

FGCU JOURNALISM
and
DEMOCRACY WATCH

“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

— Thomas Jefferson

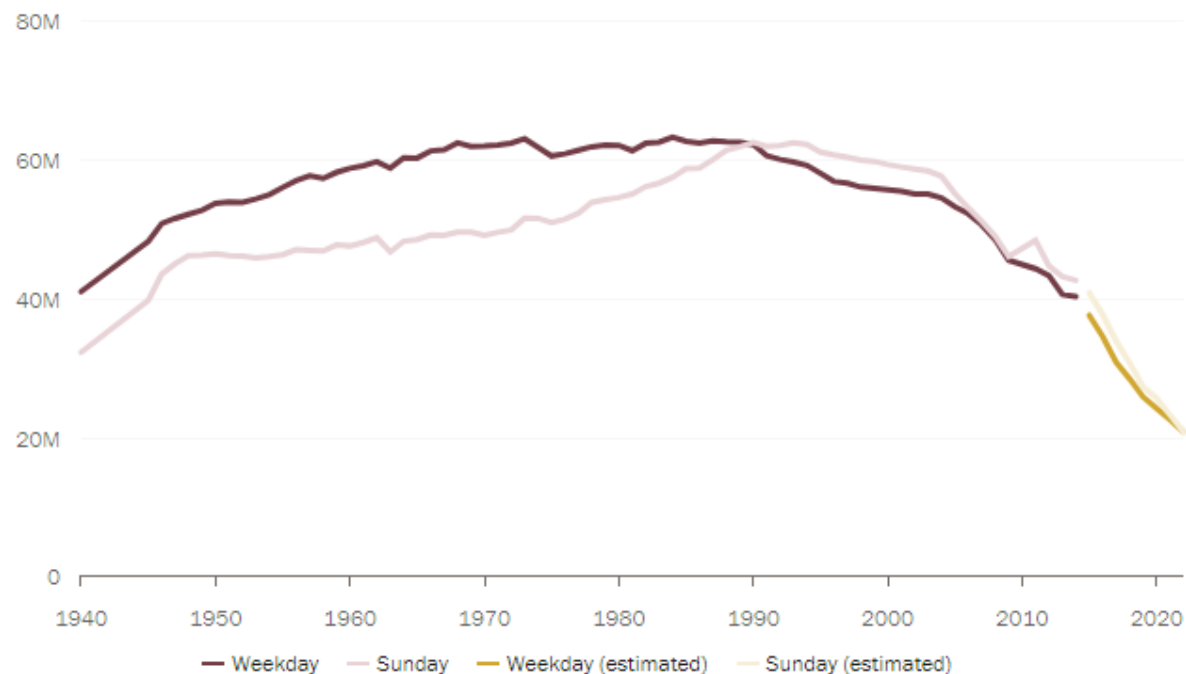
Challenge: Decline of traditional media

Audience

In 2022, estimated total U.S. daily newspaper circulation (print and digital combined) was 20.9 million for both weekday and Sunday, down 8% and 10% respectively from 2021.

Total estimated circulation of U.S. daily newspapers

Total circulation of U.S. daily newspapers



Note: To determine totals for 2015 onward, researchers analyzed the year-over-year change in total weekday and Sunday circulation using AAM data and applied these percent changes to the previous year's total. Only those daily U.S. newspapers that report to AAM are included. Affiliated publications are not included in the analysis. Weekday circulation only includes those publications reporting a Monday-Friday average. Comparisons are either between the three-month averages for the period ending Dec. 31 of the given year and the same period of the previous year (2015-2019), the six-month period ending Sept. 30 and the three-month period ending Sept. 30 of the previous year (2020), or the six-month period ending Sept. 30 of the given year and the same period of the previous year (2021-2022).

Source: Editor & Publisher (through 2014); estimate based on Pew Research Center analysis of Alliance for Audited Media data (2015-2022).

THE NEWS CLIMATE gets colder

- The U.S. saw the loss of an average of two newspapers per week between late 2019 and May 2022,^[1] leaving an estimated 70 million people in places that are already news deserts and areas that are in high risk of becoming so. Prior to that steep decline, newspapers' weekday circulation had fallen 7% and Sunday circulation 4% in the United States, their greatest declines since 2010. If the trend continues, a third of newspapers will be lost by 2025, according to a 2022 study published by [Northwestern University](#).^[2]

YET ...

