MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Alumni play a very important role in the University’s success. As a graduate of CDU your involvement in the CDU Alumni Association is an important first step in the development of a strong, vibrant organization that is capable of representing the interests of CDU alumni.

Greetings CDU Alumni,

I begin this message by honoring Dr. Gus Gill, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Otolaryngology and Senior Advisor to the President, who passed away on April 7, 2015. Dr. Gill began his career at CDU in 1978. During his 37 year career at the University, Dr. Gill was responsible for training a large number of Otolaryngologists practicing in the Los Angeles area. For 28 years, Dr. Gill served as the Department Chair in the Department of Otolaryngology. He was past President of the Faculty Council at CDU and former President of the University’s Academic Senate and Director of the former International Health Institute. On April 1, 2015 Dr. Gill retired from CDU. The University was privileged to honor Dr. Gill with the Legacy Leaders Award at last year’s Spring Gala. This year’s Gala was dedicated in his memory as a true legendary leader.

I’m excited to learn of your continued support to the University. Whether it is through the CDU Alumni Mentoring Program and attending University events, your involvement positively impacts the growth and success of CDU. So that we can better service our alumni community, we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the Alumni engagement survey mailed to you. Information on the survey is available in this edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

Sincerely,

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President and CEO

Charles R. Drew Orthopedic Surgeon Alumni Reception

On March 27, 2015 a Charles R. Drew Orthopedic Alumni Association Reception was hosted by Dr. Eleby Washington. The reconnecting took place at the Grand Lux Restaurant in the Palazzo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. A great time was had by all reuniting in fellowship, friendship and fun. The alumni gathering was held during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Pictured from left: Dr. George W. Balfour, Dr. Lance Weaver, Dr. Jacqueline Lexine-Hanna, Dr. Eleby Washington, Dr. James Brannon, and James A. Reed
Message from James A. Reed, Alumni Relations Unit

Greetings CDU Alumni!

This is a very exciting time of the year at CDU. As a testament to the provision and growth of the University, the 2015 Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Carson StubHub Center.

As Alumni Associate, I lead the effort to connect alumni and friends to CDU in support of the University. I encourage you to join us today! Your membership directly supports student affairs, alumni programming, and other initiatives we are doing on campus and nationwide. Your support and presence are needed and we desire to build lasting relationships with you! You are also invited to stop in and see us at any time during the year – it's your home no matter where you live!

The Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Alumni Association (CDUAA) proudly supports the traditions and academic excellence of our community founded University and its more than 4,565 alumni. Thank you for your continued support of the CDU Mission.

James A. Reed, MPA

A New Day and a New Site for CDU 2015 Commencement

A day of a new dawning has come for Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. For the first time in the University’s history our annual Spring Commencement ceremony will be held offsite. President Carlisle and the Ceremonies Committee of the Academic Senate have negotiated a partnership with AEG to have CDU, friends, family, faculty and our graduates enjoy this monumental experience in the state of the art confines of the StubHub Center. CDU has graduated over 550 MD’s, 2,700 Post Graduate physicians, 1200 physician assistants and 560 nurses and other health professionals. CDU will proudly graduate an estimated 205 this year adding to the illustrious cadre of CDU alumni. The University is proud to witness and share with this year’s graduates as they flip their tassels to become alumni from the StubHub Center in Carson, California. “I am happy to say that we have grown and my family will be able to witness this with me as the first graduating class offsite,” said Gerald Bempong, MPH candidate’15. CDU cordially invites alumni to witness this inaugural event on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 9:00am.
Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Linda Lott ‘75, A Pioneer and Trailblazer

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) alum Dr. Linda Lott’s career in dentistry has come full circle as an advocate and trailblazer. Dr. Lott’s initial exposure to CDU was between her junior and senior year at UCLA School of Dentistry in an externship to gain some more meaningful experiences in addition to those being offered in Westwood. Dr. Lott looked to gain an experience that would give her an opportunity to serve the Watts Willowbrook community in 1973. Having turned down another residency offer, she came to King/Drew for the rich and rewarding experiences in pediatric dentistry that it offered. Dr. Lott came over with Dr. Ronald Johnson, a lecturer from Harvard who set up the first pediatric dentistry specialty program. She immediately fell in love with the training that was being offered at King/Drew. “King/Drew was considered as the mecca of black specialty post-doctoral training in the United States and the best of the best came from all over because they were dedicated and wanted to give back.” We were really nurtured and encouraged to be the finest in our field and that made it a very special place.

