

ARIANA TRAUTMANN

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

I am from Tallahassee, for the most part. I think we moved here from New Jersey when I was maybe 5 or 6 so I started 2nd grade in Tallahassee. And we came down here to be with my uncle and my grandmother - which is why we made that transition down here. Since then I've been here, til now.

I went to Chiles High School for all four years.

First I got offered a scholarship for the TCC honors program so I was there for my first two years, and received my AA, and then I went to FSU for my last two years of undergrad, and now I've just started FSU medical school 4 weeks ago.

I decided to go into med school when I was 11, actually. My brother, who was 14 at the time, was diagnosed with cancer, so we were in Gainesville a lot at Shands, and just seeing everyone there, seeing all the kids and all the families that were affected, just like our families were, I felt helpless watching my brother and being 11 and not being able to do anything so that's what started it for me.

So I started taking anatomy classes in high school and realized I liked it a whole lot. It just kind of stuck, it never really went away, and then I became interested in other fields of medicine, because I thought at first I'd want to go into pediatric oncology, but now I'm leaning towards maybe family medicine because that way you get to see everything I feel like, and I really like medicine and all the body systems so I'd like to see as much as I could. Yeah and when you're applying, you have to take your MCAT and get good grades in college and do your service

I actually applied just to FSU because the cost of admission actually is emphasized on helping shared populations around our community by creating doctors that really care for patients, so I just applied to FSU, and I found out in September, and now I'm here.

Starting in high school, actually, I developed a team for Relay for Life called Siblings of Survivors, that was really - I wanted to include the entire families seeing how much pediatric illness affects the whole family, not just the child affected, and so I started SoS @ Chiles - I've done that for the past 7 years.

I got involved through my mom in a new non-profit called the Hang Tough foundation which once again features on pediatric illness and their focus on the whole entire family as well, so they had a goal in mind to emotionally and financially support the whole entire family. And make the child affected, make them feel like they're more than just their illness or condition they have.

I started working with them maybe 2 yrs ago, my junior year of college, and I actually went on to develop a branch of that nonprofit at FSU for FSU students to get involved - I've worked

Pediatric illness really appeals to me.

I've done a lot of volunteering in hospitals and stuff...

FSU does kind of something different - they start in the summer - we started our anatomy labs, and I've already been introduced to a cadaver - my first two years, I'll be in classrooms, but we'll still be doing shadowing in the community with different physicians. We do like mock patient experiences - we pretend to be doing

That's what the

Third and fourth year, FSU has different campuses, and you can get placed in one of those campuses,

If you pass all the right tests, you graduate, and start the rest of your career.

The first thing that drew it to me is the ability to help people, being in a position where I felt like I didn't have much control, I just sat by and watch, so I like the ability to help, and my parents have always been very selfless, loving people, and everything I've watched them do for other people through my life has motivated me to do something where I get to give back to other people to and I feel like being a doctor I do love medicine I'd never thought I'd like the urinary system

It's something that can be incredibly rewarding, especially with FSU if you want to produce physicians who go into underserved areas in our community that don't have access to medical care that people in bigger cities might have

So to have the ability to do something that I really find interesting and being able to help someone at the same time that I really love doing is what draws me and keeps me in through all this studying

It's definitely hard, we just had our first test, and it was a lot of studying - undergrad is like drinking from the fountain of knowledge, and med school is like drinking from a fire hydrant, there's just so much information thrown at you at once - it's definitely overwhelming - there are some days where you haven't slept much, and you're just studying all day - they put you in learning communities, groups of about 30-40 classmates, rooms, kitchens, we've only been there for 4 weeks and I feel closer to these people than some of my friends

We're all in the same situation. We went to get dinner after we had our first test. They're a great support system - someone who knows exactly what you're going through. More importantly, my family, they're in Tallahassee too, I get to go home and talk to my mom and dad, my grandparents, aunts and uncles, we're all here - They keep me sane. They're very supportive. They help me get through it. Take a lot of the burden off.

He's great - he's been in remission for quite a while - it's been about 10 years since he's been diagnosed, he wants to pursue a career in medicine too - he's at FSU - we worked side-by-side in

the ER together - fun brother and sister bonding - he's great now - he wants to go into medicine too, after his experience - he has a different side of it than I do

I definitely like to travel, I've been to 8 countries so far, I did a tour, and we hopped around a lot in the period of about 2 weeks. So I definitely like traveling and seeing other communities and cultures and seeing how they live. I've started watching a lot of HDTV, I found that show Fixer Upper, so I keep trying to buy things off Craig's List and sanding them down

I've always liked soccer, I've played soccer since I was little, and I like to read

I'm definitely very proud of getting into med school, I've wanted it for maybe 10 years, there were times when it didn't seem it was going to play out, and I hit a lot of road blocks, and after I transferred from TCC to FSU and a lot of advisors didn't think I'd get into med school because I'd been to a community college first and so there were periods of times when I thought it wasn't an option anymore but I stuck with it and I'm very glad I did and I'm proud of that because it was a lot of work and

Now I'm here, and hopefully I do well.

I know there was one advisor who really didn't think I would get into med school, at all, because I went to TCC and I remember leaving his office and calling my dad and saying I won't be able to get in anywhere and he said we'd figure it out - he started putting me in classes that he thought I'd be more equipped to handle because I'd come from TCC - thought I shouldn't do the same classes - by the time it came to take my MCATs, I hadn't taken the right courses I needed to take, I was missing physics and biochemistry, two big subjects on the MCAT, so I ended up having to teach myself physics and biochemistry for the MCAT while I was taking a full course load and that was very hard, and very stressful, studying for the test itself and teaching myself new material while studying for classes that I was already taking that semester

I thought I was going to fail my MCAT, and there was a lot of crying, and I only had to take it once

Not having an advisor that believed in me was kind of hard. But I got through it, and I think it helped me more almost that he made me push myself a little more, it worked out in the end

I think definitely keep trying. It sounds overly simple, but if it's something that you really feel, that you're drawn to or you want to do, but to just listen to what your gut tells you, and if it's something you really want, to keep going for it and you're going to have bumps in the road but if you stay true to what you want to do and try your best to get there
It winds up working out in the end - just stick with it - especially if you know it's going to be hard but what you want to do

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