



2022 Connecticut Press Club Professional Communications Contest Winners

News Story

ONLINE PUBLICATION

- **First place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* – “Rent Hikes Leave Mobile Home Residents in a Bind”
- **Second place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* – “Elevator Accident in Stamford Reveals Little Reporting, Little Accountability for Safety”
- **Third place:** Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* – “Energy Companies Investigated for Suing Customers During COVID Moratorium”

Continuing Coverage

- **First place:** Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* – “Tweed Expansion Pits Lamont’s Economic Agenda Against Environmental Justice Goals”
- **Second place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* – “City Expands Probe to Target 6 or 7 Stamford High- Rises For Possible Safety Violations”
- **Third place:** Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* – “Lamont Touts ‘Transformative’ State Pier Project, as Costs Inch Upward”
- **Honorable Mention:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* – “Old Saybrook Police Commission Debates Evaluations, Approves \$5.5 Million Budget”

In-Depth Reporting

- **First place:** Thomas Hopkins, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* – “Keep the Seat: Connecticut’s Incumbent Advantage”
- **Second place:** Steve Jensen, *CT Examiner* – “Allegations of Cheating, Political Influence Roil State Police Academy”
- **Third place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “The Lies That Sent Melissa Lucio To Death Row”

Editorial Opinion

- **First place:** Chandra Bozelko, *USA Today* – “When a Prison is Known as the ‘Rape Club,’ Our Justice System Has a Credibility Problem”
- **Second place:** Gregory Stroud, *CT Examiner* – “An Honest Conversation About the Costs of COVID”
- **Third place:** Walter Mission, *The Granby Drummer* – “Bye, Bye American Pie?”



- **Honorable Mention:** Deborah DiSesa Hirsch, *Stamford Advocate* – “I’ve had abortions, and lessons on the sanctity of life”

Feature Story

PRINT-BASED NEWSPAPER

- **Second place:** Shirley Murtha, *The Granby Drummer* – “Local Woman Makes History in Nantucket”

MAGAZINE / NEWSLETTER

- **First place:** Carol Leonetti Dannhauser, *Westport Magazine* – “The Other Epidemic”
- **Second place:** Timothy Dumas, *Westport Magazine* – “The Accidental Artist”
- **Third place:** Tom Connor, *Stamford Magazine* – “A Little He Time”
- **Honorable Mention:** Scott Thomas, *Stamford Magazine* – “Old & New”
- **Honorable Mention:** Sarah Galluzzo, *068 Magazine* – “A Timeless Passion”

ONLINE PUBLICATION

- **First place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “When The State's Indifference Can Cost Your Right Arm — Or Your Life”
- **Honorable Mention:** Carol Dannhauser, *Connecticut Health I-Team* – “Winning Over Skeptics: More Police Departments Enlist Social Workers For Crisis Intervention”

Personality Profile

- **First place:** Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *Everyday Health* – “Diane Nathaniel: A Stage 3 Colorectal Cancer Survivor Finds Her Voice”
- **Second place:** Riann Smith, *Greenwich Magazine* – “The Man is Non-Stop”
- **Third place:** Timothy Dumas, *Greenwich Magazine* – “All Access”
- **Honorable Mention:** Julee Kaplan, *New Canaan-Darien Magazine* – “On a High Note”
- **Honorable Mention:** Wendy Swift, *Memoir Magazine* – “The Sentencing”

Speciality Articles

AGRICULTURE

- **First place:** Steve Jensen, *CT Examiner* – “Inflation, Ukraine Raising a Crop of Problems for Connecticut Farmers”
- **Second place:** Sarah Galluzzo, *068 Magazine* – “Local Farmers. Local Flavor”
- **Third place:** Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* – “Equipment Sharing Program Aims to Ease Adoption of No-Till Farming”



