



AIMEE MILLER

FULBRIGHT ACADEMIC AWARD TO CHINA

Aimee Miller has spent years studying and networking with peers in the U.S. healthcare system.

Because of her Fulbright, now she'll have an opportunity to return to her roots and delve into the nuances of Traditional Chinese Medicine. "We have a very disease-focused model in the U.S.," said Miller, who will earn her master's degree in healthcare administration from the University in 2017. She received her bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Scranton in 2012.

"There is a book of traditional Chinese medicine that has been in existence for 3,000 years and a lot of it is still practiced," Miller said. "It is an area I will examine as a better way to manage chronic conditions."

For her Fulbright, Miller will spend an academic year at Wuhan University in China where she will study Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and community health, as well as work on developing a model of TCM-based healthcare management for the elderly. TCM is practiced regularly in China, she said.

"People incorporate it into their own self care," Miller said. She will also see first hand how medicine is practiced in China and work alongside nurses and other healthcare professionals there.

Academics aside, her journey to Wuhan also represents another journey for her – a return to her native city. "It seemed serendipitous because I am from there," said Miller, now of Lancaster, of her Fulbright. "I grew up in China until I was 12."

At Wuhan University, Miller will enroll in classes that will be taught in Mandarin, Chinese. In addition to a TCM class, she will also enroll in a community health course that focuses on local cultural values and norms of health care treatment. As part of her research, she intends to focus on whether the approaches and methods of TCM can be beneficial to medical treatment in the U.S.

Miller sees TCM as a "holistic perspective" that is not just about eliminating illness. It may be "a potential solution and alternative to our current problems in the U.S." She also wants to further advance her Mandarin skills and take courses at Wuhan University so that she will be better prepared to speak academically and intellectually to her peers about health care and other subjects.

At The University of Scranton, Miller was awarded a competitive Graduate Teaching Assistantship. She presented her research at several academic conferences and meetings and participated in the University of Alabama at Birmingham National Case Competition and National Association of Health Services Executives

student chapter. As an undergraduate, she was president of the Photography Club and received the University's Esprit Magazine Photography Award in 2011.

After graduating from the University in 2012, Miller served for a year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. During her stay in Wuhan, Miller wants to practice Tai Chi in the city's public square, enhancing her exploration and practice of martial arts that began during her time at the University. She also intends to volunteer at the Wuhan Children's Welfare Institute.

Miller's future plans are to pursue a career in global health, particularly at an intergovernmental agency, such as the World Health Organization.

"I have a lot of passion and interest in global health and exposure to other cultures," Miller said.