



Jordan Journeys

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MSC L.T. JORDAN INSTITUTE

Spring 2018

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP FORMS TO HOST THE 41ST ANNUAL ASA CONFERENCE!

Letter from the Chair

ILAP Interview

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International Service Program

Jordan Member Spotlights

Jordan's New Co-Advisor

Russian Film Fest Made in America: An International Experience

Understanding Humanitarian Diplomacy: A Case Study in Latin America

From April 27th to April 29th 2017, The Texas A&M Department of Sociology, in partnership with The MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, hosted the 41st Annual American Sociological Association's Political Economy of the World-System Conference. Keynote speakers included James Fenelon, Director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies and Professor of Sociology at the California State University – San Bernardino, Immanuel Wallerstein, American sociologist and historical social scientist, and best known for the development of the world-systems approach, Walden Bello, global expert on economic development, and Rogelio Saenz, former Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M, and current Dean of the College of Public Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio. When asked about the success of the program, Dr. Samuel Cohn, a professor at Texas A&M University, commented that attendees "got to hear from an amazing group of speakers that we wouldn't have been able to hear from otherwise. It provided fresh new scholarly perspectives for the students, and gave Jordan students in particular a chance to meet and work with these people."

In recent memory, an event like this has not happened at Texas A&M, so we at the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness are honored to have helped make the event a possibility. Students in attendance said that "the conference gave special insight and a deeper understanding on the meaning of the world-system," and that "the opportunity to converse with leading minds in this field is unmatched by anything else at the university."

This event has led to a greater awareness of the organization by the faculty of Texas A&M, and has helped to grow our reputation as not only an organization dedicated to raising student's awareness of international events, but also the faculty's.

41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PEWS17 ASA

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM

GLOBAL MIGRATION

APRIL 27TH TO 29TH, 2017

COLLEGE STATION & BRYAN, TEXAS

HOSTED BY

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

THURSDAY

Being a Student in the Age of Trump

7:00 PM

"Immigration as Racial Dominance Since 1492"

James Fenelon

"Migration from a World-Systems Perspective"

Immanuel Wallerstein

RUDDER TOWER 701

FRIDAY

Migration in History

Violence, Division, Migration

Migration as Exile

Women and Migration

RUDDER TOWER 701

ASAPEWS.ORG

SATURDAY

10:30 AM

"Going Home is Not an Option: Filipino Domestic Workers in the Middle East"

Walden Bello

"Problems of Undocumented Migrants Today"

Rogelio Saenz

South-North Migration in the Age of Trump

SEAD GALLERY, BRYAN TX

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



James Fenelon, a scholar known for his work on the development of the world system, is a leading expert on immigration and migration. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Walden Bello, one of the best known global experts on economic development, is a Filipino academic who served as a member of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and has been a vocal critic of globalization and free trade. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Rogelio Saenz, a former Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M, is also a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

By Hailey Wedlich

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR...

It has been such an honor to be involved with the Memorial Student Center L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, an organization that has made such a positive impact throughout its 31 years of existence. At this point in time, we reflect upon a year of consistently serving numerous individuals not only within the Texas A&M University community but also within the larger Bryan/College Station area.

First, our On-Campus programming has hosted a variety of events at Texas A&M University. These include Russian Film Festival, our fall recurring program, as well as "Understanding Humanitarian Diplomacy: A Case Study in Latin America," where Former Chilean Ambassador, Michael Hammer, and Former Administrator of USAID, Andrew Natsios, shared their thoughts on humanitarian diplomacy and how to get involved. Additionally, Brazos Valley Worldfest, MSC L.T. Jordan's largest community outreach event, as well as our International Education Outreach Programs enabled MSC L.T. Jordan to discuss other cultures with members of the community. Meanwhile, our travel abroad programs continue to offer students at Texas A&M University the opportunity to engage in life-changing experiences overseas.

As the committee has done for over thirty years, L.T. Jordan is once again sending some of the best and brightest students to the far reaches of the world in pursuit of their greatest aspirations.