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- **First place:** Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* – “Backstage Protest at Goodspeed’s 42nd Street as Staff Take Aim at Low Pay, Little Training”
- **Third place:** Kerry Anne Ducey, *HamletHub* – “What's the Buzz? ACT's Reimagined Version of Jesus Christ Superstar will ROCK Your World!”
- **Honorable Mention:** Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* – “Old Techniques Transform into Modern Work in Wadsworth Atheneum Glass Show”

BUSINESS

- **First place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* – “Eastern Connecticut is a ‘Child Care Desert’ — Can Family Child Care Homes Fill the Need?”
- **Honorable Mention:** Liz Baron, *New Canaan-Darien Magazine* – “Gone Wild”
- **Honorable Mention:** Phil Hall, *Fairfield County Business Journal* – “The Art of Building an E-Commerce Site”

EDUCATION

- **Third place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* – “Former Middletown School Official Alleges Harassment, ‘Outright Sexual Assault’ in Suit”
- **Honorable Mention:** Carol Dannhauser, *Connecticut Health I-Team* – “Will New School Year Test New Haven Board’s Policy Aimed At Protecting Transgender And Nonconforming Students?”

FOOD

- **First place:** Mary Kate Hogan, *Greenwich Magazine* – “Around the World in Greenwich”
- **Second Place:** Elizabeth Keyser, *Westport Magazine* – “Now Craving”
- **Third place:** Gregory Stroud, *CT Examiner* – “The Soft Diplomacy of Highclere Gin”
- **Honorable Mention:** Elizabeth Keyser, *New Canaan-Darien Magazine* – “Let’s Eat Out”

GREEN / ENVIRONMENTAL

- **First place:** Carol Dannhauser, *Connecticut Health I-Team* – “Looking to Bolster The Environment And The Economy, Farmers And Scientists Cultivate A Viable Kelp Industry”
- **Second place:** Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* – “Wequetequock Residents Ask for Sewer and Water Service to Help Clean up Ailing Cove”
- **Third place:** Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* — “Head Start, Civil & Structural Engineer”
- **Honorable Mention:** Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* – “Sea Breeze, Plumbing & Mechanical Engineer”



PERSONAL ESSAY

- **First place:** Adair Heitmann – “Overcoming Fear with Help from the Whales, Animals: Personal Tales of Encounters with Spirit Animals, Featuring Dr. Steven Farmer”
- **Second place:** Jennifer Benson, *The Granby Drummer* – “Trendy Talk”
- **Third place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “After My Uncle Died, We Discovered The Truth About His Life””

REVIEWS

- **First place:** Elizabeth Keyser, *Westport Magazine* – “Cozy Gourmet”
- **Honorable Mention:** Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* – “Old Techniques Transform into Modern Work in Wadsworth Atheneum Glass Show”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **First place:** Cheryl Weinstock, *Everyday Health* – “The Latest Treatments for Metastatic Breast Cancer Are Giving People a Fighting Chance”
- **Second place:** Cheryl Weinstock, *Everyday Health* – “Why the Latest Screening Tests and Treatments Offer Hope for Ovarian Cancer”
- **Third place:** Katherine Bonamo & Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* – “The Robot Report – Advanced cable management lets robots repaint airplanes”

SOCIAL ISSUES

- **First place:** Julia Bruce, *068 Magazine* – “More Than a Shelter”
- **Second place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* – “Third Death in Two Months Puts Focus on Youth Mental Health at Darien High School”
- **Third place:** Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *Everyday Health* – “Talking Grief: We Need to Allow More Space to Feel Our Emotions”
- **Honorable Mention:** Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* – “Douglas Host Baby Shower, Aim to Improve Outcomes for Black and Hispanic Mothers”

SPORTS

- **First place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* – “As Stamford Bocce League Looks to the Future as Contract for Scalzi Park Set to Expire Oct. 31”
- **Second place:** Phil Hall, *Wrestling Inc.* – “Whatever Happened To WWE Tough Enough Winner Daniel Puder?”
- **Third place:** Laurie Newkirk, *Park AVE Magazine* – “Equestrian Paradise”

