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Donor # 4316 Interview Notes

I would describe this Donor as a charming, young, enthusiastic science buff. He bubbles with excitement when talking about his research projects and the variety of other interests that inspire him as well. Donor 4316 is an avid cook and even wrote his own cookbook for his high school senior project. The cookbook was geared towards college students looking to eat for cheap. His favorite recipe from the book is his dish with ground lamb and kasha or couscous. Learning to cook at his mom's knee, as a little kid he would help out with her catering business. He also enjoys traveling and is interested in learning more languages so he can travel with ease. He currently speaks French and would like to start learning Spanish and travel in South America next summer.

The donor was wearing a white button down shirt that had a subtle design, conveying an understated, finely tuned aesthetic sense. He was very neat and nicely put together with curly brown hair and broad face. I think his big, open brown eyes are his shining feature.

The donor joked that during high school he was never the star athlete but more the team's GPA boost. As an adult he enjoys individual sports, ones that rely on individual drive and determination, more than team sports. He rock climbs with his little sister and also enjoys cycling. Donor 4316 is very close to his family and enjoys hanging out with both of his siblings; he prefers to hang out with them one on one as there is a 3 year difference between each of them.

Donor 4316 told me that he's been *passionate about science since I was a little kid*, and he has always liked to figure out how things worked. I asked the donor how he went from a fascination with mechanics and how things are put together to an interest in the biological sciences. He said his interest was sparked by his 7th grade science teacher, who introduced him to biology. He soon realized that biology *is my stuff, this is what I love*. At age 16 he was given an internship at a University studying the HIV virus. The donor explained the structure of the HIV virus cell to me, and explained that they were trying to discover the mechanism by which HIV protein dissolves into human cells. The goal of the project is to be able to discover a way to block the HIV cell from dissolving in and therefore infecting human cells. Because he was so young, the donor was not allowed to live in the dorms and he had to sublet a room in a nearby apartment, joking that he learned a lot about cockroaches that summer. I was very impressed that the donor was both given the opportunity to work on such an important project and also that he was able to be so self-reliant at age 16. The experience showcases how his passion and hard work have driven him to explore fascinating areas and seek out exciting opportunities. It seems he handles challenges with the grace and ease.

I am impressed with this donor's ability to communicate in different circumstances. His narrative is well-written and he speaks with confidence and humility. He has a slightly self-deprecating sense of humor, making many jokes about what a big science geek he is. However, his love for what he does is so apparent I think he is really very happy being a science "nerd". I get the impression that this donor is extremely intelligent and has learned to make jokes about it to draw attention off him and make himself more accessible to his peers. He is the type of person who knows what he likes and how to get what he wants without stepping on others. He is a sweet young man and I think he will do very well for himself in the future.

Interviewer: D. Klinkow

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