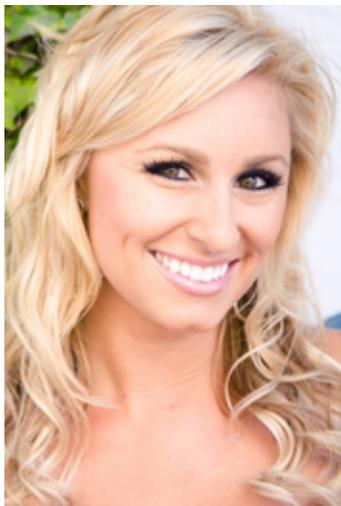


GUEST COLUMNIST



ALEXIS DELCHIARIO

PHOTO BY NIA UHLENHAKA

» Alexis is a California girl through and through. A native of Sacramento, she is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a major in communications and a minor in Spanish.

Last fall, Alexis joined KUSI News, San Diego's News Channel, as the coanchor of Good Morning San Diego, weekdays from 5-10 a.m. Alexis has been fortunate to cover a wide range of stories in her career, from interviewing American Idol contestants to trying out for *So You Think You Can Dance* to touring the Grand Canyon by helicopter. Alexis also had the opportunity to fly with the US Navy's prestigious Blue Angels and to skydive with the elite US Army Golden Knights.

Alexis would love to hear from you! Email, Twitter and Facebook info can be found on www.AlexisDelChiaro.com.

LOVE WHAT YOU DO

HOW TO LAND YOUR DREAM JOB

BY ALEXIS DELCHIARIO

I'm sure if you were to ask my mom, she would say that I came out of the womb talking up a storm and telling stories. While that may or may not be true, it wasn't actually until the fifth grade that I discovered my desire for a career in journalism. Mr. Landis, my music teacher, gave the class a mock newscast assignment and I was the anchor. I thought, Hey! This is so fun and something I'm really good at! From then on, I knew I'd discovered my passion.

The journey from Mr. Landis' newscast to working as a television anchor on Good Morning San Diego has been both exciting and challenging. At times, it is downright exhausting. Does a person ever really get used to waking up at 3 a.m.? Either way I think I'm ridiculously lucky because I've landed my dream job. Every morning viewers let me into their homes and invite me to be a part of their lives. How cool is that? So whether you want to be a news anchor like me or your dream job is something completely different, don't give up until you get there! Here are few things to help you along, so that you too can find your dream job.

1 BE PASSIONATE

Since everybody has to work to make money to survive, why not choose something that you love? Although I was lucky to realize my passion early on, this is not always the case. Get an internship, volunteer, join a club and do whatever it takes to put yourself out there so you can discover what you want to do. You'll never know what you love or don't love until you try it! I have tried just about every internship the TV world has to offer, which proved helpful in eventually becoming an anchor. I also quickly realized my forte was not as a casting assistant, audio engineer or promotions writer! Like Oprah always says, find something you love doing and you'll find a way to make money doing it.

2 BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

I've had my fair share of rejections but learned that it's all part of the journey. A few months after graduation from UCSB, I had my heart set on landing my first on-air job in Palm Springs. Turns out the news director didn't share my feelings. I believe her exact words were, "While I see quite a bit of potential in you, Alexis, you're just not ready to work here. You're still a little too green." I was devastated! How would I ever become an anchor now? The answer was to hone in on my skills and just keep at it. And it worked! A few months later, I was hired on as the morning weather anchor in Yuma, Arizona, and that was how I got my feet wet in the news biz. (Just for the record, that news director in Palm Springs was totally right. I was way too "green" to be on air. That's a term we use in the biz to politely say, "You are so not ready to be on TV yet.")

3 LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Once you have landed your dream job, or at least a job that will get you there someday, let your inner star shine! When I was named the morning show host of Fox in Phoenix I was scared out of my mind! My two coanchors had been on air longer than I had been alive. How could I ever compete with that? The truth was that I didn't have to. I was hired on to bring something new and fresh and full of life to the show. My news director didn't want to hire what he already had – he wanted me! Once I realized that I let loose. Now I have no reservations about jumping in a pit of mud, dancing in a leotard or being hypnotized all while on air (yes, those are things I've done on live TV). I am free to be exactly who I am and proud of it. **50**



ALEXIS DELCHIARIO

KUSI News
Good Morning
San Diego AnchorUCSB Alum
Major:
CommunicationsPictured with
Chris Evan at KUSI

DID YOU KNOW: Symptoms of gluten intolerance might not affect your stomach but may include clues such as joint pain.