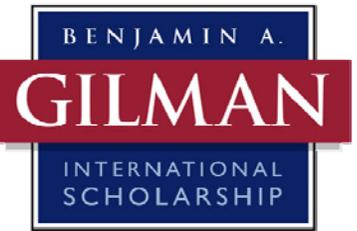


## VICTORIA WINSLOW, CHINA, 2010

Spelman College  
Georgia



uniqueness of the language led me to make a commitment to speak, listen, read, and write only in Mandarin for nine weeks at the Middlebury Chinese School. In that short amount of time, my language capacity increased from beginner to high-intermediate. It was a challenge, a triumph and, most of all, a great experience that encouraged me to build on this foundation and seek new heights.

inescapable desire to share my gifts with those who have yet to discover their own.

*“My infatuation with the uniqueness of the language led me to make a commitment to speak, listen, read, and write only in Mandarin for nine weeks .”*

I am a graduate of Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies. I began my journey with a Spanish minor. However, since I have developed a great attraction to learning languages, I decided to acquire yet another language - Mandarin. For this reason, I decided to study abroad in China and apply for a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which I was awarded for a semester abroad.

The Gilman International Scholarship provided a stellar platform for me to make a difference in the way students, families and communities think about academic achievement and made my study abroad experience in Shanghai a rewarding reality. I truly believe that cultural curiosity is the start of new beginnings. Despite losing my parents when I was merely two years old, study abroad taught me how to accept what I cannot change; learning that one in ten impoverished students will attend college sparked the courage in me to change the things that I can. Studying Mandarin and Spanish inspired an

Ultimately, my experiences as a student, mentor and global citizen were positively influenced by the Gilman Scholarship. I am a Teaching Assistant at a “No Excuses” charter public school in Boston that caters to English language learners. In my position, I aspire to encourage students to actively pursue success, proficiency in another foreign languages, and opportunities of self-discovery abroad. By introducing them to the world beyond their immediate surroundings and encouraging them to travel, my scholars will help change the world.

Studying Mandarin was a process of self-discovery, because what started out as a simple college requirement developed into a passion. My infatuation with the

### FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

I collaborated with an organization called Reach the World for my Follow-on Service Project. Reach the World’s mission is to help elementary and secondary school students and teachers develop the knowledge, attitudes, values and

thinking skills needed for responsible citizenship in a complex, culturally diverse and rapidly changing world. I blogged my entire experience for second grade students in New York. This allowed me to demonstrate that

despite being on the other side of the globe, people are more similar than dissimilar. Together we witnessed China’s unique balance of traditional and modern culture .