



Davidson Fellow Laureate Jason Chu

(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Jason Chu

Age: 16

Hockessin, Delaware

School, College and Career Plans

Jason currently attends the Charter School of Wilmington. Next fall he plans to enter Johns Hopkins University and major in biomedical engineering. After completing his undergraduate degree, Jason intends to enroll at the University of Pennsylvania graduate school in developmental biology studies.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Science*)

Jason had an original idea that he innovatively translated into an experimental laboratory procedure to prove that the addition of fibroblast growth factor (FGF) antibodies retard the spread of a malignant tumor. FGF (fibroblast growth factor) is essential for the rapid growth of certain types of cancer. In his project *Fibrogenesis Retardation*, Jason used an antibody to block the transmission of FGF in a test cell culture, which reduced its growth rate by approximately 40 percent, showing that this antibody should also reduce the growth rate of cancer. Jason's results could revolutionize cancer treatment and extend the life of terminal cancer patients by several months, if not years.

Biography

Jason Chu was born in Illinois and lived in both Michigan and California, before settling in Delaware when he was 14.

"My formative stages were spent in rigorous studies at home," said Jason, "since my loving parents decided to homeschool me."

Jason began attending the Charter School of Wilmington in the ninth grade. Since then, he founded the Martial Arts Club and served as a member of the Chess Club. Jason has also participated in the Envirothon, Science Olympiad, Math League, Engineering Team, Model UN and the HiMCM, a national mathematical modeling competition.

In his spare time, Jason enjoys playing the piano, guitar and designing Web sites.

Please see next page.

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development

9665 Gateway Drive, Suite B | Reno, NV 89521 | Ph: 775-852-3483 | Fax: 775-852-2184



Davidson Fellow Laureate

Jason Chu

(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2002 Davidson Fellow Laureate (September)
- 2002 National Honor Roll
- 2002 National Outstanding HiMCM paper, a national mathematical modeling competition
- 2002, 2001 Academic Bowl/Comcast Academic Challenge, First Place Team
- 2002, 2001, 2000 Delaware State Science Olympiad, Medalist
- Best of Show at New Castle County Science Fair
- Perfect 1600 on SAT-I

Community Activities

During his freshman year, Jason served as the back-up pianist at his local community church and is currently the sound system manager. Jason is a volunteer computer lab assistant at the University of Delaware's New Arc Academy each summer and also works as an assistant camp counselor.

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