

Erlandrya Rutledge

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EDUCATION

Auburn University | Auburn, AL
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Minor in Photography
GPA: 3.75/4.00

May 2026

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Opelika Observer | Opelika, AL

January 2026- present

Reporting Intern

- Covered local events and community meetings by conducting on-site reporting, gathering interviews and collecting accurate information under deadline.
- Wrote news stories following AP style guidelines to ensure precision, readability and professional newsroom standards.
- Partnered with editors and fellow interns to develop newsworthy story ideas that reflect community interests and current local issues.
- Assisted in multimedia storytelling by capturing photographs to accompany news coverage when needed.
- Built professional relationships with community members, sources and event organizers to support accurate and well-rounded reporting.
- Strengthened news judgment by identifying relevant story angles and verifying information before publication.

Office of Inclusion and Diversity | Auburn, AL

July 2023

Tiger Takeoff Navigator

- Managed a group of 23 prospective students, fostering relationships and guiding them through the recruitment process for Auburn University.
- Promoted Auburn University by encouraging applicants, while creating a welcoming environment to ease their transition and ensure a positive campus experience.
- Cultivated strong, positive relationships with campers, parents, faculty, and the AYP team, ensuring clear communication and a supportive environment.
- Coordinated camp operations by efficiently managing opening and closing procedures, including registration, parking logistics, and deposit handling.
- Utilized and accessed data to provide prospective students with the resources, programming, and assistance to make their transition to Auburn more seamless

Communication and Critical Thinking Experience

Guthrie's | Auburn, AL

September 2024- present

Team Lead and Cashier

- Facilitated personalized customer interactions by actively engaging in conversation to enhance the ordering experience.
- Motivated and guided coworkers through dynamic shifts, ensuring team collaboration and high performance.

- Maintained cleanliness across various areas of the restaurant, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for customers and staff.

Academy Sports and Outdoors | Auburn, AL

August 2024- September 2024

Apparel Team Member

- Arranged and categorized apparel within the Women's, Men's, and Youth sections to optimize product visibility and enhance the shopping experience.
- Delivered informative responses to customer inquiries regarding apparel and store offerings, ensuring a positive shopping experience
- Collaborated effectively with team members to zone merchandise and successfully complete assigned sections, fostering a cohesive work environment.

INVOLVEMENT

Rho Lambda | Auburn, AL

November 2025- present

Member

- Selected for membership based on academic achievement and demonstrated leadership within the sorority community.
- Participated in initiatives focused on leadership development, ethical decision-making and community engagement.
- Built connections with student female leaders across campus, strengthening collaboration and professional networking skills.
- Engaged in conversations and programming centered on responsible leadership and positive campus impact, especially pertaining to young women.

Lambda Pi Eta | Auburn, AL

October 2025-present

Member

- Inducted based on academic excellence and commitment to the study and practice of communication.
- Strengthened written and verbal communication skills through academic coursework and professional development opportunities.
- Connected with peers and faculty dedicated to ethical, effective and impactful communication practices.
- Represented the values of scholarship, leadership and service within the communication field.

The Auburn Plainsman | Auburn, AL

May 2025- present

News Editor

- Ensure members of the news section are up to date on AP Style and the Auburn Plainsman style of writing.
- Encourage section members to step outside their comfort zones and push themselves to produce their best work.
- Participate in the creation of layouts for print editions.

- Assigning stories to members of the news section and assisting in creating story pitches for section members.
- Editing news section members writing and publishing articles on the Auburn Plainsman website.

Culture Writer

Oct 2022- January 2023

- Serve the Auburn University community by delivering student-run media platforms that promote free expression and facilitate open dialogue among students.
- Research and gather information from credible sources, crafting insightful articles for weekly publication to inform and engage the public.
- Collaborate with fellow writers across diverse sections to brainstorm and develop story ideas, fostering a creative and supportive writing environment.

SKILLS

- Strong interpersonal skills and aptitude for cultivating relationships with sources and team members to enhance reporting efforts.
- Proficient in AP style and other journalistic standards, ensuring adherence to industry best practices in all written content.
- Demonstrates ability to thrive under tight deadlines and in fast-paced environments, delivering high-quality work consistently.
- Exceptional writing and editing skills, with a focus on clarity, accuracy, and engaging storytelling.
- Adaptable and positive mindset, effectively navigating the dynamic nature of journalism to meet evolving expectations.
- Passion for arts and culture, with the ability to craft engaging narratives that resonate with diverse audiences.
- Curiosity and enthusiasm for exploring diverse cultures through entertainment, travel, and cuisine, allowing for rich storytelling and engaging content creation.
- Skilled in digital and film photography, with experience in composition, lighting, and editing to produce visually compelling images.
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, and other editing tools to enhance and recontextualize images for multimedia storytelling.
- Ability to use photography as a medium for cultural expression and storytelling, blending visual and written elements to engage diverse audiences.
- Knowledgeable in darkroom processes, the use of digital cameras, and film cameras.

AWARDS & HONORS

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| • Vera Young Reid Scholarship | 2022 |
| • Gannett Foundation/ Montgomery Advertiser Endowed Scholarship | 2023 |
| • Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society Member | 2023 |
| • Auburn Plainsman Endowed Scholarship | 2024 |
| • Cynthia Tucker '76 Endowed Scholarship | 2025 |