

# Global Center for Journalism and Democracy



**Sam Houston**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
A Member of The Texas State University System



August 2013

*We are excited to introduce the launch of the Global Center for Journalism and Democracy (GCJD). Housed at Sam Houston State University, the center is dedicated to improving the world through distinguished journalism.*

*Dear Friends,*

*We sometimes take a free press for granted. It has even become popular to criticize media outlets. However, reporters routinely risk their lives to expose the truth. Did you know that 102 journalists were killed last year in the line of duty? Still more remain missing, like Austin Tice, a journalist from Houston who disappeared last year in Syria.*

*Despite the dangers, many journalists passionately believe that what they do makes a difference.*

*So do we.*

*There is a direct correlation between a free press and human rights. Simply put, people live better lives when the press does its job well. A free and vibrant press is more important now than ever. We have seen a tremendous shift in world politics, economies, and power. Journalists need support to do their jobs effectively so society is better served. I firmly believe freedom of press directly impacts the vitality of a nation.*

*That's where we come in.*

*GCJD's mission is threefold: GCJD trains professional journalists, enhances industry and press relations, and educates our next generation of thought leaders.*

*GCJD is working hard to show up at just the right time in just the right places to help journalists succeed and make an impact globally.*

*We'd be honored to have you join our other contributors and distinguished partners to do this important work.*

*- Executive Director [Kelli Arena](#)*

*Support our cause! Get regular updates! Become a [member!](#)*



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## Professional Journalism Training



### FIGHTING FOR GENDER EQUALITY!

Journalist and author Nicholas Kristof predicts the paramount moral challenge in this century will be the "struggle for gender equality around the world." GCJD believes journalists will play a crucial role in that struggle.

[Read more >>](#)



### OIL IN THE LEVANT – BLESSING OR A CURSE?

As Lebanon moves toward exploring and developing its potential offshore oil and gas resources, Journalists in the region are scrambling to learn as much as they can about the ins and outs of the energy industry...

[Read more >>](#)



### COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

The concept of "justice" can be very subjective, but International courts and tribunals are increasingly applying judicial standards across borders. What makes these courts effective?

[Read more >>](#)



### INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO PRODUCTION

The Center contributed curriculum to a series of training videos for journalists. While journalists in Syria were the primary target, the videos have been shared worldwide by various organizations, universities and journalists.

<http://video.skeyesmedia.org/>

## GCJD's Mission



### Professional Journalism Training:

GCJD has a strong network and provides issues and industry focused training. Our team includes professional journalists, academics, industry experts, and innovators. We have formed mentorship opportunities, and provide a rich offering of online

### Enhancing Industry and Press Relations:

GCJD develops custom programs for governments, organizations, and associations that are looking to increase transparency and enhance relationships with the press. Additionally, GCJD's lecture series initiates open dialogue between journalists and industry experts.

### Educating our New Generation of Thought Leaders:

GCJD is dedicated to helping SHSU students by providing opportunities for them to travel to other countries for professional training. We also present students with internship and mentorship opportunities. GCJD is committed to bringing international journalists and other experts to SHSU Huntsville to share their experiences in hopes of not only educating, but inspiring young minds.



## Enhancing Industry and Press Relations

### FBI Training at Quantico

GCJD Executive Director Kelli Arena led a class for US law enforcement officials at the FBI academy in Quantico, Virginia. The class focused on preparing for effective news conferences. >>

### Ocean's Conservancy

GCJD trained a group of environmental experts from around the country. The trainings focused on building better relationships with the press and increasing understanding of what both sides are up against.



### 2013 American Correctional Association Winter Conference

GCJD Executive Director Kelli Arena led an interactive workshop on effectively dealing with the media in a crisis as part of the American Correctional Institute's annual Winter Conference. >>

### World Press Freedom Day

The center was recognized by the United Nations for its contributions on World Press Freedom Day. GCJD published special reports and met with... >>

## GCJDs Lecture Series

### Target! Journalist

Irish Times Correspondent Mary Fitzgerald barely got out of Syria alive after reporting on the uprisings.



### Shahira Amin – Egypt's Revolution

Shahira Amin promises to fight until her last breath and currently refuses to leave Egypt during this crisis.

## Students: Campus Today, The World Tomorrow

### SHSU Houstonian Editor goes to Lebanon

GCJD took the editor of the student newspaper, The Houstonian, to Beirut in January. The center trained journalists to cover International Courts and Tribunals. Stephen Green took part in the training, and also covered the event. It was Stephen's first overseas trip. He had the opportunity to network with journalists from around the world, and to learn from some of the most prominent professionals in the field.

### GCJD is proud to offer a unique mentoring experience to an SHSU senior

William "Connor" Hyde will be working with UPI Next to learn how to pitch story ideas to national and international news outlets, and how to enhance news stories. "This is a fantastic experience," says Hyde, who is also interning at Community Impact newspaper this summer.

Hyde is a fourth generation Bearkat from Cypress Texas. He will soon be named Media Director for the student-run newspaper The Houstonian. "Our hope is that through this mentorship experience, Hyde will be challenged in new ways," said GCJD executive director Kelli Arena.

### Global Center Spring 2013 Intern Ashlee Page

GCJD offers exciting opportunities for the students of Sam Houston State University.

Last semester's intern was Ashlee Page, a senior in the Mass Communications Department. As a public relations major, Ashlee played a vital role in the marketing and promotion of the center. She assisted with major events, including the center's Speaker Series and World Press Freedom Day. "Being the Global Center intern has inspired me to reach goals I've never had before," said Page.



# GCJD in the News

## [World Press Freedom Day at Sam Houston State University](#)

May 3, 2013 - World Press Freedom Day 2013

## [Presentation To Reveal "Target" On International Journalists](#)

April 10, 2013 - KBTX.com

## [UPI Next and Sam Houston State team up to mentor Beirut journalists on oil and gas reporting](#)

April 5, 2013 - UPI Next

## [Lebanon's Oil Industry Heading into Troubled Waters](#)

March 22, 2013 - OilPrice.com

## [Global Center takes Media Center to Lebanon](#)

January 30, 2013 - Lebanese Development Network

## [Justice and Journalism- United in Beirut](#)

January 25, 2013 - International Criminal Law Bureau

## [What media coverage for the international justice?](#)

January 22, 2013 - Iloubnan.info

## [Center founded by former CNN correspondent launches overseas training](#)

January 15, 2013 - Cypress Creek MIRROR

## Partnerships

GCJD continues to form partnerships with credible organizations in various countries in an effort to best serve local journalists.



## Friends of GCJD

[Support GCJD! Help us make a difference!](#)

## Director's Diary

### Executive Director

### Kelli Arena



The center's Executive Director Kelli Arena is an internationally recognized award-winning journalist with nearly three decades of experience in television news. She spent the majority of her career at CNN as a reporter and anchor covering some of the most important news stories of our time. Kelli left CNN and joined SHSU in January 2009 as the first Dan Rather Endowed Chair. Kelli brings a wealth of global connections and operational experience. Within our first few months GCJD has already made an important impact capturing the attention of global press.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

Executive Director Kelli Arena interviewed leaders from South Africa, Sweden, and the United States at a leadership conference in McLean, Virginia. The conference was a joint venture between the International Women's Forum and BAE Systems.

### NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

GCJD's Executive Director Kelli Arena had an opportunity to discuss the need for training journalists, especially in emerging democracies. Arena was invited by the Center for International Media Assistance to participate in a panel discussion at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington D.C. The discussion was entitled "Covering Elections: The Challenges of Training the Watchdogs" and can be viewed at <http://cima.ned.org/>.