This year's ILAP and ISP programs consist of several dozen participants, many of whom are traveling abroad for the first time in their lives. Past participants have returned as country directors and mentors to ensure the future of their successors. The incoming class of L.T. Jordan Fellows are preparing to change the world with the research they conduct abroad and will share their findings upon their return.

Additionally, we recently showcased our spring program titled "Made in America: An International Experience." In partnership with MSC OPAS, the Muslim Student Association, the International Student Association, L.A.U.N.C.H., and the Division of Student Affairs, MSC L.T. Jordan brought comedians Hasan Minhaj and Azhar to campus.

This year also marks our second year partnering with the Texas A&M International Advisory Board. The mentorship program that stemmed from this partnership has allowed our executive team to learn from incredibly accomplished individuals truly invested in our development as people and, more specifically, as global citizens.

Ultimately, I am so humbled and impressed by the incredible work that every student within MSC L.T. Jordan produces. A shared passion for learning about those around us and for promoting international awareness truly drives our efforts. It has been the most fulfilling



experience to see both the perspectives and lives changed as a direct result of our many programming efforts. Seeing how members of MSC L.T. Jordan have developed both personally and professionally through their service to this community has also been such a blessing. Our namesakes, Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan, knew the importance of not only traveling abroad but also actively striving to learn more about the world in which we live. While it has been unbelievably eye opening to reflect upon how the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute has supported this vision over the past 30 years, I am even more eager to see what the next 30 years will entail. If the work that passionate, motivated, and globally minded students have achieved thus far is any indication, I know that what's in store will be something we all want to witness!

Yours,

Taylor Welch

Taylor Welch '19
2017 MSC L.T. Jordan Chair

ILAP INTERVIEW **Kate Henderson '19 - Professional Program of Accounting**

What were some reasons that propelled you to apply for the Internship and Living Abroad Program?

As a senior in high school, I traveled to London with my family. I immediately fell in love with the city and started thinking about living there, but I knew that rationalizing my desire to work abroad to an employer would be difficult. So, I looked into various study abroad and working abroad options with the ultimate hope of getting work experience abroad. Coincidentally, I was rooming with Taylor Welch at the time, and she is one of my best friends. She said, "You know, Jordan does a program that's almost exactly what you're looking for, right?" and that set me down the path to applying for ILAP. Going into the program, it sounded too good to be true and I came in with very high expectations, but ILAP blew all those expectations out of the water. I had expected more control and oversight by the university, but after our advisor left we were completely on our own. It was very challenging but in a growing way.

Could you talk about one or two of your most memorable experiences as an ILAP participant?

At work, I was the only person handling anything financially related at a small restaurant. I was completely out of my league and had only taken a few accounting classes. After a few weeks, I got the hang of things. Food vendors would call and ask who was in charge of the accounts, and people would call for me and I knew that if I didn't do my job, the restaurant wouldn't have food for the next day. The fact that they trusted me to be this type of liaison was really empowering.

One day, in York, we took a hike up the mountain that has the Kilburn White horse, which is this huge white horse cut into the side of the mountain. Since we were still in England, it was raining, of course, and there I was trekking up this hill and bonding with these

FELLOWS CLASS OF 2017-18 BIOGRAPHIES

By Julia Mork

Angela Achorn

Angela is a PhD Candidate in Anthropology, and will be traveling to various regions throughout Indonesia, specifically Jakarta, Manado and the Tangkoko Nature Reserve. She will be testing the Hamilton-Zuk Hypothesis using Sulawesi Crested Macaques (*Macaca nigra*). Angela is looking forward to spending quality time and engaging with locals of Indonesia.

Rachel Adams

Rachel is a PhD candidate in the department of Ecosystem Science and Management. She traveled to Paamul, Quintana Roo, Mexico this past December to determine the prevalence and benefits of deep rooting by tropical trees in the Yucatán Peninsula. Rachel was able to gather samples and data to build upon her dissertation. Through her experience, Rachel is excited to return to Mexico to continue her research campaign.

Brianna Myre

Brie is a PhD candidate in Biology and will be traveling to Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica, Brie will be conducting research on the reproductive physiology of sea turtles. This trip marks Brie's second trip abroad through funding by the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute. Upon her return, Brie is looking forward to enjoying the sunset on the beach with her host family.



