



#### Fourth Intake to Graduate in September 2013

JMI will graduate the fourth intake of 20 Master's students in September 2013, after sufficiently completing the academic, theoretical, and practical requirements of the program to obtain the Master's degree in Journalism and New Media in cooperation with the University of Jordan. The students recently submitted, and orally presented their capstone projects, where they are required to integrate theory and practice by fully researching a journalistic subject of their own choosing.

So far, JMI has graduated 3 intakes with a total of 56 students in the Journalism and New Media Master's Program. From those graduates, 36 have been employed in the media and journalism sector in Jordan and abroad. JMI offers guidance and helps graduates find internship opportunities immediately after graduation, by utilizing its network of various local, regional and international media institutions.

#### Fifth Intake Admission Process Completed

JMI has recently completed the admission process for the fifth intake of students for the 2013/2014 academic year, where 26 students have been admitted to the Master's Program. The fifth intake includes 12 female and 16 male students, 16 of which are Jordanian and 10 from Palestine, UAE, Iraq and Egypt. Applicants go through a series of admission exams which include writing and editing skills, computer skills, general & digital knowledge and an oral interview.



## JMI Appoints New Dean

**Dr. Basim Tweissi was appointed by JMI's board of directors, as the institute's Dean, as of July 2013.**

**Dr. Tweissi obtained a PhD in Mass Communication and Journalism Studies and is an associate Professor in the department of media and strategic studies. He was the director of the center for studies, consultations and community development at the University of Al-Hussein Bin Talal (AHU) and advisor to (AHU) President for Cultural Affairs.**

**Dr. Tweissi is a commentator and columnist at AIGHad daily Jordanian newspaper, an expert on local development and media affairs both nationally and internationally, and a previous member of the higher media council. He has published six books, in addition to editing and reviewing several others. He also published many research studies in international scientific journals. He is a founding member of a number of committees and civil society organizations in Jordan and the Middle East.**



## JMI Students in an Academic Trip to Norway

In June, JMI's fourth intake students went on an academic trip to Norway that lasted a week and included field visits and meetings with many of Norway's media, press and official institutions. The students were hosted by the Norwegian Institute of Journalism in the capital Oslo and the visit came in cooperation with the Embassy of Norway in Amman.

The journey began by a visit to the Norwegian Press Association, where students were briefed on the role of the media and the journalists' syndicate in Norway. They also listened to a variety of lectures on media ethics and met the head of the Norwegian Journalists Syndicate.

In addition, the students' field trips in Oslo included the Norwegian parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Nobel Peace Centre, Museum of the Vikings, and the Faculty of Information at the University of Oslo, in addition to a number of Norwegian newspapers. The students also worked on journalistic assignments while in Oslo.

Students expressed their appreciation of the trip which provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and expertise with various journalism experts that they met in Norway, adding an important cultural value to their knowledge and education.

Commenting on the trip student Mohammed Khraisat said: *"Meeting, interacting, and understanding what accuracy and objectivity means to journalists from different nationalities and cultures is of great benefit to us. I also found Norway's public transportation network very impressive, timely and efficient."*

It is noteworthy that JMI students have produced many reports during their visit to Norway, published on their website Aqlam where their media productions are posted on a regular basis.





### **JMI and the Australian Embassy launch the Human Rights and Media Project**

In an opening ceremony at the Millennium Hotel Amman, JMI in cooperation with the Australian Embassy in Amman announced the launch of “Uncovering Human Rights Violations through Media” project sponsored by Australian Agency for International Development AusAID. The ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali, JMI Founder and Her Excellency Ms. Heidi Venamore, the Australian Ambassador in Amman.

The event included a panel discussion by journalist Mohammad Shamma and Abdul kareem Alwahsh, about journalism’s role in human rights advocacy; equipping journalists with skills and knowledge, gender issues and women’s rights awareness in Jordan, in addition to discussing the ethical decisions which journalists face when covering human rights issues and breeches. The project includes organizing a series of workshops in the Jordanian governorates.



### **Fact-Finding and Research Workshop for Human Rights Reporting at JMI in cooperation with the German Embassy**

JMI organized a training workshop entitled “Fact-finding and Research for Human Rights Reporting” in cooperation with the German Embassy in Amman.

