

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

Spring 2013

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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

Our Staff:

Diego Garcia, Director

Carol Galjour, Assistant

Emory Wegwerth, Student Worker

Contact Us:

ji-development@msc.tamu.edu

979-845-8770

ltjordan.tamu.edu



In the Business of Risk

Former Jordan Fellow is a Leading Authority on Tourism Safety

When it comes down to it, Travis Heggie specializes in risk management. But his job deals in more than money. As one of only a handful of experts in tourism safety and risk prevention, Heggie is concerned with human lives.

An authority on geotourism, a branch of ecotourism that focuses on the geological environment, Heggie collaborates with government agencies and the public to prevent tourism-related injuries and potential legal claims. His work is increasingly important as more and more tourists seek the thrill of adventure recreation activities that pose risks, such as mountain climbing, rafting, caving and volcano exploration.

As a former eruption duty ranger at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Heggie saw firsthand the human costs of tourists being both unequipped and unprepared for their environments. As a result, his research—which has ranged from health issues facing lava hikers in Hawaii to his current study on injury and illness statistics of Mt. Kilimanjaro tourists—seeks to promote safe recreation and safe tourism.

"For the past three and a half years, I have been working on Mt. Kilimanjaro in East Africa. Despite its



Heggie has been working the past three and a half years to create an injury and illness profile for tourists of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa.

altitude of some 20,000 feet, it is a relatively easy climb and thus very popular with tourists. Unfortunately it can also be a deadly mountain," Heggie said. "We've found that around 55 tourists die annually on the mountain and that at least 250 African porters die, are injured or become sick on the mountain each year."

Heggie came to this conclusion after examining hospital medical records, conducting field research and consulting with officials from Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park. Using his findings, he created an injury and illness profile for tourists on the mountain and is setting out, in collaboration with colleagues and the World

Health Organization, to safety proof Mt. Kilimanjaro for tourists.

"This means developing preventive strategies for killer issues such as high altitude pulmonary edema and high altitude cerebral edema as well as developing some medical and search and rescue services on the mountain," Heggie said. "The result is that this research is saving a lot of lives, preventing a lot of pain, and saving people and hospitals a lot of money."

Where It All Began

Heggie got his start in the geotourism field as a Jordan Fellow, where he spent nearly three months immersed in the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific.

—Continued on page 3

From Small Beginnings: Words from our Vice Chair



Ryan Trantham '15
Vice Chair

During my two years at Texas A&M University, I have had the unique and wonderful opportunity to serve the Memorial Student Center (MSC) as an executive officer in the MSC Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness. As a freshman, I was the director for the Internship and Living Abroad Program, organizing the travel of about forty students to China, England, Singapore, Spain and the Dominican Republic. After an exciting year with ILAP, I accepted the position of vice chair for the Jordan Institute. Working alongside Melissa Crews, the 2012-2013 chair, the Institute doubled its membership and successfully navigated the transition into the newly renovated MSC – including a brand new Collection Room and student programming office. The lessons in leadership and experiences I received through the Jordan Institute inspired me to apply for and accept the position of MSC Vice President for Educational Exploration starting next year. Though I will sincerely miss being a part of the Jordan Institute executive team I am excited to take on this new position and—hopefully—make the MSC an even more impactful campus organization.

The Jordan Institute exemplifies a committee that embodies the mission of the MSC. By providing students with opportunities to immerse themselves in unfamiliar cultures (either through travel programs or on-campus lectures, presentations and events), the Institute develops Aggies into culturally competent critical thinkers. Participants in Jordan events are dared to examine their own cultures and identify the unifying characteristics between themselves and others from around the globe that make us – beyond race, creed, religion or culture – distinctly human. These lessons are important for participants and even more fundamental for student leaders like me.

In its entirety, the MSC is a large, dynamic organization that brings to campus opportunities for students to learn more about themselves and the world in which they live. Comprised of 16 committees and six resource areas, the MSC sponsors more than 300 campus programs annually that enrich the lives of the student body as well as the Bryan/College Station community. As I transition into my role as the VP for Educational Exploration, I will be taking with me an appreciation for diversity of ideas and beliefs, a penchant for learning from those different than myself and a desire to grow as an individual. These are traits that were nurtured through participation and leadership in the Jordan Institute. As Vice President, it is my goal to bring these traits into the entire MSC to ensure that each and every program we produce is meaningful, effective and designed to make a positive influence so that other Aggies can experience the same growth from which I've benefitted during my time in the MSC.