Rachel Adams, Jordan Fellow '18 sampling leaves and stems from the tree canopy of the Yucatán Peninsula as part of her doctoral research for the department of Ecosystem Science and Management.



Fellows Banquet – February 22, 2018. From left to right: Angela Achorn, Rachel Adams, Brianna Myre, Leigh Ellyn Preston, Joel Taylor.

Leigh Ellyn Preston

Leigh Ellyn Preston is a PhD candidate in Epidemiology and Environmental Science at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. Leigh will be traveling to Quito, Ecuador to research the environmental health infrastructure issues and zoonotic exposures that potentially influence diarrheal disease in urban neighborhoods versus rural neighborhoods. While abroad, Leigh is looking forward to exploring Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and experiencing the ecology of the volcanic archipelago.

Joel Taylor

Joel Taylor is a Master's candidate at the Bush School. He traveled to Uganda this past December to research the effect of the cold chain on malnutrition, health outcomes and business profits. Through his experience abroad, Joel gained a better understanding of food logistics in East Africa as it relates to temperature controlled supply chains.

people I just met. It was a great chance to get to know the other participants and view the absolutely beautiful countryside. The other participants and I spent a long weekend in the city. We went to three or four museums, saw Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre, and spent the day walking up and down the river and enjoying the food vendors. They were such simple things, but they really contributed to my love of the city and my experience in ILAP.

What were some reasons that encouraged you to come back as the England country director? What do you like most about the role?

The honest answer is that we took a vote on the trip over who would do it, but I truly thought that I would have the right amount of time and enthusiasm to fulfill the role. Cara Glancey was the country director last year and she did a great job both preparing us and leaving things for us to discover on our own. I didn't know what was exactly going to happen, and

that was a great part of the experience. One of my favorite parts of the role is that my friends have all gotten tired of me constantly talking about London, and now I have a new captive audience to tell all my stories to.

Do you think that acting as country director continues to achieve ILAP's goals of cultural immersion and professional development?

Absolutely. Without Cara, I wouldn't have known anything. If I had problems with BUNAC or I didn't know what to put in an email, I could email her instead of bothering Renae or Cory. It was great having someone to reach out to who had just been through the experience and has a fresh perspective on how to help. As a country director, now I'm the one helping with the process and I really love it when the new participants reach out to me with their questions and concerns.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

By Abby Mulcahy

How did you hear about ISP, and what motivated you to engage in service abroad?

In my first days at Texas A&M, a second-year MPH student told me the reason she was successful in graduate school was because she became a, in her words, 'yes man'. Every new and different and challenging opportunity that came up, she said yes. When the former director of the Jordan Institute came to speak to our MPH student association, I knew that I needed to be a part of ISP. I had studied abroad during undergrad and was eager to challenge myself to understand another new place, people, and culture. ISP was more than that, an opportunity to use my skills in a sustainable way. I work in/study public health because of exponential mathematics: if I teach twenty people who go out and teach another twenty each and another twenty and another I can be a part of helping a remarkable number of people. ISP let me do this, let me do it my way with opportunities for creative critical thinking while completing my graduate degree.

What does service mean to you, and how did the program help you to embody this idea?

My friends and family call me a fixer. That's what I do. I hear or read about problems and my mind immediately jumps into action forming the paths, structures, and contingencies necessary to solve (or mitigate) the problem. Service, to me, is this process. Service is identifying a problem and making progress to 'fix' it, even if a clean resolution is not possible and all I can do is add a small piece that will motivate a lasting solution.

Why did you choose the country that you did, and what are some of the most memorable experiences from your time there?

I didn't really choose Belize. Belize chose me. Initially, I had applied for the program in the Dominican Republic (I had hoped to solidify my Spanish while studying the unique political structure of the island of Hispaniola). The Jordan Institute was in a time of major transition when I applied and interviewed. I was not selected for the DR program (Belize was not yet on the table) and assumed my plan to join ISP was done. But, a couple weeks later, I was asked to interview again for the program in Belize. My most memorable experiences in Belize were the small moments. My host family was related to the woman I worked for (one of her many brothers, his wife, their children, a cousin, and one grandchild).

