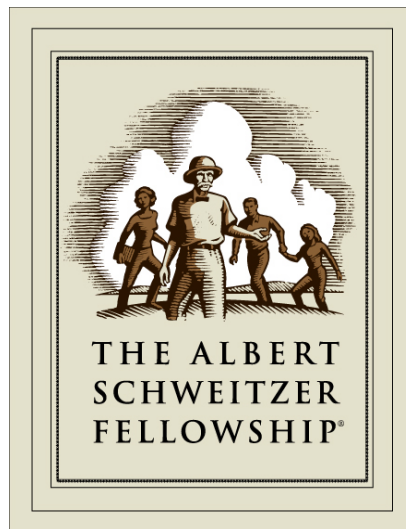


MEDIA ADVISORY—For immediate release

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IDEALISM INTO ACTION:

Local Students Accepted to Prestigious Schweitzer Fellowship Program for 2009-2010 Take Aim at Chicago Area's Most Pressing Health-Related Issues

Every year, more than 200 Albert Schweitzer Fellows across the U.S. follow in the footsteps of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning physician and humanitarian by developing and implementing direct service projects with a lasting impact on the health of underserved communities.

The Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program, a program of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, supports area aspiring health professionals in doing exactly that. Since the program's inception in 1996—and thanks to the generous help of Chicago-based contributors—the Chicago Area Fellows Program has supported over 340 service projects throughout the city of Chicago and DuPage County, equaling almost 70,000 hours of community service.

This year, 32 new Fellows from health and human disciplines at the area's top schools have been selected to join the program's ranks, each partnering with a local agency and devoting more than 200 hours of service.

The 2009-10 Chicago Area Fellows' projects directly and creatively address some of the region's most pressing health-related issues, including:

- Providing therapeutic support and group counseling services for families struggling with HIV/AIDS-related illness (**Gihane Jeremie-Brink, Loyola University Chicago, Department of Psychology**);
- Reducing the incidence of low birth weights and infant mortality in at-risk Chicago neighborhoods (**Erica Koegler, University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration**);
- Conducting group classes and creating patient-oriented material on the HPV vaccine and general immunization for Chicago's immigrant and refugee families (**Sirisha Narayana, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine**);
- Implementing a violence prevention program within the Loyola hospital system for patients admitted through the Emergency Room or Trauma Center (**Hajirah Saeed, Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine**)

- Improving healthcare literacy and outcomes for Chicago’s African-American and LGBT homeless youth population (**Uchenna Ossai, *University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Physical Therapy***);
- Providing acupuncture and body work to veterans dealing with physical and psychological manifestations of trauma and war (**Liz Appel, *Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, Masters of Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine***)

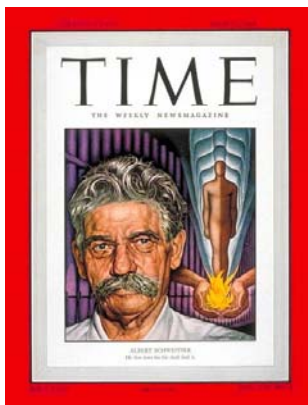
Descriptions of all of the 2009-2010 Chicago Area Fellows’ newly announced projects are available on www.schweitzerfellowship.org. For headshots of the Fellows, or to arrange interviews, please contact Patrice Taddonio at ptaddon@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617.667.5628.

ABOUT THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP

Since its inception in 1991, the Schweitzer Fellowship has provided more than 400,000 hours of service to the communities it serves. Carrying on Schweitzer’s legacy of translating idealism into action—and of restoring the moral compass of the health-related fields—Schweitzer Fellows are chosen through a competitive selection process from the nation’s top health and human service schools. They serve for one year, working with local community agencies in Baltimore, Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Greater Philadelphia, Houston/Galveston, Los Angeles, New Hampshire/Vermont, New Orleans, North Carolina, and Pittsburgh to implement sustainable projects that make a lasting, on-the-ground difference in the health of local communities.

Once Fellows have completed their year of service, they join a network of over 2,000 Schweitzer “Fellows for Life” across the United States and abroad. Virtually all continue their commitment to lives of service in cities and towns around the country and around the world. Because the work of the Fellows is donated without charge to the communities served, each city’s program is supported entirely through charitable gifts. For more information or to receive a copy of our informational DVD featuring Dr. Timothy Johnson and Yo-Yo Ma, visit www.schweitzerfellowship.org or contact Patrice Taddonio at ptaddon@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617.667.5628.

ABOUT ALBERT SCHWEITZER



Albert Schweitzer was born on January 14, 1875 in a small village in Germany. As a young man, Schweitzer was a renowned philosopher, theologian, Bach scholar, organist, author, and pastor. At the age of 30, however, he decided to become a medical doctor, translating his idealism into action by dedicating his life to the direct service of people in Africa.

In 1913, Schweitzer and his wife founded the Schweitzer Hospital at Lambaréné, Gabon, then a province of French Equatorial Africa. It was there that he developed his credo of Reverence for Life, the idea that all life is as worthy of reverence as our own. In 1953, at the age of 78, Schweitzer was honored for his humanitarian work with the Nobel Peace Prize.

In September 1965, having powerfully advocated against nuclear proliferation, Schweitzer died at the age of 90 in Lambaréné. His legacy lives on through The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.