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Speech Coverage, First Place

As a bioengineering major turned Emmy Award-winning journalist, Ash-har Quraishi is not stranger to change.

Qurashi spoke to student journalists at the IJEA fall media conference at the University of Illinois on Sept. 15 about the challenges faced in a changing media environment.

“It’s a unique time that we are living in,” Qurashi said “especially as journalists. Technology has developed so quickly that the newsrooms and managers struggle to make sense of it.”

The first thing Qurashi stressed to students was the role of credibility as the ‘make-or-break’ factor of journalism.

“Simply put, seek out multiple credible sources of information before deciding what you think,” Qurashi said. “Without credibility, the words of a journalist are meaningless.”

“The president has essentially declared war on the media,” Qurashi said “and it’s creating a lot of stress and tension because people in the news media are not certain how to deal with that. To attack the foundation of credibility that journalists need to survived is to undermine their collective standing as the fourth estate.”

Changes in the business aspect of journalism and how people consume news are brining the media battle ground online.

“So many platforms are being developed regularly,” Qurashi said. “News managers all the over the countries are trying to figure out how to utilize the internet and social media and monetize it in a way that is going to allow them to continue their business.”

Qurashi ended his speech with a message of optimism for aspiring young journalists. “In this new age where everything is being questioned, even truth, our only choice is to continue moving forward, keep doing what we do and seek the truth.”

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