



Davidson Fellow
John Michael Colón
\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient



Personal Info

Age: 17
Wayside, New Jersey

School, College and Career Plans

A rising senior at Christian Brothers Academy, John Michael is planning to attend a top-tier university with a solid reputation in the fields of English and political science.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Literature*)

In his project, “*Art as Empathy: A Study of the Syncretic Potential of Literature*,” John Michael demonstrates the utility of literature and art in society. He writes that although human beings want to communicate their fundamental experience, this “worldview” is too ineffable to express directly; art and literature articulate this on a visceral level. John Michael proposes through art and literature, the expression of ideas can help tame the tendency to dehumanize others by helping us see their ideas the same way we see ours, inspiring empathy.

Biography

John Michael’s mother read to him when he was little, which he states probably inspired his interest in reading and literature. He was educated in the public school system through middle school – first at Wayside Elementary School, then at Ocean Township Intermediate School. During this time, John Michael was able to participate in a gifted-and-talented-students program. For high school, John Michael attends Christian Brothers Academy, a private Catholic preparatory school on a full-tuition academic scholarship.

In addition to literature, John Michael’s interests are many and varied: “I have a chronic addiction to technology and the Internet, I have been a passionate video gamer from the age of two, I am a nigh-obsessive politico (much to the consternation of my moderate and practical family), I listen to just about every type of music conceivable, and I play casual tennis in what is probably a futile attempt to ward off the growth of my BMI.”

John Michael served as Co-Editor in Chief of Literature for his schools’ literary magazine, Arister. He was president of the Spanish club and the secretary for the Junior Statesmen of America club. He was a member of the Science Fiction Club, the Mock Trial Team, the Future Business Leaders of America, the La Sallian Youth Group and a founding member of Saint John the Baptist Church’s Youth Group.

Please see next page.



**Davidson Fellow
John Michael Colón**

Cont.

Honors/Awards

- 2010 Davidson Fellow
- 2010 CBA Presidential Scholar – Full tuition scholarship for 4 years
- 2010 Notre Dame Latino Leadership Seminar (1 of 40 students selected)
- 2010 Georgetown Journalism Summer Program for High School Students
- 2009 National Honor Society
- 2009 National High School Poetry Contest/Easterday Poetry Award; Published in the spring 2010 issue of JUST POETRY!!!
- 2008 Winner of Asbury Park Press Student Voices Contest
- 2009 National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS)
- 2008-2009 Spanish National Honor Society
- 2008 CBA Winner of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award
- 2008 Saint Timothy Award for the Diocese of Metuchen

Community Activities

John Michael interned during the summer at a pro bona law firm called Central Jersey Legal Services, which helps people who do not have the money to pay for legal assistance.

###