strengthen their foundation for college success. Additionally, the Scholars will become eligible to receive scholarship funds to supplement their college expenses while attending CDU.

The event’s final speaker was Sylvia Drew Ivie, Special Assistant to the President and daughter of the University’s namesake. She commended the students on their enthusiasm for learning and thanked them for spending the day on campus to learn more about CDU.

The President Scholars Program (PSP) Committee expressed their gratitude to the Office of Strategic Advancement for providing the financial backing for Science Day, as well as President Carlisle and Provost Michael for their continued leadership in support of new and innovative ideas. In the upcoming year, Eileen Forbes-Hill, Executive Director of Pipeline Programs, will have the honor of planning this event.

MPH Students “Walk Watts”

One Wednesday evening, Master of Public Health (MPH) students received an email from assistant professor Dr. Cynthia Gonzalez with an itinerary for the next day's class: "Please make sure to arrive at 6:00 p.m. We will be doing some mobile workshops, so please wear comfortable shoes."

From that point on, students knew that Thursday's class, MPH 524: Community Organizing in Urban Settings, would be no ordinary lecture.

As students filed in the following day with curiosity, Dr. Gonzalez gave them two options: take the Metro or go on foot to get to the various points of interest. It was ultimately decided that the class would walk the 1.4-mile stretch along Wilmington Avenue. The goal was to get to Locol, one of the newest and hippest restaurants in the neighborhood. Dr. Gonzalez advised them that this would be no ordinary walk and it would be important for students to take note of what they saw in the community throughout their trek.

Along the path, students took in the sounds of Watts: buzzing 6:00 p.m. evening traffic, Metro trains whizzing by, various smells from musk to sweet fruit on food carts, and the sight of broken sidewalks, empty lots, churches, and liquor stores. But the students also observed clean alleyways cleared from deliberate efforts of local city council to immediately remove waste, vibrant and three-dimensional art created by local youth on the sides of small businesses and community-driven beautification efforts like Watts Serenity Park. On the route back, there was one last stop – the infamous Watts Towers.

Dr. Gonzalez's goal for the community walkthrough was simple: to get her students to engage with the local community and see how the residents within it live. "We operate from our own lived experiences that inform our assumptions and biases," she said. "Without getting to where the people are and challenging our own perspectives, we conform to the status quo that often stigmatizes the communities we claim to serve."

For MPH students, it is critical to engage the community and "walk the talk" as they further their understanding of health disparities, social determinants of health, and how environment impacts health. Similarly, they embrace the broader definition of public health to include protective factors that preserve and promote the overall social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of a person.

As the class arrived back to campus, Dr. Gonzalez asked them to share their thoughts on the sites that they witnessed. For some, the community walkthrough reinforced class teachings through observing the community's assets and needs in real time. Lucia Vides had been connected to CDU for many years, but this was the first time she walked within the surrounding community. For her, seeing local residents so happy in an area that is often considered destitute changed her perception and made her feel welcome. "It was like we were family," she said.

Ultimately, the walkthrough reinforced to students that all communities are living and breathing places with a pulse and a personality.



Dr. Cynthia Gonzalez's MPH 524 students

More Campus News



Dr. Carlisle, Stella Robinson and Eva McGhee

Dr. Stella Robinson Receives Honor from Dr. Carlisle and CDU Faculty

Dr. Stella Robinson was recently honored by the President's Community Advisory Council (PCAC) for her contributions to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science that span over five decades.

Dr. Robinson was on the original Board of Directors of the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School from 1969 to 1970. Following her tenure on the Board of Directors, she was hired by the Dean of Community Medicine, Dr. M.

Alfred Haynes, to develop community outreach and support initiatives, including continuing nursing education. Throughout her life she has dedicated her efforts to supporting institutions that uplift underserved communities.

Now 90 years old, Dr. Robinson still lives near the University and has remained a staunch supporter of CDU and its initiatives, including the M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series.

The President's Community Advisory Council (PCAC) is the University's formal bridge to community leaders, allowing the University to listen to the community's concerns while also communicating important happenings and events at CDU.

THANK YOU

for helping us **EXCEED** our goal and making
our
**Annual Mission Maker
Campaign**
a success!

**\$111,078
RAISED**

**806 Gifts
and
124 Donors**

New Website Coming Soon!

CDU will be launching its newly-designed website in November!

The new website is being refreshed with the ultimate user experience in mind, featuring streamlined menus, simple navigation and a responsive layout. In addition to upgrading to a newer and fresher look, we'll also be improving the structure of our content, so users can get more information out of quick reads.

