

JORDAN JOURNEYS

the Official Newsletter of the
MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness



Spring 2012

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"Being part of the Jordan Institute is more than getting to hear about global issues; it is fully understanding the advantages of international experience as well as the possible consequences of global issues in this country."

—Giuliana Salazar Noratto '12
L.T. Jordan Chair

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25th Anniversary Approaches

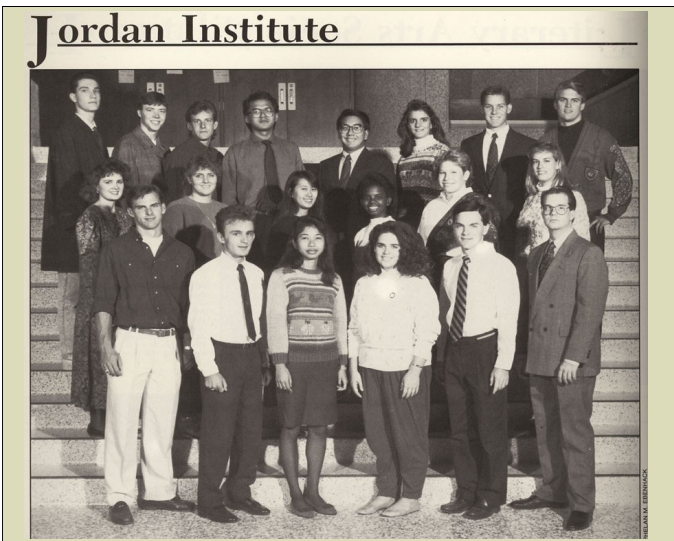
L.T. Jordan Welcomes Hallmark with Gala

Since its establishment in December 1986 by Mrs. Jessie W. Jordan in the name of her husband, Leland Thomas Jordan, the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness has been dedicated to providing opportunities for Texas A&M University students to grow and learn through international experiences abroad.

After twenty-five years of consecutive service, education and programming, the L.T. Jordan Institute is excited to announce its 25th anniversary celebratory gala, to be held the evening of November 8, 2012 in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Ballroom.

Following opening remarks, the night will include a dinner and silent auction, noted speakers, an account of L.T. Jordan's history, and the induction of this year's Fellows participants.

A number of guests will be invited, including former members of the Institute,



BACK IN THE DAY—Though this photo is of L.T. Jordan's 1990 members, the Institute has flourished in international education since 1986.

past program participants, Texas A&M faculty, and officials with relations to Mr. and Mrs. Jordan.

The Jordan Collection, an array of articles and art pieces obtained by Mr. Jordan during his career, will also be on display for viewing pleasure, as will a number of exhibits about the Institute's history and pro-

gram travels.

Former students wanting to attend the Gala are welcome to call the Institute at 979-845-8770 or email ji-development@msc.tamu.edu to request an invitation.

The L.T. Jordan Institute celebrated its 20th Anniversary on Feb. 24, 2006

MSC Reopens, Jordan Offices Relocate

Two and a half years after renovation began on the Memorial Student Center (MSC) in August 2009, the building reopened its doors to faculty and students on April 21, 2012, in accordance with Muster.

The L.T. Jordan offices,

which have been located in the John J. Koldus building the length of renovation, have relocated to the MSC, their prior home.

Additionally, the Jordan Collection, consisting of various objects obtained by Mr. Leland Jordan during

his career with the Gulf Oil Company and Kuwait Oil Company, will be available for public viewing once again.

Housed in the MSC, the collection includes jewelry, porcelain, silverwork, rugs,

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A Note: From Our Director

Howdy Jordanites!

I hope this edition of the *Jordan Journeys Newsletter* finds you in good health and high spirits. Much has transpired in my life over the years in Aggieland. My daughter, Daniela, is ten years old already; my wife and I celebrated our tenth anniversary last September; and next month I am completing my second year as a PhD student in higher education administration at TAMU. I am proud to announce that I have become a student for life, in spite of endless nights writing papers and preparing for my do-or-die dissertation!

The Institute is thriving, growing and shining thanks to the leadership, passion, and commitment of exceptional student leaders at the MSC. Our travel programs, on-campus programming, and community service activities continue to impact and enhance the lives of thousands of people overseas and in Aggieland. As always, we continue to explore new international experiential education opportunities for Aggies. We recently started an International Service Program in Belize in collaboration with the College of Geosciences. Students through this program have the opportunity to work with marine conservation projects at NGOs in Belize and explore careers in environmental science.

