

## **Keyword: Challenging experiences**

### **Interviewee information:**

- Name/nickname: J
- School year: Graduate
- Major: Political Science
- Hometown: Dallas
- Family's country of origin: United States

### **Transcript (copy segment transcript here):**

[00:05:32] Jorge -- Oh, wow. That's great you know a lot about why you want to do what you want to do. And the specifics. So that was all your career. Do you remember the first time you came to A&M and you saw the city and kind of how small it was?

[00:05:55] interviewee -- Yeah, it was definitely changed from like being around like the DFW area when I came here. Like it was like I mean, like that's why they call a Caucasian station, because mostly just white people here. My experiences when I first came here were definitely very negative. So like I like I had experienced, like, you know, like racist, you know, like in high school. But it was like with people that I had grown up with or like no one to like it would like I was like I was used to like white trash, like rednecks and stuff. Like I went through a lot of racial bullshit like through high school. And then when I came in A&M, you know, in my head, I'm thinking like, alright, these are educated people, right.

Like they're in a place of higher education. so like, I'm not going to have to deal with all that racist bullshit. And like, it was very shocking. So like military walk, I got called wetback for speaking Spanish to my mom on the phone. I got in when I was a freshman sophomore. We would go out to Northgate and we used to fight with white frat guys that were like because we'd all go out, like go out in a big group, like there'd be 20 of us. And like like a big group like people cause like we have black and brown and white dudes would like they get drunk and they'd either be calling us wetback or beaner or spic or they would be calling the black dudes the N-word. And like it would just pop off after that. And like, everybody's a fuckin student. So like it was it was a really, really different like climate when I first got here. And like so like part of my research is I'm doing like like the social construction that Trump has had on on like, predominately white institutions, because after he got elected, the day after he got elected, that's when some white girl called me, wetback on military walk for speaking Spanish. So like that kind of tied into my research I do as a graduate student like the shit that I experience here, I'm like, why white people act like that? Or like, why? Like just people like act like out of racism or bigotry, but makes me by a lot of my experiences here were definitely negative. I actually wanted to drop out. I almost withdrew because I didn't know anybody here. And then I stumbled upon the Department of Multicultural Services and found an organization called Latino Males United. That's why I found, like my colleague, my advisor, my best friends that I had to this

day. So, Mama and I'm actually a mentor back in LMU. So any of the little homies that want to, like, get help, they want to apply to grad school. Like, I definitely help them out, like deciding like what they want to do with their future careers. Because I was in that boat like I was. Most of us in there, life grew up in the barrios or like Section 8 housing or like not the best like family situations. A lot of us grew up in poverty and not having things and a lot of us don't have positive male role models in our lives. So like everybody just kind of like is there for each other and that organization and pretty much all of us are first generation college students in there and like, if it hadn't been for that, I definitely would have left. And I got to like UTSA with a lot more brown people.

[00:08:51] interviewer -- No, sorry to hear that. No, that's okay. And like I hadn't experienced that honestly, I'm Mexican. You and I speak Spanish all the time when I'm on the street and I don't know that that's that. I also had like that image when I came here that oh, everyone's nice. You know in college station, you know, in Austin, you you kind of you'd see over there more liberal. But here everyone's like I sort of imagined nice, you know, welcoming, but I hadn't heard of that. So I'm glad they got better.