**Class of 2014/2015 Who are they and what are they doing?**

Alejandro Barrera, UT Dental, and Brittany Gillard, UT Dental will address the issue of dry mouth in patients suffering from HIV/AIDS by providing oral hygiene consultations and facilitating support groups centered at empowering these patients to take charge of their oral health. Alex is a native Texan, from Laredo and has extensive experience debating on international issues with the Model UN. Britt says that she learned what it meant to serve while volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Austin.

Winnie Zou, BCM and Kristin Tang, UT Health MD through a community-based participatory approach, will work to introduce preventative medicine and social work aspect of healthcare to HOMES Clinic, a student run free clinic for the homeless that operates on Sundays. Winnie has been involved in include Sharing the Dream, the Welcome Table, Be the Match National Marrow Donor Program, etc. And says “The insight acquired from my community involvement has instilled in me a strong desire to lead new efforts and take action.” Kristin was the president of the Collegiate Cancer Council at UH, a non-profit, student-run organization with a mission to raise cancer awareness and education in the university and in the surrounding underserved community.

Camille Keenan, UT Health MD, will be working with the Coalition for the Homeless to convert their list of resources for homeless individuals into a digital format that can be accessed via smartphone or computer both by community members and professionals who interact with the homeless on a daily basis. This way the information will be easy to access and up to date, with the end goal of more effectively connecting homeless individuals with the resources they need to get back on their feet. She is also the School Coordinator for Med Kids at UTH, an organization of medical students who periodically teach fun human biology lessons at a local elementary school.

Jaden Schupp, UT Health MD will be working in conjunction with Texas Children’s Hospital on a project to improve care coordination for adolescent diabetic mothers during their pregnancy and provide preconception counseling to non-pregnant diabetic adolescents, with the intent to reduce adverse health outcomes for the mother and her child and to reduce the overall incidence of unplanned pregnancy in adolescents with type 1 diabetes. In college, she volunteered at the local donation health clinic, mentored an at-risk student, and served as president for the pre-health honor society. She currently intends to become a pediatrician, and she has an interest in improving healthcare access, delivery, and quality for underserved populations.

Connie Foo, Rice University will teach diabetic patients about nutrition, physical fitness, and well-being at San José Clinic in Houston, Texas. As an undergraduate student, she co-founded the Children’s Defense Fund Student Health Outreach chapter at Rice University. She was also an officer in the Rice Student Volunteer Program.

Nick Ayoade, UT Dental will be working with Ruby L Thompson Elementary instructing children on oral hygiene and nutrition. In conjunction, he hopes to stem an interest in math, science, and engineering through the utilization of science fair projects. Nick says “It has been a lifelong goal to pursue a career in dentistry. I have always strived academically to get to where I have been but biggest driving force in joining this profession, was the human interaction and the ability to be an instrument of change in the life’s of others.”

Elizabeth Frost, UH Graduate College of Social Work/ UT School of Public Health and Kemly Mary Philip, M.BioE, UT Health MD/PhD plan to work with a local refugee resettlement agency and utilize a medical, public health, and social work approach to empower refugee women and adolescent girls in fostering their development as an individual and integration into the community at large. Elizabeth hopes to be able to use both her training in social work and public health to address health disparities on the national and international level. Kemly, while at Rice getting her undergraduate degree, travelled to Botswana and Swaziland to implement a novel engineering design project through the Beyond Traditional Borders program.

Jonathan Chatham, UH Law Center will be working with In-Powered to lead regular yoga and mindfulness training for Houston’s homeless population. Jonathan has a plethora of skills and experiences he brings to ASFHG including teaching yoga, being a former math and science teacher in public education, and working with the homeless from Russia to Denver.

Raghuveer Puttagunta, BCM and Elizabeth Thoyakulathu, BCM will work to develop a community for young people with HIV to improve health literacy, long-term wellness, and personal empowerment through a comprehensive educational program. Lisa brings her experience with Peace Corps, Swaziland to the Fellowship as well as a passion about HIV issues. Raghu is still active with Boy Scouts and has lead many courses on legislative advocacy.

They all bring a diverse range of knowledge and experience to the Fellowship and are sure to do great things in the coming year.
Global Health Collaborative Conference 2014

The second annual conference of the Houston Global Health Collaborative took place last month, March 22 - 23 at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. The student organized conference aimed to highlight research done by students and faculty of the many schools, colleges, and universities of the Texas Medical Center, and to provide tools and inspiration to conference attendees. This large event featured three simultaneous programs to choose from daily, presentations from keynote speakers to the combined assembly, poster sessions highlighting research findings, and multiple networking opportunities. The six general tracks were organized into Infectious Diseases, Building Partnerships, Technology & Innovation, Maternal and Child Health, Lessons from the Field, and Hot Topics. Specific sessions ranged from the highly practical “How to Write Winning Grants” by Christine Markham PhD, to the troubling “Global TB - How are we fixing (and breaking) things” by Lisa Armitage MD, PhD, but were always intriguing and informative.

