Danielle Grillo

FILM, TELEVISION, & JOURNALISM

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Sacred Heart University - *2022-2025*

Degree - B.A. Bachelor of Arts
Summa Cum Laude
Major - Media Arts: Film and Television
Minors - Journalism, Honors

ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Thomas More Honors Program / 2022 - 2025*
- *Dean's List / 2022 - 2025*

John Cabot University - *2025*

- Study Abroad Semester - *Rome, Italy*

CREATIVE & TECHNICAL SKILLS

ADOBE STUDIO

- Premiere Pro, Lightroom, Photoshop, Bridge

MICROSOFT OFFICE

- Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Outlook

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- Instagram, X, Facebook, Snapchat, Pinterest, Youtube, TikTok

CREATIVE SKILLS

- Video Production, Video Editing, News Scriptwriting, Photography, Multimedia Storytelling, Story Development, Interviewing/Reporting, Broadcast/Print Journalism, Digital Media Production, Organization, Time Management, Collaboration

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ORGANIZATIONS

- *National Federation of Press Women (2026)*
- *Connecticut Press Club (2026)*
- *The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2025)*
- *Thomas More Honors Program (2022-2025)*

ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERING

- *Short Filmmakers Club*
- *United for the Troops*
- *Relay for Life*

CONTACT

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MEDIA INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Freelance Producer & Reporter, ***Fairfield County News***

January 2026 - Present

- Produce news packages and write articles for *Fairfield County News*, a digital news platform covering communities across Connecticut, including Fairfield and Bridgeport.
- Report on local and national issues through a community lens, such as the use of artificial intelligence during the election season, student mental health and school safety, and the growing demand for affordable housing.

Senior Producer, ***The Pulse***

August-December 2025

- Planned story coverage, coordinated production logistics, and made editorial decisions for *The Pulse*, Sacred Heart University's student-produced television news magazine program.
- Produced and edited broadcast-quality news segments from concept to final cut, including research, scriptwriting, filming, graphics, and sound design.

Staff Writer & Photographer, ***The Spectrum***

August-December 2025

- Researched and wrote news articles for *The Spectrum*, Sacred Heart University's student-run weekly newspaper, ensuring accuracy, clarity, and adherence to journalistic standards.
- Covered topics including the 2025 U.S. federal government shutdown, higher education issues related to President Trump's proposed policies, and financial literacy among college students.
- Captured and edited photographs to accompany articles, enhancing visual storytelling and reader engagement.

Staff Writer, ***Easton Courier***

August-December 2025

- Produced written coverage of local news beats for the *Easton Courier*, a nonprofit community journalism partnership and online newspaper serving Easton, Connecticut and surrounding towns, adhering to editorial guidelines and deadlines.
- Provided accurate and relevant coverage of municipal updates and town events through research and interviews with community members and local sources.

SCMA Broadcast Journalism Internship, Sacred Heart University

September 2024-January 2025

- Conducted interviews with community members, public officials, and field experts for a two-part news series on student mental health, school safety, and rising social media use among children and teens, as part of a broadcast journalism internship with the School of Communication, Media, and the Arts at Sacred Heart University.
- Responsible for field production, including filming interviews and b-roll, as well as writing scripts and editing content to produce news coverage.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Youth Development Leader, YMCA of Northern Westchester

November 2021-June 2026

- Responsible for providing a safe, nurturing environment for school-age children in an after-school program by supporting diverse needs, fostering inclusion, and encouraging active participation.

Global Ambassador, Sacred Heart University

August-December 2025

- Served as a peer mentor and supported students interested in studying abroad and represented diverse academic programs and study abroad experiences.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest – 1st Place / *2026*

- *Recipient of first place in the Collegiate/Education category for a 'Prepared Report for Radio/Television Student Media', in the 2026 National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest.*

CT Press Club Communications Contest – 1st Place / *2026*

- *Recipient of first place in the Collegiate/Education category for a 'Prepared Report for Radio/Television Student Media', in the 2026 Connecticut Press Club Communications Contest.*

Gold Medal of Excellence in Media Arts / *2026*

- *Recipient of the Gold Medal of Excellence in Media Arts, recognizing outstanding academic achievement (highest GPA) in the School of Communication, Media & the Arts at Sacred Heart University.*

Don Coonley Award / *2026*

- *Faculty-nominated recipient of the Don Coonley Award for Excellence in Media Studies at Sacred Heart University, awarded to a graduating senior for distinguished achievement and dedication in media studies.*

SCMA Honor Society / *2026*

- *Inducted into the School of Communication, Media & the Arts Honors Society at Sacred Heart University.*

Dean's List / *2022 - 2025*

- *Recipient of the Dean's List Award for Sacred Heart University, a scholarly award for students who demonstrate academic excellence.*