



## School of Public Health

LSU Health Sciences Center  
New Orleans, Louisiana

The LSUHSC School of Public Health is proud of its students' participation in the New Orleans Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program. The program is named in honor of the world renowned physician, philosopher, humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

Louisiana Public Health Institute collaborates in management of the New Orleans Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program, which was established in 2007. Nationwide, Schweitzer Fellowship programs are dedicated to the development of "leaders in service" addressing health needs of underserved communities. Their work is meant to "influence and inspire others."

### **LSUHSC Master of Public Health Students and New Orleans Schweitzer Fellows**

#### Jonathan Howe (Schweitzer Class of 2008-2009)

He teaches hip-hop dancing as a healthy lifestyle dance intervention to at-risk/high-risk overweight and obese adolescents and young adults around the Greater New Orleans Metro Area. The goal is to improve levels of physical activity; make positive decisions about improving health and well-being; and embrace that teaches discipline and builds character and self-esteem in a positive and productive learning environment.

#### Valerie Fontenot and Tyra Toston (Schweitzer Class of 2008-2009)

Their fellowship is dedicated to teaching preventive health at Sojourner Truth Academy. Lessons have included topics such as nutrition, stress, tobacco, and sex education. They also volunteer as coaches for the school's dance team and organize school events.

#### Lauren Cole and Amy Thierry (Schweitzer Class of 2009-2010)

Their project is dedicated to improving the oral health of elementary school children in the Greater New Orleans area by implementing an oral health education program in an after school care program at a local public elementary school. The curriculum increases overall knowledge and awareness of oral health, and introduces proper oral health techniques, such as brushing, flossing, and healthy eating habits.

#### Emily Rogers and Shannon Speeg (Schweitzer Class of 2009-2010)

This project seeks to increase the fitness activity of participating senior citizens by providing exercise classes and informational sessions to be implemented over a five month period of time at various senior centers and assisted living centers in the Greater New Orleans area. By the end of the program, the students will evaluate improvement in the understanding of disease

conditions and healthy living, a reduction in or decreased severity in chronic diseases among participants, and improvement in the social and mental status of senior citizen participants.

**Brief biography of Dr. Albert Schweitzer:**

At the age of 27, Dr. Schweitzer was a Lutheran pastor; author of three books; acclaimed musician; scholar in philosophy, theology and music; and a professor with two doctorates. At age 30, he began his medical studies with the mission of alleviating suffering in Africa. In 1913, Dr. Schweitzer and his wife, Helene, opened a hospital in Lambaréné Gabon, then French Equatorial Africa.

Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy crystallized in 1915 with the concept of: "Reverence for Life," acknowledging the connectivity and interdependence of all living things. His many writings on this ethical construct are a major impetus for the development of modern social justice, environmental and animal rights activities.

Upon release as prisoners of war during World War II, the Schweitzers returned to Lambaréné and continued their hospital work.

At the age of 78, Dr. Schweitzer was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 in recognition of his life's humanitarian and philosophical contributions. He directed the management of his hospital until his death at 90. Dr. Schweitzer and his wife, Helene, are buried on the grounds of the Lambaréné Hospital.