Earlier this month we suffered a tremendous loss in the passing of Dr. Samuel J. Shacks, a CDU alumnus and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pediatrics at CDU and UCLA.

Dr. Shacks graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. His graduate studies took him to the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at UC Irvine, where in 1972 he became the University’s first African American PhD graduate and delivered the University’s Commencement Address. A skillful scientist, he completed postdoctoral training in immunology at Brigham Hospital at Harvard University. He was a Fellow of the new Immunobiology Group at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. But his true love was service to the underserved in South Los Angeles. He received his Residency Training in Pediatrics at MLK Hospital and served as Clinical Scholar in Allergy and Immunology.

He accepted a faculty position at CDU in 1983, where he served with distinction until 2006. As a scholar, community activist, and faithful board member of the Black Community Health Task Force, the breadth of Dr. Shack’s knowledge was vast and legendary. Dr. Shacks had a special voice and a fearless willingness to speak truth to power at all times.

We will miss his erudition, his passion for justice, and his love of community. It is in his memory that I would like to dedicate this edition of the CDU Newsletter.

On July 15th, I attended the Candle Light Vigil, hosted by the Charles R. Drew University Student Government (CDUSG) to honor the victims of gun violence. I would like to commend our students and thank them for their leadership, advocacy and activism.

Here is an excerpt of the message I shared: It is not hard for us to imagine that the recent events in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Falcon Heights, Minnesota, Dallas, Texas, and Nice, France may have caused you to personally confront a set of raw emotional questions about where you fit and how you can survive the current state of our nation. Keep your heads and your hearts in balance. Look toward the future and celebrate both the struggles that have led to the advances we as a world have made, and think about how we can advance the causes of social justice, equality and peace. Be mindful, be safe, be vigilant, and be constructive. Endure hardship with strength, determination, and the resolve to overcome evil with good.

David M. Carlisle
President and CEO
The First Day, First Year at CDU’s College of Medicine

There are 29 students this year in the CDU College of Medicine. They came from near and far. Some even drove across the country! The first day they seemed as ready for the task as they did two weeks later when this photo was taken. The White Coat Ceremony is a tradition which helps them take that first step to become a doctor. At right is a video chat with student Frederick Ferguson. Here are more photos from the first day and the White Coat Ceremony. We wish the class of 2020 well!

Welcome to Dr. Jinny Oh, Dean of Student Affairs

Dr. Jinny Oh spent over 15 years working in higher education administration in a variety of posts such as Director of Admissions, Director of Student Affairs and in the areas of student activities and student development in California as well as in Chicago. She was raised in Los Angeles and attended Commonwealth Elementary, John Burroughs Jr. High and is a proud graduate of Fairfax High, where former NBA players Chris Mills and Sean Higgins played. She double majored in Political Science and Communications from Loyola University of Chicago. She completed part of her graduate studies and internship at UCLA and earned her M.Ed. in Higher Educational Administration/Counseling from Loyola.

CDU Library Archives 50 Years of CDU Scholarly Contributions

By Katherine Russell, PhD, Librarian

To get to the LibGuide go to the CDU Health Sciences Library home page (http://library.cdrewu.edu) and click on the “Featured Libguide: CDU Scholarship” link (red).

Fifty years ago, the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School began training healthcare professionals to meet the needs of the South Los Angeles community. Over time, the training efforts increased and diversified, as did the school, which changed its name to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. CDU now trains health professionals in the medical, nursing, public health and allied health fields.

At the same time that the educational activities were increasing, many of the faculty and students were involved in clinical care at the King/Drew Medical Center. In addition, some faculty established research facilities, with projects focusing on both basic and clinical questions.

Eager to share their experiences as teachers, clinicians and researchers, the CDU pioneers began to publish and present their findings at conferences. This has resulted in a substantial body of scholarly activity from CDU.

News from Jazz at Drew October 1: The Dazz Band Added!

The Dazz Band has been added to the Jazz at Drew lineup. Be among the first to purchase tickets to Jazz at Drew, coming up October 1! Tickets will be on sale soon at www.cdrewu.edu/jazzatdrew. This is more than entertainment. Your purchase of Jazz at Drew tickets will support this fundraiser for the expansion of CDU.

Other performers include the legendary: Kenny Burrell and the L.A. Unlimited Jazz Orchestra, Poncho Sanchez (pictured), Dwight Trible and Anthony Faulkner. Additional artists to be announced.

