

JOSHUA ROMERO

MAJOR	Media Communication
EMPHASIS	Performance
DREAM JOB	Public relations for a corporation like Chrysler or Coca-Cola...or maybe Ryan Seacrest's job.
WHAT'S NEXT	Grad school for PR or film school at UCLA
CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT	Jamba Juice, American Eagle, and <i>Oh, the Places You'll Go!</i> by Dr. Seuss
WHY HE'S IN MEDIA	"It's a passion of mine that has a lot of opportunities for ministry."
FAVORITE QUOTE	"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." – Eleanor Roosevelt



by Maile Cerizo

A senior at PLNU, Joshua Romero labels himself “a pop culture fanatic.” His goal is to use his Point Loma experiences to land a job in public relations or film. Joshua has been actively involved in media for the past few years. He has worked for both *The Point Weekly* (university newspaper) and KPLR (university radio station) while balancing a rigorous academic schedule. And with the close of his time at Point Loma approaching, Joshua is excited for the opportunities that lie ahead in the field he is pursuing. According to Joshua, the foundation he is receiving at PLNU will allow him to think critically about pop culture when he goes into the media industry so that he can “pull good things from it.”

“There’s a lot of value in it to really see God’s beauty,” says Joshua. “I involve myself with pop culture because you can’t do your job if you can’t relate with people.”

Originally from Ruidoso, New Mexico, Joshua decided to attend PLNU because he wanted a Christian school where he could solidify his faith before beginning his career. He came to Point Loma planning to major in biology-chemistry. However, his goal of doing pre-med eventually changed.

“God’s got a way of redirecting your life when He knows where He needs you,” explains Joshua. “And my growth in my relationship with God over the past four years has given me the courage and commitment to stand out in the media industry, a scary place for Christians a lot of times.”

In fact, Joshua is already standing out. He was recently selected by the Popular Culture Association (PCA) to present a paper at its annual national conference in Atlanta, Georgia in April. Entitled “Mean Girls, Nice Lessons: A Christian Perspective,” Joshua analyzes the adaptation of the book *Queen Bees and Wannabees* by the movie *Mean Girls*.

The idea for the paper had its roots in Joshua’s senior honor’s project under the guidance of Dr. Alan Hueth, professor of communication. In a membership class at his church, Joshua had heard a lesson on stewardship – how we as Christians must pass on our blessings to others. He related the message of positive action rather than complacency to a line from the popular movie *Mean Girls* that says, “There are two kinds of evil people: people who do evil stuff and people who see evil stuff being done and don’t try to stop it.” Although he enjoys the movie’s humor, Joshua feels that certain themes supersede its stereotypes and superficial aspects. *Mean Girls* is about social expectations, he suggests, and interestingly, in the movie, one person revises the whole teen hierarchy.

“In a lot of pop culture, there are truths about God,” says Joshua. He cites the movie *The Matrix* as an example of the Christ story. Although a lot of the script doesn’t agree with Christianity, Joshua says that these kinds of films can be a conduit or starting point for non-Christians to ask questions about faith and deeper issues. “It opens the door.”

“So much of being effective witnesses in the world around us is actually understanding what goes on in the world,” says Joshua. “And while popular culture and media may be relatively superficial ways to connect to those who don’t know Christ, they also provide a safe way to meet people on their terms and share relationships that grow into opportunities for witnessing.”

When reflecting on who has helped shape his perspective at Point Loma, Joshua says, “There have just been some amazing professors and mentors who have shown me that being a Christian means doing what you do to the best of your ability, no matter where that takes you. Using your God-given talents is ministry in itself.”