Yearning for Learning:

Jordan IEO Program Brings Black History Month Presentation to Fannin Elementary in Bryan

In February, the International Education Outreach (IEO) Committee provided a Black History Month program for Fannin Elementary in Bryan. L.T. Jordan IEO director, Katie Kuck, provided a brief 40-minute

presentation to kindergarten through third grade classes over a very unique individual, Dr. Mae Jemison.

To accompany the presentation on Dr. Jemison, Kuck also spoke about other individuals associated with Black History Month, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

"The children really enjoyed and responded to this presentation," Kuck said. "They were not only educated about a yearly celebration, but also taught to treat the celebration with respect and kindness."

Dr. Jemison is an American physician, dancer and NASA astronaut. She be-

came the first African-American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour* on September 12, 1992.

She has nine honorary doctorates in science, engineering, letters and humanities, and has appeared on television several times, including as an actress in an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Along with these achievements, she traveled extensively throughout Africa helping to provide health care and doctoring in rural villages. She has dedicated her entire life to achieve her many accomplishments.

Black History Month, or National African American



History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

The IEO division of the L.T. Jordan Institute brings cultural presentations to elementary schools in the Bryan/College Station community in an effort to foster international awareness, understanding and cultural sensitivity at a young age.



Dr. Mae Jemison

From Our Members...**Outside of your own culture, what culture interests you most and why?**

"The culture found in Turkey, because it is such an interesting mix of Eastern and Western culture."

—Claire Casey '15

"Mexican culture, because of the focus on family heritage."

—Elizabeth Russell '16

"French culture. I think the outside cafes, the language, the history and the food are all beautiful."

—Stacy Brewer '16

"Saudi Arabia, because my parents lived there."

—Neddie Ann French '15

"Indian and Asian cultures, because of the festivities!"

—Norma Castanon '14

Give an example of a U.S. custom that individuals from other cultures might not understand.

"Wearing leggings as pants!"

—Maggie Ibrahim '13

"The Super Bowl!"

—Carly Dunn '15

"Excessive punctuality."

—Nick Mogensen '15

"Football. A lot of people think it is weird that we are so wrapped up about a bunch of guys wrestling for a ball!"

—Stacey Brewer '16

THE H2O FACTOR

Janet Torres, Water Management & Hydrological Sciences

Torres is traveling to Mexico to analyze the current state of water resources in the Marcos-Castellano municipality.

In the Business

Most of his time was devoted to structural rainforest research near and around the National Park of American Samoa, where he studied the growth rates of trees on different topography.

"The trees I was working with were old world rainforest species, essentially the dinosaur species of the tree world," Heggie said. "During my stay, I also met two world-class botanists who took the time to teach me the medical uses of the trees and plants in Samoa. Those health issues really stuck with me, even to my research today."

Aside from his research, Heggie notes Samoa as having been a major cultural experience. He stayed with a Samoan family, and his host father was one of

the highest ranking chiefs on the island.

"The Jordan opportunity for international travel, study and research is exactly what I was looking for and what I needed at the time," Heggie said. "It was also the open door to obtaining a large international research network in the Pacific and Asia."

Now Heggie is paying the opportunity forward. As a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he regularly takes students to Africa and the Pacific Islands to travel and conduct research.

"What I essentially do is follow the L.T. Jordan model in that I focus on giving travel and study opportunities to students who would otherwise not afford it or are going overseas for

Continued from page 1

the first time. I believe that travel is one of the best forms of education."

Heggie is the chair of the tourism and event planning major at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and an adjunct senior research associate with James Cook University in Australia. In 2011, the American-Australian Fulbright Commission named him the "Upcoming Junior Research Scholar."

A native of Alberta, Canada, Heggie received his bachelor's in geography and environmental sciences from the University of Hawaii at Hilo (1999) before earning a master's in geography (2001) and a Ph.D. in recreation, park and tourism sciences (2005) from Texas A&M University.

2012-2013 Class of Jordan Fellows**MONKEYING AROUND**

Kathryn Bailey, Anthropology

Bailey is traveling to Vietnam to conduct a population survey of the grey-shanked douc langur monkey in the Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve.

ABC, 123

Sharon de Marin, Educational Psychology

Marin is traveling to Zambia to study English literacy development among native speaking Zambian children.

GENDER STEREOTYPING

Fatma Hasan, Curriculum and Instruction

Hasan will travel to Jordan to study Jordanian student perceptions of gender stereotyping in school textbooks.

