

JORDAN JOURNEYS

the Official Newsletter of the MSC Leland T. and
Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness

MSC LELAND T. AND JESSIE W.
JORDAN
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS

Fall 2012

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"This is an organization that makes a difference.

It makes us better Aggies and better people.

Its international reach changes students' perspectives forever."

—Melissa Crews '14
Chair, 2012-2013

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A Night To Remember

Institute's 25th Anniversary Calls for Celebratory Gala

Joined by relatives of the Jordan family, the Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness commemorated its 25th year on Nov. 8 with a gala in the MSC Bethancourt Ballroom.

Emceeding the evening were Melissa Crews and Ryan Trantham, chair and vice chair of the Institute, respectively.

Some of the university's finest graced the internationally-themed ballroom, including President Loftin; Lieutenant General Joseph Weber, vice president for student affairs; Luke Altemendorf, director of the MSC; and Tyler Stewart, president and CEO of the MSC.

Speaking first was former Jordan Fellow Matthew Davis, who gave a presentation on his research travels in the United Kingdom. He was followed



IN APPRECIATION— Keynote speaker Dr. Joshua Siepel was awarded a plaque to honor his contributions to the Jordan Institute.

by keynote speaker Dr. Joshua Siepel, initiator of the Institute's international service programs (ISP).

A brief ceremony awarding Affandi Salleh, the Institute's country director for the Internship and Living Abroad Program in Singapore, followed.

Salleh has served in the capacity for 10 years.

The latter part of the evening was devoted to inducting the Institute's newest Research Fellows and international service program participants to Belize, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

Reveille Club Contributes \$500 to L.T. Jordan

Funds to Benefit International Service Program

The Reveille Club of Houston contributed \$500 to the Jordan Institute to assist with funding needs for the International Service Program, one of the Institute's newest programs.

The International Service Program is a service-oriented initiative allowing Aggie students to live overseas four to eight weeks

during the summer in their choice of the Dominican Republic, Honduras or Belize. Students attending the program gain hands-on international experience in the areas of marine conservation, health and agriculture. All projects completed by students are on a volunteer basis and directly benefit the inhabitants of rural

settings.

The \$500 gift will be applied toward travel expenses, program costs and program advertising and seminars.

Established in 1982, the Reveille Club of Houston has a motto of "Aggies doing business with Aggies." The organization's mission

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Words From Our Chair



**Melissa Crews '14
Chair, 2012-2013**

Blessing. Opportunity. Challenge. Motivation. Humility. Perspective. Growth. These are just a few things the MSC Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness has given me over the past year and what I strive to give back every single day. I am proud to say that as the ISP Belize/Honduras Dominican Republic Co-Director last year, an ILAP Spain 2012 participant, and now Chair, I have received these gifts and many more.

I joined the Jordan Institute as a way to get involved in the Memorial Student Center and find my niche at Texas A&M. I was looking for an organization in which I could give back and serve my university. As an international studies major, I have had a long-standing passion for international awareness and travel, and the Jordan Institute seemed a perfect fit.

As a director, I saw Mr. and Mrs. Jordan's vision of sending Aggies abroad come alive. As a participant in the ILAP Spain program, I was able to intern with an NGO focused in international aid and development, and I experienced the Spanish and European culture.

This year I am the Chair for the Jordan Institute and cannot think of the words appropriate to describe what an honor and privilege it has been. I understand exactly what Jessie Jordan's goal was in establishing the Institute, and I have the upmost desire and passion to share it with others. I could see early on this was an organization that made a difference; it made you a better Aggie and a better person. I saw that its international reach changed students' perspectives forever.

I have three simple values for the Jordan Institute and its members: excellence, accountability and involvement. My personal focus is in developing our on-campus and travel abroad programs so that we strive for excellence in all areas. It is my vision to instill a greater sense of cultural preparation and pre-departure preparation so that our participants can hit the ground running as soon as the plane lands. I also envision a greater sense of involvement from our program participants and members derived from a sense of passion for the Institute.

The most rewarding part of being Chair are day-to-day moments. Moments like looking out on a crowded room filled with our members anxious to start our meetings and programs, leading an exec meeting with the best team of students I could ever have, walking into our office with a staff that goes above and beyond to be as supportive and encouraging as possible, seeing the joy and excitement on someone's face after they have done an interview for a travel abroad program, and answering the question, "So what's the story behind those big, brown doors?" Sharing the Jordan Institute with others, and being able to share it with such incredible people, is my reward and I thank God every day for it.

