



ALABAMA

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New Class of Alabama Schweitzer Fellows Named

2023-2024 Cohort of 21 Graduate Students Represents Another Record Year and Largest Class to Date for Alabama's Schweitzer Fellowship

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Birmingham, AL -- March 13, 2023 -- The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama (ASF) announced today the selection of its 2023-24 class of Alabama Schweitzer Fellows. This class of 21 graduate students represents another record breaking year and the largest cohort to date. Representing Auburn University, Samford University, the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), this year's cohort of Fellows constitute an array of health disciplines including audiology, counseling, dentistry, medicine, nursing, nutrition sciences, optometry, pharmacy and social work.

Fellows will spend the next 13 months immersed in community public health projects. Their projects will improve the health and social well-being of their populations of choice throughout the state while simultaneously strengthening their leadership skills. In doing so, they will continue the legacy of the Fellowship's namesake, the famed physician-humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

"Every year we are blown away by the commitment to community that the graduate student applicants uphold in their applications and interviews," said Kristin Boggs, Executive Director of ASF of Alabama. "These are students who desire not only to contribute to the health and wellbeing of others but also to learn from their community mentors and members. We are excited to come alongside these students as they seek to build trust and develop mutual partnerships."

Since 2015, Alabama's Schweitzer Fellowship has forged many beneficial academic partnerships representing a number of graduate schools and universities throughout the state. One of those schools is

the College of Health Sciences at Samford University—representing fields ranging from health professions and nursing to pharmacy and public health—the latter of which has two graduate students represented in the 2023-24 class. “The Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy is thrilled to partner with the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama,” said Dr. Michael Crouch, Dean of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy. “Nationally, this Fellowship has existed since 1940, and we are fortunate to have a robust chapter in Alabama. It has a proven track record of preparing health leaders to serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives, which in turn creates healthier communities. We greatly value the impact of the Schweitzer Fellowship on Birmingham and the state of Alabama, and we are committed to supporting the new class of Fellows as they begin their journey.”

The UAB School of Optometry is another recent academic partner, which has four graduate students among the 2023-24 cohort. “Part of the UAB School of Optometry’s mission is to be of service to humanity,” said Dr. Kelly Nichols, Dean of the UAB School of Optometry. “To that end, the School is proud to have four students participate in the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama initiative this year. These achieving students will build upon experiences to provide vision care to underserved populations that are part of our optometry school curriculum. Each student will gain knowledge and exposure that will forever impact how they provide care and will ultimately contribute to the creation of healthier communities.”

Schweitzer Fellowships have an intensive leadership component so that Fellows can continue to inspire others to improve the health of those who experience barriers to care beyond their year of service. ASF Fellows work closely under the guidance of community site partners and academic mentors throughout the project period. ASF of Alabama will announce in Summer 2023 the specific projects and community site partners of the newest class of Fellows.

It is anticipated that the 21 Alabama Schweitzer Fellows will be joined by approximately 200 other 2023-24 national Schweitzer Fellows working at program sites across the United States. Upon completion of their Fellowship year, the 2023-24 Schweitzer Fellows will become Schweitzer Fellows for Life, joining an active network of Schweitzer alumni continuing their commitment to improving the public health of underserved communities throughout their careers.

2023-24 Alabama Schweitzer Fellows

Name	School	Discipline
Mike Anderson	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Kiaira Anderson	Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Samantha Chapman	UAB School of Optometry	Optometry
Briley Graves	Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Richie Heng	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Kate Hultquist	Samford University College of Health Sciences	Social Work

Demetric Jones	UAB School of Optometry	Optometry
Paul Jones	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Alice Kim	UAB School of Optometry/ UAB School of Public Health	Optometry/Public Health
Jade Kim	UAB School of Dentistry	Dentistry
Suyeon Kim	UAB School of Dentistry	Dentistry
Sarika Mullapudi	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Keith Matthews	Auburn University School of Nursing	Nursing
Chrysanthemum McDaniel	University of Montevallo	Counseling
Lila Parrish	Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Dannelle Paz	Samford University College of Health Sciences	Nursing
Josiah Perry	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Maia Singleton	Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Lydia Smith	UAB School of Optometry	Optometry
Alanis Stansberry	UAB School of Health Professions	Nutrition
Abigail Weyerman	Auburn University College of Liberal Arts	Audiology

About The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) of Alabama is developing the next generation of healthcare professionals to serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives and create healthier communities in Alabama. Since 2016, ASF of Alabama has trained 92 students who have partnered with over 50 community organizations to provide approximately 18,000 hours of service at a value of more than \$400,000 to Alabama's most vulnerable groups. Nationally, more than 4,000 U.S. Schweitzer Fellows have delivered nearly 750,000 hours of service to individuals and communities in need. Through its intensive one-year Fellowship program and the ongoing work of its 4,000+ Fellow for Life alumni, ASF perpetuates the legacy of physician-humanitarian and Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer.