



## January 2006

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CDREWU Alumni Association  
<http://alumni.cdrewu.edu>  
[alumni@cdrewu.edu](mailto:alumni@cdrewu.edu)

# CDREWU ALUMNI NEWS

### Upcoming Events

**2006 Employee Giving Campaign**  
February 2006

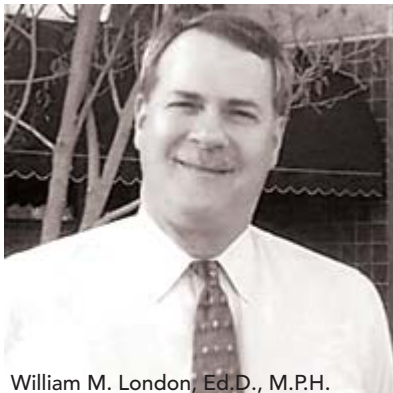
**Distinguished Donor Reception**  
March 24, 2006

### Announcements

Alumnae/Alumni can now access the CDREWU alumni online community by visiting <http://alumni.cdrewu.edu>. Log into the community by using your first name as the username and your last name as the password.

February 2006 will mark the commencement of the CDREWU Commitment of One Giving Campaign for employees and friends of the university. All contributions made during the campaign support opportunities for undergraduates at CDREWU to create new medical theories. As you receive details regarding the Commitment of One Campaign and the 2006 Phone-A-Thon, remember that your contribution counts and helps CDREWU make a difference!

## New MPH Program Offered At CDREWU



William M. London, Ed.D., M.P.H.

The College of Science and Health at CDREWU now offers a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Urban Public Health. The program was approved by a panel of the Substantive Change Committee of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on November 18, 2005. The program, which is dedicated to training public health professionals to promote research and services in disease prevention and health

**promotion for culturally diverse and medically underserved urban communities, is led by William M. London, Ed.D, M.P.H., as Interim Program Director.**

Dr. London also serves as associate professor and chair of the Department of General Studies and is a consumer health educator and advocate who specializes in the study of health-related sensationalism, superstition, and pseudoscience. He is currently the associate editor of Consumer Health Digest, an international, weekly e-newsletter; co-host of Credentialwatch.org, a website about

continued on page 2

health-related training and education; a contributing editor to the Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine; a consultant to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal; a member of the advisory board of the American Council on Science and Health; and an advisor to the Quackwatch website. He coauthored the sixth and seventh editions of the college textbook *Consumer Health: A Guide to Intelligent Decisions*, and is the second author for the eighth edition that is scheduled for release in March 2006.

"This new program is designed to appeal to current working healthcare professionals and recent baccalaureate graduates. Students are able to complete the program within four to seven consecutive trimesters. It is also designed from interdisciplinary bio-behavioral perspectives on community health issues."

For more information regarding the MPH in Urban Public Health program, please contact William M. London, Ed.D., M.P.H., by calling (323)563-4874.

## Attention:

**CDREWU Alumni News will be moving to an email format. Send us your email address to make sure you receive your online copy of the Alumni News.**

**Contact us with your information by email at [alumni@cdrewu.edu](mailto:alumni@cdrewu.edu) or by phone at 323-357-3678.**

Alumnae/Alumni can now access the CDREWU alumni online community by visiting <http://alumni.cdrewu.edu>. Log into the community by using your first name as the username and your last name as the password.

Contact us with any logon questions by email at [alumni@cdrewu.edu](mailto:alumni@cdrewu.edu).

## Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society Inducts Four Students From Charles R. Drew University's Class of 2006

**Alpha Omega Alpha, the only medical honor society in the world, recently included four students from the Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program into its UCLA chapter for 2006.**

The aim of this national honor society is to further the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and the recognition of high attainment in medical science, practice and related fields.

Election to Alpha Omega Alpha is a distinction that accompanies the physician throughout his/her career. Members can be elected as students, graduates or faculty of an affiliated institution or on an honorary basis because of their distinguished achievement in any field of medicine. Chapters elect undergraduate members from students in their last two years of medical school. Scholastic excellence is not the only criterion for election. Integrity, capacity for leadership, compassion and fairness in dealing with one's colleagues are considered to be of equal significance.

"Students elected to the society are men and women who, in the judgment of the local chapter, have shown promise of becoming leaders in their profession," states Patrick Aguilera, MD, Associate Dean, Medical Student Affairs, Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program.

