

# Global Center for Journalism and Democracy



Sam Houston  
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## Spring 2014

Dear Friends,

We are just into our second year and have already made quite an impact internationally and here at SHSU.

Coming alongside our global partners, we've been able to put together projects for journalists, political parties, law enforcement officials and young women leaders.

*"The skills I've gained from being a part of the Global Center class will follow me for the rest of my life. I don't even like to call it a class, because you learn more than you ever could here than by sitting at a desk."*

--Kelly Humphrey,  
Fall 2013 Workshop Student

The response to our work has been overwhelmingly positive, and we truly believe we are making a difference.

Our programs have caught the attention of the global press, international leaders and other organizations dedicated to similar work.

This past semester, we were also able to work more closely with SHSU students through a new Workshop course.

We invite you to stop by our new office in the Dan Rather Building on the Huntsville campus and to visit our ever-improving [website](#).

Our staff is so grateful for the opportunity to do work we are passionate about and to bring even more visibility to SHSU.

--Kelli Arena, GCJD Executive Director



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## Enhancing Industry & Press Relations

### Political Party Training in Tunisia



Al Jazeera: Tunisia's Constituent Assembly was inaugurated in 2011.

Joining forces with NDI, GCJD trainers met with eight political parties in Tunis to help them understand

how to work with the press, communicate with the public, and focus their agendas. The sessions covered topics ranging from easing tensions with the media, to transitioning from a new unknown party into one with national and international credibility.

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## The Global Center's Mission

### Professional Journalist Training

Our training programs focus on specific issues and are custom tailored to help journalists meet new challenges. Our teams include professional journalists, academics, industry experts and innovators. We are committed to providing assistance with measurable results to journalists who are passionate about educating themselves to better educate society. We also provide a rich offering of online resources.

### Enhancing Industry and Press Relations

GCJD develops custom programs for organizations, activists and corporations that are looking to increase transparency and enhance relationships with the press. We encourage professionals to work with the media with an aim toward providing accurate and relevant information to the public.

### 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.

### Crisis Communication

GCJD has teamed up with the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) to provide crisis communications and other training to law enforcement officials.

GCJD believes that the public is best served when the press and law enforcement understand each other's needs and limitations and work together for the good of society.



Small group discussion is a regular part of the LEMIT trainings.

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## Professional Journalist Training

### Role of Journalists in a New Democracy



Tunisian journalists protest in Tunis.

As Tunisia moves toward a transparent democracy, journalists will play a vital role. GCJD

teamed up with NDI Tunisia to train journalists from four news agencies to better cover political parties and to understand the need for journalists to accept their role in educating the public in a fair, unbiased manner.

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## GCJD's Global Partners

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



## GCJD's Speaker Series

### Kitty Pilgrim: That's Entertainment: The Reshaping of News



Pilgrim speaking at SHSU

Kitty Pilgrim, CNN anchor turned novelist, visited the SHSU campus in October as part of the GCJD Speaker Series to discuss the changing

way that consumers get their news. Pilgrim's personal journey, from a hard-news journalist to entertainment writer parallels the evolution of how news is received by the general public. "We're in a really interesting transition right now because a lot of our information is coming through an entertainment product," Pilgrim said. "The human capacity for curiosity continues, and people will self-select



Pilgrim in Egypt, conducting research for one of her novels.



Pilgrim interacting with SHSU faculty after her presentation.

how they get their information; and I don't think that's a problem."

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## GCJD at Home

### GCJD Celebrates First Year and a New Office

GCJD spent its first birthday moving into a new space in the Dan Rather Communications Building. GCJD hosted an open house to celebrate the move, and has hired new staff to allow further expansion of our programs.

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### GCJD Workshop Class

This fall GCJD launched the Global Center Workshop, a course designed to give senior mass communication students hands-on experience before they transition into the professional world. Under the direction of Executive Director Kelli Arena, students worked on various projects during the semester, exposing them to the day-to-day operations of the Center.

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### GCJD Supports Houstonian Centennial Celebration

The Houstonian, SHSU's student-run, award-winning newspaper celebrated 100 years of continuous publication this fall, and GCJD was there as one of the sponsors. Alumni and friends gathered to reminisce about the major stories they covered and how the newspaper has evolved to meet the changing demands of the student body.

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## Students: Campus Today, World Tomorrow

### AUDEM Conference in Bosnia

Miranda Landsman, a senior at SHSU, traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia in October with GCJD. While there, she prepared two reports for SHSU's student-run news broadcast, and managed the social media feed at the AUDEM Conference.

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### GCJD Mentoring Pays Off

SHSU senior Connor Hyde got his first international byline, thanks to a mentoring program offered by GCJD. Connor wrote a story about immigration reform that was published on UPI's global news service.

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### Global Center Fall 2013 Intern

Holland Behn, a Mass Communication Public Relations and Advertising senior played a vital role in the GCJD speaker event featuring Kitty Pilgrim. She created marketing material for the center to commemorate GCJD's first anniversary and helped develop training materials for several programs. Behn spent tireless hours at the center headquarters helping with many other administrative and logistic tasks. "I've learned so much, more than I ever learned in a classroom" says Behn. She hopes to attend graduate school after obtaining her bachelor's degree.





## Resources and Tools for Journalists

### GCJD Partners with GPI to Provide Digital Resources

GCJD and The Global Press Institute (GPI) have teamed up to bring original content and news stories from developing countries to the screens of GCJD website visitors. GPI, an award-winning social venture, uses journalism as a development tool to empower women in developing countries.

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### GCJD Website Launches Resources Section

As part of the Global Center's ongoing commitment to support professional journalists in the field, we have launched our Resources and Tools section. Updated continuously, the Resource section can serve as an inspiration site, a place to check facts, or just a way for journalists covering specific beats to stay up on the latest developments.

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### Support GCJD

Help us make a difference. GCJD is dedicated to promoting a free and vibrant press. Help further our cause by becoming a friend of the Global Center. To donate, click [HERE](#).

## Director's Diary



*Executive Director Kelli Arena*

### AUDEM Conference in Bosnia

Arena, as a representative of the Global Center was asked to present at the Alliance of Universities for Democracy annual conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Arena led discussions among faculty and administrators from 30 universities across the globe on her experience developing a Center in a university setting and how she carries out the three core missions of the Center in that context.

### Mentoring Women

Executive Director Kelli Arena is serving as a mentor to emerging women leaders in North Africa and the Middle East. The ongoing support for social activists is a crucial component in GCJD's mission. Arena's mentees are typically involved in the non-profit and political sector.

