



**Summer Travel Grant Application
Summer 2009**

The Open Mind for Africa program in honor of Dr. Louise Shoemaker, Dean Emerita of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, builds on the Christian Association's foundation of promoting open minds and working faith. For summer 2009 the program will award up to three travel grants to help underwrite students' experiential service learning in Africa.

Dr. Shoemaker has worked on behalf of the people in Africa since she was Dean of the School of Social Work. Working for systemic change, she guided the University of Ibadan in Nigeria as it established its Masters of Social Work degree program. She also opened her home to two Sudanese refugees who became part of her family. A long-time supporter of the Christian Association, she serves as a wonderful example of someone who has lived with an open mind and working faith.

Students will be required to participate in a leadership and orientation training prior to travel. This education and training will include strategic planning, time management, African traditions and culture, safety and logistics, and international travel regulations. For example, teaching strategic planning as a mechanism for change will equip students to evaluate the environment. From that evaluation they will develop a vision for improvement, working closely with people in Africa as Dr. Shoemaker has done.

In summer 2009 up to three students will be awarded travel grants of up to \$2,000 each to underwrite expenses related to traveling and working in Africa. Up to two grants will be awarded to eligible undergraduate students from the Class of 2010 or 2011, and any graduate or professional student. The other is available only to a SP2 student. The Open Mind for Africa program offers a unique service experience in Africa. In addition to the leadership and training orientation prior to the immersion experience, participants will be involved in Open Mind for Africa development activities upon their return to Penn.

The Christian Association can help with internship opportunities, but the grant recipients must secure the internship and make all travel, room and board arrangements. Assistance will also be available from the Open Mind for Africa Advisory Board to all recipients. The Penn School of Social Policy and Practice is working with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana to develop its MSW degree, offering both universities' faculty and staff

opportunities to collaborate. Working in partnership with the Christian Association, the Open Mind for Africa program will provide students an opportunity to get involved. If you are an SP2 student interested in applying for this travel grant please contact us to learn more about the internship opportunities in Ghana.

There are inherent risks in traveling to and working in Africa. We recommend applicants familiarize themselves with African history, stay up to date with current events, and understand the basic political and social situations. Finally, we encourage applicants to talk with people in the Penn community that have lived, traveled, studied, and/or worked in Africa.

The deadline for the 2009 Volunteer Program is **March 2, 2009**. Applications are only accepted in electronic form. Candidates who are selected for an interview will be notified in early March. Please send all application material to upennca@dolphin.upenn.edu. Please feel free to contact Fran de la Torre (215-746-6350 or upennca@dolphin.upenn.edu) if you have any questions.

DEADLINE: March 2, 2009

The Christian Association at the University of Philadelphia
118 South 37th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-746-6350
www.upennca.org

PART I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME:

EMAIL:

CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE:

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

CITIZENSHIP:

BIRTH DATE:

YEAR IN SCHOOL:

GRADUATION DATE:

MAJOR(S):

PART II: BACKGROUND AND RÉSUMÉ

- As a participant for the summer 2009, will you commit to taking a leadership role in the Open Mind for Africa program development during the 2009-2010 academic year? YES / NO
- Do you anticipate or have any plans to study abroad during the Fall 2009 or Spring 2010 semester? YES / NO
- List all relevant extracurricular activities in which you participate. Include brief summaries about your role in each. Please indicate if you hold any leadership positions in any of these activities.
- List any honors or awards that you have received.
- List your educational background with school, degrees received, fields of study, and dates attended.
- Please include any foreign experience you have had. Specify each country, precise period of stay and purpose (e.g. study, travel, armed forces, living with parents, etc.)
- Please list any other awards, scholarships, and/or grants for which you are applying.
- Please attach a copy of your current résumé.

PART III: SHORT ANSWER AND ESSAYS

1. Please describe your proposed African experiential service learning opportunity. Be as specific as possible.

No word limit.

2. What does promoting open minds and working faith mean to you? How does your proposed African experience relate to these ideas, specifically within the context of the Open Mind for Africa program?

500 Word Limit

3. Please describe and reflect on a cross-cultural experience you've had. What challenges did you encounter? How did you overcome these challenges? What challenges do you anticipate with working in Africa? How will you approach these challenges? How will you overcome them?

500 Word Limit

PART IV: LETTER(S) OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants are asked to submit 1-2 letters of recommendation from professors, supervisors, peers, etc. Please have all letters of recommendation emailed to upennca@dolphin.upenn.edu with the applicant's name in the subject of the email.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted with the application or brought to the required interview, which will be scheduled in early March.

PART V: ESTIMATED BUDGET

Please provide your estimated expenses for all aspects of your trip. Include how you will be financing all expenses above the \$2,000 this grant may provide.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN APPLYING. PLEASE HAVE ALL APPLICATION MATERIAL SUBMITTED TO upennca@dolphin.upenn.edu by March 2, 2009.