

Summer 2009 Service Project Stipends
Open Mind for Africa Program
Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania

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. The program provides an experiential learning opportunity for University of Pennsylvania students and recent graduates within our social justice priority. In May 2009 stipends were awarded to the following:

Nse-Abasi Umoh '09 will volunteer in Lagos, Nigeria this summer to work with the Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC) to develop social and physical infrastructure in the slums of Lagos. She will work on documenting conditions in the slum community of Maroko where people are being displaced by urban renewal. She will also assist the Maroko Evictees Housing Cooperative seek and obtain appropriate housing and community services under the Nigerian Social Housing Policy. Nse is from Providence, RI and is a 2011 Masters of City Planning candidate and earned a BA in Urban Studies in 2009.

George Kronnisanyon Werner, '09 will teach a social policy course at the Mother Pattern School of Nursing and Social Work in Monrovia, Liberia. George is particularly concerned that social policy in Liberia recognizes recent warfare in Liberia and its social challenges on the youth of the nation. George resides in Philadelphia and earned an MSW in 2009.

Heather Curl, '07 will volunteer in Jowell, a rural village in eastern Zambia, to train volunteer teachers at the local community school. She will bring much needed supplies and offer mentorship in teaching methods, lesson planning, and organizational strategies to enable the volunteer teachers to consistently improve teaching. Heather resides in Philadelphia, earned a B.A. from Haverford College in 2003, an M.S.Ed. from Penn in 2007, and is a candidate for an Ed.D. in 2012.

Edward Daniel Faustin, '03 will volunteer with the Yonso Project in Yonso, Ghana. He will be assisting the Yonso Project with an ecotourism project designed to preserve the land and achieve sustainable development. It is hoped that the Yonso Project will provide local scholarships and income. Edward will work on a training program for tour guides and marketing the project in Ghana. He earned a BBA at Notre Dame in 2003 and is a candidate for a dual Masters in City Planning & Urban Spatial Analytics in 2011.