

Lizzy Menzer

Profile for Wentworth

Hemingway's Chicago

Mary Childers, a senior at UNC Wilmington, was granted the privilege to study her favorite author in her favorite city, with the help of the Wentworth Fellowship. Mary will be studying Ernest Hemingway and his life in Chicago over spring break.

Previous students have studied Hemingway for the Wentworth Fellowship. However, those students focused on his life and influence in Paris, Italy, and the Michigan River. Mary is taking a new approach to the familiar author.

"As I was doing research on Hemingway, I realized I was unable to find a lot of information on his early years in Chicago," said Mary. "I picked to study Hemingway in Chicago so I could see where he got his inspiration from."

Mary, who is 22, also chose to focus on Hemingway in Chicago because it was a time in his life when he was around the same age she is now.

"Since he is such a well-known author, I think it is easy to forget that he was once in his twenties like most of the students at UNCW," she said, "and he faced similar challenges to the ones we deal with."

Mary has the privilege of viewing an archive that holds handwritten essays from Hemingway's high school years while visiting Chicago. She hopes her trip will help people to see him as more than the author behind groundbreaking novels.

"I want to discover what his early dreams were," she said, "and I really think it would be special to bring back perspective to UNCW."

This trip will mark the first time Mary has traveled by herself and she says it's all about growth.

More than anything, Mary feels blessed to have been granted this chance.

"Not only am I having the opportunity to study my favorite author," she said, "but I am also going to Chicago as an almost graduate and it has always been my dream to end up there one day."

Mary would like to thank Charles Green for being a significant donor at UNCW. She would also like to thank her mentor, Kimi Hemingway, and her advisor, Michelle Britt, for supporting her not only with this trip, but also with her entire academic career at UNCW.

"This trip has truly opened up doors for me," she said. "It has reminded me that there is so much good in this world."

