

ASF, Pri-Med partnership motivates clinicians to “find their own Lambaréné”

Last year, Pri-Med—a leading continuing medical education (CME) organization for family doctors and nurse practitioners—announced a generous and multi-prong partnership with ASF. In addition to positioning ASF President and Schweitzer Fellow for Life Lachlan Forrow, MD as Pri-Med’s online expert in issues of ethics and professional responsibility, that partnership included a series of keynote speeches at Pri-Med conferences in New York City, Boston, Baltimore, Houston, and Anaheim.

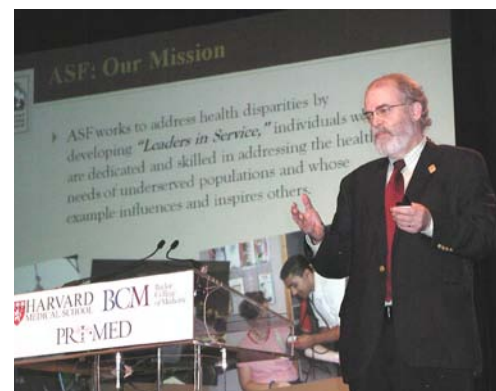
Forrow’s keynote, entitled “Medicine, Healing, and Service: How We Can All Make a Difference in the Social Sector,” addressed the fact that due to systemic barriers and daily frustrations, many clinicians feel disconnected from the reason they entered medicine in the first place: to heal, to serve, to make a difference. Backed by area Schweitzer Fellows and Fellows for Life, Forrow attempted to help attendees in each city find renewal by reuniting medicine, healing, and service in their daily work.

Forrow did so by emphasizing a powerful idea: the idea that every single clinician in attendance could make a difference by, in Albert Schweitzer’s words, “finding their own Lambaréné”—ie, doing what they love most and are best at, and applying that skill in a way that is of service to our fellow human beings and our world.

“For Schweitzer, Lambaréné was a literal place,” Forrow told each audience. “But there are Lambarénés to be found or created all around us.” He then turned the spotlight on the participating Fellows, each of whom spoke for several minutes about how carrying out their Schweitzer projects had helped them find their own Lambaréné.

After each keynote, audience members waited in a lengthy line to attend a Meet and Greet with the Fellows, and to have Forrow sign a copy of Schweitzer’s autobiography, *Out of My Life and Thought*, for them.

“We are thrilled that our message resonated so strongly with the doctors and nurses attending Pri-Med conferences,” says ASF Executive Director Sylvia Stevens-Edouard, MS. “We are deeply grateful for these individuals’ support, as well as the generous institutional support provided to us by Pri-Med as a whole.”



Forrow speaks at Pri-Med Southwest in Houston.

Have a story idea, or news you’d like to share with the ASF community?

Reverence is written and designed by Patrice Taddonio, ASF’s Communications Manager. Contact her with news and feedback at ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu.

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The mission of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is to develop Leaders in Service: individuals who are dedicated and skilled in addressing the health needs of underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others.

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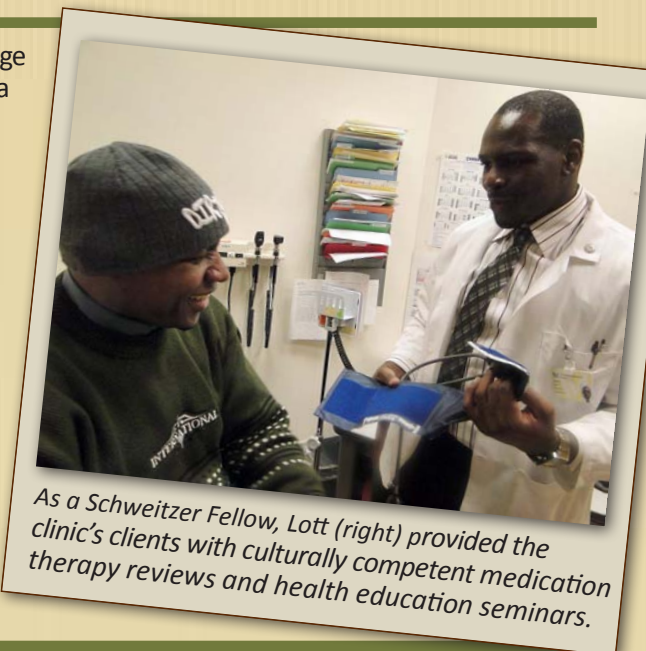
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SCHWEITZER SNAPSHOT: James Lott

As a Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellow, this Chicago State University College of Pharmacy student collaborated with staff at Project Brotherhood, a free health and social support clinic for uninsured African American men on Chicago’s south side.

