

**THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP®**

*Improving Health
Developing Leaders
Creating Change*

Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship announces selection of 2015-16 Fellows

Contact: Joan Haley, Executive Director
Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program
jhaley@schweitzerfellowship.org
412-636-0185 ext. 26

The Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program (PSFP) is pleased to announce the selection of its 2015-16 Fellows. Twenty-four graduate students will spend the next year addressing health disparities in Western Pennsylvania while developing lifelong leadership skills.

“Schweitzer Fellowships change lives, both of the individual Fellows as well as the vulnerable community members they serve through their projects,” said Joan Haley, Executive Director of PSFP.

The Fellows come from four area universities, including Chatham University, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Seton Hill, Robert Morris University and the University Of Pittsburgh, and represent 11 disciplines. A description of the Fellows and their projects is attached.

The Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is an interdisciplinary fellowship program which started in the region in 1997. The Fellowship builds community capacity and trains 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. In 2011, Pittsburgh launched an Environmental Fellows Initiative with the goal of translating environmental science for lay people in underserved communities. PSFP is the only Program of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship to provide Environmental as well as Traditional Fellowships.

The Fellows from Pittsburgh will join other 2015-16 Schweitzer Fellows working at 13 program sites, 12 in the United States and one in Lambaréné, Gabon at the site of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital founded by Dr. Albert Schweitzer in 1913. On the completion of their Fellowship, the Fellows will join a network of nearly 3,000 Fellows for Life – Schweitzer Fellowship alumni who are skilled in, and committed to, addressing the health needs of underserved people throughout their careers.

Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program 2015-16 Project Summaries

Kevin Baidoo, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

With his Fellow partner Nnaemeka Echebiri, Kevin will continue a project started by a previous Fellow at Woodland Hills Junior High School. They will teach boys about intimate partner violence.

Patricia Bamwine, *University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work*

Patricia will work with underserved youth ages 14-18 participating in the Wilkinsburg Youth Project's afterschool program. She will address health disparities stemming from chronic exposure to violence in the Homewood-Brushton and Wilkinsburg areas. Patricia will educate youth about chronic community violence that negatively impacts health through an arts-based project and a large-scale advocacy event.

Nicholas Bender, *Chatham University Falk School of Sustainability*

Working with senior citizens to improve nutritional intake, Nicholas will empower them to combat chronic disease. He will focus on reading food labels, the importance of eating local produce and a balanced, healthy diet. Nicholas is an Environmental Fellow.

Rahel Birru, *University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health*

Rahel aims to provide a clean, balanced and unprocessed diet for pregnant women who are at risk for poor pregnancy outcomes through food preparation and tastings. Rahel is an Environmental Fellow.

Elizabeth Bondarenko, *University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences*

Elizabeth will provide physical, emotional and mental wellness group activities for women at domestic violence shelters.

Sarathi Dalal, *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Seton Hill*

Together with his Fellow partner Kiranjit Kaur, Sarathi will work with students ages 5-21 at Pressley Ridge School. The pair will provide exercise and nutrition information, focusing on combating diabetes and obesity. Sarathi is an Environmental Fellow.

Tara Devezin, *University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs*

Tara will work with Simon Yohannes on the Healthy Minds program started by a previous Fellow. They will expand the program, empowering middle school-aged youth in the Hill District with knowledge of health, social and environmental issues that plague their community. Tara is an Environmental Fellow.

Nnaemeka Echebiri, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

With his Fellow partner Kevin Baidoo, Nnaemeka will continue a project started by a previous Fellow at Woodland Hills Junior High School. They will teach boys about intimate partner violence.

Jun Elegino, *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Seton Hill*

Jun and his Fellow partner Tanush Sahay will provide sex education and HIV testing for homeless LGBT youth with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh.

Tamala Gondwe, *University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health*

Tamala will work with the organization Acculturation for Justice, teaching the African immigrant population about preventative healthcare and environmental health issues that may affect their families. Tamala is an Environmental Fellow.

Ashley Harris, *University of Pittsburgh School of Law*

Ashley and Fellow partner Krystin Paul will work to foster self-esteem in at-risk girls aged 12-15. They will focus on feeling good (emotional appraisal on one's self-worth) and doing well (a positive feeling rooted in success).

Andrea Joseph, *University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work*

By working with 6-12th grade students at the Student Achievement Center in Homewood, Andrea will mentor students who have been suspended and conduct discussions around suspension and its causes, specifically for girls.

Kiranjit Kaur, *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Seton Hill*

Together with her Fellow partner Sarthi Dalal, Kiranjit will work with students ages 5-21 at Pressley Ridge School. The pair will provide exercise and nutrition information, focusing on combating diabetes and obesity. Kiranjit is an Environmental Fellow.

Jason Lucarelli, *Chatham University*

Jason will provide mentorship and counseling services to help promote a positive transition to adult for LGBTQ+ young adults through the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh.

Krystin Paul, *University of Pittsburgh School of Law*

Krystin and Fellow partner Ashley Harris will work to foster self-esteem in at-risk girls aged 12-15. They will focus on feeling good (emotional appraisal on one's self-worth) and doing well (a positive feeling rooted in success).

Tanush Sahay, *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Tanush and his Fellow partner Jun Elegino will provide sex education and HIV testing for homeless LGBT youth with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh.

Taylor Staiger, *University of Pittsburgh School of Law*

Taylor will provide incoming and newly settled refugees in the area with support in acclimating to their new life in the United States and Pittsburgh, through the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Pittsburgh.

Kendra Strobel, *University of Pittsburgh School of Law*

Working with middle and high school girls with diabetes, Kendra will address mental health issues such as depression and anxiety and the stressors of taking care of a chronic disease. She will implement her project at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh branches. Kendra is an Environmental Fellow.

Kali Stull, *University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health*

Kali will improve the self-esteem of incarcerated women at the Allegheny County through embodiment, movement, poetry and writing.

Rachael Vargo, *University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work*

Rachael will work with adopted adolescents on the development of healthy life skills generally overlooked due to mental health issues affecting children and families involved in adoption. She will implement the project with the Three Rivers Adoption Council.

Kasey Walls, *Robert Morris University School of Nursing and Health Sciences*

Kasey will work within the communities of the West Allegheny School District to implement a Book Mobile that will provide children ages birth to 5 years with books delivered to their neighborhood.

Anne Wang, *University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine*

Anne will teach prenatal lessons and workshops to increase the health knowledge of pregnant women so they can better care for themselves and their developing families.

Lauren Woolley, *University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy*

Lauren will work with FOCUS Pittsburgh to implement medication management and education services at a free health clinic in the Hill District. She will answer questions regarding prescriptions and disease states with patients seen through the Community Trauma Outreach project.

Simon Yohannes, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Simon will work with Tara Devezin on the Healthy Minds program started by a previous Fellow. They will expand the program, empowering middle school-aged youth in the Hill District with knowledge of health, social and environmental issues that plague their community. Simon is an Environmental Fellow.