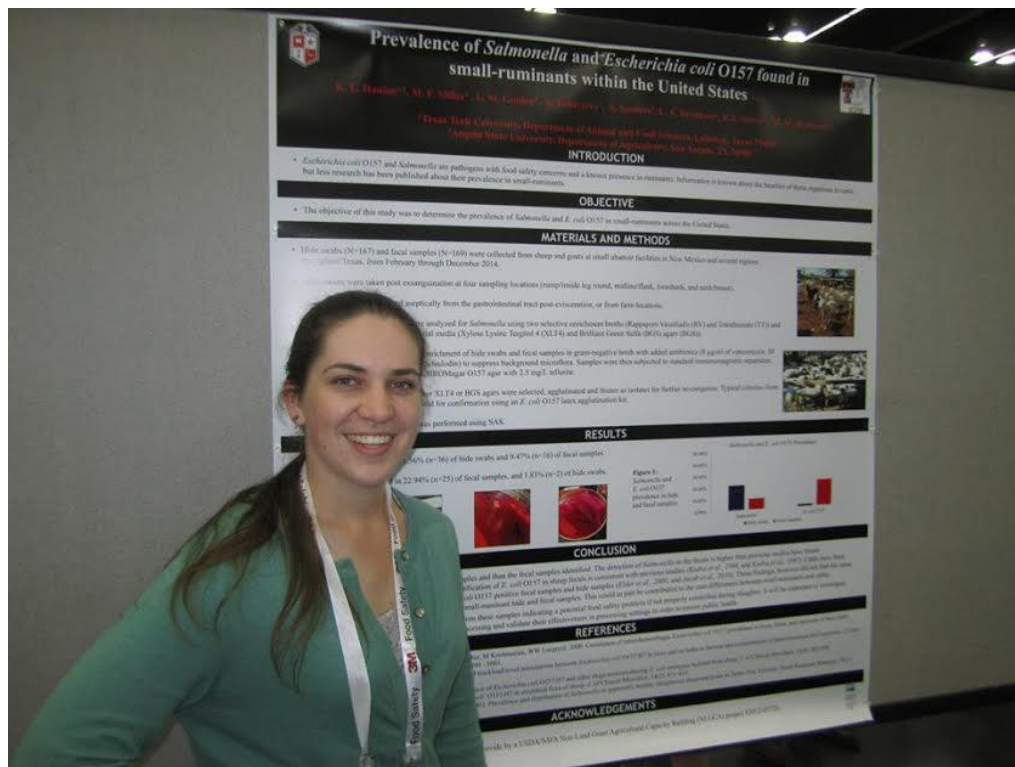


Keelyn Hanlon



Keelyn Hanlon graduated from Fresno State in December 2012. She double majored in Animal Science and Agricultural Communications with her focus being public relations. Choosing the public relations option is what made her part of the mass communication and journalism family because all of those classes belong to the MCJ department. Editing, news writing and public relations were classes she took as part of her MCJ experience.

“Communications is so essential to everything that we do,” said Hanlon. “Some people that haven’t taken mass comm classes don’t have that appreciation for how something so seemingly simple like talking and writing is actually a little bit more complicated than most

people assume it is and it's so important to your first impressions and how you communicate and work with others."

Hanlon said that her favorite MCJ class was the editing class she took with Dr. Gary Rice because she was able to do an oral history project that required interviewing and transcribing an interview with a veteran as part of the permanent War Veteran's Oral History Project collection housed in the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State. This is the largest and fastest growing collection of oral histories from veterans. She enjoyed being able to contribute to the oral history project so much that she would recommend that class to all students. Even as a graduate, she wishes she had the free time to do another one.

Hanlon said her second favorite class was the public relations service learning writing class that allowed for her to work with downtown Fresno throughout the semester. She said she learned so much from that in-depth experience.

"I love the energy and passion," Hanlon explained when talking about what it is that she appreciates so much about the MCJ department at Fresno State.

After graduating from Fresno State Hanlon moved to Lubbock, Texas to attend Texas Tech University where she will graduate in fall 2015 with her master's degree in Meat Science, focusing on food safety and food microbiology. Her master's degree is a further extension of her animal science background, but she is thankful she majored in Agricultural Communications at Fresno State because she enjoys writing and the technical sciences.

"My ultimate career goal is to be a liaison between the technical science world in the food industry, and be able to use my communication skills to either be promoting it or translating the technical stuff into words that the average consumer could understand and work with," Hanlon said. "You have all these people from all these different backgrounds, but it's finding ways to use your communication skills to promote or work in an area that involves something you are passionate about." Hanlon said that pursuing agricultural communications was a way for her to work toward this goal.