

Intro: You are on with career talks presented by the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech a regular podcast featuring students, alumni, and friends of the school offering advice to help you succeed in your career endeavors.

Host: welcome to Career Talks a podcast service of the Academic Services Office of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech. We are here with Emma Smith, a five-year bachelors of science, master student. Emma can you introduce yourself, your name, major, where you are from, what you studied in undergrad and why you decided to stay in complete your masters at Tech?

Emma: Hey, I'm Emma Smith I'm an International Affairs major here at Georgia Tech, originally from Roswell, Georgia. I studied international affairs here as an undergrad and while I was an undergraduate I decided to join the five-year combined bachelor's and master's program here. I guess I decided to stay and complete my master's at Tech because it just made a lot of sense. It's really affordable especially because I'm an in-state student to get a master's degree and because it's a combined program a lot of the credits overlap. It's a really well designed program and it also meant that I didn't have to take the GRE, I qualified based on my undergraduate GPA. So the combine program is a really great way to stay and get your masters at Tech as well.

Host: We're here to talk about your experience in mock trial how did you become involved with mock trial?

Emma: I joined my trial my freshman year at Georgia Tech. I did Model UN in high school and I really enjoyed that but when I came to Tech I was looking for something new. I'd always liked public speaking and I was somewhat interested in law and I heard about the mock trial team

from a couple of my friend to it done in high school and they basically convinced me to try out on a whim. I showed up I had no idea what mock trial was but I did the tryout, I made the team and I was really uncertain of whether I was going to actually join or not. I decided on whim basically to join the team and I'm really glad I did it's definitely my favorite thing that I did as an undergrad. Then I continued on the mock trial team for the next three years so you've been

Host: The team recently earned fourth place at the 2017 American Mock Trial Association National Championship. Can you tell us more about this?

Emma: Sure, so in mock trial at the beginning of every year, a case is released. Teams go to various Invitational tournaments hosted by other colleges to sort of practice that case. Then the American Mock Trial Association, which is sort of the governing body for collegiate mock trial runs regional tournaments around the country. Between six hundred seven hundred teams usually go to those. The top six teams from each regional tournament move up to the second round of competition. Then the top six teams from each of those tournaments moves on to the national championship. Even getting to the national championship is really exciting. It's just the top forty-eight teams in the country any given year. Then from there, the teams received a completely new case and then the one that they've been working on. Within a month's time you basically have to develop a new case, practice it and be ready to compete. Last April, I was lucky enough to go with my teammates. There were seven of us total plus our two coaches to Los Angeles to compete in the 2017 National Championship Tournament. We placed second in our division and fourth overall, which was a really good result we're really excited about that.

Host: Yeah, especially with the little time you had.

Emma: It definitely takes over your life for that time period but its fun, its fun. Everyone that does it really enjoys it especially the teammates that I was going to nationals with. So it's good to be with a group of really hard working people.

Host: On the Georgia Tech Mock Trial website you have won several awards including outstanding attorney award. Are you planning to pursue law?

Emma: Yes, I am so I'm taking the LSAT this September and then I'm considering going to law school either next fall or in the fall afterwards. I might take some time off to work after I finish my master's degree this December. I definitely am interested in pursuing law as a result of mock trial. It was sort of an idea on the back burner when I came into college but then after I joined mock trial and liked it so much I really want to pursue law.

Host: How do you think Georgia Tech or the Nunn School have you for a mock trial and possibly law school.

Emma: Both mock trial and the International Affairs School in Georgia Tech have definitely taught me how to persuade people, which is a really important skill no matter what you want to go into. Mock trial involves standing in front of a group of people, taking all of this complex information, condensing it down to a five or ten-minute speech and then convincing a group of strangers that you're right over the person sitting across the room which is a really hard thing to do. Those skills definitely are valuable across basically any career: learning how to speak succinctly and clearly; how to stand naturally and have charisma in the courtroom; and really

convince people to be on your side. Is definitely something that I learned in mock trial and then also within the school.

Host: What advice would you give students interested in organization such as mock trial or someone interested in pursuing law?

Emma: Students interested in pursuing mock trial, I would say definitely go for it. I can't recommend it enough the team here at Georgia Tech is composed less than half of pre-law students. So it's not just for future lawyers, really anybody can get a lot out of it and I know plenty of pre-med students are engineers that really enjoy it. So if you're interested in joining Georgia Tech Mock Trial, the first week of classes they're info sessions and tryouts but we also have a website georgiatechmocktrial.com where you can get more information, subtle plug. And then just in general for pursuing law, basically there are there are all different kinds of law and law schools are looking for all different kinds of students. So don't think that you just have to pursue a pretty long track or public policy major or political science or whatever you think is sort of typical you can really pursue your interests and then channel that into law.

Host: So that concludes our interview, thank you for sharing your insight and expertise with our audience today.

Outro: This has been career talks a podcast of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech brought to you by the Nunn School academic services this and other podcast can be found on our website at www.inta.gatech.edu. Thank you for listening.