The Institute is also in the process of evaluating the commencement of an ILAP program in Brazil for summer 2014, and we are partnering with the Honors Office and Undergraduate Research Scholars program to increase the number of undergraduate Jordan Fellows traveling abroad. Furthermore, we are putting together an exciting new on-campus program next week, the Aggieland Greek Festival, featuring Greek food, music, and dance. Life at the Institute ceases not to be vibrant and exhilarating!

We are ecstatic about our upcoming 25th Anniversary on November 8, 2012 at our newly renovated MSC. I hope you will join us to celebrate our numerous accomplishments, and reconnect with friends and colleagues. Please do call our office and let us know if you are joining us in November. I am eager to hear about your life stories, so please do drop me an email anytime or come by and visit us in the near future. Enjoy the *Jordan Journeys Newsletter*.

Cheers,

Diego Garcia

Director

Leland T. and Jessie Jordan Institute for International Awareness

I loved the opportunity to help other students see the world and experience new cultures. I still remember how exciting it was to encourage, interview, and select students for these wonderful programs."

Allie Rutledge,
Former Jordan Member



Allie Rutledge currently spends her time doing geological field work.

Then & Now: A Look at Former Members

Rutledge Shares Jordan Experience

As the L.T. Jordan Institute approaches its 25th year this November, it's important to look back and highlight some of the former members who were instrumental in helping the Institute achieve all that it has.

Allie Rutledge, a former Jordan member and program participant, is one such person.

Rutledge graduated from Texas A&M in 2004 with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and in 2006 with an M.S. in Forestry.

During her time at A&M, Rutledge participated in the ILAP Australia program and upon returning, fulfilled three consecutive leadership positions in L.T. Jordan as the ILAP Australia Coordinator, ILAP

Director, and Vice Chair. Rutledge says her love of travel led her to L.T. Jordan.

"During college, I deliberately sought out ways to see the world," Rutledge said.

She began her worldly travels her sophomore year with an internship abroad in Townsville, Australia through L.T. Jordan's ILAP Australia program.

During her summer stay, she worked at Queensland Nickel, an ore processing plant, as a safety engineering intern.

"My duties were to assist in the testing and repair of large motors and other equipment and to ensure as little downtime as possible for various areas of the plant," Rutledge said.

"Though I was working as an engineer, the experience of working in Australia's vibrant mining industry piqued my interest in geology, which is now my chosen field."

In Australia, Rutledge took note of the many ways in which the culture varied from the United States.

"One major difference that I noticed right away at my internship was the lack of women. I was the only female engineer that many of my co-workers had ever met," Rutledge said.

She also noted missing Reese's peanut butter cups, (which are apparently not an Australian delicacy) and remembers thinking that the Queenslanders ran on a different time clock.

— Continued on page 4



EXUDING SERVICE—A few of the MSC L. T. Jordan crew after a hard day of work for Big Event, a Texas A&M community service project taking place one day of the year. On March 24, members helped this couple with indoor clean-up and outdoor yard work, exemplifying the L.T. Jordan pillar of service.

Speaker Recounts Rwandan Journey

An Inspiring Story of Peace for A Torn Country

In March, L.T. Jordan had a special guest speaker at the monthly General Member meeting, Dr. Michael Greenwald from the Department of Performance Studies.

He is a professor for classes such as Shakespeare on Film, World Theatre, and Period Styles of Acting. He has traveled extensively throughout the world and one of his trips—to Rwanda—was his topic for the evening.

Dr. Greenwald traveled to Rwanda to help with a project designed to assist with the recovery of Rwanda's native people and their attitudes towards each other.

In the past, the two tribes of Rwanda, the Hutus and the Tutsis, had been at war with each other causing a mass genocide and a deep hatred towards each other.

Families and friends were turned against each other, and people from the age of 5 to 55 were pushed into war. Now, however, the tribes have begun to form a peace with each other.

Greenwald went to Rwanda with an interesting way of approaching the people that caused them to work together in a unique way, through the practice of theatre and putting on plays and acts.

He encouraged and taught the people how to act and play certain roles. The people would then put on plays that were about the war, jokes about society, and daily life.

