



Davidson Fellow Laureate
Katherine Orazem
(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Katherine Orazem
Age: 17
Ames, Iowa

School, College and Career Plans

Katherine is a rising senior at Ames High School. She is still considering her college choices and plans to go to law school. Katherine hopes to become a lawyer in the field of environmental law.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Literature*)

Katherine's creative writing portfolio, "After-Elegies," consists of sonnets, short stories, and personal essays exploring the human response to death and those who have gone through loss. She examines this theme through several viewpoints, including that of a widow learning to live without her lifelong companion, that of a husband who refuses to acknowledge his wife's death, and that of an apostate grieving the loss of her faith. The work deepens our understanding of varying human responses to grief and the ability to survive loss.

Biography

Katherine was inspired to write many of the pieces in her portfolio after the death of her grandmother. As a writer, she was interested in the experiences of survivors more so than in the memorialization of those who were gone. Katherine hopes she can write what others cannot say, and in doing so, say it for all.

Katherine attended a Catholic grade school, and public middle and high schools. Since middle school she has been involved in the extended learning program in her school district. And, since her sophomore year, Katherine has taken English classes online, allowing her to take Advanced Placement English Literature, Composition and Language courses not offered at her school. She has also taken an independent study class in the field of creative writing.

In her free time, Katherine likes to read and write and is on the editorial board of her school's literary magazine. She enjoys scholarly competitions, participates in her school's Quiz Bowl team and was a finalist in the National Vocabulary Competition. Katherine also enjoys community service and traveled to Uganda this summer to build a primary school.

Please see next page.



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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2007 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2007 Outstanding Witness Award National Mock Trial Competition
- 2007 State Champion Iowa Mock Trial State Competition
- 2007 National Honor Society member
- 2006 Outstanding Attorney Award Iowa Mock Trial State Competition

Community Activities

Katherine volunteers at the Mary Greeley Hospital Hospitality Shop and is a Lector at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. She also traveled to Uganda with the Global Builders service club to build a primary school.

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