2014-15 Houston-Galveston Schweitzer Fellows Named
13 Graduate Students Will Spend Next Year Improving Community Health and Developing Lifelong Leadership Skills

Houston, April 28, 2014—The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) today announced the selection of its 2014-15 class of Houston-Galveston Albert Schweitzer Fellows — 13 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.

“Schweitzer Fellowships change lives, both of the individual Fellows as well as those of the many vulnerable community members they serve through their Fellowship projects,” said Jennifer Cook, Director of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship – Houston Galveston. “Our Fellows learn to lead and innovate as they tackle complex health needs—skills they will use again and again throughout their professional careers. Meanwhile, their project participants learn information, skills, and behaviors that will assist them in leading healthier lives.”

Schweitzer Fellows develop and implement service projects that address the root causes of health disparities in under-resourced communities, while also fulfilling their academic responsibilities. Each project is implemented in collaboration with a community-based health and/or social service organization. This year’s Fellows will address an array of health issues affecting a range of populations, including oral health awareness among people living with HIV; mindfulness training among people who are homeless; and nutrition classes for people with diabetes.

“These Schweitzer Fellows are living Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s legacy of reverence for life,” said Dr. David S. Buck, Board Chair. “Their Fellowship year will help keep them connected to the ideals that led them to study health in the first place even as they are immersed in the demands of intensive course work. It will also leave them well-prepared to successfully face the challenges of serving vulnerable and underserved populations, whose health and medical needs are many and varied.”

The 13 Houston-Galveston Fellows will join approximately 220 other 2014-15 Schweitzer Fellows working at 12 program sites, 11 in the US and one in Lambaréné, Gabon at the site of The Albert Schweitzer Hospital, founded by Dr. Schweitzer in 1913. Upon completion of their Fellowship year, the 2014-15 Houston-Galveston Schweitzer Fellows will become Schweitzer Fellows for Life and join a vibrant network of nearly 3,000 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 2008, the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship – Houston Galveston has supported 61 Schweitzer Fellows. The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship – Houston Galveston is funded through the generosity of the Simmons Foundation; the Houston Endowment; the Frees Foundation; The Lyons Foundation; the John S. Dunn Foundation and many individual donors. They are also funded by the Professional
Schools Consortium including Baylor College of Medicine, University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston Law Center, University of Texas Health Science Center, University of Texas Dental School and Rice University.

2014-15 Houston-Galveston Schweitzer Fellows

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
Alejandro Barrera and Britanny Gillard
Alex and Brittany will address the issue of dry mouth in patients suffering from HIV/AIDS by providing oral hygiene consultations and facilitating support groups aimed at empowering these patients to take charge of their oral health.
Community Site: Bering Omega

Nicholas Ayoade
Nick will be instructing children on oral hygiene and nutrition. In conjunction, I hope to stem an interest in math, science, and engineering through the utilization of science fair projects.
Community Site: Ruby L. Thompson Elementary

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – LAW CENTER
Jonathan Chatham
Jonathan will be working with In-Powered to lead regular yoga and mindfulness training for Houston's homeless population.
Community Site: In – Powered

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL
Kemly Philip
Kemly plans to work with Fellow Elizabeth Frost and 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.
Community Site: TBD

Kristin Tang
Kristin will work with Fellow Winnie Zou and take a community-based participatory approach 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.
Community Site: HOMES Clinic

Camille Keenan
Camille 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.
Community Site: Coalition for the Homeless Houston

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
Elizabeth Frost
Elizabeth plans to work with Fellow Kemly Philip and 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.
Community Site: TBD

**BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**
**Raghuvueer Puttagunta and Elizabeth Thoyakulathu**
Elizabeth and Raghuvueer 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.
Community Site: Thomas St. Clinic and Teen Health Clinic

**Jaden Schupp**
Jaden 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.
Community Site: Texas Children’s Hospital

**Winnie Zou**
Winnie will work with Fellow Kristin Tang and take a community-based participatory approach 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.
Community Site: HOMES Clinic

**RICE UNIVERSITY – BAKER INSTITUTE**
**Connie Foo**
Connie will teach diabetic patients about nutrition, physical fitness, and well-being at San José Clinic in Houston, Texas.
Community Site: San Jose Clinic

**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.

To date, nearly 3,000 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.