His "students" there fell absolutely in love with this, and it became a daily form of entertainment for them. Dr. Greenwald even discovered several natives with a hidden talent for

theatre. While in Rwanda, he was also able to tour the country and see other reconciliation methods, such as forcing a Hutu and Tutsi to work alongside each other or establishing a home next to each other.

He also toured major sites of the war, like a school that had been raided where hundreds of children had been killed. At this site a beautiful and solemn memorial had been created to remind people of war's effects.

Seeing things like this motivated Dr. Greenwald to help the native people continue to find peace with each other.

Programs like Dr. Greenwald's sharing of his experiences in Rwanda help L. T. Jordan spread international awareness and understanding of other cultures.

Q&A

With Our Members

If you could travel to any country in the world, where would it be and why?

"Switzerland. I want to know why they've been neutral for forever."
—Cervando Banuelos '12

"I would go to Paris because it is a city full of beautiful architecture, lovely scenery, and great art and fashion."

—Macy Hurley '15

"China. I would like to visit because it's a mix of modern cities and old historical sites."

—David Ortegón '15

Out of any event or era in the past, in any place in the world, which would you have liked to live in and experience?

"The Roman era, because of the history. I like that the curiosity of the Romans allowed them to expand their boundaries."

—Jose Sanchez '12

"I think it would have been incredible to attend the drafting of the League of Nations conference."

—Melissa Crews, '14

What is one thing you have learned about a different culture, ethnic group, or country that you find odd or interesting?

"The different ways of viewing time in different regions of the world. I think it is funny how strict or loosely cultures interpret deadlines or meeting times."

—Ryan Trantham '15

"I love how closely connected families are in China. Whether you're a grandparent or the youngest baby, you are just as important."

—Macy Hurley '14

Then & Now: Rutledge

Continued from page 3

"I remember vividly how laid-back people seemed, compared to Americans. Very few people seemed stressed. There was no such thing as arriving five minutes early; 'Australian Time' means you'll get there when you get there – no worries, mate!" Rutledge added. "It was a refreshing change from the generally fast-paced life in the U.S., but it did take a while to become used to that lower-energy way of living."

When Rutledge returned to Texas, she removed her watch to remind herself to take it easy and keep the stress away. To this day, she still refrains from wearing a watch.

Her internship also inspired her to continue involvement with L.T. Jordan.

"I was so happy with my experience that I decided to apply to be the coordinator for the next year's interns," she said.

One thing led to another, and Rutledge remained a

part of the Institute for the next three years.

"I loved the opportunity to help other students see the world and experience new cultures," Rutledge said. "I still remember how exciting it was to encourage, interview, and select students for these wonderful programs."

Aside from being a rewarding experience, Rutledge notes her two years as an executive officer as being instrumental in preparing her for life beyond A&M.

"I learned how to conduct interviews, gained insight into international cultures, and most importantly, I learned how to work with brilliant, motivated people to take a great idea and turn it into reality," Rutledge said.

In fact, Rutledge was part of L.T. Jordan when it underwent major changes in terms of the addition of China as an ILAP program destination and the intro-

duction of the Greece Leadership Program.

Today, Rutledge is busy completing her PhD in planetary geology at Arizona State University. In particular, she studies glacier-rock interactions on Earth and Mars, and her dream job is to be a geology professor at a research university.

She currently does field work at glaciers in remote parts of the world.

"I study how rocks weather on and below glaciers. My main field site is Robertson Glacier, in the mountains near Calgary, Alberta, Canada," Rutledge said. "My role in the study is to characterize the rocks in the region through thermal infrared spectroscopy, a technique used to determine the rock types present on other planets, including Mars. To do this, I collect rock samples from below, on top of, and near the glacier, and then measure them in a lab."

Her work has brought her to Alaska, Canada, Scotland, and Hawaii, but Rutledge has also been to France, Italy, Ireland, and Spain for holidays.

She has plans to visit Belgium, England, and Norway this year.

"Being a part of Jordan definitely contributed to my desire to travel to new countries and experience new cultures," Rutledge said. "Traveling gives you a broader outlook on life. Confined thinking rarely generates innovative ideas."

Rutledge plans to continue traveling throughout her life. She has her sights set on Iceland next, for both work and leisure. She encourages others to go abroad as well.

"Go. Now. Before you have a chance to change your mind," Rutledge said. "The world has a wealth of things to teach you, and you won't learn it standing still."



