



University of Georgia

The Oglethorpe Echo and Grady Newsource

Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication

Athens, GA

Partnership

When the Oglethorpe Echo was about to shut its doors, it was reestablished as a non-profit, The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc., and formed a partnership with the University of Georgia's Grady College. This partnership serves as one of the capstone courses at Grady that provides immersive journalism training to students in their senior year. The capstone class staffs all elements of the weekly community paper.

Lead faculty

Dink NeSmith, Co-Owner of Community Newspapers Inc., Publisher and Chairman of The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc., dnesmith@cni newspapers.com

Andy Johnston, Editor in Residence, Journalism, ajohnston@uga.edu

Amanda Bright, Journalism Academic Professional; Director, Cox Institute Journalism Innovation Lab, Journalism, amanda.bright@uga.edu

Websites

[The Oglethorpe Echo](#)

Collaborators

The Oglethorpe Echo was published for 148 years, with publications weekly, before being passed to the Grady journalism program, where it will celebrate its 150th year in 2023. The students and faculty have made it their mission to never miss a week and continue the newspaper as long as possible.

Impacts

Advertising has tripled since Grady took the helm, which has led to double the readership of The Oglethorpe Echo stories, which are available both online and in print.

Students

37,606 at the University of Georgia

50 in the partnership, per year

Student work

Work is edited by editor and faculty member, Andy Johnston, and assistant editor and instructor Amanda Bright, along with students who serve as editors. Seven students served as initial interns in the fall of 2021, however, each semester is made up of about 20 students, with paid interns filling the gaps between semesters and summer breaks.

Faculty/staff

UGA funds staff that assist with the editing and assigning of student work. They also have a freelance employee working on graphic design. The nonprofit funds the physical location, printing and an office manager.

Funding sources

Community members, the University of Georgia, The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc.