

Julz Atwood
Outstanding Graduate in Anthropology



Julz Atwood was born and raised in Fresno, and transferred to Fresno State from Fresno City in 2012. She initially began her college career as a Music Composition major, but changed her area of study when she developed an interest in Anthropology. Though she is fascinated with all sub-disciplines in the field, she has primarily focused her studies on Physical and Cultural Anthropology. While that is true, when I solicited recommendations for this year's Outstanding Graduate, she was a consciences candidate and praised by all the Anthropology Faculty.

In her time at Fresno State, Julz revived and served as the President for the Anthropology Club for the 2012-13 school year, during which time she organized community volunteer work, charity drives, academic information sessions, and socials. She also helped formulate and collaborated on an original ethnographic research project on student technology use under Dr. Hank Delcore and Dr. Jim Mullooly. She presented the data derived from this project at the Southwestern Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting in 2013 as the Chair of the Session, along with other student researchers. In spring 2014, Julz was the only undergraduate student invited to be a content leader at the EDUCAUSE conference in Chicago to teach ethnographic research methods to IT professionals and administrators. The data from this research project was not only shared at these conferences, but also impacted her home campus. Data collected was used by the administration at Fresno State to improve technological services for students to better serve their needs. Julz has also successfully applied for grants on behalf of the Anthropology department, which provided funds for students to attend the Southwestern Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting, as well as the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting. The American Anthropological Association is the largest meeting of anthropologists in the country, and this was the first time Fresno State students received grant money to attend. Julz has also been a member of the Golden Key International Honor's Society from 2012-2014.

One of the highlights of Julz's undergraduate career was studying abroad in Thailand in Summer 2013. During this time she indulged herself in her love of travel and learning about cultures outside of her own more deeply than ever before. While studying abroad, she took classes on Women and Modernity in Southeast Asia, Thai language, and Thai cooking at Chiang Mai University. She spent time learning about the hill tribes in this region by staying in their villages and sharing their homes. She also conducted a small research project on tradition and women's changing roles in Thai society.

Outside of academia, Julz has been the head of advertising and publicity for Art Scientifique for the 2013 and 2014 shows. Art Scientifique is a show featured in Fresno's Art Hop that is backed by Fresno State, and features art with scientific themes. She has entered her own art work in the 2012, 2013, and 2014 shows. Additionally, Julz has been a volunteer teacher for the Yoga Center of Fresno since 2011.

Recently, Julz has been invited to interview in Atlanta with Delta Airlines for a flight attendant position. She hopes to be offered the job, and to give in fully to her love of travel and culture. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in the future, and possibly a Ph.D. Immediately after graduation, she plans to pursue art, travel, adventure, and new experiences, and indulge fully in these passions. We are confident she has a bright future ahead of her.