

Jose H. Borja

Class of 2017



Major: Biology and Environmental Science

Heritage: Mexican

Hobbies: Talking to my parents and hanging out with them even if it's just at home. Helping my sisters out with their science homework. Chilling with my brother or cruising with him as the bass hits from the back seats. Hanging out with my cutie (blows kiss). Listening to corridos on the way home from school or work. Being outside in nature. Lastly, just living it's an enjoyable experience.

Organizations Involved:

UNCW Habitat for Humanity, MI CASA Mentor, PEACE Jam Ambassador

Where do you work?

I currently work at NC State's Horticulture Crops Research Station as a research assistant and at Centro Hispano. I also attend CMS to work in the Marine Evolution Ecology Lab with Dr. Kamel as a research assistant.

What are your top 3 accomplishments?

1. Probably my biggest accomplishment so far is being the first one in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. Gracias pa y ma, sin ustedes no fuera nadie.
2. Secondly, being able to manage my time and enjoy my last year as an undergrad, while still working and being in two research labs.
3. Lastly, staying true to myself and keeping it real. Deuces.

What's after college?

First, have lunch. You cannot save the world on an empty stomach haha. Seriously though, I hope to continue my education and go to graduate school and then doctoral school. A long term goal is to one day plant a tree on every continent.

Dream job?

My dream job is to not call my job a job. My dream job is to be able to work outside and conduct research, have a lab, an office, and have an after school program for kids to learn about science and nature.

Any advice to the generation rising at UNCW?

Chill, relax, smile, laugh, learn, have fun, and represent (turns the music up) "yo no vine a ver si puedo, sino porque puedo vengo." The universe has a way of creating the perfect situations. You cannot control everything, so do not stress about it.

Love your family, but most importantly love yourself. Ask yourself this, "how are you going to use your gifts and talents to better the world?" and work towards that goal. Borja, out.