Welcome to the new CDU Alumni Newsletter. As President of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU), I am grateful to introduce myself and to express my deepest appreciation for the honor of being President of this noble institution. This has been a year of notable success for the University and I want to share a few of our achievements:

- I am pleased to report that the University academic programs and research programs are doing well. Recent accomplishments include the University’s removal from WASC probation, increased number of applications to the College of Science and Health, accreditation of the Urban Master of Public Health Program by the Council on Education for Public Health, and accreditation of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.
- From an Administrative perspective, we welcomed two new executives to the President’s Office who will focus on strengthening the University’s operations and advancing the University’s strategic priorities for communication and fundraising.
- The University’s future includes a focused plan for sustainable growth of our academic and research programs.
- Our time is now! With the recent Supreme Court decision to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), CDU as a dually designated Historically Black Graduate Institution and Hispanic Serving Institution, is uniquely positioned to serve as a model academic center, while continuing our legacy to prepare a workforce that represents the community and provides care with excellence and compassion, especially to underserved populations.

This is “Commencement Edition” newsletter and on behalf of the Charles Drew University (CDU) family, I want to congratulate all graduates on your achievements. We also salute the families whose love and support made all the accomplishments a winning “team” effort.

As you go on to the next stage of your career; we share with you the obligations that go along with being among a privileged few. Healthcare is changing rapidly with innovations occurring daily. Becoming a healthcare provider means a commitment to lifelong learning. Being a healthcare provider means you are also a teacher. As such, not only must you teach patients, but also colleagues and the public regarding health promotion and disease prevention. As alumni, you have the power to transform the lives of others by sharing what you have learned. Service to the community is imbedded in the CDU mission. The community includes professional societies and committees you participate on as well as where you reside and work. Thus membership in the CDU Alumni Association, as well as national and local health professions organizations, will help in your profession as well as your career advancement. A major aim of the alumni association is to ensure that CDU continues to be an educational, support, and networking resource for the rest of your life. Log on to www.cdu-alumni.net for membership information.

As we celebrate you, the Class of 2012, I ask that you pledge to continue to give back to your alma mater, through your service, donations, encouragement, and involvement in the CDU Alumni Association. My thanks to those who have. We look forward to hearing from and working with you.

Jackie Brown
Director, Alumni Relations
28th Annual Commencement Ceremony
“Charles R. Drew University: What Happens Here Changes the World”

At CDU’s 28th Commencement on June 2nd, degrees and certificates were conferred upon 252 students. Graduates from every CDU program were honored in one ceremony with 28 from the Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program, 61 from the College of Science and Health, and 153 from the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. The commencement theme, “Charles R. Drew University: What Happens Here Changes the World” was a tribute to the beginning of new careers dedicated to eliminating health disparities of the underserved.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, PhD, a long-time supporter of CDU, was the commencement speaker and received The President’s Medal, which recognizes extraordinary and unique service to CDU. As Chair of the Board of Councilor’s, Dr. Ridley-Thomas has played an invaluable role in the University’s development. In his address, he discussed the challenges and opportunities in the health care field and the importance of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for Los Angeles County. Honorable Ridley-Thomas ended his statements that this ceremony, “…is a commission to honor your personal, individual achievement, to heal when possible, to comfort when necessary and to serve by providing the best quality of care always.”

Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. PhD, DSc., distinguished National Institutes of Health administrator and biomedical researcher, was presented with an honorary doctoral degree of humane letters for his career’s commitment to biomedical research in minority institutions. During his career in various positions of leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Dr. McNairy has been the driving force behind the success of a number of innovative programs that strengthened the biomedical research infrastructure at both emerging and research-intensive institutions throughout the nation. He has also been a leader in developing programs that address health disparities and health-related science education for K-12 students and the general public.