- “Consider that communities without a strong local newspaper tend to have lower voter turnout, more government corruption, less transparency, and a fraying of civic connections. Community journalists are the front lines of democracy ... no wonder local news outlets are still more trusted than other media.”
- - Boston Globe, December 2021

Challenge: NEWS AVOIDANCE

- <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2023>

Challenge: Funding

- Fellows are paid
- Instructor
- Equipment
- Price tag about \$60K

Challenge: Varying student goals

- Many want to enter sports journalism
- Many want to write stories that are positive
- Many want public relations jobs
- Lack of confidence in the “real world” job prospects (a cacophony from relatives and friends)
- The pay if they do get jobs

Challenge: AI

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67560354>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/media/2024/01/29/sports-illustrated-union-lawsuit-layoffs/72397619007/>

THE GOOD NEWS

- 97 journalism majors
- 16 journalism minors



Democracy Watch



Environment
CROW rebuilds after Ian and helps more injured wildlife survive
 Alexandra McHarris, December 8, 2023
 When September 2022, Hurricane Ian swept through Southwest Florida, C.R.O.W. on Sanibel Island was one of the many places affected. Now, more than 14 months later, the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife is rebuilding and recovering still, while continuing to care for wildlife.



Government & Politics
Florida families take the fight for disability services into their own hands
 Irma Rodriguez/Democracy Watch, December 7, 2023
 We The People is a new advocacy group founded by a woman in Collier County. She and other parents want to do a better job at getting services for loved ones with disabilities. State lawmakers are the audience the parents want to reach.



Public Affairs
12-hole Golden Gate Golf Course is supposed to help surrounding community
 Irma Rodriguez/Democracy Watch, November 17, 2023
 A public, Collier County-funded 12-hole golf course is in the works for Golden Gate City. The course will be a reconstruction of the old Golden Gate golf course, which was purchased by the county in 2019.



Government & Politics
Finite land a given as Estero examines urbanization's impact
 Genevieve Salda, October 31, 2023
 The Village of Estero has less than 200 acres of land available for development, which has prompted community leaders and residents to assess how best to handle the explosive growth in the village and surrounding areas.



Government & Politics
Filing for local office more than a year before the election: It's just politics of the times
 Irma Rodriguez/Democracy Watch, October 23, 2023
 If it seems that political hopefuls are campaigning early for the 2024 elections, welcome to modern-day politics, even at the local level. Candidates and incumbents need to file to run so they can rally supporters and legally raise money.

▶ LISTEN - 2:00

WGCU is your trusted source for news and information in Southwest Florida. We are a nonprofit public service, and your support is more critical than ever. Keep public media strong and [donate](#) now. Thank you.

What they're learning

- News Literacy
- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/01/19/technology/artificial-intelligence-image-generators-faces-quiz.html>
- Snopes.com

DEMOCRACY WATCH HISTORY

- Fall 2021.
- 7 students
- 27 stories for WGCU
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- Spring 2022
- 3 fellows
- A story a week on issues from transportation costs, health care in underserved communities, voting machines, local economic impact from the baseball lockout, teacher shortages and affordable housing. Their stories covered a large amount of WGCU's part or all of 12 counties broadcast area. They did video and audio as well as web stories.
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- Fall 2022
- 7 students, no interns/fellows, but still ...
- 15 stories on the web
- 3 stories on radio
- FGCU junior Katie Fogarty worked a paid internship at the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting.

- Spring 2023
- 2 classes: 8 students in one section and 3 interns for WGCU News
- 75 stories on WGCU website
- 10 voiced radio reports
- Several other station benefits with sound clips for air on newscasts/election night.
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- For Fall 2023, there were two classes, regular and internship.
- 1 prospective fellow was hired by WGCU as a host before class began (a victory in itself)
- 1 fellow who did a long-form story a week plus radio packages and was outstanding (Gwen)
-

- Spring 2024
- 1 intern doing an amazing job (Emma)
- Walcher is on hiatus this spring term, so the curriculum for the course was divided into two existing courses, News Reporting and Writing and News Production. This actually strengthens the public affairs reporting by bringing that curriculum to more students and hopefully we'll have more interns/fellows.



FGCU BI N EAGLE NEWS

JANUARY 2024

Preachers Back on Campus

Did FGCU Policy 3.026 affect the preachers' presence on campus?

Sustainable Transportation

Do you think sustainable transportation on campus is really worth it?



EAGLE MEDIA



Basketball

Bearing Down: Eagles' Quest for ASUN Balance

Ethan Fairhurst, Staff Writer | January 30, 2024

ENTV

SNO ads

BEEF UP
your
online
marketing

ADVERTISE HERE

A person wearing a white tank top and a headband is lifting two purple dumbbells.