Collection Invites Passerby

*The Jordan Institute
Collection explores
culture through the
universal language
of art*



NOT YOUR USUAL LAMP — One of the most unique and ornate items of the Collection, this lamp is made from a camel's bladder.

Following the rededication of the Memorial Student Center on April 21, 2012, the Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Collection opened to visitors at the end of May, welcoming more than 1,000 viewers in its first week. With eye-catching window pieces, the Collection continues to invite passerby inside. Its hundreds of items are a survey of the world in artifact form.

The Jordan Collection realizes the Jordan Institute's goal of providing exposure to other cultures through the universal language of art.

Additionally, since almost all of the objects were obtained during Mr. Jordan's career with the Gulf Oil Company and the Kuwait Oil Company, the Collection provides a distinct

and comprehensive glimpse into his life.

Articles displayed in the Jordan Collection include jewelry, porcelain, silverwork, paintings, rugs, and various pieces of furniture from Africa, the Middle East, South American, Europe and Asia.

The Jordan's received a number of pieces in their collection from heads of state and diplomats during their annual travels.

Among the most significant and valuable pieces are a writing desk given to Mrs. Jordan by President Juan Vicente Gomez of Venezuela; a camel bladder lamp given to the Jordan's by Sheikh Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; a stand given to Mrs. Jordan by the President of Syria; and an ink stand used by King George III of England.



WRITE ON — This 20th century writing desk was given to Mrs. Jordan by President Gomez of Venezuela on a business trip.

Several items in the collection, including a crown pin, a diamond trimmed vanity case, a red scarf and twin handkerchiefs, were given to Mrs. Jordan from Queen Elizabeth II of England. The two developed a close relationship over decades of visits. The red scarf was given to Mrs. Jordan on

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From Our Members...**What is your favorite piece in the Jordan Collection?**

"I love the wood carved tables and stools in the center of the room. The carving is beautiful and intricate."

—Claire Casey '15

"I like the camel bladder lamp shade. It is super unique and it shows how much the Jordan's were appreciated because it is such an intricate gift."

—Arlean Dawes '15

"I like the writing desk because of the story behind it. It is proof that extraordinary things are waiting everywhere for those who are willing to work."

—Alexandra Summers '15

"I love the from the Pope. It's special to me since I'm Catholic."

—Nia Johnson '15

"I think the hookah is interesting because it is a representation of the diversity of the lands the Jordan's visited."

—Austin Mendenhall '15

"The trip you are about to take is going to impact your life more than you realize."

—Caleb Hobart '08

Then & Now: A Look at Former Members

A Conversation With Caleb Hobart on His ILAP China Experience

Tell us a little about yourself.

Howdy! I am the proudest member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2008! I studied finance and after completing the largest capital allocation in history of \$30 billion after three and a half years at Teacher Retirement System of Texas, I have transitioned to a management consulting opportunity servicing NGO clients in Bangalore, India.

What was one of your favorite things you did while abroad in China?

Hands down it was eating and drinking with Chinese in local contexts. You learn everything from how a professional to a friend interacts with you and you receive such a unique snapshot of the culture. Eating and drinking will establish long-term relationships.

What did you gain by going abroad through our ILAP program?

I obtained a close look at the Ministry of Education of the Peoples Republic of the China, gaining insight into how a Communist country operates their education system. Education is where change begins, and I met the people spearheading that change in China. It was absolutely fabulous!

What are some interesting things you learned about Chinese culture and society?

I had no idea of the value of drinking baijiu or white whiskey. Since my travels with ILAP, I have participated in US-China conferences across the world con-

cerning topic specific matters ranging from venture capital, real estate, private equity and start-up culture. The Chinese counterparts at each of these places knew the culture of drinking baijiu. China has taught me the importance of knowing how to give a toast to get things done.

What would you still like to experience or see or China?

I would love to tour more of the large scale infrastructure projects. These are historic in scope and the holistic impact they have on society will provide incredible insight to the complexity of State level decisions and how they impact local municipalities in an emerging country. Additionally, some of their clean energy projects are world class in quality and scale. Clean energy is a fascinating topic and is one place where I think China could demonstrate real global leadership.