STYLE

- **Second place:** Julia Bruce, *068 Magazine* – “Back in Style”
- **Third place:** Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* – “Fashion Show with Cultural Roots Coming to New Haven’s International Arts & Ideas Festival”



TRAVEL

- **First place:** Anastasia Healy, *Time Out* – “23 Best Things to do in Connecticut”

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- **First place:** Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *Everyday Health* – “Under Pressure: Are Sports Too Intense for Young People?”
- **Second place:** Beth Levine, *Everyday Health* – “Abortion Bans Trigger Methotrexate Crisis for Some Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis”
- **Third place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* – “PACT Act Marks Broad Expansion of Veterans Benefits, Screenings to Start Next Week”
- **Honorable Mention:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *Old Greenwich & Riverside Neighbors Magazine* – “Student Athlete Lisette Jimenez: How She Found the Right Sport and College That Match Her Values”

GHOST-WRITTEN

- **First place:** Katherine Bonamo, *Mercury Marketing Communications*. Performance Plastics. “Sustainability at Sea: Efficiency Analysis Backs Plastic Piping for Marine HVAC Systems”

GOVERNMENT

- **Second place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “DeSantis' 'Election Police' Abuses Are Costly To Democracy -- And Florida”

HOBBY

- **Third place:** Katherine Bonamo, *Mercury Marketing Communications*. Building Enclosure, “Renowned Architects Establish Residential Feel in Multi-Functional Space”

Columns

GENERAL

- **First place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “Why Adnan Syed's Release Is Good News For Him — And Bad News For Defendants”
- **Second place:** Pat Brandon, *The Granby Drummer* – “Serendipity - The Fall of a Landmark”

INFORMATIONAL

- **First place:** Julie Jason, *Hearst Newspapers* – “Who Needs a Will?”
- **Second place:** Carol Dannhauser, *Moffly Magazines* – “To Your Health and Back to College”
- **Third place:** Julie Jason, *Hearst Newspapers* – “Retiring? Your Tax Return Will Look Different”



PERSONAL OPINION

- **First place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* – “MAGA Isn't Just A Cult -- It Has Become A Murder Cult”

HUMOROUS

- **First place:** Mark Fiorentino, *The Granby Drummer* – “Take Me Again, Dad”
- **Second place:** Mark Fiorentino, *The Granby Drummer* – “A Day in the Life”

Headlines

- **Third place:** Megan Gagnon, *At Home Magazine* – “Risky Business”

Publications, Regularly Edited by Entrant

NEWSLETTERS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **First place:** Tom Quinn, *Capeview Press Delivering Greatness*

Books, Short Stories, Verse

FICTION

- **First place:** Susanne Davis, *Gravity Hill*
- **Second place:** Alison McBain, *The New Empire*
- **Third place:** Debbie Levison, *A Nest of Snakes*
- **Honorable Mention:** Libby Waterford, *Take A Bow*

Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OR MEMOIR

- **First place:** Gabi Coatsworth, *Love's Journey Home*

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

- **First place:** Phil Hall, *100 Years of Wall Street Crooks*
- **Second place:** Faith Tyldsley, *Edna in Millbrook*

HUMOR

- **Honorable Mention:** Richard Seltzer, *Grandad Jokes: 3000 Jokes on Trump and Other Nonsense*



GENERAL NONFICTION

- **First place:** Sheri Koones, *Bigger Than Tiny, Smaller Than Average*
- **Second place:** Julie Jason, *The Discerning Investor*
- **Third place:** Richard Seltzer, *Why Knot?*

Young Adult Book

FICTION

- **Second place:** Sarah Darer Littman, *Some Kind of Hate*

Short Stories

SINGLE STORY

- **First place:** Andrew Fowler, Yankee Institute – “The Presence”
- **Second place:** Andrew Fowler, Yankee Institute – “The Frog Band”