The following students from the Charles R. Drew University Class of 2006 were elected to UCLA's chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha:

**Jennifer Brody**, the oldest of two children, was born in California and raised in the Los Angeles area. Her background as both a high school student and an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, stressed a broad preparation and an all-inclusive view of life. Jennifer has distinguished herself as one of the top medical students in the country. Her many significant extracurricular activities both in college and medical school focus on the underserved and public health. In addition, she has been an exemplary medical student leader, offering her services in a number of diverse capacities, including the UCLA Mobile Clinic and student governance committees. Jennifer received a Letter of Distinction in every core clerkship course and has been highly rated by all her course chairs. She is currently finishing her Master degree in Health Services and plans to pursue a career in Internal Medicine with an emphasis in International Health.

**Jacques Neelankavil** is the younger of two children, raised in the ethnically diverse borough of Queens, New York. Jacques majored in Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College where he maintained an impressive academic record while participating in a variety of activities related to the underserved

youths in New Hampshire. Jacques is an exceptional young man with first-rate leadership and exceptional time management skills. His outstanding clinical clerkship evaluations and Letters of Distinction are equally matching his many outstanding research publications. He is an impressive mentor and role model for those below him in the medical education pipeline. Jacques plans to pursue a career in Anesthesiology and is very likely to contribute much to the field.

**Susan Brion** was born and raised in Colorado. Her parents utilized clinics in rural Colorado, and her memories of the lack of medical supplies and resources available in rural underserved areas stimulated her interest in medicine. Susan attended the University of Colorado where she majored in Environmental Biology and maintained an impressive academic record. Susan received multiple Letters of Distinction in both her basic science and third year clinical courses. Her appointment to the medical school's Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Self-Study Committee is in recognition of her strong interest in medical education, as well as her ability to serve as a student

spokesperson and leader. She plans to pursue Emergency Medicine as her career choice.

**Wendewessen Amde** is a poised young man who was born and raised in Ethiopia, a country rich in heritage and history but plagued with war and poverty. Soon after his 13th birthday, he left his native country with his 16-year-old sister in search of a better life. Financial hardships soon ensued and to supplement his family's income, Wendewessen began working at a young age, developing a very strong work ethic. Wendewessen attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where he majored in Psychobiology. As a medical student, he is part of a landmark project that summarized major ophthalmology studies, which are available in PDA and pocket PC format @ [www.eyepalm.com](http://www.eyepalm.com). He also was the recipient of many Letters of Distinction and accolades from faculty members who noted his outstanding clinical skills and knowledge. Wendewessen plans to enter the field of Ophthalmology.

By Michael W. Downer, Sr.

## CDREWU Celebrates the 2005 Season

**On December 5th University friends, alumni, faculty and staff celebrated the holidays with the University during a lighting and adornment ceremony. Hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Development, the event was a great success.**



The event brought an end to the University's Head Start Toy Drive. A grand total of 2,229 toys were donated and distributed to students at each of the 22 University Head Start locations. The enormous outpour of donations also allowed for 466 toys to be distributed to the King/Drew Denzel Washington Pediatric Pavilion, Augustus Hawkins Child and Adolescent Out-Patient Clinic, King/Drew Neonatal Unit Reunion and several homes at the nearby Nickerson Gardens Housing Project.

Event attendees gathered together for the lighting and adornment ceremony where participants hung their personalized holiday ornaments on the CDREWU Christmas tree. Everyone also joined in the celebration of Hanukkah, with the lighting of the menorah, and Kwanzaa, with the lighting of the Mishumaa Saba.



continued from previous page



Special thanks to the following corporate and city attendees:

CDREWU Board of Trustees, Union Bank of California, Compton Community College, Mid-Cities Schools Credit Union, DCDC-Drew Child Development Corporation, County of Los Angeles- Dept. of Coroner, City of Compton, Office of the City Council-District 4, City of Compton, Office of the Mayor, Aegir, Redmond Enterprises, Compton Chamber of Commerce, King Drew Medical Center, Charles R. Drew Medical Society, Lanier.



## Calling All Alumni!

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

Let us know by sending us a photo and your announcement to [alumni@cdrewu.edu](mailto:alumni@cdrewu.edu)