“Being a Fellow at Project Brotherhood has made me take far fewer things in my personal life for granted ... I have had superior mentorship from the staff at Project Brotherhood, which has made my Schweitzer experience a truly life-changing experience and a success.”

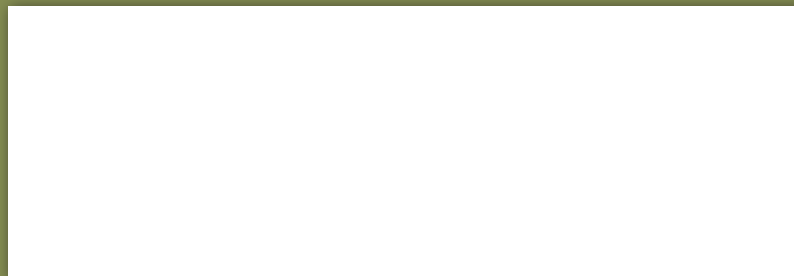


As a Schweitzer Fellow, Lott (right) provided the clinic’s clients with culturally competent medication therapy reviews and health education seminars.

Support Schweitzer Fellows like James at 11 locations across the U.S. and at the Schweitzer Hospital in Africa.

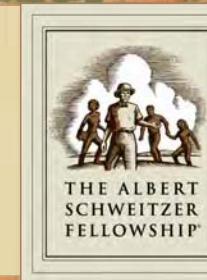
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NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP (ASF)

REVERENCE

Fellows in Action Addressing Health Disparities

Volume 12
Issue 1
Summer 2010

INSIDE THE E.R.

Meet “Mr. G.”:
A Schweitzer project changed his life

The Houston-Galveston Schweitzer Fellows Program is ASF’s newest—but its Fellows are already making their mark in dramatic ways.

Case in point: 2009-10 Schweitzer Fellows Don Stader and Mary Weeks launched an initiative that trains medical students to serve as culturally competent patient educators for vulnerable individuals leaving the Emergency Center (EC) at Ben Taub General Hospital.

Mr. G* is a 59 year old gentleman who came to the EC with weakness and chest pain—and Stader and Weeks’ initiative made a serious difference in his life.

Via examination and laboratory tests, physicians discovered that Mr. G’s hemoglobin levels were alarmingly low. They diagnosed him with a gastrointestinal (GI) bleed and transfused him with two units of blood to correct his anemia and alleviate his symptoms. Upon discharge the physicians planned to have Mr. G follow up urgently, within a week, with a gastroenterologist who would perform a colonoscopy to discover the source of the bleed and provide definitive therapy. Ben Taub patient educators helped to educate Mr. G about his condition and discuss

see MR. G, page 2
*Name has been changed

Justice on wheels: Schweitzer Fellow Wynona Ward named a CNN Hero



CNN HERO
OF THE WEEK

Wynona Ward
PROTECTING THE POWERLESS

Wynona Ward started Have Justice Will Travel to help domestic abuse victims in rural Vermont. The organization has provided free legal and support services to nearly 10,000 low-income women and children.

Her story »

VIDEO EXTRA

As a child in rural Vermont, Wynona Ward and her mother suffered horrific abuse at the hands of Ward’s father. Now, Ward travels the length of the state several times each year in her trademark pickup truck, delivering mobile legal support for isolated, abused women and children in whose shoes she once stood.

In honor of her efforts to end domestic violence by empowering its victims, Ward was named as a 2010 CNN Hero. She’s the subject of a powerful video that aired on *Larry King Live* and an in-depth profile on CNN.com, and she’s in the running to appear on 2010’s “CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute” in November. Hosted by CNN’s Anderson Cooper, CNN Heroes was launched in 2007 to spotlight everyday citizens changing the world.

