

# **ReachOut 56/81 Fellowship**

*A description of the varied projects that prior ReachOut 56/81 fellows have undertaken.*

In its seven-year life, the ReachOut 56/81 Fellowship (previously known as the ReachOut '56 Fellowship) has been awarded to fourteen Princetonians, who have undertaken a broad variety of meaningful public interest projects.

ReachOut '56 Fellowships were inaugurated in 2002, funding the participation by two members of the Class of 2002 in programs related to the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001. Lindsay Campbell worked with the Living Memorials Project, which sponsors green spaces around New York City to remember the victims of September 11. Aili McConnon joined The Legacy Project, assembling a literary anthology of works, which address the tragedies of September 11, and other 20<sup>th</sup> century experiences of war, ethnic conflict, and genocide around the world. The anthology is due to be published shortly.

The 2003 graduates who held ReachOut '56 Fellowships were Jessica Munitz and Daniel Stover. Jessica oversaw the development of a multi-college network based on the Sustained Dialogue program initiated at Princeton, in which small groups of students, faculty and administrators meet regularly to discuss race relations on campus. Dan was with Isles Inc., a non-profit community development corporation in Trenton, working in various capacities to address critical local needs such as housing, health, employment and hunger.

The 2004 Fellowships were awarded to Arthur Robinson (Robin) Williams IV and Katherine Grim. Robin, who advocates a public health approach to the nation's drug problem, developed a special project, in conjunction with the Drug Policy Alliance, to depict through photography and narratives the personal stories of individuals affected by various government drug policies, which criminalize behavior. An exhibition of his photos and interviews, titled "Unacceptable Losses" was held in the Bernstein Gallery of the Woodrow Wilson School. Katie worked with the Studioworks program of Community in Schools National, to supervise and train promising Newark and Montclair teenagers in the visual arts and vocal/choral music.

The 2005 graduates who held Fellowships were Rebeca Gamez and Mallika Ahluwalia. Rebeca, through the auspices of NICE (New Immigrant Community Empowerment) in Jackson Heights, New York, organized ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for Latino day laborers, helped them to understand their rights, and established working relationships with local businesses, city officials and community advocates. Mallika, in conjunction with the educational magazine, Catalyst Chicago, produced an annual report card of the Chicago public school system, to document the progress being made by schools, student, communities and the district as a whole.

The two 2006 graduates who received ReachOut '56 Fellowships were Derrick Raphael and Krista Brune. Derrick returned to his home town of Fayetteville, NC to create the Fayetteville-Youth Education Program, to mentor disadvantaged students, with a view to getting them more involved in school and community endeavors, helping them find summer internships and motivating them to go on to college. Krista Brune's project – sponsored by Voices Unbroken, a small Bronx-based non-profit organization that works in correctional facilities – was to create a badly-needed website and book about

arts and education programs in American prisons that will serve as a resource for those active in, or interested in, entering this field.

The 2007 graduates who held Fellowships were Lillie Romeiser and Charles Staab. Lillie is worked for an organization named Anchored in Hope, which sponsors a summer camp (“Camp Hope”) in the Chicago area for children, teenagers and young adults challenged by developmental disabilities. In addition to her role as overseer of Camp events, Lillie’s duties included fund-raising and grant-writing, recruiting volunteers, organizing meetings and training sessions, and writing a periodic newsletter. Chuck Staab, through MIMA Music *Spin Jazz*, provided free music lesson programs in underserved communities. Chuck, who is a highly regarded professional jazz drummer, is used a curriculum he has developed to teach, and to help guide other undergraduate volunteers he recruited to teach, music to grade school children in Philadelphia for whom such instruction was otherwise unavailable.

The 2008 graduates holding current Fellowships are Anne Armstrong and Adrienne Simpson. Anne will work at a summer camp for children with special health needs in Charlottesville, Virginia. Anne will be organizing and overseeing the current programs of *Camp Holiday Trails*, as well as implementing new programming to provide year-long support for the children and to help the families of the campers. Adrienne has developed a program titled “Lift Every Voice,” sponsored by the Neighborhood Interfaith movement in Philadelphia, under which she plans to create a choir for inner city students in grades 6 to 8. To inspire the students, Adrienne intends to integrate college preparation skills into her work with the choir.

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A booklet containing detailed information on the fourteen Fellows and their projects is available through Dean Ordiway’s office.