

1. Background & Connection to the School

- What brought you to MGA originally?

I liked the closeness to home since I lived in Warner Robins. This was especially helpful since I graduated high school during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was not ready to leave home and attend college hours away. After touring the school with my family, I decided to stay because of its affordability and the classes offered in Media and Communications. It turned out to be the best decision for me.

- What campus activities or organizations were you involved in?

I was involved in the student newspaper, “The Statement” where I eventually became the Editor-in-Chief. I started during my sophomore year as a student reporter where I covered events and got to know the MGA community more. During my junior year, I was promoted to Editor-in-Chief where I got to know other fellow students and made great friendships.

2. Career Path & Achievements

- How did your MGA experience help shape your career path?

MGA helped shape my career path in many ways. In my classes, my professors challenged me and helped me navigate the world of journalism. From being involved in “The Statement” I gained experience which eventually led me to become a Staff Writer at the Houston Home Journal.

- Can you share your career journey since graduation?

Since graduating, I continued working at the Houston Home Journal where I have grown as a journalist. I have gotten to know my community and reported on both hard hitting and heartwarming stories. It has been exciting getting to tell people’s stories and also reporting accurately to inform my community.

3. Community & Impact

- What advice would you give current students in your area of study?

I would advise students who are currently studying Media and Communications to find their niche. Communications is a wide field and there are many fun jobs out there to apply their skills. The biggest advice I can give is to start early by looking for internships, getting involved in school organizations like The Statement, and networking with people in your field. It can eventually lead to having a job already lined up after graduation.

4. Personal Insights & Reflections

- Who influenced you the most during your time here?

The people who influenced me the most were definitely my professors. The top three would have to be Dr. Lucia Palmer, Dr. Rebecca Edwards, and Dr. Andre Nicholson. Their classes taught me a lot of skills I still apply today in my career. Their encouragement and wisdom definitely guided me in college.

5. Fun & Human Touch

- If you could go back and take one class just for fun, what would it be?

It is hard to pick one class because there were many fun classes I took throughout my college experience. A fun class I remember taking was Politics in Film. I enjoyed having a deeper

understanding of how politics are intertwined with our favorite movies. It is definitely a class I would enjoy taking again because it really made me analyze movies and think about its political commentary.

6. Closing & Alumni Connection

- How can other alumni or students connect with you?

I still cover school events from time to time so if they are more than welcomed to say hi. A better way to connect with me is adding me on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/sandramhernandez.

Alumni and students can always reach out there and, of course, build a connection.

- What does being part of the MGA alumni community mean to you?

Being a part of the MGA alumni community means a lot to me. I'm glad to be a part of a community where I can still keep up with people I attended the same classes with or see the success of a fellow alumnus who graduated years ago. MGA has been a great experience and I look forward to keeping in touch with the alumni community.