Rutledge's field work takes her to glaciers in remote parts of the world—such as places in Canada, Alaska, and Scotland—and allows her to combine her love of research with travel.

All aspects of the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness are administered by a committee of approximately 30 Texas A&M University students and Memorial Student Center staff. The L.T. Jordan Institute is divided into several subcommittees, each led by a student director. These are: Programming, Fellows, Development, the Internship and Living Abroad Program, the International Service Program, and International Education Outreach. Each member of the L.T. 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 and Jordan Grahmann, Co-Directors of Development for the MSC L.T. 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.

L.T. Jordan Programs

The **On-Campus Programming** committee organizes and produces several lectures, panel discussions, and entertainment programs throughout the year for Texas A&M students. Each program focuses on an issue of international significance and increases campus awareness of world cultures, issues, and matters.



*Dedicated to
international
education
at home and
abroad*

Our **Greece Leadership Program** sends approximately ten sophomores to Greece for two weeks each summer. Here students strengthen their leadership skills and widen their multi-cultural and international perspectives. This program provides students an opportunity to experience Greece's rich culture, gain valuable friendships, develop communication skills, gain confidence, and be further encouraged to study, research, or intern abroad. The activities and excursions focus on themes like Democracy, Philosophy, Literature, History, Architec-



A bit closer to home, our **International Education Outreach** program brings cultural presentations to the K-12 schools in the Bryan-College Station community, reaching students who might not have other international exposure. Through these presentations, IEO works to expand children's perspectives and knowledge to help develop well-rounded and culturally sensitive individuals. Outside of individual programs, IEO participates in community-wide events such as Brazos Valley Worldfest.



International Service Program, or ISP, is a service-oriented program that allows Aggie students to live in one of several countries for four to eight weeks over the summer and participate in intensive community-based service projects for the people and environment of these countries. We have established programs in collaboration with the Texas A&M Health Science Center, College of Medicine, School of Rural Public Health, and College of Geosciences.



The **Internship and Living Abroad Program**, or ILAP, annually selects up to ten students to live in several different countries every summer. Here the Jordan Institute arranges all of the logistics including roundtrip airfare, housing with host families, group activities, and non-compensatory work experience which can relate to academic and career interests of the students.



Last but most certainly not least is the **L. T. Jordan Fellows Program**. This program concentrates on giving grants to A&M students for use in research conducted abroad. Applicants design a specific independent international study or research project in another country that will enhance his or her educational or career goals. Fellows will receive grant monies up to \$2,000 to assist with students' travel expenses.



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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)

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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"
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- Indicate "MSC L.T. Jordan Institute" and the dollar amount you wish to give
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A department in the division of
student affairs

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.

MSC Reopens ————— Continued from page 1

paintings, and various pieces of furniture from around the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Interestingly, the entire MSC renovation occurred around the Jordan Collection and L.T. Jordan offices.

When Mrs. Jordan gave the endowment for the Institute 25 years ago, she didn't want the location of the offices or the Collection to ever be relocated.

Therefore, everything in that part of the MSC remains almost entirely as it was before renovation,

with only a few minor tweaks.

The only changes have been re-wiring and the creation of an entrance from the hallway—a sort of "store front"—so the public has better access to the Collection.



REINSTATED — The Jordan Collection is back in the MSC.



We're on the Web!
ltjordan.tamu.edu

History

The MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness first opened its doors in December 1986 through a generous endowment from Mrs. Jessie W. Jordan in the name of her husband, Leland Thomas Jordan.

Known to friends and colleagues in the oil business as "L.T.," he was truly an international citizen, spending more than thirty years in Venezuela and Kuwait. Mr. Jordan, a native of Luftkin, Texas, was born in 1906. Upon graduating from Texas A&M University in 1929 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he was hired by Gulf Oil Corporation.

In later years, Gulf Oil Corporation created the Kuwait Oil Company, Ltd. Mr. Jordan and his employees from twenty-nine countries transformed the company into a highly successful technical and commercial enterprise.

Upon retirement in 1962, Mr. Jordan returned to Luftkin with his wife of 27 years, the former Jessie Wright.

Having lived abroad most of their lives, they knew the importance of traveling abroad and wanted to give Texas A&M University students the opportunity to experience it themselves. Since then, the Jordan Institute has evolved into a flagship organization providing innovative and creative international programs at Texas A&M University.