



**Davidson Fellow
Allison Ross**

(\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Age: 16
Mercer Island, Washington

School, College and Career Plans

Allison will be a freshman in the Honors Program at the University of Washington in the fall of 2009. She plans on dividing her studies between the Humanities and the Sciences.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Outside the Box*)

In her project, "African and Western Heroes' Journeys in Literature: An Exemplification," Allison created a portfolio against the backdrop of August Wilson's fiction and the constructs of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Cycle, exploring the relationship between classical Western and African hero mythologies. Allison investigates the derivations, common motives and cultural differences between the two traditions, offering original narratives and critical analysis. Through this work, Allison hopes that others will share her enthusiasm for exploring themes that unite our heritages.

Biography

Allison has always gone outside the box to make her education interesting, composing essays, poetry, and short stories that bring together characters from history and fiction. She began the *Exemplification* because she wanted to better understand contemporary African-American authors. Allison is passionate about creative writing, reading and bringing literature to life.

Allison is also interested in how ideas are communicated in all disciplines and would like to continue to develop innovative curricula that challenge conventional thought and cultivate an appreciation for learning.

The summer after her freshman year, Allison wrote *Thin Ice*, a postmodern young adult fiction novel that explores the journey of a cynical adolescent as she copes with the death of a close friend.

In her spare time, Allison likes to cook, run cross-country, play trumpet in the Mercer Island High School marching band, train in Karate, and attend movies and plays with friends.

Please see next page.



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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2009 Davidson Fellow
- 2009 Honors Program Freshman Admission - University of Washington Academy for Young Scholars
- 2009 Academy Scholarship – University of Washington Academy for Young Scholars
- 2009 Northwest Shudokan Association College Scholarship
- 2009 National Latin Exam Level II – Summa Cum Laude – Gold Medal Award
- 2008 - Present Davidson Young Scholar
- 2008 National Latin Exam Level I – Summa Cum Laude – Gold Medal Award
- 2005 Mercer Island PTA Reflections First Place Middle Division – Literature
- 2004 Mercer Island PTA Reflections First Place Intermediate Division – Literature
- 2004 Karate Black Belt

Community Activities

After Allison earned her black belt in Karate, she assisted in teaching younger students, an experience which she found rewarding because she was able to share her enthusiasm for the sport with white and yellow belts first entering the discipline.

For the past three summers, Allison has been a community volunteer at Northwest Harvest, Cathedral Kitchen, and Treehouse, and participated in Volunteer Outreach in Communities Everywhere. She is also a member of Students Against Violence Everywhere.

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