



In this week's Alumnae Spotlight, we feature Monica Yanas from the Class of 2004. Monica is currently an Evening Newscast Director at News 4 San Antonio.

During her time at Providence, Monica was in Drama, Art, and French Clubs. Monica thought she wanted to be a graphic designer or something related to the arts. At the time, Provet TV did not exist. It was a project in Ms. Maria Tobin's Religion Class that required her to produce a video with her classmates. Completing this project helped Monica to realize that electronic media, video production and photography were in her future. Monica recounts getting her first hands-on experience with lighting rigs and changing delicate bulbs in Mrs. Marley's theater tech class. She also remembers Mr. Wilhelm's Freshman Religion Class, which gave her an approach to her own connection with God, and led her to begin journaling. She also recounts the meditative music and tiny fountain that has stuck with her through college and beyond.

Following graduation from Providence, Monica attended San Antonio College where she earned her Associates Degree in Radio-Television Film. She then went on to Texas State University, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Electronic Media. Monica stated that at Providence, she gained the confidence which helped her in college to participate in classroom discussions and projects. She also obtained the discipline to make her work count for something. Taking AP English Junior and Senior years also prepared her for lengthy essays and to meet professors' expectations. Monica stated that, sometimes, the expectations at Providence were higher than in college.

At News 4 San Antonio, Monica has worked her way up from a part-time production assistant to a full-time Evening Newscast Director. She stated that she sometimes gets the old feeling of being at Providence. Working alongside many women who are behind the scenes as producers, directors, editors and photographers, they laugh together, learn together, and lean on each other when times are tough.

Last year, along with eleven colleagues, Monica won the Lone Star Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement, for coverage on the Sutherland Springs Church Massacre. Though a heartbreaking story that is too common these days, the coverage was imperative to keep the public informed. Monica stated that the coverage took an emotional toll on her and her colleagues, and the award is a reminder of the hard work, long hours, and unseen damage that a career in journalism can have on a person.

Combined with the influence of her parents, Providence taught her the principles of discipline and respect, of which help her in her career each day. Monica stated, "Providence High school gave me the foundation of a great education, a love of knowledge, and a spiritual path that is my own."

In her free time, Monica still does arts and crafts with her boyfriend, Dominic, and volunteers at the San Antonio Humane Society.

Congratulations, Monica, on your successful career and recent award. We are very proud of you and the important work you do!

Here, Monica is pictured with her mother, Roni Risenhoover Yanas '67.