Dickinson Law Professor Katherine Pearson joined host Scott Lamar on WITF’s Smart Talk to discuss her visit to Cuba as part of a Penn State faculty tour last June.

Professor Pearson’s travel to Cuba was directly tied to her teaching and research interests in the field of law and aging. Cuba has the reputation for a first world health care system, with outcomes on health and longevity that rival and sometimes exceed the United States. Pearson wanted to meet people in person, to see the challenges of the country’s commitment to providing free health care.

Once in the country, in meetings with faculty at the University of Havana, she also became intrigued by the Cuban family law code, which mandates family obligations to support elders and disabled persons, while also emphasizing nondiscrimination again women and children born outside of marriages.