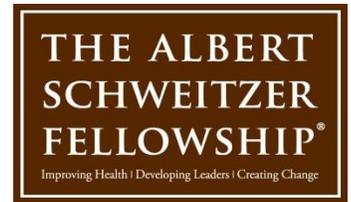


NEWS RELEASE

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2013-14 North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows Named

27 Graduate Students Will Spend Next Year Improving Community Health and Developing Lifelong Leadership Skills

North Carolina, April 29, 2013—The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) today announced the selection of its 2013-14 class of North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows — 27 graduate students who will spend the next year learning to effectively address the social factors that impact health, and developing lifelong leadership skills. In doing so, they will follow the example set by famed physician-humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, for whom their Fellowship is named.

This year's class of Schweitzer Fellows will be inducted during the 100th anniversary year of the building of The Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon (known as French Equatorial Africa when the hospital was built in 1913). Today, the Albert Schweitzer Hospital continues to serve those in need of care, and it is a living monument to Dr. Schweitzer's commitment to service, peace, and his philosophy of Reverence for Life.

"Schweitzer Fellows are passionate about improving the health of those living in underserved communities, and they are committed to improving their own skills to do so," said ASF Executive Director Sylvia Stevens-Edouard. "They come from all academic disciplines—medicine, law, dentistry, and other allied health fields—and they are pursuing work that improves lives. Over the next 12 months, they will also learn how to be effective leaders so they can inspire others to increase the health of those who experience barriers to care. They will carry these lessons into their professional careers, and further promote Dr. Schweitzer's legacy to show reverence for life."

"Our Fellows were selected after a competitive process, and they have signed up for an enriching leadership development experience. They develop and implement projects that will address the root causes of health inequities, and they will be doing this while also fulfilling their academic responsibilities," said North Carolina Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program Director Barbara Heffner. "Under the close guidance of community and academic mentors, their projects—each of which is set in a community-based organization that serves vulnerable populations— are designed to make measurable differences on issues ranging from childhood literacy to diabetes to behavioral health."

The 27 North Carolina Fellows will join approximately 220 other 2013-14 Schweitzer Fellows working at 13 program sites, 12 in the US and one in Lambaréné, Gabon at the site of The Albert Schweitzer Hospital. Upon completion of their Fellowship year, the 2013-14 North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows will become Schweitzer Fellows for Life and join a vibrant network of nearly 2,700 Schweitzer alumni who are skilled in, and committed to, addressing the health needs of underserved people throughout their careers. Fellows for Life routinely report that ASF is integral to sustaining their commitment to serving people in need.

Since 1994, the North Carolina Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program has supported 371 Schweitzer Fellows in delivering over 55,000 hours of service. The North Carolina Albert Schweitzer Fellows

Program has been funded through the generosity of the BCBSNC Foundation, Duke University School of Medicine, ECU Brody School of Medicine, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, North Carolina Central University School of Graduate Studies, Pitt County Memorial Hospital University Health Systems of Eastern NC, UNC School of Medicine, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, Winston-Salem State University School of Health Sciences, and many individual donors.

2013-14 North Carolina Albert Schweitzer Fellows

Hagar Abdel-Baky and Luke de Andrade, School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State University (Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Schweitzer Fellows)

Hagar and Luke are increasing the health of older adults by expanding upon an existing Schweitzer project that effectively minimizes falls and injuries sustained during a fall.

Community Site: WSSU Occupational Therapy and Area Council on Aging

Jon Andrews and Nicholas Tshipis, Duke School of Medicine

Jon and Nicholas are increasing the self-sufficiency of middle school boys by providing survival and first aid training.

Community Site: Durham Nativity School

Austin Annas and Catherine Sawyer, School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State University

Austin and Catherine are conducting frailty screenings, leading pre-frail exercise classes, and providing links to resources for low income adults in eastern Winston-Salem.

Community Site: WSSU Physical Therapy and Winston-Salem YMCAs

Sasha Bouldin and Taylor Clawson, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at North Carolina Central University (Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Schweitzer Fellows)

Sasha and Taylor are enhancing the mental, physical, educational, and social health of middle school girls through a healthy lifestyle program.

