

Stephanie Chavez
MCJ Alumni Profile
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Name: Eddie Hughes
Major: Print Journalism
Graduation year: 2005
Current Job Title: Senior Editor/Writer for
University Communications at Fresno State



Eddie Hughes was born and raised in Fresno and grew up loving Fresno State. His family regularly bought season tickets to Fresno State sports and as a kid he dreamed of attending Fresno State and playing for the baseball or football team.

He started his college journey in 2000 and his love for writing and sports drove his passion to major in print journalism and cover sports. His second semester at Fresno State he started working for *The Collegian* on campus and it didn't take much longer for him to become more involved with the MCJ department. The competitive atmosphere and student autonomy allowed him to become a successful journalist, and he became editor-in-chief for *The Collegian* in 2004. Hughes also regularly wrote for The Fresno Bee for three years during college and was hired by The Clovis Independent after graduating in 2005.

Hughes fondly remembers several courses and professors from his time in college who influenced his career. He recalls the rigorous coursework and strict guidelines for MCJ 104 taught by Prof. James Tucker because it always kept him on his toes, but also made him recognize his talents in writing.

Another professor who influenced his current outlook in his career is Prof. Betsy Hays and the public relations courses she taught. He said her upbeat, positive energy was contagious and she had the ability to make students feel good about themselves.

During Hughes' junior year he took some public relations courses and found out it was an industry that had more opportunities in the Valley. The strategies of

public relations were fascinating to him and he kept PR in the back of his mind as an alternative career.

About a year after graduation, Hughes explored the PR industry and after holding communications positions at Community Medical Centers and Pelco by Schneider Electric, he was given the opportunity to work for University Communications at Fresno State. He said it's a dream job being that he grew up loving the university and, on his own time, has always promoted Fresno State as a hobby. He was always first to defend his school over negative comments and often tried finding ways to change or improve on negative perceptions about the school.

Hughes has now been working for two and a half years at Fresno State as senior editor/writer, leading Fresno State Magazine and handling press releases, media relations and other projects. He finds himself loving what he does every day because it's the perfect combination of print journalism and public relations, and he's doing it while advocating for his favorite university.

As a proud MCJ alumnus, Hughes stresses the importance of meeting people, getting involved and supporting campus activities and taking a variety of classes. His favorite thing about the MCJ department was the way it fostered a culture of students with diverse interests in communication and media industries. The courses, professors and his time at *The Collegian* are the reasons for his love for the MCJ department and Fresno State.