Casey Milliken, 22, is studying English ( Literary Studies) and Communication Studies (Performance Studies) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Milliken’s focus for the Wentworth Fellowship is a 1984 book entitled *The Bone People* by Keri Hulme. The novel is described as “at once a mystery, a love story, and an ambitious exploration of the zone where Maori and European New Zealand meet.” By visiting New Zealand, Milliken intends to engulf himself in the study of European coloniztion and how its effects rippled into the art of traditional Maori tattooing and eventually, the shift to electric tattooing.

Milliken grew up loving literature, but he did not consider that the book did not have to end after he closed it. Eventually, through his studies at UNCW, he realized he could place himself into the real world locations that are so passionately described in the books he had been studying.

Milliken is now a two-time Wentworth winner, having gone to South Africa last year to study *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee. He took a lot from his initial experience and hopes to do the same with his second opportunity.

He says, “Making the connection between physical landscape and letters on a page was something that I had never been able to experience and it was a really monumental experience for me.”

His specific interest in post-colonial literature and Hulme’s novel spurred from taking classes with Dr. Lee Schweninger and Dr. Cara Cilano. Milliken, who has taken an interest in getting tattoos, has also helped to influence his decision to focus specifically on the Maori tattoo culture, a personal connection to the subject matter of tattooing will also likely be a factor in taking an enormous amount from his second Wentworth sponsored trip.

Milliken’s advice to future Wentworth hopefuls is this: “Don’t apply because you’ve always wanted to go to a certain place. Make a real connection with the book or film or cultural practice and go to experience that. Think outside the ‘already been done.’ As amazing and talented as all Wentworthians have been, think beyond Shakespeare’s England or Hemingway’s France and go to a place less travelled. It will make your application stand out.”