



U.S.-Jordanian University Cooperation Network (UCN) Webinar Series

Four webinars sponsored by Virginia Tech with the financial support of the United States Embassy
 – Public Affairs Section, Amman, Jordan

- When: November 12; November 17: December 8 and December 15
- Time: 9:00am -- 11:00am (EST) / 4:00pm - 6:00pm Jordan.

TOPIC	INSTITUTION	PANELISTS	MODERATOR
12 NOVEMBER 2020: INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CAMPUS			
9:00-9:30 AM Welcoming remarks Internationalization of the campus Background and achievements of the UCN 9:30-10:30 AM Panelists Presentations Panel on Internationalization of the campus: Tertiary Education Institutions' Response to the Pandemic. Transition from in person to virtual, how universities have managed this period of adaptation, challenges	<u>U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Office, Amman, Jordan</u> <u>Virginia Tech (VT-OIA): Outreach and International Affairs</u> <u>Virginia Tech (VT): the U.S.-Jordanian UCN State of Affairs</u> <u>University of Jordan:</u> evolution of the Jordanian UCN Secretariat.	McKenzie Louw , Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Amman, Jordan Don Hempson , Associate Vice President for International Affairs (VT-OIA) Patricia Parera , Associate Director for Partnerships, Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI). Hadeel Yaseen , Director of International Affairs Unit; Associate Professor of Finance.	Mark Johnson , Senior Advisor to the UCN, Lecturer University of Wisconsin-Madison

<p>and opportunities, lessons learned so far and where do we go from here.</p> <p>10:30-11:00 Am Questions and Answers (Q&A)</p>	<p><u>University of Arizona</u>: recently implemented internationalization effort, global locations & online strategy; grants and collaborative partnerships</p> <p><u>The World Bank</u>, Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) Region</p> <p><u>Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)</u>: taking the International Students Network (ISN) as an example.</p> <p><u>Yarmouk University (YU)</u>: UCN GRE English online Prep Program.</p> <p><u>Tafila Technical University</u>: academic research projects.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hassan Hijazi, Assistant VP MENA, UA Global 2. Kamel Braham; Human Development Program Leader, MENA Region and Hana Addam El Ghali, Higher Education Expert 3. Fawzia Amoura, International Relations Office, Head of Exchange Programs Section and Qanita Bani Baker, Assistant professor, Computer science department. 4. Mwaffaq Otoom, Dean of Engineering and Anna Lindh Foundation Badge Awardee. 5. Hassan Al-Momani, Director of International Relations Office. 	
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17 NOVEMBER 2020: Linking Tertiary Education to the Labor Market

<p>9:00-9:30am (EST)</p> <p>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p>9:30-10:30: Panelists Presentations</p> <p>Linking Tertiary Education to the Labor Market</p> <p>Description: Education is still often characterized by rote learning and repetition instead of teaching to reason and focusing on problem-solving skills and real-world issues. Thus, skills have become a severe constraint to growth and employers have highlighted this on various occasions. The question for us today is how can tertiary education systems</p>	<p><u>Virginia Tech (VT-OIA)</u>: Outreach and International Affairs</p> <p><u>Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)</u></p> <p><u>Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)</u></p> <p><u>Virginia Tech</u></p> <p><u>Yarmouk University (YU)</u>: Problems facing women's employment in Jordan.</p>	<p>Don Hempson, Associate Vice President for International Affairs (VT-OIA)</p> <p>Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mohannad Aljarrah, Director Center of Excellence for Innovative Projects; <i>Associate Professor Department of Chemical Engineering</i> 2. Rick Rudd, Professor Community Viability Chair of Excellence, Ag Leadership Community. 3. Amneh Khasawneh, Director of the Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Women's Studies at Yarmouk University. 	<p>Sudipta Sarangi, Department Head and Professor of Economics. College of Science, Virginia Tech.</p>
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respond to these challenges and play a stronger role in preparing young people for the labor market? In addition, although women's enrollment in all levels of education have improved dramatically in Jordan, these gains have not led to improvements in women's economic participation or agency. Barriers to economic participation seem to start with women's education and are negatively impacted by low economic incentives. There remains a clear disconnect between the skills and education women acquire, and those demanded by employers, particularly in the private sector.

10:30-11:00am Questions and Answers

The World Bank MENA Region

The University of Jordan (UoJ):
The Role of Educational Technology and E-Learning during COVID -19 Pandemic and Its Impact on the Education Sector in Jordan

University of Florida: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification experience.

4. **Andreas Blom:** Manager, World Bank Education Global Practice, and **Mariam Nusrat:** Education Specialist, MENA region.
5. **Muhannad Al-Shboul,** Professor of Educational Technology and e-Learning; Vice Dean for Quality Affairs and Development, School of Educational Sciences.
6. **Bahar Armghani,** Lecturer and Director, UF Green Building Learning Collaborative Sustainability and the Built Environment, LEED Fellow, College of Design, Construction and Planning (assisted Jordan to develop Jordan Green Building Council).

