Dr. Carlisle Convenes CDU Community to Discuss Implications of Gun Violence During Forum

In light of the tragic mass shooting that took place in nearby Thousand Oaks earlier this month, Dr. Carlisle, College of Medicine dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and others led a discussion in the Keck Auditorium on November 13 on the implications that mass shootings have on college campuses and the nation as a whole.

The emotion in the room was palpable as the discussion began with a brief video detailing what to do in the event of an active shooter in the workplace. Acknowledging the sensitivity of the subject matter, Dr. Carlisle stated that the dialogue was “disheartening but important,” as mass shootings have become “too often an occurrence in our country,” he said. California is uniquely impacted by mass shootings in the United States, as the state leads in the number of victims who have suffered from mass violence.

"Gun violence is a problem in the United States that we don’t have to have, and what we do [policy-wise] matters,” said Dr. Prothrow-Stith, a nationally recognized authority on gun violence as a public health matter. She advocated for more stringent firearm policies, citing a March 2018 JAMA study indicating that strong state firearm policies are associated with lower suicide and homicide rates, and the benefits extend across state lines to adjacent counties. She also noted that tragedies such as what happened in Thousand Oaks now occur so frequently that they reinforce the need to improve both our immediate responses and strengthen our firearm policies. “Our policies matter,” Dr. Prothrow-Stith reiterated, noting that the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban (which has since been allowed to expire) appeared to decrease the number of people killed per episode of a mass shooting.

CDU Student Government president Sana Abassi also gave remarks during the forum, lamenting the new reality that children and students now face: being affected by gun violence in addition to the other factors that they have to encounter while growing up. She also highlighted the importance of mental health awareness and paying attention to noticeable changes in behaviors of loved ones.

Armando Estrada, Director of Risk Management and Safety, concluded the discussion with a thorough overview of on-campus safety measures and CDU’s plan for active shooter situations.
Greetings!

I hope you had a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. Themes of “thanks” and “appreciation” are common during this time of year, but tragedies that have occurred recently across the nation remind us that we all have much to be grateful for as we continue to celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones.

We have much to be thankful here at CDU, as well. For instance…

Thanks are in order for the Northrop Grumman Foundation for their generous $20,000 gift in support of our renowned Saturday Science Academy program. Support for our pipeline programs, which parents and students alike credit with improving student performance in schools, ensure that we can continue providing excellent STEM education to youths in underserved areas of Los Angeles.

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I close this month by saying that I am truly honored to lead such an engaged and passionate University community, and on behalf of the CDU Executive Management Team (EMT), I would like to invite the entire campus community to join together at our year-end holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 11, in the Cobb Lobby.

I hope to see you there.

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President & CEO

President’s Message

Campus Life

Dr. Loretta Jones, CDU Community Faculty Pioneer, Passes Away

CDU honors the life and legacy of Dr. Loretta Jones, one of the founding members of the CDU community faculty, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day. As the founder/CEO of Healthy African American Families, Phase II (HAAF-II) and a noted “community gatekeeper,” she dedicated her life to instilling hope and healing in communities and society-at-large, with a career as a civil rights activist, health policy advocate and social architect that spanned more than four decades. In an effort to establish equity for all people, Dr. Jones continued her unyielding commitment as a change agent, working to eliminate disparities in community and individual health, and improve community development and opportunity.

Earlier this year, CDU had the privilege of acknowledging her lifetime accomplishments at CDU’s sixth annual Legacy Leaders Spring Gala. Through her work with HAAF-II and her affiliation with CDU, Dr. Jones truly has embodied our mission of providing access to health services for those who needed it most.

She has certainly left an indelible mark upon the University and the entire community, and will be missed by all. Dr. Jones is survived by her daughter Felica Jones, grandson Anthony Brown, granddaughter Andrea Gay, granddaughter Ariel Payne, great grandson Drayel Brown, granddaughter-in-law Ericka Wright, grand-son-in-law Ty Gay, and godson Jabari Parker.

We express our deepest condolences to Dr. Jones’ family and will keep them uplifted through our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.

CDU Event Calendar

View photos from this month’s events and more at cdrewu.smugmug.com

CDU in the News: November 2018

Los Angeles Sentinel

Perspective: It’s Time to Give Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Its Due (11/1/2018)


Health Affairs

Remembering Margaret Heckler’s Commitment To Advancing Minority Health (11/16/2018)

Newswire

The Mysterious Reasons Behind Unexplained Hair Loss (11/2/2018)

San Marino Tribune

Rose Queen Focuses on Science, Education (11/8/2018)

USC Dornsife News

L.A.-Boratory (11/20/2018)
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Sara Pacheco this month’s Staff Management Council (SMC) raffle winner! She won a $20 gift card to the campus café.

The SMC was created in 2014 to unite staff and help advance the Mission of the University. Those interested in joining the SMC are encouraged to reach out to April Miller at (323) 563-5823 or AprilMiller@cdrewu.edu.