The workshop provided training for local journalists from Addustour, AlRai, AlHayat newspapers, JRTV, Farah Alnas, AlBalad and Yarmouk radio Stations, in addition to Ammon and Hawa Jordan news websites. The workshop is in line with JMI’s goal to strengthen commitment to the ethical standards of the profession and to serve the local press.

The training included topics on fact finding and verification of information, designing work methodologies, field work evaluation, and the legal aspects of the journalistic fact finding and verification methods, under the supervision of field experts.

### **Workshops on covering municipal elections in the governorates**

JMI held workshops on covering municipal elections in the governorates of Ma’an, Aqaba, Mafraq, and finally Madaba. The workshops trained Jordanian youth on basic media and journalistic skills aiming to give them the required tools to cover their own local stories, issues and concerns, particularly those issues concerned with municipal elections and political participation. The workshops are part of a project organized by JMI in cooperation with UNESCO Amman office and the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD).

The project aims to train citizen journalists on independent and impartial coverage of the elections and the development of a participatory strategy to support the media in Jordan to enable it to play its professional role in the electoral process.



### **Google Tools Workshop for JMI Students**

JMI hosted a three day Google tools training workshop entitled “Digital Tools for Newsgathering and Reporting across Cultures”. The training was held in joint cooperation between Google and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in association with The World Bank Institute (WBI).

In her opening remarks to the participants HRH Princess Rym Ali, JMI Founder, Said “Humanism remains at the core of Journalism education, even when we’re talking about digital media. Change is not only about defending freedoms but also about building a truly democratic and diverse culture.”

This training included a group of editors, journalists and bloggers from the MENA region for the first two days. Participating countries were Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Libya, while the third day’s participants were JMI’s Master’s students in Journalism and New Media. Participants were trained by well renowned experts from Google, UNAOC, World Bank, AlArabia, Missouri school of Journalism, and JMI.





## New indicators of monitoring gender issues in the local media

The “monitoring gender issues in media” project continues its analysis and monitoring of gender issues coverage in the local media since 2012. The new indicators showed that print media continued to perform better than electronic media in the coverage of gender issues and was considered as positive media coverage of women's issues in Jordan.

The two year project was launched early 2012 in collaboration with the embassy of the kingdom of the Netherlands, for the monitoring and analysis of gender issues in the local press including issues related to gender stereotypes, legislation, education, health care, social issues, human rights, images and work of cartoonists, columnists and commentaries.

A website has been developed especially for the dissemination of examples selected by the team project, including students and graduates of JMI, who participated in the project. The project's findings which include monthly reports in both languages Arabic and English, displays cases and examples that have been monitored. The project's findings can be viewed on the following website: [www.jmigendermonitoring.jo](http://www.jmigendermonitoring.jo)



## Whats Happening in August ?

### Aug / 2013

JMI will organise four training workshops as part of the “Media and Elections” UNESCO project, which JMI is implementing in cooperation with local partners among which is the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD).

### Aug 27-31 / 2013

JMI will host a specialised training workshop in cooperation with the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) in Washington, which will be the fifth workshop to take place in Jordan, entitled “Digital media tools in public service journalism”. The workshop will last for 5 days, with journalists and media experts participating from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco and Yemen.

### Aug 11-28 / 2013

Four JMI students will participate in the digital media literacy academy, to take place in Beirut, organised by the media studies department in the American University of Beirut (AUB). The academy aims to develop and promote increased digital media literacy in the Arab world. Participants include journalists, students of higher education, in addition to media and journalism academics and experts.

### Aug 29/ 2013

JMI's fourth intake master's students will sit for the comprehensive exam, which is the programme's final examination, and includes 3 main topics from the curriculum.



## JMI Alumni

The Jordan Media Institute's alumni network is growing every year. Many graduates are currently working with reputable news entities locally, regionally and internationally.

The Jordan Media Institute internship program helps to link qualified students to internship opportunities with regional and international news entities immediately after graduation.