Dr. Linda Lott, First African American Woman to graduate from UCLA College of Dentistry

My classmates were all leaders and we were so fortunate to get the training that was being offered at King/Drew.

Dr. Lott, the first African female to graduate from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 1974 recalls those times as a fun experience, one that kept them in the hospital at times, the entire night helping physicians while helping serve the community. “We did OR cases, and we were intricately involved with pediatricians” Lott recalls. Dr. Lott, who is a native of Chicago and a mother of three is now practicing in Agoura Hills California, and has known since she was in the 5th grade that she wanted to be a pediatric dentist.
It was an evening of celebration, fellowship, and recognition as supporters gathered at The Beverly Hilton Hotel for CDU’s 3rd Annual Legacy Leaders Spring Gala. Dr. David M. Carlisle, along with the University’s executive management, faculty, staff, corporate & community partners, alumni and students came together to honor their commitment to the University’s mission. The evening spotlighted two iconic contributors to the existence, resurgence, and evolution of the University by honoring Dr. Cornelius L. Hooper and Dr. Robert K. Ross with the 2015 Legacy Leaders award.

The one of a kind signature evening, with over 310 attendees offered live entertainment, music, and a climactic sharing of University accomplishments. Event proceeds will support some of the following:

- CDU Student Organizations
- Student Services~ scholarships
- Saturday Science Academy & upgrades and enhancements to campus facilities
CDU WELCOMES
New Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Please join us in welcoming Steve O. Michael, Ph.D., as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Dr. Michael earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration (Higher Education) from the University of Alberta, and his M.Ed. and B.B.Ed. in Business Education at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria. Most recently, Dr. Michael has served as Interim Executive Director for the Association of Chief Academic Officers of which he is one of the founders. He has served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Arcadia University (2009-2014), and Vice Provost at Kent State University (2002-2009). Dr. Michael has held faculty appointments as assistant, associate, and full professor at Kent State University, and full professor at Arcadia University.

His accomplishments include the establishment of the College of Health Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the School of Global Business, new campuses, and extensive international partnerships at Arcadia University. He has served as a reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission (North Central Association) and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and has provided training/orientation organized by the American Council on Education for new provosts and chief academic officers. He is one of the founders and also served as an executive leader of the National Association of Chief Diversity Officers and the Association of Chief Academic Officers. Dr. Michael has played important leadership roles at institutions of higher education in Russia, China, South Africa, and Romania. He also serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including the International Journal of Educational Management, and the Journal for Multicultural Education. We are very pleased to have Dr. Michael’s leadership and academic expertise here at CDU.

2015 Alumni Engagement Survey

We truly believe our alumni are one of the best sources of information regarding how Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) has prepared its graduates for employment, continuing education, and life in general. Your feedback and input is extremely informative. Data analysis from your survey responses will support our decision to put effective systems and processes in place that reflect the opinions of our alumni. There is still time to complete this year’s survey, we have extended the deadline through Friday May 8, 2015. Please let your input and voice be heard!
Winter Alumni Social 2015 “Celebrating Decades of Excellence and Compassion”

The beautiful Monterey Hill Restaurant was the perfect setting for this year’s intimate winter gathering of CDU Alumni and friends. CDU President and CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle and VP of Strategic Advancement Angela Minniefield joined event organizer Dr. and Mrs. Dewayne Cox ’81, CDU Alumni and President Carlisle, and Honoree Mrs. Delores Fleming, MS, MPH and family with President Carlisle.

James Reed, Alumni Associate, OSA, in greeting alumni from many graduating years.