The Board of Trustees presented a Medal of Honor to John Ruffin, PhD, the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities. First awarded in 1998, the Medal of Honor is bestowed to the recipient who best exemplifies the spirit of CDU’s mission, to serve the underserved with excellence and compassion. Dr. Ruffin has dedicated his research to medically underserved populations and supports programs to increase minority health professionals.

The day before the ceremony, Congresswoman Laura Richardson of California’s 37th District honored CDU for its achievements and congratulated the Class of 2012 in the Congressional Record. She stated, “Each member of the graduating class has chosen a career path that will not only be exciting and rewarding, but will make a true difference in the lives of so many people.”

Message from the President

• The timing for the opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center in 2014 is perfect, as the need for primary health services will increase exponentially when more people take advantage of the health insurance coverage that PPACA will provide.
• The timing for the University to build and rebuild our relationships with you, our alumni, is also critical and can only help the University advance and be recognized for its academic and research excellence. I want you to know that I understand that relationships have mutual benefits and expectations, so I will start by sharing what you can look forward to from me and the University’s Alumni Relations team:
  ◊ Supporting you on furthering your academic and professional pursuits and creating an environment on campus to let you know that you are welcome to be a part of our growth
  ◊ Creating a forum where leadership within the university avails themselves to meet with alumni though an Alumni Council
  ◊ Hosting at least one Alumni reception annually
  ◊ Presenting/attending professional events you lead or participate in
  ◊ Allocating appropriate resources to strengthen CDU Alumni Relations activities. For example, you can expect to hear directly from our students
  ◊ Quarterly Alumni Newsletters
• I will also share what I am hoping you will do as a CDU alumnus:
  ◊ Come back and visit the campus
  ◊ Mentor future alumni (within your field)
  ◊ Hold lectures on campus
  ◊ Be ambassadors for the University
  ◊ Communicate to me what I can do to better serve you as alumni and what could have been done to better serve you as students
  ◊ Donate your time, money and resources to advance the University as an institution of academic and research excellence

As I complete my first year as President at CDU, I continue to be inspired by this amazing institution that was born out of despair in the 1960s, and despite its limited resources is making major educational and research accomplishments, giving hope to the communities we serve. I am gratified by your support and want to hear from you. I look forward to having you return to visit the campus.

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President and CEO
Class of 2012 Student Awards
Represents awards listed in 28th Annual Commencement Program

College of Medicine

Dr. Charles R. Drew Award—Recipient: Manuel Diego Campa
This is the College of Medicine’s highest award, presented to the graduating senior who has most exemplified the combination of compassion and academic excellence over all years of training.

Dr. Mitchell Spellman Award—Recipient: Omar Kattan
This medal is named for the first Dean of the Postgraduate Medical School, and is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated unique and noteworthy achievement outside normal course work (but not limited to) work in international health or the conduct of outstanding research.

Dr. Geraldine Burton-Branch Award—Recipient: Gezman Abdullahi
Named for the esteemed, pioneering local physician, who has long served the community and the King/Drew Medical Center, is presented to the graduate who most exemplifies excellence in community service and/or public health.

Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay Award—Recipient: Yelba Castellon-Lopez
Named for the Cuban physician who discovered the role of Aedes aegypti mosquito in the transmission of yellow fever, is presented to the graduate who most exemplifies excellence in community service and/or public health.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award—Recipient: Norma Sanchez
Named for the noted civil rights leader, is presented to the graduate who most exemplifies peer support and advocacy.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Award—Recipient: Sarah Gonzalez
Named for the first African-American woman to receive the M.D. degree, is presented to the graduate who best exemplifies an excellent performance despite adverse circumstances.

College of Science and Health

Dr. Charles W. Buggs Award—Recipients: Ijeoma (Ejoma) E. Ike; Denise A. Wadzani; Andre-David Kahwach
The College of Science and Health’s highest award, named after the pioneer of allied health training at Drew University, who was a prominent microbiologist, is presented to the graduate who has maintained the highest grade point average throughout training and exemplified personal characteristics of competence and compassion.