“Wynona has an incredible story,” says New Hampshire-Vermont (NH-VT) Schweitzer Fellows Program Director Rebecca Torrey, who nominated Ward as a CNN Hero. “After surviving childhood abuse, she ran a trucking

company for fifteen years. But when abuse resurfaced in her family, she made a radical life change. She knew it was her calling to work towards ending domestic violence.”

At 44, Ward became the first member of her family to graduate from college. She then applied and was accepted to Vermont Law School, and, in 1996, was selected as a Schweitzer Fellow.

“While completing her Schweitzer project, Wynona’s firsthand knowledge that most battered women simply did not have the

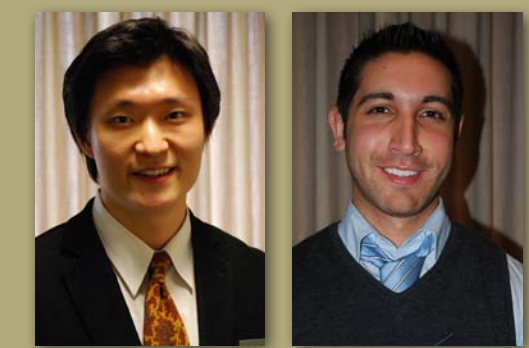
see CNN HERO, page 2

REMEMBERING A LUMINARY

NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows Program Co-Founder Holly Field (1939-2009) inspired and mentored scores of Fellows (including Ward). We celebrate Field’s extraordinary life and impact on page 7.

For extended content, visit ASF’s blog at <http://schweitzerfellowship.wordpress.com>

It's time to REACH for a healthier Camden



Nearly half of Camden, New Jersey's population lives below the poverty line. In 2006, one out of four children in Camden City was born to a teenager. One in four Camden City high school students does not graduate. But over the past year, Hyun Ouk Hong and Farhad Modarai did something about it.

Galvanized by the social disparities right in their own backyard, these 2009-10 Greater Philadelphia Schweitzer Fellows and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) students launched Project REACH (Revitalizing Education & Advancing Camden's Health).

"Camden middle schoolers' test scores were below standards, their role models were local gang members, and their overall outlook on their own health was alarming," says Hong. "We knew we had to provide creative tools to teach the students preventive health education, provide positive mentorship, and ultimately empower them to be leaders for their community."

Taking an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach, Project REACH is a unique case-based health education intervention program that culminates with student-initiated community service projects. REACH is aimed at equipping at-risk Camden middle school students with the skills to take control of their own health—and empower their communities to do the same.

see REACH, page 8

Patient education program pays off

MR. G, cont.
his follow-up plans. After Mr. G's bedside education was completed, the patient educator escorted Mr. G to the checkout cashier. The cashier tried to schedule Mr. G as directed but discovered that the GI clinic was booked for months and the soonest he would be able to be scheduled for a GI appointment was in April, four months away.

Knowing that Mr. G's condition was too severe to wait for four months, the patient educator went back and informed the emergency physicians of Mr. G's delayed appointment date. The patient educator, with the permission of the emergency physician, paged the gastroenterologist to discuss Mr. G's case and request a faster followup.

Ward to keynote ASF's 2010 Conference

CNN HERO, cont.
material means to escape from abusive situations was reinforced," says Torrey.

So Ward launched Have Justice-Will Travel (HJWT)—a unique, innovative mobile program that provides free legal services for domestic violence victims in rural Vermont. HJWT's multi-service program model includes in-home consultations; transportation to and from court hearings; a supervised visitation program that offers a safe environment for parent/child contact; and a life skills and mentoring group. In the past decade, HJWT has delivered legal and social support to more than 10,000 women and children.

"[We] work with these women so they can become strong and independent and self-reliant and be able to support themselves and their children," Ward says in CNN's profile. "[HJWT] would have ... said to my mother, 'Yes, you are being abused,

The gastroenterologist, acknowledging the severity of Mr. G's condition, approved for him to be seen four days after discharge.

At that appointment, Mr. G was discovered to have a large mass in his colon suspicious for colon cancer.

If not for the intervention of the patient educator, Mr. G would have had to wait 3 to 4 months before having his colonoscopy, during which time his cancer would have progressed and his health further deteriorated. Thanks to the patient educator, Mr. G has appointments planned with an oncologist and surgeon.