Some of my favorite moments, the moments I felt most like the work that I was doing really mattered, were simple things like sharing a cup of steaming tea (on the balcony in the steaming jungle/coastal air) with my host mother after we cleaned up the kitchen together or watching a soccer match (the police vs the postal service) in the spitting rain while everyone shouted in the local Belizean dialect (something like English but only distantly related). Other memories, like visiting the pyramids and seeing the destruction European colonizers had wrought in their hurry to strip the area of valuables, spending a day playing in a wide river and waterfall at a national park that I bartered my way in to, touring one of the local elementary schools and realizing there were no substitute teachers and no librarian - are easier to talk about because they feel like big things. But, I feel like the little things are what made ISP, the heart of the meaning of service, meaningful to me.

Do you think that participating in ISP supported and/or changed your career goals? How has the experience helped you as you continue to pursue these goals?

Before ISP, I had thought that I might still go on to medical or law school. I had settled on working in international health, specifically disaster response, while/after earning the appropriate degrees to make myself an expert. ISP taught me that I already was an expert, that degrees were/are meaningful in the academe but, on the ground, don't make much difference. When I presented on my time in Belize, I fell back on the phrase "you can't double nothing". For a lot of my experience with ISP, the tasks I was asked to take on were well outside my expertise. I did them anyway. The result wasn't perfect but it was something. My something can provide the foundation for the next person and the next person, each time improving what existed before. But, this process couldn't happen unless I was willing to be uncomfortable and try. I've moved out of international health and disaster response (both because of my time in Belize and independently of it) and am now pursuing my PhD in public health policy. My research centers on access/utilization of care for sexual and gender minority patients. This means that I now spend the majority of my time learning how to make uncomfortable situations more comfortable, leaning into conversations that cause most people to shut down. I do not believe I would be as successful as I have been without the lessons I learned through ISP Belize with the support of the Jordan as well as my family and friends in country.



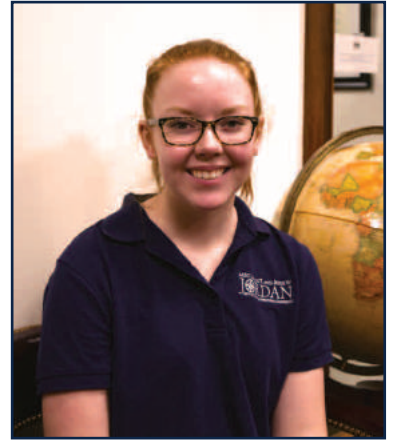
One of the many beautiful sunsets of Belize.

JORDAN MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

By Hailey Wedlich, Faith Parum, and Gabriel Nambila

Faith Parum is a sophomore Agricultural Economics Major. She currently works for the L.T. Jordan Institute as a student worker and is actively involved as a general member. Serving on the Support Subcommittee, she gets to work closely with both development and marketing. This semester she was given the opportunity to attend the Donor's Luncheon in Dallas at the end of March and gave a short presentation about the different aspects of the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute. She says that she loves "being able to present about an organization {she} is extremely passionate about, because it is an amazing opportunity that has developed {her} leadership and public speaking skills." While in Jordan, she has also had the opportunity to meet Mike Hammer, Former Ambassador to

Chile. Overall, she feels she has learned so much as a member of Jordan and cannot wait to continue her involvement next year.



Gabriel Nambila is a junior Geographic Information and Science Technology major, who says that the reason he joined the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute was to help promote cultural awareness on campus. "Here at Texas A&M, we have students coming in from different backgrounds and it's an amazing opportunity for us to learn from one another," comments Gabriel. He is really looking forward to getting involved with the On-Campus Programming Subcommittee, because it gives the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute a spotlight to examine culture and current events happening all around the world.

JORDAN'S NEW CO-ADVISOR

By John Andrus



All of us at the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute were excited to welcome Ms. Julia Mork as both our Co-Advisor and as a member of The Executive Team for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Julia studied Marketing as an undergraduate at a small private institution in Georgia prior to joining us here at Texas A&M, and is now enrolled in the Student Affairs Administration and Higher Education Graduate Program. She says that coming to Texas A&M and working with the Jordan Institute has empowered her to diversify her education, apply her studies in a hands-on environment, and become more immersed in the graduate community.

