



# Astronaut

at a Glance

1  
00:00:10,129 --> 00:00:08,660  
I remember watching a shuttle launch one

2  
00:00:12,410 --> 00:00:10,139  
day and my father came up to me and said

3  
00:00:13,730 --> 00:00:12,420  
do you want to work for NASA no yes I do

4  
00:00:15,259 --> 00:00:13,740  
and he said well that's great and you

5  
00:00:16,730 --> 00:00:15,269  
need to be an engineer and of course my

6  
00:00:18,529 --> 00:00:16,740  
dad was an engineer followed my dad's

7  
00:00:20,779 --> 00:00:18,539  
advice that he gave to me in an early

8  
00:00:22,400 --> 00:00:20,789  
age about being an engineer and went to

9  
00:00:25,160 --> 00:00:22,410  
the George Washington University in

10  
00:00:26,870 --> 00:00:25,170  
Washington DC and then about midway

11  
00:00:28,330 --> 00:00:26,880  
through my engineering curriculum I had

12  
00:00:31,490 --> 00:00:28,340  
a lot of friends who were actually

13  
00:00:33,560 --> 00:00:31,500

pre-med engineers and they said Serena

14

00:00:35,209 --> 00:00:33,570

you need to need to think about medicine

15

00:00:36,380 --> 00:00:35,219

you'd be a great doctor and so during

16

00:00:39,619 --> 00:00:36,390

college I actually spent a lot of my

17

00:00:41,540 --> 00:00:39,629

time teaching martial arts I learned

18

00:00:43,280 --> 00:00:41,550

kung fu when I was in high school and in

19

00:00:44,869 --> 00:00:43,290

undergrad I was looking for a little bit

20

00:00:46,760 --> 00:00:44,879

of a job and looking for a school to

21

00:00:48,680 --> 00:00:46,770

train at and so I found a school in the

22

00:00:51,139 --> 00:00:48,690

southeast part of DC not the best part

23

00:00:53,330 --> 00:00:51,149

in the world but really good instructors

24

00:00:56,510 --> 00:00:53,340

and I used to take the metro every

25

00:00:58,610 --> 00:00:56,520

Monday Wednesday Friday from GW campus

26  
00:01:00,020 --> 00:00:58,620  
down there I started training there

27  
00:01:01,639 --> 00:01:00,030  
myself just to have more physical

28  
00:01:02,689 --> 00:01:01,649  
fitness and then they said hey we

29  
00:01:05,090 --> 00:01:02,699  
thought you'd be really good with kids

30  
00:01:06,859 --> 00:01:05,100  
would you mind teaching a kid's class on

31  
00:01:08,780 --> 00:01:06,869  
Mondays and Wednesdays after finishing

32  
00:01:12,170 --> 00:01:08,790  
my undergraduate degree in electrical

33  
00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:12,180  
engineering I was accepted to University

34  
00:01:15,350 --> 00:01:14,010  
of Texas Health Science Center Houston

35  
00:01:18,200 --> 00:01:15,360  
there medical school right in the

36  
00:01:20,929 --> 00:01:18,210  
medical center and started my medical

37  
00:01:23,780 --> 00:01:20,939  
training there when I was a fourth-year

38  
00:01:25,580 --> 00:01:23,790

medical student I knew I wanted to do a

39

00:01:28,460 --> 00:01:25,590

rotation at NASA but when I came down in

40

00:01:30,740 --> 00:01:28,470

October of 2000 I learned that there was

41

00:01:32,120 --> 00:01:30,750

a special program that combined internal

42

00:01:34,609 --> 00:01:32,130

medicine which is medicine for adults

43

00:01:36,649 --> 00:01:34,619

and what I love with aerospace medicine

44

00:01:38,569 --> 00:01:36,659

and that program existed at the

45

00:01:41,270 --> 00:01:38,579

University of Texas Medical Branch in

46

00:01:43,310 --> 00:01:41,280

Galveston my personal journey you know

47

00:01:45,200 --> 00:01:43,320

it started off as an engineer turned

48

00:01:46,760 --> 00:01:45,210

into a physician which I absolutely love

49

00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:46,770

and a lot of people say that the journey

50

00:01:50,660 --> 00:01:48,720

along the way is the best part in

51  
00:01:51,649 --> 00:01:50,670  
getting to your end destination and it

52  
00:01:55,010 --> 00:01:51,659  
really has been because they

53  
00:01:57,169 --> 00:01:55,020  
absolutely love being a doctor but at

54  
00:01:59,270 --> 00:01:57,179  
the same time since I was little I've

55  
00:02:01,099 --> 00:01:59,280  
always wanted to be up here I've always

56  
00:02:04,039 --> 00:02:01,109  
wanted to be in space so I worked space

57  
00:02:05,419 --> 00:02:04,049  
station operations in Mission Control or

58  
00:02:05,840 --> 00:02:05,429  
thicker one as we call it for space

59  
00:02:07,789 --> 00:02:05,850  
station

60  
00:02:09,050 --> 00:02:07,799  
spent a lot of time in Star City looking

61  
00:02:10,550 --> 00:02:09,060  
after the astronauts who are training

62  
00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:10,560  
out there so I got a little bit of a

63  
00:02:14,449 --> 00:02:12,420

preview as to what their lives were like

64

00:02:16,190 --> 00:02:14,459

so I do work as a Capcom one of my

65

00:02:18,140 --> 00:02:16,200

favorite jobs actually I love talking to

66

00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:18,150

the crew because I know they're up there

67

00:02:20,869 --> 00:02:19,440

they're working hard and sometimes just

68

00:02:23,300 --> 00:02:20,879

chairing a friendly voice is really nice

69

00:02:24,949 --> 00:02:23,310

so I have been Antarctica and that was

70

00:02:27,890 --> 00:02:24,959

one of my neatest analogs I did that

71

00:02:30,430 --> 00:02:27,900

from the 2010 to 2011 season so I spent

72

00:02:33,500 --> 00:02:30,440

two months in Antarctica and six weeks

73

00:02:35,119 --> 00:02:33,510

living on the ice and a tent we had a

74

00:02:38,569 --> 00:02:35,129

mountaineer who was the leader of our

75

00:02:40,550 --> 00:02:38,579

team very small team of four and we're

76

00:02:42,860 --> 00:02:40,560

by ourselves there's no bugs there's no

77

00:02:44,180 --> 00:02:42,870

ants there's no animals unless you're

78

00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:44,190

near the coast then you have the seals

79

00:02:48,289 --> 00:02:46,650

you know any other penguins I still have

80

00:02:50,869 --> 00:02:48,299

dreams at night where I hear the wind

81

00:02:52,759 --> 00:02:50,879

hitting the tent and when the winds not

82

00:02:55,099 --> 00:02:52,769

blowing it's just absolutely silent