



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **New Class of Albert Schweitzer Fellows Named**

2025-26 Cohort of 22 Graduate Students Representing Four Institutions and 11 Disciplines Named

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**Birmingham, AL – February 26, 2025** -- The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama (ASF) announced today the selection of its 2025-26 class of Alabama Schweitzer Fellows. Representing Auburn University, Samford University, the University of Montevallo, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), this year's cohort constitute an array of health disciplines including, counseling, dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, public health, health behavior, environmental health sciences, audiology and nutrition sciences. This year's class of 22 fellows is also the largest in the organization's history.

Fellows will spend the next 15 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.

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

"We are thrilled to welcome this outstanding class of Schweitzer Fellows, each dedicated to service, health equity and leadership development," said Kimberly Eaton, Executive Director of ASF of Alabama. "These future leaders are stepping up to address critical health challenges in our communities, demonstrating that learning and service go hand in hand. We look forward to seeing the impact they will make as they work to create lasting change."

ASF Fellows work closely under the guidance of community site partners and academic mentors throughout the project period. ASF will announce in Summer 2025 the specific projects and community site partners of the newest class of fellows. It is anticipated the 22 Alabama Schweitzer Fellows will be joined by approximately 200 other 2025-26 national Schweitzer Fellows working at program sites across the United States. Upon completion

of their Fellowship year, the 2025-26 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.

**2025-26 Alabama Schweitzer Fellows**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
Divya Annamalai	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Raveena Baskaran	Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Abby Bell	Auburn University College of Nursing	Nursing
Kensley Brewis	Auburn University College of Liberal Arts	Audiology
Tawona Coleman	UAB School of Nursing	Nursing
Shanquell Dixon	UAB School of Public Health	Health Behavior
Sophia Fox	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Shaul Gayle	UAB School of Public Health	Environmental Health Sciences
Ashely George	UAB School of Optometry/ UAB School of Public Health	Optometry/ Public Health
Britney Le	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Bre McDonald	UAB School of Health Professions	Nutrition Sciences
Grace-Anna Perry	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Christine Poole	UAB School of Public Health	Public Health/ AI in Medicine
Moya Shaw	UAB School of Dentistry	Dentistry
Kennedy Shoemaker	Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy
Elizabeth Speight	Auburn University	Pharmacy

	Harrison School of Pharmacy	
Callahan Thompson	UAB School of Nursing	Nursing
Mykala Walker	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Li'an Williams	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Parrissa Williams	University of Montevallo	Counseling
Alexis (Lexi) Witherspoon	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine
Dan Zhang	UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Medicine

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#### **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 145 students who have partnered with over 89 community organizations to provide over 27,500 hours of service at a value of more than \$695,760 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.