



At the age of 19, I was diagnosed with Alport syndrome and my life changed. Alport syndrome provided the answer to many unanswered questions presented throughout my life, and it explained the many issues experienced throughout the majority of my life. Once diagnosed, Alport syndrome caused/forced me to make many hard life decisions/changes, from dietary changes, to a complete adjustment of my life goals. I cannot say that Alport syndrome has brought any benefit to my personal life, however, it has provided knowledge and experience which will benefit me within my proposed vocation, clinical psychology. Alport syndrome is a reality, and one I never truly imagined, so it has greatly impacted my life, and I am still trying to figure out if it has impacted me for the better. This syndrome has not only impacted my life, but rather my family and friends as they will have to watch me go through anguish and torment and still remember me for who I am. This syndrome has made it difficult to secure a significant other as understandably, the thought of constant care in the future is not truly appealing to most people my age.

Due to the effects of the syndrome I had to cease many extracurricular activities, such as sport and some physical activities. This is a great loss for me as I have always been big on sport and I spent the greater portion of my younger life attempting to perfect and grow within sport. Due to this loss I have resorted to academic hobbies, attending lectures and reading books that facilitate my overwhelming interest in all subjects. I do my best to engage in physical activities,



however, my body does not always permit it. Due to this fact I still partake in intermural sport, such as volleyball and soccer. I still play golf (the one sport my body can handle) during the summer months, however, I had to refrain from participating in Division II Golf at the University of Sioux Falls based on my diagnosis. I would say that I don't have true hobbies as I am still searching for my niche hobby, one that is secular from sport.

I wish to receive this award as I have set myself on a course to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a year and a half earlier by taking extra credits and in order to achieve this I need additional funds. I am truly grateful to my parents for supporting me through college, however, I understand that college is expensive and I would like to be able to pay for a portion of my college to show them that I am grateful for all they have done. I wish to support them as much as they have supported me. I want them to see that they raised me to 'never give up' to persevere and to achieve those dreams and goal I have set in place, which shifted upon diagnosis. As of now I wish to hold a doctorate in clinical psychology before the age of 26 and to give back to the community through institution work before I undergo my transplant. These goals can only become true if I can graduate early and in order to that, I would need to supplement part of my tuition.

This award will allow me to supplement part of undergraduate studies and purchase book supplies for the upcoming semester. And with this award I will be able to receive my

undergraduate degree as the age of 21 and be well on my way to become a doctor of psychology before the age of 25. This award will not only benefit me within academics, but it will show my parents that this diagnosis is not the end of the road, that I refuse to let this dictate my life, that I can do things just as well with Alports than without. You are only defined by yourself, you may hide or you may seek, and I have chosen to seek, seek a bright future no matter the obstacle. This award will be welcomed, appreciated, provide hope and will illustrate how the world and life are not always against you and that if you keep working hard you can benefit from its lessons.