How has your opinion of Chinese culture and society changed since you've seen it first hand?

China has only grown in love within my heart. They are a fascinating mystery in the way they operate as a culture and society! The main thing that has changed is my understanding of economic zoning in China.

If you could create a "guidebook" based off of your experiences while in China, what are some tourist tips and tricks that would you list?

The only tip I would have is



Caleb Hobart '08 traveled with the Jordan Institute's ILAP program to China, where he gained insight into the Chinese educational system through obtaining a close look at the Ministry of Education of the Peoples Republic of China.

to memorize one Michael Jackson song for karaoke and be ready to perform it with a couple of snazzy dance moves. It will be helpful to your professional relationships, your social life, and of course will be a great memory. Be bold in asking questions and don't fear making any cultural mistakes. It is important to grow in self-awareness and it is helpful to look for indirect body language for a more accurate answer.

If you were addressing a group of students going to China through our ILAP program, what would you say to them before they left?

The trip you are about to take is going to impact your life more than you realize. Be proactive in planning events where you reach out to your colleagues, acquaintances or friends. You will at different times be in a culturally awkward situation, but if you can prepare to lead humbly with laughter you will be very successful.

Executive Officers

2012-2013

Melissa Crews '14
International Studies
Chair

Ryan Trantham '15
Biomedical Sciences
Vice-Chair

Jordan Grahmann '15
Agricultural Journalism
Development Co-Director

Dunae Crenwelge '15
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Development Co-Director

Cervando Banuelos '12
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Marketing Director

Jayson Jamieson '14
Agricultural Systems Management
Events Director

Anna Lopez '13
Biology
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Jeffrey Leblanc '14
Petroleum Engineering
On Campus Programming
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Katie Kuck '15
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International Education
 Outreach Director

Hoa Nguyen '14
Economics & Political Science
Fellows Director

Collin Hunt '14
International Studies
Belize International Service
 Program Director

Grecia Sanchez '14
Nutrition
 ...Dominican Republic & Honduras
 International Service Program
 Director

Nick Mumme '15
Civil Engineering
Internship & Living Abroad
 Program Director

Jordanites: Where Are They Now?

Graphic Shows National and International Distribution of Former Members

**Ecuador****Singapore****Canada****Ukraine****United Kingdom****Collection**

Continued from page 2

wear during official activities, while the handkerchiefs were given in appreciation of Mrs. Jordan performing duties on behalf of the Queen following her coronation.

"I love the story of the red scarf. I can only imagine how royal Mrs. Jordan must have felt to have

worn a beautiful scarf on behalf of the Queen," said Carol Galjour, assistant to the director of the Jordan Institute. "The most interesting part about the scarf is that the inscription 'ER' on it stands for 'Elizabeth Regina' and 'Regina' is Latin for 'Queen.' Not many people know that."

The Jordan Collection is open for viewing free of charge for all students, faculty, staff and campus visitors.

Currently, the Institute is working to create audio guides for tours. For more information, call the Jordan Institute office at 979-845-8770.

Reveille Club

Continued from page 1

is to encourage business among Aggies and to provide employment sources for recent graduates and former students of Texas A&M University. Additionally, they sponsor a number of events for Aggies in the Houston area.

All proceeds raised from Reveille Club activities benefit Texas A&M student activities and programs. In the past year alone, the Reveille Club has donated to approximately 50 student organi-

zations at A&M in the areas of sports organizations, service clubs, leadership and international programs, Greek Life, Fish Camp, professional societies and MSC-affiliated groups.

Jordan Programs



On-Campus Programming

- Produces lectures, entertainment and discussions for Aggie students throughout the year
- Focuses on international issues
- Increases campus awareness of world cultures



International Education Outreach

- Brings cultural presentations to K-12 schools in Bryan-College Station
- Expands child perspectives
- Participates in Brazos Valley Worldfest



International Service Program

- Sends Aggies overseas during the summer to participate in community-based service projects in rural areas
- Currently established in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Belize
- Focuses on areas of marine conservation, health and agriculture

Helping Aggies:

Expand their horizons

Learn about world cultures

Develop international skills

Gain real-world experiences

Develop a global perspective

Travel abroad

Educate other Aggies

*Dedicated to
international
outreach at home
and abroad
since 1986*



Internship & Living Abroad Program

- Arranges overseas internship opportunities for Aggie students
- Sends ten students each to the Dominican Republic, China, England, Singapore and Spain
- Work experience tailored to career interest of student



L.T. Jordan Fellows Program

- Awards grants to A&M students for use in independent research conducted abroad
- Fellows receive funds up to \$2000 to assist with travel expenses and projects

These Programs Aren't Possible Without Your Help!

