

John Osborne Wentworth Fellowship Profile
Amelia Beamer

“It just seemed like the universe was arranging everything [perfectly,]” John Osborne said, describing how the Wentworth fellowship aligned perfectly to allow him to travel to Taiwan immediately after studying abroad in Nanjing, China this summer.

“One morning, while wandering through the Asian Literature section in Randall library, I encountered the book *Frontier Taiwan*, by Michele Yeh...a collection of 20th century Taiwanese poems. I have a history with Taiwan since it is my mother’s native country and I have visited the island nation numerous times to visit family.”

While many Wentworth scholars may have wished to travel somewhere they’d never been, Osborne decided after reading the poems that it seemed fitting to continue learning... this time, about the nation’s literary culture.

“The poems include the writers’ personal feelings on topics like: home, country, history, political statements, and human insights,” Osborne explained. In a way, he will not only be learning more about the literary culture, but also more about the nation and history than he might have from previous visits.

“I will research these various poets by visiting university libraries and conducting a few interviews with some of the poets,” Osborne said. He will also be staying and visiting with family members (“due to generous invitations”)—an incredible addition to his trip.

Osborne is currently pursuing his Bachelor’s degree in English (Literary Studies), and admits that until recently, he was an avid vegetable gardener and fisherman (hobbies that were sacrificed for schoolwork).

“I enjoy reading poetry, short stories, and folk and fairytales of the world,” Osborne said. “I also enjoy listening to music, much of which I consider to be poetry or tales set to melody!”

Osborne also dabbles in photography, sketch drawing, and creative writing; all hobbies that will surely come in handy to commemorate his time abroad.

“It just *felt* right to do it,” said Osborne, who will fly from Nanjing, China to Taiwan on June 18th of this year.

When discussing his decision to apply for the Wentworth fellowship, Osborne could not thank UNCW professors Dr. Katie Peel, Professor Erin Bond, and everyone else at UNCW who encouraged him to make the journey.