

SYRA CASTILLO

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EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University Dallas, TX
Dedman College and Meadows School of the Arts May 2026

Bachelor of Arts, English with Creative Writing Specialization / Minors in Italian and Journalism

GPA: 3.9 / 4.0

- SMU Opportunity Award – a need-based scholarship that helps cover tuition, room and board, and dining.
- Founders Scholar – a merit-based scholarship that helps cover tuition, room and board, and dining.
- Albert N. Jackson Scholarship – an SMU Department of Journalism scholarship to cover educational expenses.

SKILLS

Language: Spanish (Fluent), Italian (Working) - Global Seal of Biliteracy.

Computer: Microsoft Word Specialist, Microsoft PowerPoint Specialist, Adobe Premiere.

EXPERIENCE

Southern Methodist University Dallas, TX
Student Worker, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs August 2023 - Present

- Performing office duties such as answering phone calls, scanning, filing, and running university-related errands.
- Developing organization and customer service skills.
- Understanding the high expectations of professionalism and confidentiality while representing the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dallas, TX

Daily Campus Contributor August 2024 - Present

- Engage with students, faculty, and community members to gather diverse perspectives.
- Investigate and gather information on various issues relevant to the campus and community.
- Produce clear, concise, and engaging articles that inform the SMU campus community.
- Report on-campus events such as SMU ARTafterDARK and The Great Crumpkin events, student senate lectures, and provide timely updates and coverage.

Dallas, TX

SMU TV's Al Punto, Anchor and Associate Producer August 2024 - Present

- Anchor Al Punto production and produce shows.
- Translate SMU TV production scripts into Spanish and write original scripts.
- Support the production team in filming and editing, ensuring high-quality broadcasts.
- Utilize strong Spanish and English language skills for content creation, interviews, and viewer communication.

The Dallas Morning News Dallas, TX
Food & Entertainment Intern January 2025 – Present

- Research, write, and publish one to two in-depth articles per week, covering openings, food trends, and entertainment events across Dallas-Fort Worth.
- Conduct interviews with chefs, restaurant owners, event organizers, and industry experts.
- Ensure all articles meet AP style guidelines while maintaining high standards of grammar, clarity and professionalism.
- Perform thorough fact-checking and follow-up questioning to verify accuracy in reporting, including names, dates, and event details.
- Demonstrate strong organizational abilities, attention to detail, and the ability to navigate the fast-paced demands of a newsroom.

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PROJECTS

Southern Methodist University

Dallas, TX

Engaged Learning Fellowship

May 2024 - Present

- Provided 2-D and 3-D coverage of Italy's major historical and cultural sites for students who are traveling abroad and for those who are unable to.
- Created a bilingual blog (English and Italian) with the 2-D and 3-D footage.
- The blog and collaborative footage were used within the Department of World Language and Literatures.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Awarded the DFW Hispanic Communicators scholarship for rising student journalists.
- Awarded the Pi Beta Phi Foundation scholarship for undergraduate students.
- Awarded the Educational Opportunities scholarship for undergraduate students for four years.
- Member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.
- Logistics Chair for Hispanic or Latino Association (HOLA) at SMU.