EAGLE RADIO MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUDITIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 2

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
TO: EAGLEAD@EAGLENEWS.ORG

A graphic featuring a stylized guitar, a drum set, and a microphone.



What other fellows say ...

Where they are today: Sabrina Salovitz

- NYU Ethics and Journalism Initiative · Part-time
- Sep 2023 - Dec 2023 · 4 mos
- New York, New York, United States · On-siteNew York, New York, United States · On-site
- New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute has launched a journalism ethics initiative that will expand existing resources for students while also conducting research and providing thought leadership on emerging ethical issues. The student workers will participate in brainstorming the kinds of programming the initiative wants to provide and help develop plans for speaker events and ethics workshops.New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute has launched a journalism ethics initiative that will expand existing resources for students while also conducting research and providing thought leadership on emerging ethical issues. The student workers will participate in brainstorming the kinds of programming the initiative wants to provide and help develop plans for speaker events and ethics workshops....see more
- Fox Business Network logo
- Production Intern for Cavuto: Coast to Coast
- Fox Business Network · Internship
- Sep 2023 - Nov 2023 · 3 mosSep 2023 - Nov 2023 · 3 mos
- New York, New York, United States · On-siteNew York, New York, United States · On-site

Where they are today: Katie Fogarty

Posts by Katie



Katie Fogarty · 1st

Your local storyteller | TV Producer at Fox 8 WGHP

9mo · 🌐



BREAKING NEWS!

I've recently accepted a TV Producer position at FOX8 WGHP in Greensboro, NC.

I applied to more than 50 jobs in my search. Kevin Daniels reached out to me after I applied for an Assignment Editor position, which was already filled, and asked if I'd be open to work as a producer.


Kevin Daniels thank you for believing in my skills and for offering me this fantastic opportunity!

After working at WGCU Public Media and Waterman Broadcasting Of Florida LLC I'm so excited to move to a new state and tell the stories of the Piedmont Triad.


Lyn Millner Pamela James Glenn Miller Judd Cribbs Michael Walcher thank you for investing in me. Florida Gulf Coast University played such an important role in my journey and I will be forever thankful.




Where they are today: Samantha Roesler



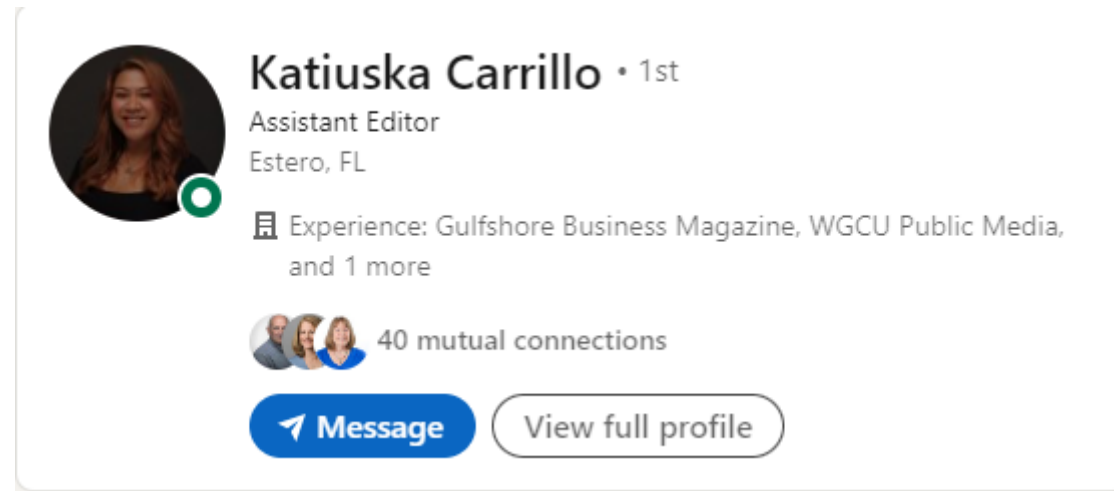
Samantha Roesler • 1st
Assistant Editor, Gulfshore Business
Bonita Springs, FL


 Experience: The Naples Press, Gulfshore Business Magazine, and 11 more


 33 mutual connections


[Message](#) [View full profile](#)

Where they are today: Katiuska Carrillo



 **Katiuska Carrillo** • 1st
Assistant Editor
Estero, FL

 Experience: Gulfshore Business Magazine, WGPU Public Media, and 1 more

 40 mutual connections

[Message](#) [View full profile](#)

Where they are today: Several

- <https://fgcu360.com/2023/12/20/tv-stations-help-fgcu-grads-launch-careers/>