Community Site: Citizen Schools at Lowe's Grove Middle School and Neal Middle School

Corey Bradley and John Luttrell, School of Medicine at Wake Forest

Corey and John are increasing the health of Hispanic youth through weekly wellness workshops.

Community Site: El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services

Zerita Buchanan, UNC School of Dentistry (BCBSNC Foundation Schweitzer Fellow)

Zerita is providing addressing oral health awareness in Durham, North Carolina by providing dental screenings, preventative education, and a referral system for free dental services (dental cleanings, fillings, and extractions) to local Durham residents lacking dental insurance. *Community Site:* CAARE

Nimasheena Burns, NCCU School of Law

Nimasheena is raising awareness of chronic kidney disease and prevention among African American women in rural southeastern North Carolina by implementing a series of outreach initiatives and screenings.

Community Site: Bladen County Health Department and Bladen County Medical Center

Robert Christensen and Lauren Katz, UNC School of Dentistry (BCBSNC Foundation Schweitzer Fellows)

Robert and Lauren are increasing the oral health of youth basketball and soccer athletes by building custom made mouth guards for players, providing education in oral health, and connecting youth with dental care.

Community Site: Durham Co. Schools and Durham Parks and Rec.

Amber Heckart and Nyira (Lucy) Muhirwa, ECU Brody School of Medicine

Amber and Lucy are improving Hispanic youth literacy and lifestyle behaviors in Eastern North Carolina by establishing a reading initiative and youth empowerment program which expands a previous Schweitzer ESL/mentoring project for Latina women.

Community Site: Bernstein Center

Leilah Langston and Gabrielle Jackson, UNC School of Dentistry (BCBSNC Foundation Schweitzer Fellows)

Leilah and Gabrielle are raising oral health awareness among older adults in the Triangle by providing general oral exams and education workshops which aim to improve oral health.

Community Site: Project Access

Katy Liu, UNC School of Medicine

Katy is addressing tobacco use in the underserved in the Chapel Hill area by establishing a smoking cessation program at a local free clinic.

Community Site: Student Health Action Coalition

Joseph McAbee and Alton James, Wake Forest School of Medicine

Joseph and Alton are promoting self-esteem and healthy lifestyle habits for obese teenage boys by engaging them in a strength training program.

Community Site: Brenner Fit and William G. White, Jr. Family YMCA

Kira Mengistu, UNC School of Medicine

Kira is improving the health of low income individuals with diabetes and hypertension by leading chronic disease self-management workshops offering patient-centered, participatory and culturally appropriate health education.

Community Site: Piedmont Health Services and UNC Family Medicine

Jill Palchinsky and Claudia Douglas, ECU Brody School of Medicine

Jill and Claudia are decreasing health disparities among teens by teaching reproductive health and domestic violence awareness to adolescent boys in juvenile detention facilities in eastern North Carolina. *Community Site: Dobbs and the Lenoir Youth Development Centers*

Hilary Patterson and Sarah Simpson, ECU School of Dental Medicine

Hilary and Sarah addressing oral health care for senior citizens in Pitt County by providing interactive education programs and oral health assessments.

Community Site: Retirement communities, senior centers and nursing homes

Brittany Pierce, Duke School of Medicine

Brittany is improving patient engagement among senior citizens in Durham, NC by providing outreach and education about the basics of Medicare and techniques for improving communication with healthcare providers.

Community Site: Senior Pharmassist

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About The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of *Leaders in Service*—professionals skilled in creating positive change *with* and *in* our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

Through community-based, mentored direct service and a multidisciplinary, reflective leadership development program, ASF is building community capacity and training a professional workforce that is:

- *skilled* in addressing the underlying causes of health inequities;
- *committed* to improving the health outcomes of underserved communities; and
- *prepared* for a life of continued service.
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To date, nearly 2,500 Schweitzer Fellows have delivered nearly 500,000 hours of service to nearly 300,000 people in need. Additionally, more than 100 Fellows have provided care at the 100-year-old Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa. Through this work and through the contributions of Fellows whose professional careers serve their communities, ASF perpetuates the legacy and philosophy of physician-humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer. ASF has 12 program locations in the U.S. and one in Lambaréné, Africa. Its national office is located in Boston, MA and hosted by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.