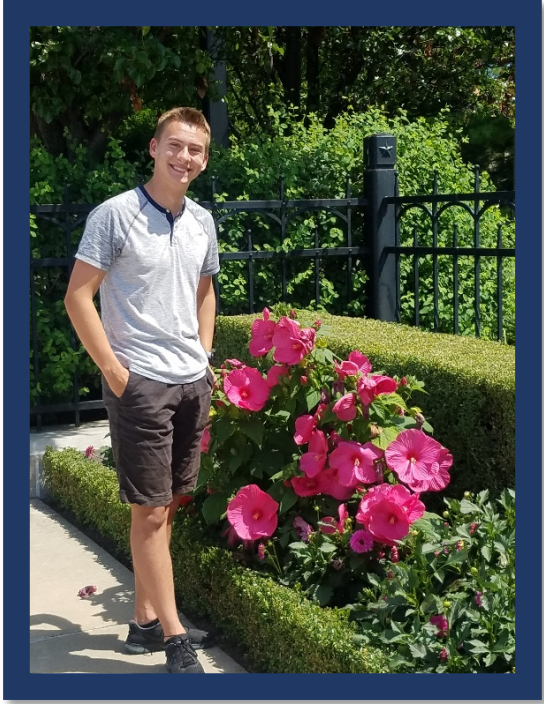


## 2020 Department of Biology Awards

### JOSEPH E. GREAVES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

*Brevin Ashby, Human Biology*



As I am nearing my 19th year of life, I've decided to write out a little about my life: it's accomplishments, failures, achievements, ups and down, etc. I was born into a very blessed and religious family in Utah. I am the 3rd oldest of 4 children with two older brothers and a little sister. My parents were always very loving, but also

made sure we knew what their expectations were. They would always summarize their parenting style into one phrase, "Teach them correct principles, and let them govern themselves."

This translated into our schooling as my mother would always joke that we cared more about our grades than she did! I loved going to school to learn and meet new people. I just found the world so fascinating and wanted to learn more all the time. But mental exercise was not the only kind of exercise I received. From the time I was eight years old, I had played competitive soccer. In my family, we participated in soccer religiously, spending countless hours at practices, games, and tournaments, including many tournaments requiring us to travel to different states.

But as highly as we held soccer in our family, we held something else just as high, music. My mom having played the flute most of her life always made it a strong suggestion we learn a musical instrument. So when I was in 5th grade and my mom volunteered to teach music at my elementary school, I picked up the trumpet for the first time and started my journey with music.

I had a happy and pretty straightforward childhood, until about the time I hit 9th grade. I've always looked up to my older brother and wanted to be just like him so because he

participated in student government in 9th grade, so did I. The next check on my list to be like my brother was to quit band, quit student government after that year, and play soccer for my high school.

But my whole life plan was ruined when I was cut from the high school soccer team in 9th grade. It was about this time I was also diagnosed with anxiety and depression. To most, this might seem like a devastating loss in my life and, at first, it was for me. However, this became one of the events in my life I am most grateful for. I decided I couldn't just follow in my brother's footsteps anymore, I had to become my own person. I quit soccer and joined the marching band and jazz band at my high school. I ran for class president for my sophomore year and I made it. My life wasn't over, it was just starting.

My sophomore year of high school, I started to discover who I really was. I had a real talent for the trumpet and I loved being involved in the music department at my high school. The music students didn't care who you were, they were always so loving and accepting. I also found a talent and love for student government. I had the amazing privilege to be class president my sophomore and junior year and Student Body Officer of Student Recognition my senior year. Being in student government opened the opportunity to also lead many acts of service like raising more than \$500,000 for three different charities during my high school career. While most people hated high school, it was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

After nearly 19 years of life, I have discovered that whenever you start to make plans for your future, life loves to mess it up. My plan for after high school was to become a missionary for my church for two years and then attend Utah State University. But life once again threw me a curveball as I had to return home after a month of service due to my anxiety and depression.

This really shook me and has forced me to change my plans once again. I quickly enrolled in school at Utah State for the Spring 2020 semester and began my education this last January studying Biology Pre-Med and Music. While it has been a hard transition and a difficult journey, I know that this also will become one of the most defining moments in my life.