Upcoming Events

November 16, Alumni Advisory Board Meet and Greet

Stay tuned for the unveiling of the new Alumni and Office of Development WebPages.

Did You Know?

Charles R. Drew University will lead a disease prevention and health promotion response team through the African Sub-Sahara to Angola.

This team is comprised of African-American practicing physicians, politicians, musicians and other representatives that will assist in educating, screening, and testing Angolans for HIV and AIDS. Funding for this program is received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) an estimated 430,000 will have died of AIDS by 2009. There is currently an estimated HIV population of 240,000 in Angola with 110,000 AIDS orphans.

Jazz at Drew Celebrates Fifteen Years


Masters of Ceremonies for the event were James Janisse and Kevin Nash. James Janisse attended the event for the twelfth year. He is familiar to the jazz community as an on-air host on KJAZZ 88.1fm radio. Kevin Nash’s sultry voice can be heard on L.A.’s KJLH 102.3fm radio station.

Roland H. Betts, founder and co-executive producer of Jazz at Drew, envisioned providing the community with the opportunity to enjoy the sounds of leading jazz musicians.

The event also included the inauguration of the Lillian Mobley Health Pavilion, where participants received free health screenings and educational materials for diseases such as: HIV, high cholesterol, diabetes and glaucoma.

Continued on inside...
Alumni Return to CDREWU

Special Honorees for this year’s Jazz at Drew included William Speight, Jr., M.D., Xylinia Bean, M.D., The Honorable Louis Stokes and Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Dr. Speight was honored with the Jazz at Drew Ambassador Award. He has practiced in the specialty of Emergency Medicine since 1960 and has provided healthcare to the South Los Angeles community through the King/Drew Medical Center for over 30 years. His dedication and compassion toward the practice of emergency medicine for the South Los Angeles community has earned him the 2005 Jazz at Drew Ambassador Award.

Dr. Xylinia Bean has served as the Director of High Risk Infant Follow-Up programs at King/Drew Medical Center for over a decade. She is also an Associate Professor of Pediatrics for CDREWU. For the past 13 years, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Council on Perinatal Substance Abuse of Los Angeles County and is an active member of the March of Dimes “Healthy Babies-Healthy Communities” Steering Committee. Dr. Bean’s lifetime commitment to the health of communities has earned her A Woman of Integrity Award, presented by the Black Community Health Task Force.

The Honorable Louis Stokes was elected to the United States Congress on November 6, 1968. He was the first African-American Member of Congress from the state of Ohio. After serving 30 years in office he retired from Congress on January 2, 1999 and is currently Senior Counsel at Squire, Sanders and Dempsey L.L.P. Louis Stokes graduated from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1953, one year prior to the U.S. Supreme court decision on Brown v. Board of Education. He proceeded to try the Terry case in Cleveland. The case involved a white police officer who arrested two black males and a white male because the officer “didn’t like them.” Louis Stokes was unaware that the case would become “a landmark constitutional law case” that is taught in law schools nationwide. Therefore, the University was pleased to present the Honorable Louis Stokes with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Leadership Award.

Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. is currently an Associate Director for the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Director of the Division of Research Infrastructure (DRI). Dr. McNairy achieved distinction for his dedication to advancing the nation’s biomedical research capacity and for his efforts to broaden opportunities for underrepresented minority institutions. Appropriately, Dr. McNairy was presented with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Leadership Award.


Calling All Alumni!

Have you recently been married, received a promotion at work, had a new addition to your family?

Let us know by sending us a photo and your announcement to alumni@cdrewu.edu

Steve Hilton Visits Mary Henry Child Development Center

Chairman, President and CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Steven M. Hilton visited the University’s Head Start Program on October 21st. The Foundation conducts The Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program (H/EHSTP) with a focus on creating opportunities for the needs of children with disabilities. It holds a partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Head Start Bureau and the California Institute on Human Services (CIHS) at Sonoma State University to provide specialized training and continued support to Early Head Start (EHS) and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs.

This initiative includes two phases. Phase I was conducted between 1997 and 2002 and provided over $11 million to CIHS toward the development of a four-year curriculum, provision of training support and evaluation and to EHS and MSHS teams on the inclusion of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The major aspect of the program is the training. It is conducted over a four day period and is called SpecialQuest.

Phase II of the initiative is being conducted between 2002 and 2007. During this phase CIHS was granted additional funding to provide a second phase to H/EHSTP for newly funded EHS programs. Facets of the first phase are continued here with the extension of SpecialQuest training from four to twelve days and onsite support over the next five years. By the completion of Phase II, H/EHSTP will have served a total of 48,000 children enrolled in Early Head Start. Nineteen thousand of these children are infants and toddlers who are at-risk or with considerable disabilities that were served during Phase I.

The Charles R. Drew University Head Start Program provides services to over 1700 children, some with significant disabilities. Gail Stewart-Garber, Director of Annual Giving provided Mr. Hilton with a tour of the Mary Henry Child Development Center. There he had an opportunity to meet with staff members and discuss their experiences with the SpecialQuest Training Program. Most importantly, Mr. Hilton was able to meet the children who are served by the Head Start Program.

From left to right: Henry Okonkwo-02, Sybil M. Bovdenave-97, Lajuana Thompson-05, Mark Fernandez-02, Wynona Brown-01, Louis Armstead-97, Barbara Pearson-06, Eugene Hasson-95, Dr. Anita Bralock-95

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As the University begins to reshape its Alumni Association, it strives to include the participation of alumni who are proud of the University’s mission and dedicated towards its future. Such alumni have an opportunity to serve on the Alumni Association Advisory Board. To that end, a meet and greet event was held on October 12th in conjunction with the College of Science and Health’s Office of Student Affairs. Former students were introduced to the new Alumni Association and the various roles they can take to participate.