Powerful Together: Commemorating Rad Tech Week

CDU students and faculty observed National Rad Tech Week from November 4 – 10. This year’s theme was “Powerful Together,” and CDU’s Rad Tech department celebrated with poster presentations and various fundraisers, as well as campus-wide trivia questions about radiology. Rad Tech Week is celebrated annually to call attention to the important role medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals play in patient care and healthcare safety. It also commemorates the discovery of the X-ray on November 8, 1895.

School of Nursing Welcomes Newest FNP Cohort, First-Ever Psychiatric NP Cohort to Campus

The School of Nursing held its White Coat Ceremony for the Nurse Practitioner program on November 5 in the LSRNE building. The ceremony is a rite of passage for those entering the nursing profession, as the white coat symbolizes the trust between the patient and their healthcare provider. The newest members of FNP Cohort 22 and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Cohort 1 (denoted by asterisks*): are:

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- Aleje Sinat O.*
- Alexander, Kevon
- Anugwom, Kenneth*
- Diaz, Blanca L.
- Banzon, Melvin
- Bedford, LeRonica
- Bisong, Francisca*
- Colloway, Jason*
- Chan-Lopez, Julia S.
- Deslante, Stephanie
- Dykes-Barrow, Roslyn
- Egeonugwe, Elechi M.
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CDU Research Department Gains Accreditation for Ethical Animal Usage

Congratulations are due to Dr. Jay Vadgama and the entire CDU Department of Research, which has received full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). The accreditation demonstrates CDU’s proficiency in in the ethical scientific use and research of lab animals, as well as their overall well-being. “I’d like to thank Dr. Christina Du, our Vivarium Director for her leadership, as well as our IACUC Chair, Dr. Monica Ferrini, our CDU IACUC Committee, as well as key supporting research unit leaders at CDU,” said Dr. Jay Vadgama, Vice President for Research and Health Affairs. “I’d also like to thank our administrative team members for their hard work and ensuring a successful visit and responses to AAALAC questions.”

Haynes Lecture Series: Robinson and Sanchez-Lopez Detail History of Black and Latino Communities in Los Angeles

This month’s M. Alfred Haynes Lecture presentation, as a part of the Place@CDU series, featured Dr. Paul Robinson, assistant professor at CDU and Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, MPL, planner for the City of Long Beach. They discussed the importance of shared migration and immigration experiences between Black and Latino communities within South Los Angeles.

Dr. Robinson opened the lecture with a history of African Americans in Los Angeles, explaining that they’ve been an established population in the region since the 1770s due to slave migration and settlement. Heading into the Second World War, Black Americans began to relocate to California from the Southern United States in a movement known as “The Great Migration” to work in the defense and ship building industries.

This “mass arrival,” explained Dr. Robinson, was considered to be a form of immigration by Anglo populations because the Midwestern Whites who had settled in the area were unaccustomed to the presence and mannerisms of Southern Blacks. This led to discrimination against Black communities throughout Los Angeles, primarily in the form of housing restrictions and real estate collusion that limited where they could live within the city. Neighborhoods with primarily Black populations saw a decrease in home values due to the reluctance and outright refusal of Anglo-White Americans to cohabit or do business with Black Americans.

Another result of this discrimination was the formation of Black “cluster” neighborhoods in the 1940s and 1950s that still exist today. Watts for the lower class, Central Avenue for the middle class and West Adams/Jefferson for the affluent. The Fair Housing Act (1968) broke up these discriminatory practices, and the tangible effects of this legislation can be seen beginning in the 1980s, when more Black people began living in other parts of Los Angeles.

Dr. Robinson was joined by Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, who expanded upon the history of Latino migration to Los Angeles. He noted that most Latinos began to immigrate in the mid-1960s, following the repeal of immigration laws that were initially engineered to “preserve the basic character of the United States” that consisted of Caucasian Northern and Western Europeans.

Sanchez-Lopez described South LA as a former “rest stop” for Latinos to settle in as they worked to establish permanent roots in East Los Angeles and said that while the Latino population in South Los Angeles has steadily increased, there has also been a “mass exodus” of African Americans from the area in recent years. However, Latinos have become more rooted in the community but not necessarily more engaged in the political process.

Though Black American and Latino American populations have their tensions and differences in communities they shared over the years, Mr. Sanchez-Lopez stressed the importance of both acknowledging their place-based commonalities and shared sensibilities.

The lecture concluded with a Q&A session, moderated by Dr. Cynthia Gonzalez, in which Mr. Sanchez-Lopez and Dr. Robinson fielded questions on how to address the differences between Black and Latino communities in Los Angeles.

