

# Michael Vassallo, Jr.

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## Objective

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My objective is to embark into a career that lies within the world of journalism and mass communications. I have recently graduated from the College of Central Florida with an associate of arts degree in mass communications. It was during my tenure at the College of Central Florida where I became a staff writer for the college's newspaper publication, The Patriot Press. While serving as a staff writer, I eventually worked my way up to become a features editor where I remained with the newspaper for three semesters.

As of late I have been working as a freelance writer for a few online news blogs so that I could continue to hone my skills as an aspiring journalist. My experience in freelance writing as well as being a part of my college's newspaper has provided me with a wealth of information and knowledge. I am currently looking to obtain a full time position and or internship with a publication that will not only give me the real world experience needed to obtain a career in journalism but also provide me with a challenge as well.

## Experience

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### **Ringside News – Ocala, FL**

**July 2016 – Current**

As a contributing writer for Ringside News, I provide editorials and blog posts pertaining to anything that is in relation to the world of professional wrestling. There are also many a times I am also entrusted to edit and fact-check any news stories that get published so that each piece of news is not only consistent but accurate as well.

### **The Mighty Bloke Gaming Network – Ocala, FL**

**June 2014 – Current**

I am currently a writer and contributor for the Mighty Bloke Gaming Network. I administer editorials, write news articles and compiled reviews for anything pertaining to what is happening in the world of video games. I was also responsible for editing online stories of fellow writers as well. The website also had a weekly podcast discussion that I would take part in and that I was also responsible for editing and compiling together.

### **Guitar Center – Ocala, FL**

**Dec. 2013 – June 2015**

I was an associate at Guitar Center who eventually was promoted to assistant manager after two months of employment. I was tasked in making sure all of my associates were reaching and exceeding any sales goal given to them, was responsible in making sure all of the store's funds were accounted for and making sure any and all customer's queries were answered and taken care of.

### **The Patriot Press – Ocala, FL**

**Jan. 2013 – Aug. 2015**

As an editor of the Patriot Press I was responsible for several duties including designing the cover art for each issue through Adobe Photoshop, editing stories and photos. I would also be tasked with the duty of laying out and designing newspaper pages with Adobe InDesign. Lastly, I was also in charge of managing the newspaper's Twitter, Facebook and WordPress pages as well.

### **Barnes & Noble – Ocala, FL**

**Jan. 2009 – Dec. 2013**

During my tenure at Barnes & Noble I was originally hired in a seasonal position but gradually worked my way as a full time associate with the company. I worked as not only a cashier but also would be positioned as a warehouse associate, a barista in the café and working out on the floor as a bookseller.



## Education

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### **College of Central Florida**

**Aug. 2013 – Dec. 2016**

Associates of Arts in Mass Communications

### **West Port High School**

**Aug. 2002 – May 2006**

High School Diploma

## Skills

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My skills are expansive and I have been adaptable in all of my years of experience in retail and working as a writer and contributor to the publications that I have been a part of. I have years of experience with computers including those utilizing both Windows and Apple operating platforms. As a student at West Port High School I have editing and compiled videos in iMovie and Adobe Premiere. In my tenure as an editor with the Patriot Press at the College of Central Florida I have edited and compiled newspaper pages and articles with Adobe InDesign, edited photos for the cover of the paper with Adobe Photoshop. I also had to interview anywhere between three to five individuals to help maintain the strength of my news stories for the Patriot Press. I also hold experience in using search engine optimization (SEO) while running the Patriot Press's WordPress page and as a contributor to the Mighty Bloke Gaming Network as well.

## References

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### **Christopher Maxwell**

**(352) 497-7699**

Editor at the Mighty Bloke Gaming Network, Therapist at Better Life Behavioral Services of Central Florida

### **Raina Barnett**

**(352) 497-6656**

Reporter/Photojournalist at ACT NEWS, Staff Writer/Editor at Spill: Arts Magazine

### **Alexandria Gray**

**(352) 304-3760**

Assistant Manager at ABC Fine Wine & Spirits

### **Matthew Smith**

**(352) 497-6904**

Customer Service Manager at Guitar Center