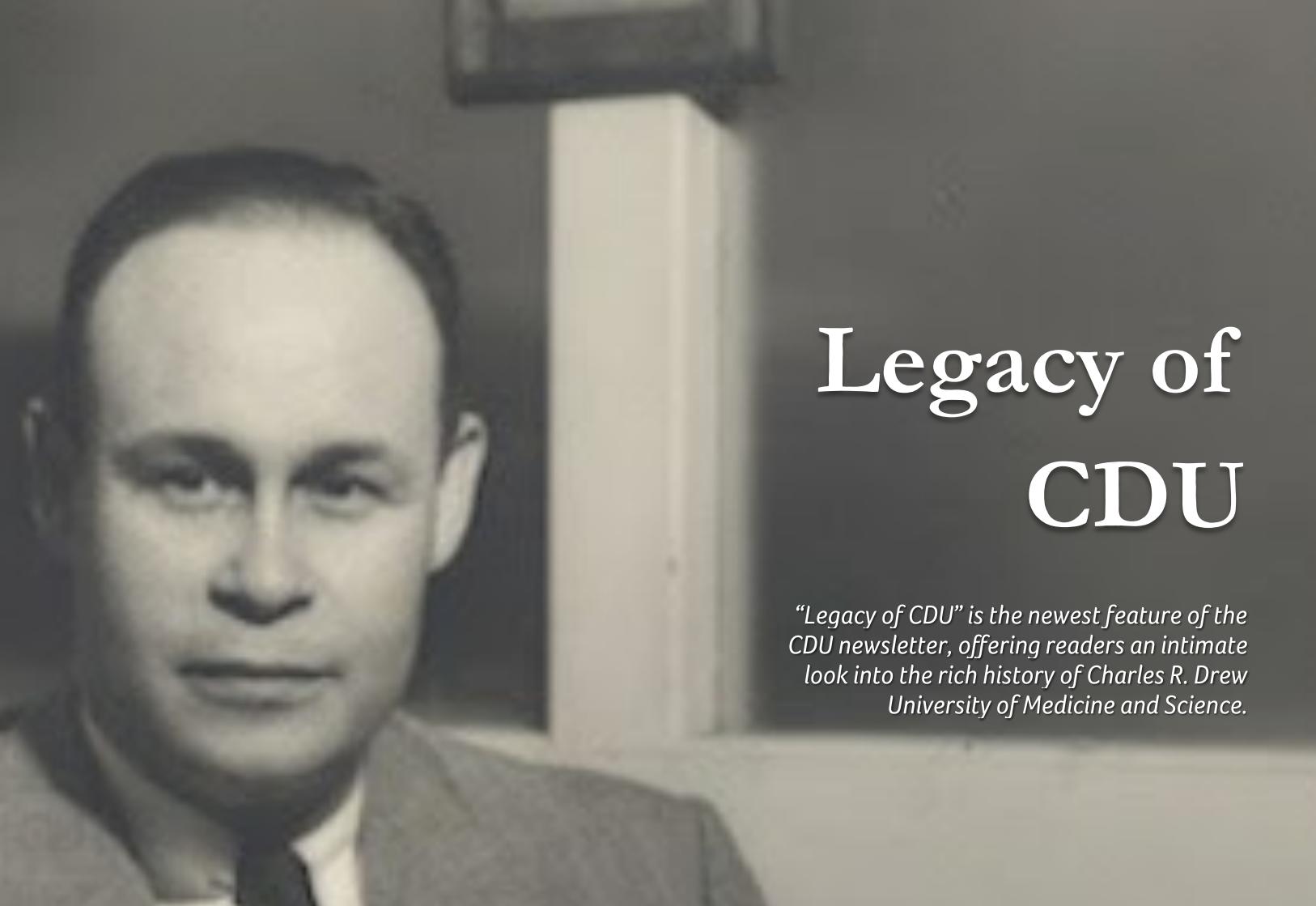
Stay tuned for our launch, coming November 2017!



CDU News is published monthly by the Office of Strategic Advancement

For more information, email advancement@cdrewu.edu or call (323) 357 3669

To submit a story email johnmerryman@cdrewu.edu



Legacy of CDU

"Legacy of CDU" is the newest feature of the CDU newsletter, offering readers an intimate look into the rich history of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Legacy: Hon. Mervyn M. Dymally



Senate Bill 1026, championed by former Senator Mervyn M. Dymally, created state support for CDU to the tune of \$1.2 million through an affiliation with the University of California. Dymally went on to become CDU's first Director of the University's Urban Health Institute and was named Professor Emeritus in the Life Sciences Institute, College of Medicine at CDU in April 2012. Today, the School of Nursing carries his name and legacy forward.

The opening of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing in 2010 helped address the critical nurse shortage in California, as the state still ranks near the bottom of all states in the number of RNs per capita. The school was the first comprehensive nursing program to open in Southern California in decades, and the first ever of its kind in South Los Angeles.

"For decades, this university has served our community with pride," Mervyn Dymally said in 2007 when plans for the nursing school were initially announced. "I know the work of [the School of Nursing] shall continue to improve the health status of our poor and underserved constituents."

The School of Nursing has graduated nearly 1000 skilled professionals into the workforce with meaningful employment since opening its doors in 2010.

CDU in the News: July 2017

LA Sentinel

[CDU/OASIS Clinic Crush Stigma for National HIV Testing Day \(7/6/2017\)](#)

Touro University

[Healthcare: A Human Right for All \(7/20/2017\)](#)

CDU Event Calendar

- July 30-Aug. 1: National Medical Association (NMA)
- July 31: Cancer Journal Club
- August 1: Compliance Training—Sexual Harassment & Title IX
- August 16: Compliance Training—Sexual Harassment & Title IX
- August 17: CPR Brochure
- September 16: Annual Unity Day
- October 6-8: Homecoming
- October 7: Jazz at Drew
- October 10: State of the University Address

[Click for more Calendar Items](#)

View photos from this month's events
and more at

[cdrewu.smugmug.com](#)

SAVE THE DATE

2017 JAZZ AT DREW

Great music for a greater mission

Saturday | October 7, 2017

On the campus of **CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY**
of MEDICINE AND SCIENCE
1731 E. 120th Street • Los Angeles, CA 90059

TICKET PRICES

- Soulful VIP Tables / \$600 / Table of 4
- Concert VIP Tables / \$500 / Table of 4
- Friends of Jazz VIP Tables / \$400 / Table of 4
- Cabanas (for 6 people) / \$1,300 (Limited)
- VIP Individual Tickets / \$125 / Table of 4
- General Admission / \$50
- Lawn Seating / \$65
- Full Page Color Ad / \$1,000

For questions and sponsorship information contact
(323) 357-3669 • [www.cdrewu.edu/jazzatdrew](#)

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