

Wentworth profile: Roxy Simmons  
By Emily Murray

Stephen Chbosky is a contemporary novelist and recent screenwriter and director most known for his coming of age novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, which he adapted for theaters in 2012. This May, the Wentworth Fellowship Program is funding a trip for UNCW Junior Roxy Simmons to travel to Chbosky's hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which additionally serves as the setting of his most famous work.

As an English major, Simmons' career interests have developed from professional writing to literary studies, and finally to TV writing. Sparked by an "itch to explore the world" after studying abroad at the University of Swansea, this trip is especially important to her. She is excited to travel once again, this time while researching one of her favorite authors.

Chbosky's unique epistolary writing style and lovable main character, Charlie, made *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* one of Roxy's favorite books early in high school, but she was truly captivated by the story after seeing it on the screen. "I saw the movie and it changed the experience," she recounts. "I'm just hoping [the Wentworth trip] will change my perspective once again, the way the movie did."

Chbosky's writing frequently references neighborhoods, landmarks, and restaurants, so she will mostly focus on important places, including his neighborhood Upper Saint Clair, King's Diner, the Beehive Café, and especially the Fort Pitt Tunnel. Through exploring Pittsburgh, she is most interested in understanding Chbosky's leap from childhood experience, to novel, to film.

Though most students receiving the Wentworth Grant study classical authors, Roxy has chosen a contemporary writer-turned-filmmaker in hopes of channeling inspiration for her future career as a screenwriter. After her Wentworth trip, Simmons plans to apply for internships in Los

Angeles, where she can employ her experience in studying Chbosky's novel version of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and its transition to a screenplay.