

Rebecca Hellwig
Public Relations
Class of 2009



By: Cynthia Villarreal

Rebecca Hellwig is a Fresno State alumna; she graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and journalism with an emphasis in public relations. Hellwig grew up in the small town of Exeter and attended Exeter High School. Right after graduation she attended Fresno State.

Hellwig has always been fascinated with writing and storytelling, which is why she chose the journalism field. She explained how she met some inspiring professors that made her feel more confident about the decision she was making.

"I met Betsy Hays and Jan Edwards, both successful women who were advocates of the field, and I knew that I wanted to follow in their footsteps," Hellwig said.

Soon after exploring MCJ she realized public relations would benefit her more in the long run. The courses she took gave her basic PR knowledge as well as information about how to plan events.

As a student she was involved in some projects that made her feel more excited about her chosen field. Some of the projects she was involved with were the MCJ Alumni Hall of Fame and TASTE (Take A Student To Eat).

TASTE is a program where professionals from the community take a student to eat and give them an insight of their everyday professional lives. Students are able to shadow the professionals and experience what they do first-hand.

"One of the most memorable experiences I had was putting on TASTE," she said. "It was such a great experience and taught me so much. I think it made a difference for some students and I am so happy I got to be a part of it."

Also while attending Fresno State she had an internship with the Fresno Chamber. The internship helped her build relationships and learn about organizations.

Hellwig is very honored to be a MCJ alumna, and she believes that MCJ helped her develop a heightened focus on detail and prepared her for her career in PR. She is very proud of being a part of the MCJ department and how the enthusiasm of the professors and students motivated her to keep going.

“It is a field where you are exposed to so much and have the opportunity to really help others,” she said. “I have learned so much in school and continued to learn even after.”

Right after graduation she took a job at an engineering firm doing marketing, where she worked for a couple of years. As soon as she saw a communications position open up at the Chamber she took the opportunity to start a new career, and she is now the communications manager for the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

She offered some advice to MCJ students who might be struggling with career options or how to get started.

“I’d say to enjoy the process of college and the experiences in getting your degree as much as possible,” said Hellwig. “Take advantage of all the programs there are to help you learn about being in the field, and network as much as possible. In this industry, who you know is as important as what you know.”