The planning continues: Roland Betts, founder, Jazz at Drew and Reggie Andrews, veteran producer and music teacher, who launched many music careers and co-wrote with Ndugo Chancler “Let it Whip” by the Dazz Band.
Dr. David Satcher, former US Surgeon General to Keynote 11th Drug Addiction Symposium at CDU August 5th

Also: Wilson Compton, M.D., M.P.E. Deputy Director, National Institute of Drug Abuse

The 11th Drug Abuse Research Symposium will be held Friday, August 5, 2016 from 8:00am to 4:00pm at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU). The keynote speakers will be David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Founder and Senior Advisor of Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine, 16th US Surgeon General and Wilson Compton, M.D., M.P.E., Deputy Director, National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). Themes include prescription drug abuse, marijuana legislation and electronic cigarettes.

As part of the Symposium, slots for presentations by junior researchers have been reserved in the broad field of substance abuse. Read more here.

Professor Cynthia Davis and Hip Hop/Actor Common in South Africa

CDU faculty member and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) board President Cynthia Davis speaks at a celebration of the Ithembalabantu (People’s Hope) Clinic in Umlazi in July. This clinic was AHF’s first treatment center outside of the US. Rap sensation Common is seated to her left. He performed to a crowd of 12,000 people who marched to remind everyone to #keepthepromise to support HIV/AIDS Funding.

On-Site Admissions Works for CDU!

By Laurell Black

On Saturday, June 25th, the Admissions team hosted an “On-Site Admission” session. The event was held to reach out to, and conditionally admit, prospective high school and transfer students who had not yet made a decision on the college/university they would attend this upcoming fall. Results? It was an unparalleled success. In addition to the Admissions team, a presentation was made by the Financial Aid Department, Read more

CDU Honors The Signing of The Americans with Disabilities Act

By Gary Verón

On July 26, 1990, 3,000 people gathered on the White House lawn to witness a historic act. The sea of faces focused on President George H.W. Bush as he made the world’s first declaration of equality for the disabled. “Three weeks ago,” he said, “we celebrated our nation’s Independence Day. Today, we rejoice in and celebrate another ‘Independence Day,’ one long overdue. Read more

CDU CALENDAR: August 2016

July 30-August 3: NMA Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Los Angeles, J.W. Marriott at LA Live
August 3: STEP-UP and Project STRIDE 5th HS Summer Research Symposium, CDU Campus.
August 9 and 10: Discover CDU (All programs).
August 11 and 12: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: Precision Medicine, Bioethics and the Achievement of Health Equity, CDU campus.
October 1: Jazz at Drew, CDU Campus.
More at www.cdrewu.edu

Click to join us!

For more information, visit http://www.cdrewu.edu/ and follow CDU on: Facebook, Twitter @cdrewu, and Instagram @charlesrdrewu

Photo Gallery

July 2016 CDU News

Farewell to SON Interim Dean Rebecca Harris Smith and much more!
Alumni News
Attention Alumni:
The CDU Annual Alumni Reception is in L.A. on August 1, 2016

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU), the Charles R. Drew Medical Society (CRDMS), and the Golden State Medical Society (GSMS) will honor Dr. Richard Allen Williams for his appointment as the incoming 117th National Medical Association (NMA) President. This will take place Monday, August 1, 2016 at 6pm in the Diamond Ball Room of the JW Marriott Hotel, during the National Medical Association’s 114th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly.

This annual occasion will be attended by many who support the University as well as those who lead the efforts of the continued mission of the National Medical Association. To RSVP for the event call (323) 357-3669 or email at advancement@cdrewu.edu.

Thursday, August 11, 2016 & Friday, August 12, 2016
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

CDU: CELLS (Community Engaged in Learning Life Science) Seeking Justice

In March of 2015, President Obama announced the Precision Medicine Initiative, an effort that seeks to tailor treatment based on genes, lifestyle and environment. The launching of this initiative has elevated discussion on patient empowerment, epigenetics and bioethics. The 1st annual Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) CELLS (Community Engaged in Learning Life Sciences) Seeking Justice is a unique workshop that provides an opportunity for CDU and King/Drew High School students to learn about and understand genomics, health disparities, and the ethics of personalized medicine as revealed by the remarkable story of Henrietta Lacks and insightful breakout sessions that will integrate academia, clinicians, community and policy.

The workshop will include an engaging exploration of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: Precision Medicine, Bioethics and the Achievement of Health Equity,” featuring best selling author Rebecca Skloot, along with the Lacks Family and CDU Researchers and Faculty. Skloot and the Lacks Family will introduce the CDU campus and surrounding community to the woman behind HeLa cells, the children who survived her, and will examine the intersection of race, poverty, and scientific ethics in one of the most important medical discoveries.

Day 1 (8/11) is open to the CDU & King/Drew High School community along with community members and community organizations. Day 1, will include: Read More | Flyer