

Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT). This is what drives me. Raised as a military child, the concept I had to comprehend was to adapt and overcome. I did not stay in a place long enough to make growth marks on the walls or even be close to family members outside of my immediate family. But I did have the blessing of being exposed to different diversities and beliefs at a young age. This allowed me to develop a humble respect for cultures and I feel it will be a great asset to my career goal in the medical field, as a Cardiothoracic Surgeon.

At the age of three my mother put me in physical activities, that despite my heart conditions, I believe aided me in adopting good work ethic. In my teenage years I developed the condition called supraventricular tachycardia, a state where the heart has created an "arrhythmia, which is an abnormality in the timing or pattern of the heartbeat" (JohnsHopkinsMedicine, 2016). This condition would often worsen when I was not keeping busy. So throughout my high school years I made sure I kept myself active, joining sports, extra curricular activities, and work. In school I always found fascination in science, always taking the cardiovascular system for projects because the heart was something constant in my life, but I didn't yet feel the full pull towards the subject as a career goal. It was when I moved to Alaska and joined the Medical Academy at my school that I realized where what I want my niche to be. I was ready to take my dream and run with it, but a few days before the first day of my junior year I suffered from a traumatic brain injury.

To say the least, it was life-changing. My doctor pulled me from everything for almost the entire semester where I was not allowed to do any homework or mentally fatiguing activity. Being a military kid my parents always instilled the motivation to keep busy, so staying home mentally impaired and in constant pain, was very stressful and disheartening. When I was able

to come back to school all of my grades had suffered. Although it was a difficult time, I worked hard to turn in things I missed. The motivation came during second semester in my Anatomy & Physiology class, I got to dissect and learn every part of a cat, from the names of the bones to the names of the specific organs and muscles. The opportunity to visit the Cadaver Lab at UAA was a possibility if I could maintain a C average. I worked very hard and fought past my internal pain, and sure enough I got to go! Visiting the Cadaver Lab at the end of my junior year, being able to hold human organs and hear their prognosis gave me the feeling of purpose. I decided I would like to further my education in the study of life. The idea of finding ways to possibly cure or aid against incurable diseases took my dreams for a ride. I had unearthed my greatest passion and I began to enter into other medical classes that gave me more ambition. Although I went from a term GPA of 3.6 to a 3.3 and school rank from top 10% to 15%, the fire of motivation had been lit. I am currently in cheerleading, track & field, and a member to the dance team at my school. I am also treasurer of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), volunteer helper for the 21st century program at Begich Middle School, and work when I have the extra time. My headaches and heart pains aren't completely gone, but keeping myself busy helps.

Graduation is around the corner and I am excited to graduate with my medical cord and start college in the summer. I got accepted into the University of Anchorage Alaska and I will be working towards a Bachelors of Science degree in biological science. My dreams go beyond my bachelors. after I graduate from college I will apply and take the medical college admission test (MCAT). and pursue getting into a medical school. My two dream schools are Stanford University School of Medicine or Harvard Medical School. I know the schooling of becoming a surgeon will be long and strenuous but my will is up for the long haul.