Dr. Jack Mitchell Award—Recipients: Henry Lew; John Flores
Named for a community physician who was an early advocate of allied health education at Drew University, this award is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated leadership among his or her peers in college-university activities and in the provision of health care to community residents.

Dr. Raymond Kivel Award—Recipient: Ijeoma Ike
Named for the medical director whose leadership garnered nationwide prominence for the MEDEX Physician Assistant Program, this award is presented to the graduating senior whose voluntary community service has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the delivery of health care in medically underserved communities.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Award—Recipient: Hannibal Semien
Named in honor of the outstanding educator whose life and legacy is an inspiration to all, this award is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated the ability to persist in the face of adversity.

Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing

Dr. Gloria J. McNeal Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice Award—Recipients: Valerie Van and Raquel Igana
The award, established by the Nursing faculty in honor of Dr. Gloria J. McNeal, Founding Dean of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing, is given annually to a student whom the faculty has selected and who demonstrates evidence of clinical excellence in caring, clinical judgment, and leadership in practice. The student demonstrates dedication to the nursing profession and commitment to supporting nursing excellence.

Namahyoke Sockum Curtis Excellence in Academic Achievement—Recipients: Lorenzo Paz and Stephanie Luu
The faculty of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing established the Namahyoke Sockum Curtis Excellence in Academic Achievement award. The award is given annually to a student graduating with an outstanding grade point average and the strongest faculty recommendations attesting to overall academic and clinical achievement. The student demonstrates dedication to the nursing profession and a commitment to supporting nursing excellence.

For a complete list of awards and recipients visit, the CDU website at www.cdrewu.edu - Click on Alumni
Alumni Roll Call
CDU is actively seeking to connect with lost alumni. We want to keep you informed of your alma mater’s activities and accomplishments. We also want to provide you, with a vehicle to connect with your former classmates and friends.

If you are an alumnus or know the whereabouts of other alumni, please send us an email with your name, mailing address and e-mail address to cdualumniassociation@cdrewu.edu or write to

Jackie Brown
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CDU Mission
To conduct education, research, and clinical services in the context of community engagement to train health professionals who promote wellness, provide care with excellence and compassion and transform the health of underserved communities.

CDU is Proud of the Success and Achievements of our Alumni—We are looking for alumni to feature in our “Alumni Spotlight.” The Alumni Spotlight is a page on our web site where your achievements are shared, highlighted, and celebrated. If you would like to be featured, send us an email at cdualumniassociation@cdrewu.edu. Is there a classmate you would like us to spotlight? Send us their information or ask them to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to

Veronica Aguilar, MPH, ‘10 - Recipient of the 2012 CDU Distinguished Alumni Award
Manuel Campa, MD, ‘12 - Inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society
Glennville March, MD, ’91 - (Residency Program-Ophthalmology) - Recipient of the 2012 National Medical Fellowships Distinguished Alumni Award
Keith Wilson, MD, ‘81 (Residency Program-OB/GYN) - Recipient of the 2012 National Medical Fellowships Corporate Innovation Award
Jose Robert Gaticales, MSN, ’12 - Inaugural Commencement Class Speaker, Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing

Charles Drew University Alumni Association (CDUAA)—All graduates of Charles Drew University (including Residents from the King Drew Medical Center) are members of the Charles Drew University 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 School of Nursing) at www.cdu-alumni.net and enjoy membership benefits.

Purpose—The Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Alumni Association seeks to maintain, foster and expand the unique and special relationship that exists between a College, University and its Alumni.

Why should you become active in the CDU Alumni Association?—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 and has exhibited medical leadership across the wide variety of communities in which they serve. As a CDU alumnus, you received special and unique training which significantly impacted your life. You now have the opportunity to share this gift with others. The Alumni Association is your vehicle for supporting promoting and advancing the professional activities of alumni and current students.

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 professional advancement of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. 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, and the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing: Dr. Gloria J. McNeal Founding Dean Fund. Thank you in advance for your support!