Legacy of CDU

“Legacy of CDU” offers readers an intimate look into the rich history of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Special Thanks to Project Archivist Robin Schiff

Charles R. Drew/UCLA Undergraduate Medical Education Officially Established, Continue the Legacy

In December 1977, the UC Board of Regents voted to approve a Memorandum of Understanding that established the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Undergraduate Medical Education program for the MD degree. Twenty-one students, chosen from 550 applicants, enrolled in the program in the 1981-82 academic year, and 15 members of the charter class ultimately went on to receive MD degrees in June 1985.

The program’s launch catapulted CDU onto the national stage as it joined Howard University, Meharry Medical College and the Morehouse School of Medicine as the only minority-serving institutions in the United States at a time when the need for health practitioners was at a crisis level for Black urban and rural areas.

Students began their clinical studies on the CDU campus in the 1983-84 academic year. Leroy Weeks, former Chairman of the Board, said, “We owe a debt of gratitude to our colleagues at UCLA for laying the basic foundation; and we shall continue to dream of and plan for the day when we offer the complete four-year medical education program on our own campus.” Over three decades later, the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education program has graduated hundreds of health professionals dedicated to primary and preventive care with culturally-sensitive training.

***

Annual Mission Maker Campaign

Thanks to the success of programs such as the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Undergraduate Medical Education Program, CDU has been able to graduate over 7,000 health professionals dedicated to serving the under-served since its founding in 1966. Learn how you can help continue the legacy by contributing to the annual Mission Maker Campaign, which helps the University carry out its mission. This year’s fundraising goal is $122,000 by June 30, 2019. If you’d like to make a contribution to the campaign via payroll deduction, you can click here to download a form or visit the Finance Office in the Cobb Building to obtain a physical copy – your donations are an investment in CDU today as well as in the future.
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Thanks to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, and especially Mark Ridley-Thomas, for their continued faith in CDU by funding the Family Medicine and Psychiatry Graduate Medical Education programs that started earlier this year. They even featured our Family Medicine Residency program recently on the L.A. County television channel. See it here.

And, finally, from me personally, thank you to each one of you in the entire CDU family who have worked so hard this year for our many achievements. Here are just a few highlights:

- Our ten-year VSCUC accreditation
- Over 300 degrees awarded during 2018 Commencement
- More than 700 students enrolled
- New MOUs with Ross University and West Angeles Church
- The groundwork laid—and broken—for our new grand entrance and student center

I close this month by saying that I am truly honored to lead such an engaged and passionate University community, and on behalf of the CDU Executive Management Team (EMT), I would like to invite the entire campus community to join together at our year-end holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 11, in the Cobb Lobby.

I hope to see you there.

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President & CEO

CDU in the News: November 2018

Los Angeles Sentinel
Perspective: It’s Time to Give Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Its Due (11/1/2018)

Broadway World
OUTSIDER—HEIDI DUCKLER DANCE THEATRE at The Ford Theatres (11/3/2018)

Health Affairs
Remembering Margaret Heckler’s Commitment To Advancing Minority Health (11/16/2018)

Newswire
The Mysterious Reasons Behind Unexplained Hair Loss (11/2/2018)

San Marino Tribune
Rose Queen Focuses on Science, Education (11/8/2018)

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L.A. Boratory (11/20/2018)
Dr. Carlisle Convenes CDU Community to Discuss Implications of Gun Violence During Forum

In light of the tragic mass shooting that took place in nearby Thousand Oaks earlier this month, Dr. Carlisle, College of Medicine dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and others led a discussion in the Keck Auditorium on November 13 on the implications that mass shootings have on college campuses and the nation as a whole.

The emotion in the room was palpable as the discussion began with a brief video detailing what to do in the event of an active shooter in the workplace. Acknowledging the sensitivity of the subject matter, Dr. Carlisle stated that the dialogue was “disheartening but important,” as mass shootings have become “too often an occurrence in our country,” he said. California is uniquely impacted by mass shootings in the United States, as the state leads in the number of victims who have suffered from mass violence.

“Gun violence is a problem in the United States that we don’t have to have, and what we do [policy-wise] matters,” said Dr. Prothrow-Stith, a nationally recognized authority on gun violence as a public health matter. She advocated for more stringent firearm policies, citing a March 2018 JAMA study indicating that strong state firearm policies are associated with lower suicide and homicide rates, and the benefits extend across state lines to adjacent counties. She also noted that tragedies such as what happened in Thousand Oaks now occur so frequently that they reinforce the need to improve both our immediate responses and strengthen our firearm policies. “Our policies matter,” Dr. Prothrow-Stith reiterated, noting that the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban (which has since been allowed to expire) appeared to decrease the number of people killed per episode of a mass shooting.

CDU Student Government president Sana Abassi also gave remarks during the forum, lamenting the new reality that children and students now face: being affected by gun violence in addition to the other factors that they have to encounter while growing up. She also highlighted the importance of mental health awareness and paying attention to noticeable changes in behaviors of loved ones.

Armando Estrada, Director of Risk Management and Safety, concluded the discussion with a thorough overview of on-campus safety measures and CDU’s plan for active shooter situations.