

Brandy Tate Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

Speech-language pathology involves treating communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. Basically, speech therapists are the go-to person if someone is having difficulties talking, reading, learning, eating, or swallowing.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

To make my family proud and... I can't lie. I'm looking forward to my first pay check.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Absolutely! Networking is great, regardless of expertise area.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

A nice, invigorating run... I especially enjoy running through the woods in the early morning hours, listening to the mountains as they come alive (that is, if I can drag myself out of bed).

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

The Hunger Game series... about 3 or 4 months ago.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

My most meaningful academic relationships are those that I have with my fellow classmates.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

Honestly? The professors have surprised me the most. They are incredibly helpful and resourceful.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

Most definitely! My dad would be so jealous! My boyfriend tells me that I have a pretty good sense of direction, so maybe I'd help lead the way to Mars. And if we encountered any aliens, I could probably transcribe their language ;-)

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

Oh gosh... as a Dietitian, I should probably say something 'healthy' like apples and peanut butter or yogurt and fruit, but quite honestly, I love chips! Cool Ranch Doritos are my favorite.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

Working as a Clinical Dietitian in the hospital setting.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

May 2013!!