

Interview Assessment #1

Date: 25 August 2018

Subject: Sasha Still, MD

Throughout the course of my summer internship at Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital in Dallas, I was able to meet a multitude of amazing physicians and administrators. One of the people that I got the opportunity to meet was a young general surgery resident named Sasha Still. I got in contact with Sasha through another surgeon that said her point of view as a woman that is fairly new to the medical world (and has been through medical school pretty recently) will be a big help in my decision between surgery and administration.

Sasha was gracious enough to grant me some time to meet with her on a Saturday for lunch down in Dallas so that I could get some personal one on one time with her. The moment that we began our conversation, I knew that I liked her as a person in addition to an advisor. We bonded over our mutual love for being different and our discontent with the food we ordered. What interested me most about Sasha was the fact that she got an undergraduate degree in Italian from the University of Texas at Austin before going on to medical school. I know that, if I decided to go to medical school and pursue becoming a physician, I still would not want to get an undergraduate degree in something normal for pre-med students like biology or biochemistry. Sasha embodied that dream of mine and was able to let me know, from past experiences, that it is possible to still become a successful surgeon without going the normal undergraduate route. In fact, it is becoming more popular for upcoming-surgeons to get an undergraduate degree in something not medical related so that they can differentiate themselves and bring something to the table that not many others can in terms of their professional expertise.

One of my fears about pursuing medicine is the possibility that I could miss out on a lot of what life has to offer because of the serious time commitment and rigorousness that would be evident through all of my young adult life. While it is not the large amount of time spent in school that worries me, it is the missed experiences that cause me to second guess a career choice in medicine. However, Sasha showed me that it is possible to do more than the average pre-med student and truly live your life through your young adult life while still pursuing a successful career in medicine. Her degree choice of a foreign language allowed her to travel the world and experience more beyond the textbooks in class and the city in which she lived.

Whether I choose to pursue medicine or if I choose to follow a completely different path of life, I hope that I can make the most of my college years and

experience as much of the world and human society as I possibly can. Due to my meeting with Sasha, I now know that that dream of mine is not at all impossible.