To read more, visit <http://bit.ly/BTPatient>

Support Schweitzer Fellows like Wynona, Don, Mary, Hyun, and Farhad.
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WWW.SCHWEITZERFELLOWSHIP.ORG/GIVING

"A life that was reverent"

NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows Program Co-Founder Holly Field (1939-2009) made her life her argument.



Visit Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH, and in addition to standard medical buildings, you'll notice a series of nature paths along the campus's western edge. Established in 1999 by New Hampshire-Vermont (NH-VT) Schweitzer Fellow Tim Burdick, they're known as the Albert Schweitzer Trails. They're intended to give DHMC patients, visitors and staff the opportunity to rejuvenate themselves during physically and emotionally difficult times—and one of them is called "Holly's Path."

Appropriately so—as Holly Field, the path's namesake, provided exactly that rejuvenation and inspiration for scores of graduate students as the co-founder of the NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows Program.

"As she did for many other Fellows, Holly became a mentor for me," says Wynona Ward, a member of the very first class of NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows (1996-97) and the founder of Have Justice-Will Travel (see feature on page 1). "It was Holly who was there each time I needed her. It was Holly who was there each time I became discouraged or didn't know which way to turn. And it was Holly who was there each time to cheer me on and congratulate me when I was successful."

"For the longest time," says ASF Board of Directors member Joseph O'Donnell, MD, "she was just the glue that held the program together."

It was O'Donnell—Senior Advising Dean and Director of Community Programs at Dartmouth Medical School—who co-founded the NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows Program with Field in 1995. The duo directed and administered the program together until 2000, when current NH-VT Program Director Rebecca Torrey joined the team.

"When you're launching a program like this, you need a very special energy and commitment to bring it into being," says Torrey, who worked closely with Field at the program's helm for years. "Holly had that energy and commitment."

Field's father, Henry K. Beecher, MD, was a key figure in the field of medical ethics, and a strong advocate for patient-centered care. When Field and her husband moved to Vermont, a friend of Field's father—former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop—put Holly in touch with O'Donnell; the two hit it off, and when the opportunity to launch a NH-VT Schweitzer program arose, O'Donnell knew who to call.

"Holly was happiest when she was helping others ... she lived life to the fullest and embodied Reverence for Life."

"I think she loved her role as Co-Director so much because it brought her back to her roots and her family," says O'Donnell. "Her dad and all these big medical people were trying to change the world in the 1950s, and all of a sudden, here she is working with these young idealistic Fellows trying to change the world. They were inspiring to her, just as she was inspiring to them."

A high school English teacher before launching the NH-VT Schweitzer Program, Field was an extraordinarily effective mentor. "She was a lifelong teacher," Torrey says, smiling as she recalls Field poring over Fellows' final reports with a red pen. "She really cared about the Schweitzer Fellows, and went out of her way to mentor them well, and to get involved in their lives and their projects."

"She would get more out of these Fellows than they knew they had, by the questions she'd

ask and the connections she'd see between what they were doing and bigger things," says O'Donnell.

She also encouraged Fellows like Wynona Ward to pursue those connections. Field helped Ward secure funding to launch Have Justice-Will Travel, and served as a board member for the nonprofit legal organization until her death in December 2009 after a battle with cancer.

"Holly was happiest when she was helping others," says Ward. "She lived life to the fullest and embodied Reverence for Life."

"She lived a life that was very reverent—she was an incredible gardener, adored children, and was devoted to her many pets," Torrey says. "She had a zest for life that was really just limitless—a sparkle in her eye."

And when ASF President Lachlan Farrow, MD, brought Field a stone hippopotamus from the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa and presented it to her when she was named an honorary Schweitzer Fellow for Life in 2005, that sparkle was in full evidence.

"You couldn't have done anything in the world to make Holly any happier," O'Donnell says.

"Holly meant so much both to the Schweitzer Fellowship as an organization, and to the individual NH-VT Fellows whose lives she touched," Farrow says. "We are deeply saddened by her loss, but we are so grateful to have known her while she was here."

To make a gift to the New Hampshire-Vermont Schweitzer Fellows Program in honor of Holly Field, visit www.schweitzerfellowship.org/giving.