Highlighting two particular presentations, on Saturday, James W. Le Duc PhD gave a virtual tour of the Galveston Veterinary Laboratory, one of ten biosafety level 4 laboratories in the United States. Although seemingly a domestically focused activity operated by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), the laboratory works to fight global diseases such as tuberculosis, West Nile virus, Ebola, and new diseases as they are identified.

On Sunday, Eric Bing MD PhD MBA and Marc Epstein PhD MBA, the authors of Pharmacy on a Bicycle, shared their revolutionary vision of small businesses and entrepreneurs in developing nations selling small, but important healthcare products and services such as mosquito nets, chlorine tablets, and oral rehydration salts. Their idea is for a scalable business model for village level healthcare professionals who can react quickly and cheaply to fill the gaps of a top-down bureaucratic system.

-Tim Clark, UT School of Public Health, ASFHG Volunteer

Mark Kline, MD, MPH

Mark W. Kline, M.D., an internationally respected leader in pediatric HIV/AIDS and global child health, is the J.S. Abercrombie Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and the Ralph D. Feigin Chair and Physician-in-Chief of Texas Children’s Hospital. A long-time researcher in pediatric HIV/AIDS, Dr. Kline has been the recipient and principal investigator for more than $50 million in research grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has authored more than 250 scientific articles and textbook chapters and has presented over 300 national and international lectures on subjects related to infectious diseases of children and global child health. He directs international research for the NIH-funded BCM Center for AIDS Research and is principal investigator for BCM’s NIH-funded Child Health Research Center and AIDS International Training and Research Program.

Dr. Kline is the founder and President of the BCM International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) at Texas Children’s Hospital, an ambitious program that encompasses HIV/AIDS care and treatment and health professional education and training programs across sub-Saharan Africa, Libya and Romania. BIPAI provides HIV/AIDS treatment to more children than any other organization worldwide.

Dr. Kline is Chair of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society International Affairs Committee and past-Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Pediatric AIDS. He is certified in both pediatrics and infectious diseases by the American Board of Pediatrics. He was the 2013 ASFHG Humanitarian Award Recipient and Host of the 2014 Event on April 17, as well as a long time supporter of ASF and service learning.

7th Annual Service Learning (CSL)

On April 3, 2014 UT Health Science Center San Antonio held the 7th Annual Service Learning Conference. The theme this year was Building Partnerships, Technology & Innovation, Maternal and Child Health, Lessons from the Field, and Hot Topics. Specific sessions ranged from the highly practical “How to Write Winning Grants” by Christine Markham PhD, to the troubling “Global TB - How are we fixing (and breaking) things” by Lisa Armitage MD, PhD, but were always intriguing and informative.

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7th Annual Service Learning (CSL)

On April 3, 2014 UT Health Science Center San Antonio held the 7th Annual Service Learning Conference. The theme this year was A Prescription for Plain Language; Health Literacy. ASFHG has been represented many times at this conference over the years and 2014 was no exception, Matthew Mullane and Francisco Nieves both presented their projects. Matt has been working with Urban Harvest to address food security and food desert issues in Sunnyside and Francisco along with his project partner Mary Glasheen has been working with the residents of a Houston Housing Authority facility on geriatric dental health issues.

The CSL Conference emphasizes the importance of service learning in creating professionals in Healthcare. Service learning is a structured learning experience that combines community service with mentored preparation and reflection. Students provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which illness develops, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.

These are all aspects of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship’s mission statement as well and such an important part of creating leaders in service and truly addressing the health disparities now and in the future. Click here to find more information on service learning.

-Jennifer Cook, ASFHG Staff

“Among friends, when someone is angry at you, always leave the door open for reconciliation.”—Albert Schweitzer
Antonia Caliboso and Boulders

