ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ed Joaquin Pedraza-Robles

Infosys - Instep Intern

James Madison High School (2016); UT Austin

BAUMBERGER CURRENT SCHOLAR MENTOR



FUN FACT

I was once in the top 800 players of GeoGuessr --- a game where you guess where you are on planet Earth.

Career Journey

Your path from undergrad to where you are today — and what led you here.

When I left high school, I knew I wanted to become a doctor --- whether that be PhD or MD. After spending some time in linguistics and physics laboratories, I knew that I wanted to make a contribution to a scientific field and talk to similarly-minded people. I recently made a career change from academia into business/administration, and it has been an interesting time navigating such a 180-degree turn. I recently wrapped up an internship with Infosys, a global systems integrator that operates worldwide. I am filled with much excitement about my next step in business.

A Defining Moment

A hardship, resilience story, or turning point that shaped who you are.

I had a panic attack when I had received an email that I would not be graduating from my first master's degree on time. My publishable paper that was needed to pass me was not up to quality and I would have to stay another year. I won't talk about this like it was my biggest failure, but rather my biggest turnaround story. I finished the paper despite so much prior disappointment. This was a titanic effort that was magnified by my total lack of desire to remain in academia. I finished and now I am on my way towards my second master's.

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OUTSIDE OF WORK, I LIKE TO…

Explore coffee shops, read books, learn about other languages and cultures, travel, and play soccer and tennis!

Scholarship Impact

How the Baumberger scholarship shaped what came after high school.

The Baumberger Endowment is singularly the most important scholarship I could have received. It is responsible for all the help I received in undergraduate studies. Without Baumberger I would not have succeeded --- it truly supplied the funds necessary to allow me to focus fully on my studies and ensure I could deliver on scholastic success.

Advice for a Scholar

One or two sentences for a current student.

Give yourself some grace. Sometimes there are things only experience can tell you. Try things. See what you are good at. See what you enjoy.