SAVE THE DATE: 4TH ANNUAL FELLOWS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE WEEKEND

October 15-17, 2010
The Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Last October, more than 160 Schweitzer program alumni—"Fellows for Life"—gathered in Chicago for the 3rd Annual Fellows for Life (FFL) Conference, where they reaffirmed their commitment to meeting the health needs of underserved communities and emerged inspired and energized.

"At the Conference, I garnered a strong sense of what the Fellowship is about: an amazing network of people whose collective ideas and work are greater than the sum of its individual parts," says Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellow Kimberly DeQuattro. "This is the kind of organization that makes lasting differences for the people it strives to serve and for those who make the commitment to effect change."

DeQuattro and her peers have an opportunity to deepen that commitment further at this year's Fellows for Life Conference in Baltimore, Maryland—which will feature a keynote address by Schweitzer Fellow for Life and CNN Hero Wynona Ward (see feature on page 1), whose journey from abuse victim to legal advocate provides concrete, solid evidence of the difference one skilled, dedicated person can make in the lives of society's most vulnerable people.

"We appreciate all of the feedback we received during our Conference Weekend in Chicago and have made some exciting modifications for 2010," says ASF National Programs Director Meghan Johnson, herself a Schweitzer Fellow for Life (Boston, 2000-2001). "Some of the big changes include longer breakout sessions to allow for more in-depth learning and discussion, and even more networking opportunities throughout the weekend."

Register early for our 2010 Conference to save your space and take advantage of our amazing group rate of \$159/night at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel.

To register for, and find out more about, the 4th Annual Schweitzer FFL Conference, visit <http://bit.ly/2010FFLConf>
To view a full photo album from the 3rd Annual FFL Conference in Chicago, visit <http://bit.ly/FFLConfPhotos>



Photos courtesy of Fellow for Life Rob McKersie

Unique project in Camden 'empowers youth to REACH'

REACH, cont.
That approach is paying off. "Project REACH has made me believe I can do things I could not before," says one 12-year old East Camden Middle School student. "My favorite session was when I learned about cancers that can be prevented. After the REACH smoking module, I went home and told my uncle about the dangers of smoking. I scared him and he said he will quit smoking now for his daughter."

The UMDNJ community is enthusiastic about REACH's continuing impact. "It is most exciting to see that Farhad Modarai and Hyun Hong have taken such a proactive approach to improve the health of the youth in Camden," says Dr. Carman A. Ciervo, D.O., FACOFP,

Chairman of Family Medicine at UMDNJ School of Medicine (SOM). "UMDNJ-SOM is deeply committed to expand the work of these two student doctors to other efforts that are focused on preventive medicine. This project empowers youth to REACH."

Newly-selected 2010-11 Schweitzer Fellows Komal Ahuja and Malasa Jois, also UMDNJ students, will carry the project forward, adding a mentorship program through which REACH alumni who have moved on to high school act as facilitators in the program's case-based learning sessions, and serve as leaders for the current REACH students' community service projects.

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Schweitzer Fellows promoted creativity and physical activity with an interactive event at the Louisiana Children's Museum.



Schweitzer Fellows organized a health fair and checked blood pressure and glucose levels for more than 100 Camden residents.



Tufts-Schweitzer Fellow Dawn Undurraga implemented an after-school health and nutrition program for elementary school students in Dorchester.

Joanie Tobin/Tufts University Photo

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Schweitzer Fellows presented Brent Lin, DMD with the Academic Mentor Award; the University of California, San Francisco professor has mentored multiple Fellows in carrying out projects addressing oral health in underserved communities.



Troubled by the lack of programs addressing the nexus between human and environmental health in Baltimore, two Schweitzer Fellows implemented a school-based civic justice and environmental leadership program.



Lambaréné Schweitzer Fellow Elizabeth Sack (pictured here with a Gabonese child) served as a junior physician for three months at the Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon, Africa.

North Carolina



Schweitzer Fellows from East Carolina University held a symposium focused on health empowerment for Greenville's Spanish-speaking families.

Pittsburgh



Schweitzer Fellows held a Refugee Health Forum that addressed the challenges faced by Pittsburgh's Burmese and Bhutanese refugees, as well as the resettlement agencies that serve them.