Creative Verse

SINGLE POEM

- **First place:** Alison McBain, “The Grief of Night” – The Storyteller’s Vault
- **Second place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, “Box Cutter” – WGCH
- **Honorable Mention:** Mitzy Sky, “Grandma,” - www.mitzysky.com
- **Honorable Mention:** Marlou Newkirk, “Mothers, Daughters ... and Hair”

Essay, Chapter or Section in a Book

- **First place:** Anastasia Healy, Connecticut chapter of *Experience New England*

Single Page, Section, or Supplement Edited by Entrant

MAGAZINE / NEWSPAPER

- **Second place:** Diane Sembrot, *Westport Magazine* – “Home for the Holidays”

Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant

MAGAZINE / NEWSPAPER

- **First place:** Cristin Marandino, Moffly Media, Greenwich Magazine
- **Second place:** Megan Gagnon, Moffly Media, athome
- **Third place:** Julie Bruce, 068 Magazine, December



→ **Honorable Mention:** Alison McBain, Scribes” MICRO” Fiction

NEWSLETTER OR OTHER PUBLICATION

→ **First place:** Lynn Prowitt, Healthline Media – Healthline Lessons – Reducing Inflammation in RA

SINGLE PHOTOGRAPH

→ **First place:** August Heminway, August Heminway Photography – Stoic Devotion

→ **Third place:** August Heminway, August Heminway Photography – Boots on the Ground

PHOTOGRAPHY-WRITER

→ **First place:** Sarah Galluzzo, *068 Magazine* – Rise Donuts

GRAPHICS

→ **Second place:** Steven Havira, Connections Magazine: The Women of HIU

PAGE DESIGN, MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER

→ **First place:** Garvin Burke, *Stamford Magazine*, The Wall

→ **Second place:** Venera Alexandrova, Top 10 Teens to Watch

→ **Third place:** Garvin Burke, *At Home Magazine*, New Balance

→ **Honorable Mention:** Venera Alexandrova, *Greenwich Magazine*, 75th Anniversary Cover

Radio & Television

RADIO

→ **First place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, WGCH – America's First Personalized Learning Residential School: The Learning Clinic, Brooklyn, CT

TELEVISION

→ **First place:** Patricia Del Rio WFSB – 911 Operator Guides Wife Through Saving Husband’s Life

→ **Second place:** Patricia Del Rio, WFSB – Gabby and Bravo

Interview

RADIO

→ **First place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, *WGCH* – “I Don’t Think You Can Be Supportive Enough”

Talk Show



RADIO

- **First place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, WGCH – Talking with author Jim Campbell: How did your book become a Netflix Docuseries?
- **Second place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, WGCH – Meet the Fortt Siblings: Starting a Business in Our Community
- **Third place:** Robin Ducharme Pastore, WGCH – Perfect Masks Can Hide Addiction + Depression

Personal Website

- **First place:** Adair Wilson Heitmann

Web & Social Media

BLOG

- **First place:** Diane Lowman, Everything's an Essay – “Noise”
- **Honorable Mention:** Diane Lowman, Everything's an Essay – “Unreal”

Electronic Newsletter

PERSONAL NEWSLETTER

- **First place:** Laurie Newkirk, Feel Better newsletter

Video for Web

SPECIAL INTEREST VIDEO

- **First place:** Steven Havira, Hartford International University – "Spirit of the Stacks" for National Theological Libraries Month
- **Honorable Mention:** Susan Carnes, APT Metrics – “It's OK I'm Not OK”

Public Relations Materials

REPORT

- **First place:** Linda Avellar and Barbara Aronica-Buck, Ferguson Library – Ferguson Library Annual Report

Information for the Media



SINGLE RELEASE

- **First Place:** Aline Weiller, Wordsmith LLC, “Tickets on Sale for Westport Writers' Workshop Outreach Fundraiser”

MEDIA PITCH

- **First Place:** Thomas Renner, Mercury Marketing Communications – Palmer High School

