

2020 Department of Biology Awards

THOMAS L. BAHLER SCHOLARSHIP

Djamilliah Paepke-Chile, Human Biology



I was born in Lima, Peru and moved to Brazil when I was 5 years old. My father Alfredo Chile is Peruvian and my mother Rosimara Chile is Brazilian. Because of their nationality, I was blessed to have double nationality and be raised with the influence of both cultures. I went to high school in Brazil. My passions were sports and sciences. I got an honorable mention for the State Chemistry Olympics. I was

varsity for handball, volleyball and soccer and state champion for handball. I graduated in Brazil at the age of 16, but my father thought it would be a great idea to send me to the US and learn the language and pursue my education here. I graduated again from a US high school and during that time I was able to learn English, my third language, after Spanish & Portuguese. During my senior year in HS, I joined Track & field where I found a new passion: throwing the javelin. I was 1st in regions and 5th in state. I also got track and field athlete of the year for my high school. Besides sports, I joined different clubs to help the community around me, like the Interact club working as their public relations and also the National Honors Society. I graduated with an overall GPA. 3.950 and a bilingual seal for Spanish and Portuguese. I am currently majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Human biology to pursue my dream to go to Medical School with a double major in Portuguese and Chemistry. I hope one day to become a doctor as respected as my father is and help my family and others to reach their dreams.