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Minnesota State Mankato Sophomore Awarded Gilman Scholarship

Minnesota State sophomore Chengleng Xiong was recently awarded a Gilman Scholarship. Chengleng will study abroad in Chiang Mai, Thailand with the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) from December 2014 through May 2015.

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go by offering awards to U.S. undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints.

Xiong was born in Saraburi, Thailand and came to the United States many years ago. A Social Work major, he wants to work with the Hmong population to increase access to education and health care. “I want to travel around the world and help to treat poor peoples, and all Hmong peoples in different countries that need health care…I would like to start an international health care education and treatment program for international students who don’t have health care,” said Xiong.

Part of Xiong’s follow-on service project, a requirement of the Gilman Scholarship application, is “to encourage younger youths and [his] peers to study abroad, and to open up and learn about other cultures.”

Xiong is involved in the Hmong Student Association on campus.

Xiong utilized resources in the Office of University Fellowships and the Social Work Departments in his pursuit of this award.

For more information on the Office of University Fellowships at Minnesota State Mankato, see www.mnsu.edu/fellowships.

For more information on the Department of Social Work at Minnesota State Mankato, see http://sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork/.

For more information on the Gilman Scholarship, see http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program.