



**Davidson Fellow  
Lee Huttner**

(\$10,000 Scholarship Recipient)



**Personal Info**

Lee Huttner  
Age: 15  
Pittsburgh, PA

**School, College and Career Plans**

This fall, Lee will enter his junior year at Taylor Allderdice High School, where he takes both scholars and Advanced Placement classes. Currently first in his class with a perfect GPA, Lee plans to pursue anthropology and ancient studies and perhaps philosophy and psychology.

**Davidson Fellows Submission** (*Philosophy*)

Lee Huttner's philosophy portfolio titled "The Religio-Spiritual Impulse and Its Biological Inherence in Humans," proposes a biological reason why many people gravitate toward religion. Lee's work is based on his extensive research of existing data collected from neurology, endocrinology, sociology and evolutionary biology. Lee compiled his interdisciplinary findings to explain changes in brain activity during meditation, prayer, and other religious practices. Lee's project not only displays his deep intellectual curiosity, but also his hope to demystify the human condition.

**Biography**

Lee was inspired to pursue this project after reading a book by Drs. Andrew Newberg and Eugene d'Aquili, *Why God Won't Go Away*, which blended religion with neuroscience and biology, which Lee describes as exceptional. This book prompted Lee to question the link between the brain and essential aspects of religion and philosophy.

Lee credits the development of his project to his education, especially the biological sciences and history. Although he had great support from mentors, Lee essentially had to create his research program from scratch because no previous research existed.

In addition to matters of science and philosophy, Lee enjoys reading and writing. He attends the Young Writers Institute during summers and has won several awards for his work. He was also awarded an Allegheny County Council Proclamation for his submission to a local poetry contest.

Because of his leadership and volunteering experience, Lee was invited to represent his school at the 2004 Western Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Seminar.

*Please see next page.*

**The Davidson Institute for Talent Development**

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*(Cont.)*

#### **Honors/Awards**

- 2004 Davidson Fellow
- 2004 Who's Who Among American High School Students
- 2004 Invited to the Western Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Seminar
- 2004 Dharma Bum Nonfiction Award Winner
- 2004 Regional Winner for Live Poets Society
- 2002 Allegheny County Council Proclamation

#### **Community Activities**

Lee is the President of his school's Key Club and is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Lee also participates in Students for a Free Tibet, which works in solidarity with the Tibetan people in their struggle for freedom and independence. Through education, grassroots organization, and non-violent direct action, members campaign for Tibetans' fundamental right to political freedom.

Lee volunteers at the Carnegie Science Center, one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Outside of school, Lee belongs to two environmental groups, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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