

# Jillian Bertolucci

Class of 2015, Mass Communication and Journalism

Public Relations, Broadcasting

By: Kelsey Koster



Born and raised in Fresno, Calif., Jillian Bertolucci has always been interested in other people's life stories. If you ask a friend or family member about her you will often hear that she is an amazing storyteller. She will tell stories of anything and everything, with a lot of emotion and detail to make the story as entertaining as possible for the listener. This passion for storytelling originally led Bertolucci to believe that she would become a journalist.

Going to school somewhere close to her family and friends was important to Bertolucci so she applied to many of the schools in California that weren't too far for comfort. After being accepted to California State University, Fresno, she knew that she would be going there along with many of her high school friends. Shortly after declaring her major as mass communication and journalism, Bertolucci realized that she was enjoying her public relations classes more as well as classes having to do with broadcasting. While taking her first broadcast class - MCJ 126 with Prof. Faith Sidlow – Bertolucci learned the ins and outs of broadcasting and even got to experience her first time in front of a live camera.

She quickly fell in love with broadcast journalism and even appeared in front of the camera following Fresno State athletics events. Bertolucci decided after taking Sidlow's class that she would double major in PR and broadcast journalism. A class that Bertolucci remembers being the most helpful in the PR field is Prof. Tamyra Pierce's graphic design class and still to this day she uses techniques learned from that class in graduate school classes. She remembers being in a certain undergraduate writing class with Dr. Gary Rice and he gave her a zero on her first paper. "I will always remember when he gave me that zero," she said. "It made me strive to be a better writer, to prove to him that I could be."

After graduating as a double MCJ emphasis in PR and broadcast journalism, Bertolucci was ecstatic to announce to her peers that she would be attending University of Southern California to pursue a master's degree in strategic public relations. Though it is still her first semester at USC, with her degree she plans on working with a company that does trans media storytelling and integrated campaigns. "No rush, have fun, enjoy it, and explore all options in undergrad, have the ability to explore," she said. "Fresno State's MCJ department allows you to explore and experience your options, doing everything helped me choose what I truly wanted to do and accomplish."

Professors like Betsy Hays and Jan Edwards showed Bertolucci constant support while she was interning for the Central California Women's Conference and she truly appreciates them. "Having caring and supportive professors made all the difference in my education," she said. She loved every bit of her experience at Fresno State as an MCJ student and says that she still is a proud Bulldog.