HOT TOPICS IN THE COLD WAR

Rebecca Clary, International Studies

Clary traveled to Jordan to examine how U.S. policy stances affected its decisions in the Middle East during the Cold War.

LOST AT SEA

Nicholas Budsberg, Nautical Archeology

Budsberg is traveling to the Bahamas to survey and excavate a European shipwreck.

HUMAN KILLERS

Melissa Nunez, Epidemiology

Nunez is traveling to India to study the impact of neglected tropical diseases.

HUMAN KILLERS

Larissa Georgean-Richard, Epidemiology

Richard is traveling to India to study the impact of neglected tropical diseases.

8 Conduct Research Projects Abroad



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
Communication
.....Development Co-Director

Cervando Banuelos '12
Nuclear Engineering
.....Marketing Director

Jayson Jamieson '14
Agricultural Systems Management
.....Events Director

Anna Lopez '13
Biology
.....On Campus Programming
Co-Director

Jeffrey Leblanc '14
Petroleum Engineering
.....On Campus Programming
Co-Director

Katie Kuck '15
Biology
.....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



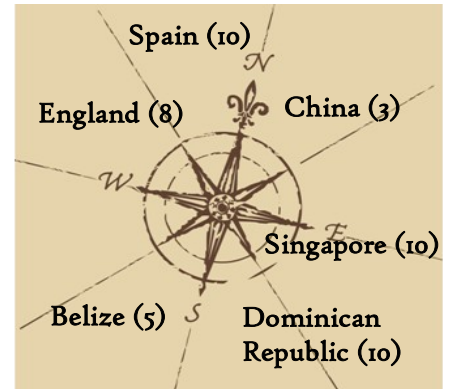
Oct. 24, 1961: "Tea for two was a rare treat due to our busy schedule, but on this day it did happen and our Hindu butler since 1948 served us tea for the last time, as we left Kuwait just three days later." —*Jessie Jordan*



"Leland joined me on my bridge that I made of teak logs. This ditch that I called the River Jordan was a natural water course in the desert and a nice bit of our garden." —*Jessie Jordan*

Travel Programs Send 38 Abroad

See how the numbers break down:



Sept. 30, 1961: "Leland was given a miniature Kuwaiti Dhow upon his farewell. It is a lovely ship." —*Jessie Jordan*

Collection Room Fulfills MSC Mission of Diversity

Many who walk by the Jordan Institute's collection room stare in awe and wonder as they walk by, probably thinking, "What is this place?" or "Oh wow, a mini-museum in the Memorial Student Center!"

Few realize that it is much more than a museum or collection of odd trinkets and what-not's. It stands as a living testament to not just what the Jordan family has wanted to pass on but one of several objectives the Memorial Student Center (MSC) seeks to fulfill: cultural understanding and diversity.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland T. Jordan left behind a variety of treasures, symbols and gifts they acquired from their travels to show the importance of

becoming familiar with the world and all it has to offer.

Each item has its own unique story and represents a relationship that the Jordan's established with people across the globe, from the scarf Queen Elizabeth II gave to Mrs. Jordan as a symbol of their friendship to the medal symbolizing Leland's knighthood, to the writing desk given to them from President Gomez of Venezuela.

It is certain that those who leave the collection room after browsing the shelves or receiving a tour leave in more awe than when they first walked into the room. The Jordan's left behind these wonderful items and stories because they hoped to kindle or further enflame the desire of internationalism at Texas A&M University. They felt

that through their travels, they were better able to understand themselves and other people.

As St. Augustine once said, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." This perfectly exemplifies what the Jordan's wanted to impress upon people by leaving behind these artifacts and their many stories. So the next time you happen across that museum-like room on the second floor of the MSC, stop in and get ready for a journey!

The Jordan Collection Room is open free of admission to all students and visitors to Texas A&M. The collection is located in room 2293 in the MSC and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 979-845-8770 or email galjour@msc.tamu.edu.

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 learning 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.

A Little Piece of Texas



"In 1952, I took to Admadi, Kuwait, a tiny pine sapling in a small coffee tin. I planted it in my garden and watched it grow into a nice tree, just off of our terrace. The last few years of our stay in Kuwait, I lighted it at Christmas time and it was a great joy, to know that a bit of East Texas was growing so well in far away Kuwait. Kuwait is a lovely place and her people are of the best."

—Jessie Jordan

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

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.

MSC

Be Part of Something

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

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.