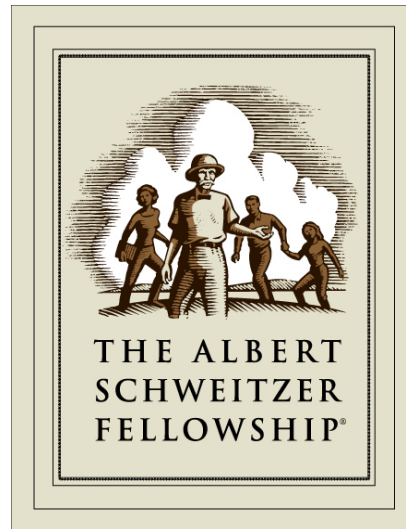


MEDIA ADVISORY—For immediate release

CONTACT:

Patrice Taddonio
Communications Specialist
617-667-5628
ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu



IDEALISM INTO ACTION:

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

Every year, more than 200 Albert Schweitzer Fellows 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.

Since 1991, over 400 Boston and Worcester-area Fellows have devoted over 80,000 hours to health-related community service projects in their local areas. This year, 25 new Fellows from the area's top health and human service schools have been selected to join their ranks, each partnering with a local agency and devoting more than 200 hours of service to communities lacking access to adequate health services.

The 2009-10 Boston-area Fellows' projects directly and creatively address some of the city's most pressing health-related issues, including:

- Reducing morbidity and mortality related to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Greater Boston's Asian and Pacific Islander population (**Albert Chiou and Jessica Tao, Harvard Medical School**);
- Addressing obesity in Worcester's Latino community by increasing access to physical activity and nutrition intervention programs (**Hilary Placzek, University of Massachusetts Medical School**);
- Developing a homelessness prevention program for people with mental illness who are at risk of losing their housing (**Shandon Halland, Boston College Connell School of Nursing**);
- Educating bilingual, immigrant parents about behavioral health resources for children (**Sybill Hyppolite, Harvard School of Public Health**);
- Increasing insurance coverage and primary care enrollment among homeless youth by removing barriers to care (**Elizabeth Samuels, Tufts University School of Medicine – MD/MPH Program**);
- Developing an environmental health and justice program for teens in South Boston (**David Schiff, Boston University School of Medicine**);
- Providing education and guidance—as well as tools for long-term empowerment—to low-income young pregnant or parenting mothers (**Ebonie Woolcock, Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health**)

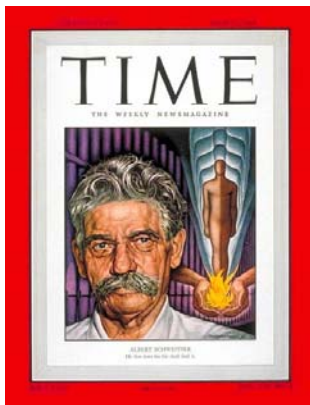
Descriptions of all of the 2009-2010 Boston Fellows' newly announced projects are available on www.schweitzerfellowship.org. For headshots of the Fellows, or to arrange interviews, please contact Patrice Taddonio at ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617.667.5628.

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 ptaddonio@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.