8 DECEMBER 2020: Virtual Exchange Programming

9:00-9:30am

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

9:30-11:00 am. Presentations and Questions and Answers (Q&A will take place after each presentation)

Virtual Exchange Programming

Description: many educators and institutions are wondering how to make global education possible for young people. There are many pathways to engage in virtual exchange, including researching and joining existing programs, piloting programs at a small scale with international partners, or tapping into international networks to establish new virtual exchange partners. Panelists will share how they explore ways to adopt virtual exchange and will highlight best practices and learnings for those new to the virtual exchange field.

Final Remarks

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Virginia Tech (VT-OIA): Outreach and International Affairs

University of Jordan (UoJ).
Jordanian UCN Representative.

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)

University of Florida

Virginia Tech; Global Education Office

Global Ties: In person to Virtual – Adapting Youth Programs during the Pandemic; Stevens Initiative.

Yarmouk University (YU): Erasmus+ Exchange (ICM and Virtual).

VT Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI): Advantage VT Master program.

Bilal Nsour, Second Secretary- Consul Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan- Washington D.C.

Don Hempson, Associate Vice President for International Affairs (VT-OIA).

Hadeel Yaseen, Director of International Affairs Unit; Associate Professor in Finance.

Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.

1. **Paloma Rodriguez**, Director, Office for Global Learning, International Center
2. **Theresa Johansson**, Director.
3. **Sarah Martin**, Special Program Manager, Global Ties KC.
4. **Mwaffaq Otoom**, Dean of Engineering and Anna Lindh Foundation Badge Awardee.
5. **Pamela Smart-Smith**, AdvantageVT-Master's Pathway Program Director. Language and Culture Institute.

Nargiza Ludgate, Assistant Scholar University of Florida International Center and **Mark Johnson**, Senior Advisor to the UCN, Lecturer University of Wisconsin-Madison

15 DECEMBER 2020: **The Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education, Technology, Emotional Distress and Lessons Learned**

9:00-9:30 am.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education, Technology, Emotional Distress and Lessons Learned.

Description: As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread across the globe, every continent and nearly every country had to react. The webinar will explore possible solutions and practical ways that universities, researchers and other stakeholders can tackle the COVID-19 situation and how we can move forward from a health and socio-economic perspective.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Virginia Tech (VT-OIA): Outreach and International Affairs

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)

University of Florida: Preliminary results of a study on the effects of rapid immersion of students into distance learning due to COVID (stress, depression, anxiety, academic readiness, etc.) and how this compares to academic performance.

Virginia Tech: Lessons, Triumphs, & Obstacles on Interdisciplinary Projects at Virginia Tech in response to COVID-19

The University of Jordan: Online Teaching During COVID-19 Crisis: The Role of Techno stress and Emotional Dissonance on Online Teaching Exhaustion and Teaching Staff Productivity.

Al-AI Bayt University (AABU): the role of the university during COVID-19.

Hashemite University: the impact of COVID-19 on public health research from a Tertiary-Care focused system.

Bilal Nsour, Second Secretary- Consul Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan- Washington D.C.

Don Hempson, Associate Vice President for International Affairs (VT-OIA)

Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.

1. **Elizabeth Wood**, Director, Bachelor of Public Health Program, Clinical Assistant Professor
2. **Carla Finkelstein**, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and **Matthew Hull**, Institute of Critical Technology and Applied Sciences (ICTAS).
3. **Laila Dahabiyeh**, Assistant Professor of Information Systems Management at the School of Business & Assistant Dean for International Accreditation Affairs.
4. **Adnan Atoum**, President, Al-AI Bayt University.
5. **Sukaina Alzyoud**, Jordan Tobacco Control Research Group Founder. World Health Organization, Consultant. The Hashemite University.

Laura Hungerford, Department Head Department of Population Health Sciences Professor Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology.

Final Remarks

Virginia Tech: adaptive approaches to conducting international research on water resources and food security assessments during COVID-19 times.

Virginia Tech, a student's perspective: "The COVID-19 Crushers, a peer-to-peer COVID-19 education initiative in the New River Valley".

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI) , University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Arizona

6. **Venkat Sridhar**, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Systems Sciences.

7. **Fernanda Gutierrez Matos**, Virginia Tech Master of Public Health candidate; Graduate Assistant at the Language and Culture Institute.

6. **Patricia Parera**, Virginia Tech, **Mark Johnson**, Senior Advisor to the UCN, Lecturer University of Wisconsin-Madison and **Hassan Hijazi**, Assistant VP MENA, UA Global