If you are interested in giving to one of these programs and supporting the international education of Aggie students, please follow the instructions found on page 6.



Greece Leadership Program

- Sends ten sophomores to Greece for two weeks every other summer for an intense leadership experience
- Widens the multi-cultural and international perspectives of students
- Focuses on subjects of philosophy, democracy, history and architecture

Yes! I want to invest in the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of ____ \$100 ____ \$50 ____ \$25 ____ \$Other

Please make checks payable to: MSC L.T. Jordan Institute

(All Contributions are Tax Deductible)

Return to:

Memorial Student Center

TAMU 1237

College Station, TX 77843-1237

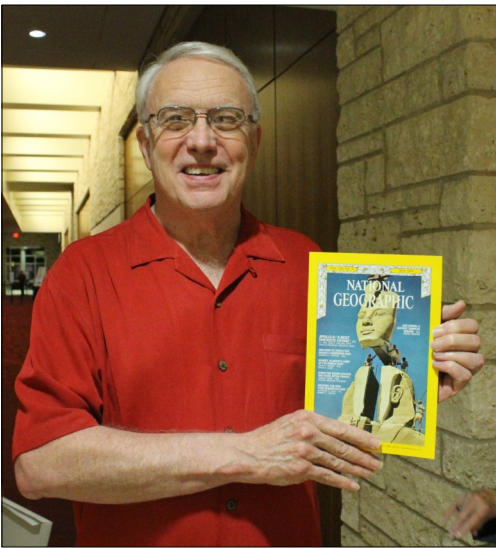
If you prefer to make your donation using a credit card, please go to the Texas A&M Foundation website at <http://giving.tamu.edu/> and follow these steps:

- Click on the "Give Now" button
- Under the 'Select a College or Program to Support', select "Student Affairs -Memorial Student Center"
- Under the 'Select a Fund to Support', check the box for "contribute to an account not listed above"
- Indicate "MSC L.T. Jordan Institute" and the dollar amount you wish to give
- Proceed to step 2 to complete your personal information
- Proceed to step 3 to complete your credit card information and review your gift



You make it all possible.

You are an important part of our students' success--and the success of the MSC. Your support makes it possible for the MSC to achieve its goal to offer Aggies experiences that will change their lives. Your contribution will ensure that MSC students are able to continue to strive toward achieving their goals--both personal and professional. We thank you.



FEATURED INSIDE — This May 1969 issue of National Geographic is home to an article entitled, "Kuwait, Aladdin's Lamp of the Middle East," which focuses on the Kuwait Oil Company where Leland T. Jordan worked from 1948-1962. Jim Jordan, L.T. Jordan's nephew, had once mentioned his family's excitement over the article, so Jordan Institute assistant Carol Galjour ordered a copy of the magazine for Mr. Jordan as a gift on behalf of the organization. As a lifelong admirer of his uncle, Mr. Jordan was pleased to be presented the magazine at the November gala celebrating the Institute's 25th anniversary.

**Please continue the
Jordan giving tradition
and support our Institute
with a gift! We
appreciate your help in
making our organization a
success.**

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Be Part of Something

**A department in the division
of student affairs**

All aspects of the Jordan Institute for International Awareness are administered by a committee of approximately 40 Texas A&M University students and Memorial Student Center staff. The Jordan Institute is divided into several subcommittees, each led by a student director. These are: On Campus Programming, Fellows, Development, the Internship and Living Abroad Program, the International Service Program, and International Education Outreach. Each member of the Jordan Institute serves on one or more of these subcommittees. Active involvement is encouraged to enhance international awareness and personal skills such as time management and communication. A student chairperson, staff advisor, and associate staff ensure the smooth operation of the Institute.

This newsletter was written and designed by Dunae Crenwelge '15 and Jordan Grahmann '15, Co-Directors of Development for the MSC Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness. **If you would no longer like to receive a copy of this biannual publication, please e-mail: ji-development@msc.tamu.edu.**