The event honored Dolores “Dee-Fleming, MS, MPH, was awarded the CDU Alumni Legacy Award. Recipients are honored for their role and dedication to volunteer, community, and University service.

Alumni had the opportunity to enjoy an evening of fellowship, networking, and engaging with one another as they started the new year of continuing the Mission of the University.

CDU/UCLA College of Medicine 2015 Match Day

On March 20, 2015, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science celebrated one of the most anticipated days of the school year. Match Day- an annual rite of passage for medical students, a day where four years of hard work transformed into a new opportunity when medical students learn where they will go for their residency and train for the next three to seven years.

Eighteen overly anxious students sat with family, faculty, friends and loved ones to open their official Match Day envelope to determine the next chapter of their careers. CDU will see 72% of its medical graduates enter into primary care (Family medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics). The remaining CDU medical graduates will serve in non-primary care specialties such as urology, anesthesia, physical medicine & rehabilitation, and surgery.

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) announced this year’s results of what has turned out to be the largest Main Residency Match in NRMP history. Nearly 17,000 U.S. allopathic seniors and more than 9,000 other applicants matched to one of the more than 27,000 first-year positions offered in the 2015 Match. The 2015 Match included 41,334 total registrants, the largest number on record. The growth in the number of U.S. seniors, 651 more than last year, is due to rising medical school enrollments and the many new schools being established.
In Memoriam

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science mourns the loss of Dr. Gus Gill. Dr. Gill served for almost two decades as the President of the Academic Senate of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

The University has lost not only a physician and friend, but a tireless advocate for the underserved community of the County of Los Angeles. At last year’s Spring Gala, the University was privileged to honor Dr. Gill with the Legacy Leaders award.

Dr. Gus Gill was a Board Certified Otolaryngologist. He graduated from the University of Michigan (UM) Medical School and then completed his postgraduate training at the UM Medical Center. After a short appointment on the faculty at the University of Michigan, Dr. Gill moved to Los Angeles in 1976.

Dr. Gill was Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, at CDU from 1978 until November 2006. Dr. Gill was recently appointed Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology at CDU. His exemplary service record included 20 years as a member of the Los Angeles National Conference of Christians and Jews where he served as Board Chair for two years. He was an active participant with the interfaith Council in Los Angeles, and also served with various peace and justice oriented organizations.

A memorial service in Dr. Gill’s honor will be held at CDU on May 2, 2015 at 11:00am.

Student Alumni Network (SAN) Needs You!

The CDU Student Alumni Network (SAN) is a perfect way for alumni to interact with CDU students and assist in CDU’s mission of building diverse health professionals of tomorrow. The CDU SAN was established to enhance a student’s college experience and provide them with opportunities for personal growth. As a member of the Student Alumni Network, students have the opportunity to interact with alumni, connect in positive one-on-one mentoring relationships and attend special events, thus enhancing their student life. We look forward to alumni meeting and sharing with CDU students during this event. For more information please contact James Reed, Alumni Associate at jamesreed@cdrewu.edu or (323)563-4983. The SAN Career Day will take place May 29, 2015 10:00-2:00pm.
The CDU Annual Mission Maker Campaign is well underway. Since its launch on December 2, 2014, the campaign has raised $64,075 which represents 102% of the campaign goal of $62,400. The Office of Strategic Advancement would like to thank all of our donors and supporters who have given to assist CDU in reaching our goal. Your giving has aided the University in assisting with student, faculty and staff support as well as facility upgrades on campus. This year the campaign will support:

- Three $7,500 to 10,000 scholarships awarded to students from the College of Medicine, College of Science and Health and the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing;
- Continuing support for the Mission Maker Mini Grant program; and
- Enhancements to student support services

The Mission Maker Campaign will run through June 30, 2015. If your company provides a Matching Gift Program, please let us know. Contributions are still being accepted. Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference and helps us to continue to train tomorrow’s health care leaders today. Click here to donate today!

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Pictured: CDU Alumni join CDU President and CEO at Spring Gala. From left: Belinda Addo, ‘14 Ashanti Fisher ’13, Dr. David M. Carlisle, and Clement Aroh ’14