My project, Skate It Out, teaches girls the sport of roller derby and skating as a healthy outlet to emotions, to empower them to become leaders, and to provide positive role models and social environments. The project has both an on-skates and off-skates component. The on-skates component includes learning the basics of flat track roller derby and the off-skates classroom component covers topics ranging from nutrition, conflict resolution, team-building, running a do-it-yourself organization, and cross-training workouts. Participants also have the opportunity to volunteer at monthly bouts in exchange for free tickets and to experience for themselves what it means to be part of a “do-it-yourself” organization. There were several boulders to overcome with my project and I was fortunate enough to have really supportive faculty mentor in Dr. W. Andrew Achenbaum, and site mentor in Chrissy Grove. A critical part of being able to persevere through my project was being able to email or request in-person meetings to discuss obstacles I was facing or just to vent about my frustrations. Dr. Achenbaum and Chrissy were both key components in making it to the end of my project. They were great at providing constructive feedback and just listening to my ideas for how to respond to boulders. I also received a lot of support from some of the other current Fellows. Whether it was meeting for social activities outside of the Fellowship or bonding in Boston at the 2013 ASF Conference, the relationships I have made with some of my peers has been a meaningful part of the ASF experience. I look forward to keeping in touch with them and future collaborations!

-Antonia Caliboso UH Graduate School or Social Work

Mental Health in Houston

A significant proportion of Houstonians suffer from mental illness – a 2009 report by the University of Texas School of Public Health concluded that 20% of Houstonians (i.e. 665,000 people) suffer from a mental illness; of these, almost 30% have a serious mental illness. On a public scale, consequences include increased homelessness, overcrowding of the criminal justice system, a loss of more than $5.6 billion in productivity and annual earnings, and even a decrease in life expectancy by 25 years. Privately, the more than 30% of Houstonians that are affected personally by someone with severe mental illness must often deal with the impact of the illness on marriage, families, and other relationships. Sadly, despite the obvious need, our community is severely underfunded and unable to adequately meet the needs of this population – not only is Texas ranked 49th in terms of per capita mental health funding, but Harris County (which includes the Greater Houston Area) is among the least-funded counties within Texas.

On top of the general need in the Greater Houston area, Houston also has a significant and often overlooked Asian population – many immigrants struggle with depression or PTSD, but cultural (e.g. issues of stigma and shame) and language barriers impede their seeking help. My Schweitzer project is targeted at addressing this need by finding ways to integrate mental health care into the primary care setting, thus hopefully catching patients who would otherwise not seek out a mental healthcare provider specifically. To this end, I did depression screening and psychoeducation at HOPE Clinic, located in Houston’s Chinatown, which seeks to serve the Asian population. The project has increased patients’ awareness of a colocated psychiatrist and psychologist at HOPE, their understanding of what depression is, and increased the number of patient referrals to mental health providers. HOPE Clinic is also in the process of identifying ways to further integrate behavioral health services into its clinic.

-Stephanie Ng, BCM

Meet the Board—Carlie Brown, MPH

Carlie A. Brown is the Chief Development Officer at Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston (HHH). She began working with HHH more than seven years ago coordinating research studies, during which time she authored or co-authored nine manuscripts for publication before making the transition into overseeing the Development Department. During her time at HHH she has worked on several other projects, including working with Dr. David Buck (Chair) to launch the Houston Schweitzer Fellows Program. She then served as the first Program Director. “It is a very rewarding experience to have worked towards implementing this amazing program locally and to have the opportunity to see how it has changed and grown in the last six years. The fellows never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm and the wonderful things they do in our community. They embody one of the main reasons I chose a career in the non-profit sector: The inspiration that comes with working with those who are drawn to a greater good and are passionate about a cause.” Ms. Brown has a Bachelor’s of Science in Human Development from the University of Houston, a Master’s degree in Public Health (Management and Health Policy) from University of Texas at Houston and is certified in Non-profit Management by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance.
The mission of 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.

ASFHG has four overall goals:

- Develop Leaders in Service who are educated, experienced, and committed to addressing unmet health needs;
- Improve community health by providing direct service to individuals and strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations;
- Expand educational opportunities in partnering schools while raising awareness of the needs of underserved communities; and
- Maintain a growing and vibrant community of Schweitzer Fellowship alumni (Fellows for Life) committed to lives of service.

Applications are now being accepted for the Houston-Galveston Program. Information on eligibility requirements and details of the Fellowship can be found on our website [http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/chapters/houston/application/](http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/chapters/houston/application/)

You can contact Jennifer Cook, Program Director for more information at Jennifer.cook@schweitzerfellowship.org

To give to ASFHG please follow this link: [https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1443402](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1443402)

Make sure you choose the Houston-Galveston tab or mail a check to the address below.

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship—Houston Galveston
3701 Kirby Dr.
Suite 600
Houston, TX 77098

Save the Dates:

- FFL—Happy Hour, May 8, 2014 Hay Merchant
- Celebration of Service Luncheon—April 17, 2014 11:30 am
  Veranda at 17
- Meet the FFL’s, May 18, 2014, Venue TBD

Look for other events and volunteer opportunities on Facebook and email announcements.