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 interest of CDU alumni.

May 31, 2014 will mark CDU’s 30th Annual Commencement Ceremony. You are one of over 4,000 alumni that graduated from the College of Medicine (Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program and/or Martin Luther King, Jr., Residency Training Programs), College of Science and Health (formerly the College of Allied Health) and the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. Since 1966, CDU has attracted some of the most talented students from around the nation and has established a tradition of excellence in the education of skilled and compassionate health care professionals. Currently, our graduates proudly share a common training experience; including the ability to provide high quality patient care to a diverse patient population even under the most challenging circumstances. This family of graduates has made significant contributions in the health professions and has exhibited medical leadership across California, the nation and internationally. It is time to support an organization that can serve as the voice of CDU alumni. An organization that recognizes and celebrates alumni achievements, provides information relevant to alumni, facilitates networking, provides continuing education and supports the interests and professional activities of current and future CDU alumni. That organization is the CDU Alumni Association.

A major aim of the CDU Alumni Association is to ensure that the University continues to be an educational, support, and networking resource for the rest of your life. The purpose of the CDU Alumni Association is:

- To acquire and disseminate information about CDU and CDU Alumni;
- To provide a networking vehicle between CDU Alumni;
- To provide opportunities for continuing education;
- To provide a vehicle for supporting, promoting and advancing the activities of CDU, and professional activities of CDU alumni and current students; and
- To raise funds to support the above initiatives, scholarships and education at CDU.

Residents of the MLK Training Programs, as you may be aware, MLK Jr. Hospital was the training site for all our residency programs, but it was not the educational sponsor. You completed your residency training through the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science College of Medicine Program. A point of fact, all verifications of residency training are provided by the University (not MLK). Accordingly, MLK has no alumni association.

In our continuing efforts to reach out to our alumni, we still need your help in getting the word out about the CDU Alumni Association. We have had some success in this endeavor; however, there still remains much to do. Please help us maintain your alma mater’s tradition by becoming an active member of the CDU Alumni Association. Visit http://www.cdrewu.edu/Alumni for more information.

Over the next several weeks you will receive information concerning CDU and the evolving CDU Alumni Association. You can also expect to receive your invitation to participate in the 30th Annual Commencement Ceremony.

We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you in the creation of an organization that serves the interests of CDU current and future alumni.
Visit http://www.cdrewu.edu/CDUSpringGala2014 for information on the Legacy Leaders Spring Gala. For information about sponsorship opportunities or tickets visit https://donate.cdrewu.edu/Spring_Gala_Event-tickets.asp or call (323) 357-3669.
February 16 - Neurosurgeon Dr. Keith L. Black to speak - A Healthcare Tsunami: Decline of Cognitive Function with Aging - An event presented by Crenshaw Christian Center’s Alzheimer’s Board, in association with CDU - 1:00 pm at Crenshaw Christian Center, 7901 S. Vermont Ave., LA 90044. A program of the CDU Academic Senate Committee on Clinical and Community Programs. Click for additional information.

Visit the CDU Farmers’ Market every Friday and second Sunday of the month. The Farmer’s Market is located at Crenshaw Christian Center, 7901 S. Vermont Ave., LA 90044. Hours: Fridays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm on the second Sunday.

Save the Date
CDU’s 30th Annual Commencement Ceremony May 31, 2014

Have a topic to share?
If you would like to submit an article, information or have a question you would like to submit for the newsletter, please contact Jackie Brown, Director of Communications and Alumni Relations at (323) 563-5963 or email jackiebrown@cdrewu.edu.

Alumni Spotlight

Adrienne D. Mims, MD, ’86 (Geriatrics), medical director of Atlanta-based Alliant GMCF, the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Georgia, appointed president of the American Health Quality Association. She will lead the AHQA Board of Directors and serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all AHQA committees. Additionally, she will be the official spokesperson for the organization.

Carmen Saunders, MAOM, MBA, RT.(R) ’86 and Eugene Hasson, MS, RT.(R) ’95 (COSH), both appointed Assistant Professors, Academic Series, in the College of Science and Health. Professor Saunders is a Clinical Coordinator and Instructor in the Radiologic Technology program at CDU. Professor Hasson is the Program Director, for the Radiologic Technology Program at CDU.

CDU is Proud of the Success and Achievements of our Alumni - We are looking for alumni to feature in our “Alumni Spotlight.” We would like to share your success and achievements with your classmates and other CDU family. Please tell us about your recent professional appointment, promotion, award, new addition to your family. Share the work you are doing in underserved and under-resourced communities. Send your story and a high resolution photo to cdualumniassociation@cdrewu.edu.

In Memoriam

Mitchell W. Spellman, MD, PhD 1919 - 2013
Dr. Mitchell Spellman was Founding Dean, Executive Dean and Professor of Surgery at CDU from 1969 to 1978. Dr. Spellman was a pioneer among African-Americans in Academic Medicine. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and valedictorian from Dillard University in New Orleans in 1940. In 1944, he graduated from Howard University College of Medicine and was ranked 2nd in his class. Influenced by his mentor, Dr. Charles R. Drew, he then began 11 years of post-medical surgical training at Cleveland General Hospital, Freedman’s Hospital and finished at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Spellman received his PhD in surgery from the University of Minnesota. Read more.

Frank Staggers, Sr., MD 1926 - 2013
Dr. Frank Staggers, a Urologist, was a monumental leader of California physicians, particularly the State’s ethnic physicians, as well as other health professionals. He served in a variety of leadership roles, particularly as President of the Golden State Medical Association (a chapter of the National Medical Association) and as President of the California Medical Association. Dr. Staggers is remembered for the warm, engaging, and supportive manner in which he mentored many of today’s healthcare leaders as well as for the strength of his advocacy for the health priorities of under-resourced communities. Dr. Staggers was married to former State Senator Teresa Hughes of Los Angeles, a major supporter of CDU, who passed away two years ago.
Charles R. Drew University Alumni Association (CDUAA)—All graduates of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (including Residents from the KDMC Training Programs) are members of the CDU Alumni Association. Honorary alumni include honorary degree recipients, former faculty and supporters. Register for chapter membership (College of Medicine, College of Science and Health and Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing) at www.cdrewu.edu - Click on Alumni.

Support for the CDU Alumni Association—As a supporter of the CDU Alumni Association and its affiliate chapters you have the satisfaction of knowing your financial support is making a difference in our ability to enhance the educational experience and promote the institutional advancement of CDU. Visit https://donate.cdrewu.edu/scholarships_2.asp for information on how to make a donation to the College of Medicine Alumni Association’s 1,000 x $1,000 Fund; Albert J. Saunders, Sr. College of Science and Health Scholarship Fund; Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing: Dr. Gloria J. McNeal Founding Dean Fund; The Mrs. Lillian Harkless Mobley Presidential Endowed Scholarship Fund and Mission Maker. Thank you in advance for your support!

CDU has earned designation as a minority-serving institution by the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, and its College of Medicine is recognized by the Department of Education as a Historically Black Graduate Institution. The University is also a charter member of the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools.