Interview: Laura Villada

**How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?**
My area of study is Business Administration, which includes the management of resources within a private organization.

**What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**
My husband and my children, I want to be an example for them. Show them that it is never too late to pursue a dream.

**Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?**
Of course, interacting with students and professionals in diverse fields allow each other to enrich perspectives, broad views, and learn and understand other fields that play a role in our society.

**What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**
Running provides me with a healthy way to reduce stress.

**What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?**
October Sky, based on a true story of several boys from a coal town in West Virginia who decided to transcend by building rockets. I enjoyed this book this past summer.

**Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

**What surprised you the most about graduate school?**
The energy and enthusiasm of the majority of the students

**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?**
Astronaut is not exactly my goal, but if I was selected to be part of the crew I would help to create an environment of harmony and healthy communication.

**What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?**
Hard to believe but my comfort drink is water. I drink it all the time

**If you hadn’t been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?**
Keep trying, because I had clear in my mind that studying an MBA was what I wanted to do.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**
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