Speeches

- **First place:** Michele Turk – Mom’s Eulogy
- **Second place:** Adair Heitmann – A.R.T.: Action, Reflection, Transformation
- **Third place:** Adair Heitmann – Art Saved My Life: Journey of a Lifetime

2022 Connecticut Press Club High School Communications Contest Winners

Broadcast or Video

BEST NEWSCAST

- **First place:** Finnegan Courtney, Staples High School – *On the Wreckord*, Episode 6
- **Second place:** Finnegan Courtney, Staples High School – *On the Wreckord*, Episode 5
- **Third place:** Finnegan Courtney, Staples High School – *On the Wreckord*, Episode 3

RADIO / TELEVISION INTERVIEW OR TALK SHOW

- **First place:** Marcela Aju Mejia, Stamford High School – “Getting to Know Our Superintendent”

VIDEO FEATURE STORY

- **First place:** Azam Hostetler, Foran High School – “Holocaust Survivor Interview”
- **Second place:** Azam Hostetler, Foran High School – “Zen Den: The Place to Be”
- **Third place:** Samantha Sandrew, Staples High School – “Sneakerheads of Staples”
- **Honorable Mention:** Azam Hostetler, Foran High School – “Fire Safety In The Winter Season”
- **Honorable Mention:** Anna Diorio, Staples High School – “The power of a good book: a discussion with Staples’ librarians”

Visual

DOUBLE-TRUCK LAYOUT



- **Third place:** Ava Cashman, Kingswood-Oxford – “Sam Ratelle, The Red Carpet's Leading Player”

Writing

EDITORIAL

- **First place:** Jacqueline Franco, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “The ethical dilemma behind the true crime craze”
- **Second place:** Caterina Pye, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “The true cost of fast fashion”

FEATURE STORY

- **First place:** Genevieve Frucht, Staples High School – “Logan Goodman '24 incorporates love for sneakers, art into business”
- **Second place:** Caterina Pye, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “Students and faculty inspire younger generations to enter STEM fields”
- **Third place:** Ava Cashman, Kingswood-Oxford – “Sam Ratelle, The Red Carpet’s Leading Player”
- **Honorable Mention:** Daniel Campos, Stamford High School – “Childhood Cancer and Silver Linings”
- **Honorable Mention:** Ava Cashman, Kingswood-Oxford – “26.2 Before 50: Mr. Chapman’s Marathon Milestone”
- **Honorable Mention:** Chase Alexander, Granby Memorial High School – “Alexander - Meet Michelle”

NEWS STORY

- **First place:** Caterina Pye, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “Shedding light on the violence against the AAPI community”
- **Second place:** Sofia Mosci, Fairfield Warde High School – “The Distrust of the American Healthcare System”
- **Third place:** Caroline Zajac, Staples High School – “Connecticut swatting incident highlights growing national problem”
- **Honorable Mention:** Spencer Elkind, Harvey School – “Turmoil At Warner Brothers Discovery and HBO Max”
- **Honorable Mention:** Christian Miller, Branford High School – “Cellphones Silenced at BHS: Classroom Ban Starts Monday”

OPINION

- **First place:** Anna Diorio, Staples High School – “The damaging effects of: ‘I’m just teasing.’”
- **Second Place:** Gabrielle Wheeler, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “Separating minority histories from American history only serves to alienate not educate”



- **Third place:** Gabrielle Wheeler, Sacred Heart Greenwich – “Media that aims to reflect its audience must highlight diverse voices”
- **Honorable Mention:** Chase Alexander, Granby Memorial – “Alexander - Exams”
- **Honorable Mention:** Esthern Jean Charles, Stamford High School – “Why Locked Bathrooms Do More Harm Than Good”

SPORTS STORY

- **First place:** Talia Moskowitz, Staples High School – “Report highlights impact of wealth inequality on state championships in Connecticut”
- **Honorable Mention:** Ava Cashman, Kingswood-Oxford – “Volleyball and Boys Soccer Bring Powerful Postseason Performance”