Those who meet the requirements are nominated by JMI to sharpen skills they acquired during JMI's academic year. The core principle of the program is based on merit and quality of work. The goal is exposure to objective, credible and professional journalism standards. Among the entities that offered JMI nominees internships is AFP in Paris, CNN Arabic in Dubai, DW in Berlin, EFE Spanish News Agency in Cairo, and Alarabiya in UAE among other prestigious media institutions.

**Nadine Jitan** was offered an internship with Aljazeera Arabic in Ramalla and later worked with ABS office there as a producer for one year.

*“It is difficult enough to face the world upon graduation and JMI’s support during that time helped me on many levels. Qualifying for an internship at Aljazeera Arabic at a time when jobs are so scarce, opened the door for me and I now have a full time job with ABS. The institute re-enforced the importance of objectivity especially during these times when media fabrications in the Middle East are common. JMI strengthened my belief in journalism as an ethical profession and my days at the institute further deepened my conviction. Verifying information and sources, accuracy and objectivity in reporting are all skills I learned at the institute and was able to demonstrate in my daily work today.”*

**Mustafa Khatib** was offered an internship at Al Arabiya upon graduation and later received a full time offer as a writer with the news channel.

*“The greatest benefit I derived was from JMI’s faculty and their practical approach to teaching material that certainly pushed me forward. Another benefit was qualifying for an internship through JMI. What I was exposed to at the institute both in print and broadcast journalism strengthened my skills and background and better prepared me to work in news organizations. JMI’s intensive, practical and professional program is what empowered me to enter the work field ready and prepared.”*

## Extra-Curricular

### A Joint Course in Cooperation with Bellarmine and Rafiq Hariri University

Five JMI students participated in a joint course entitled “International Media and Peace Building”, in cooperation with Bellarmine University (USA), and Rafiq Hariri University (Lebanon). The course dealt with the media’s role in shaping and influencing cultural identities and conflicts. The students engaged in a cultural discussion and interacted with other students from diverse cultures and backgrounds through online virtual classrooms.

### “Freedom, Media and Religion” workshop in Beirut

“Skeyes Centre for Media and Cultural Freedom”, Beirut, Lebanon, in cooperation with the “Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom”, organized the fifth international conference entitled “Freedom, Media and Religion” funded by the European Union. The conference was held over three days (5-7 July 2013) in Beirut and aimed to analyse media coverage of religious issues. JMI was represented at the conference by journalist Ayman Alhunaiti, JMI’s graduate in Journalism and New Media Master’s programme.

### The Salzburg Academy Summer Programme

JMI student, **Shahd Bani Odeh**, attends the Salzburg academy on “Media and Global Change” summer program 2013 in Austria. The Salzburg academy is a three week summer abroad program in Salzburg Austria, where students study digital media literacy, discuss pressing global issues, produce multimedia modules and engage in research and debates with students and faculty from across the globe.



Excerpts from Forward by HRH Princess Rym Ali  
(During a presentation of “Monitoring Gender Issues in Media”  
project findings in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom  
of the Netherlands.)

It is said that to err is human, but to indulge, savor and perpetuate the error is diabolical.

Jordan Media Institute’s faculty of academics and media professionals focuses on students’ writing skills, accurate reporting and adherence to editorial values. Mistakes on issues pertaining to human rights and gender are taken seriously.



At JMI, every effort is made to ensure that students are absolutely aware of potential pitfalls so they are less likely to commit any breaches of Human Rights when they are out in the real world.

Human Rights and gender issues have become the pillars of our Master’s programme at the Institute. The intensive training applies to reporting techniques, writing skills and interviewing strategies plus other skills without straying from the editorial principles and sound, responsible practices of the profession.

For decades, Jordan has benefitted from the insight and hard work of pioneering women who strove to bring about positive change in women’s lives. And indeed, over the years, there has been a great deal of noticeable progress.

In this information age where news is widely accessible and where everyone is a potential citizen journalist, a need was identified to create guidelines that enable producers and consumers of news to further review not only how they refer to women, but also to rethink and reassess the valuable role that women and minority groups play within our society.

It is my hope that the project will serve to identifying best practices and methods in covering gender related issues, and I sincerely hope it will inspire everyone who reads it to become aware of the way in which gender issues are typically reported in the mainstream median order towards long overdue positive change.



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