As Co-Advisor, she works with Cory Arcak to support the daily functions of the institute and to create an environment that empowers execs and general members alike to carve out their own path in the organization. She brings her own experiences to the table, relating her passion for the institute's mission to her own Colombian heritage and desire to broaden her horizons.

As this year's Fellows Executive, she makes a direct impact on the lives of her fellow graduate students and The Executive Team alike. When asked about her favorite part of the job, she remarks:

"To see [the Fellows candidates] in person, and to see their face light up—it almost gives me the chills just thinking about it. We have that opportunity to give them this funding to pursue their passion."

By fulfilling these two roles, Julia acts as both an integral part of the L.T. Jordan administration and a valuable companion on The Executive Team. Julia's efforts to maintain the institute's legacy, support our international programs, and promote the personal development of every member of the committee stand as shining examples of why we are all so fortunate to have her on board.



RUSSIAN FILM FEST

By Angie Evans

On October 25th, the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute and the Texas A&M Russian Language Department of International Studies exhibited a documentary about Vladimir Putin's rise to power. This documentary was directed by Valery Balayan, who has produced over 40 documentaries and directed 60 films. Balayan made this film despite the danger he knew it presented in his life and the life of those involved.

This film began by giving the viewer an insight into the young life of Vladimir Putin. Putin was once considered a "young loser" who "wanted to be a part of the mob but didn't have the grit to follow through with it." Men who grew up with Putin reminisced on their time shared in their childhood community. They remembered a time when Putin's biggest dream was to own a taxi company, and they remain surprised that he rose to power so quickly. This film also told the story of several journalists who poked the holes in Putin's life story and the consequences this has brought to their lives. Mr. Balayan

ended his remarks by explaining that Mr. Putin isn't dangerous because he's some great political mind, but because he is the physical reincarnation of the ideas behind communist Soviet Russia.

Russian professors Drs Olga & Brett Cooke encouraged their students to attend the film showing and freshman international studies majors were also encouraged to attend for a class report. This encouragement broadened our audience and allowed us to impact Texas A&M in a bigger way than would be possible if we had acted alone. One general member and International Studies major, Ebby Beatrice, said that this film motivated her to research more about Russian politics and culture. Another member, Gregory Wong, says this program opened the interesting world of the internal dynamics of Russian politics to him. He says that as a Russian and International Studies double major, this film also greatly increased his interest in Russian politics and has excited him for his future involvement in diplomacy.

MADE IN AMERICA: AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

By Lara Andres & Ebby Beatrice

This past March, Hasan Minhaj visited Texas A&M University to headline our Spring program with Azhar Usman and speak on his experiences growing up in the U.S. as the son of immigrants. Hasan Minhaj is a comedian and also the Senior Correspondent to Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Trevor Noah and was chosen to perform at the 2017 White House Correspondents' Dinner. More recently, he has signed a deal with Netflix, and will have his own weekly talk show, making Minhaj the first Indian-American to host a weekly comedy show. His comedic performances are incredibly entertaining, yet they provide insight to the life of a third culture kid and the generational differences that stem from it.

Hasan Minhaj can be considered a third culture kid because he grew up in California, a state with a culture that differs greatly from India, where his parents emigrated from prior to his birth. His performances focus on the



differences between his childhood and that of the "typical" American, hinting at the struggle for identity many third culture kids face. Racism in America, politics, and Minhaj's relatable journey through childhood and into adulthood are just a few of the topics that were touched. Despite the graveness of the subject, we appreciate Minhaj's comedic performance as it allows audiences to step back and see the problems plaguing society under the guise of humor.

By showcasing Hasan Minhaj, we are promoting cultural awareness and creating a deeper understanding within Texas A&M University and the surrounding community of what it is like to be a third culture kid. Comments following the event begged for more events like this, and said it really helped them understand some of the complex problems we face in the world.

UNDERSTANDING HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY: A CASE STUDY IN LATIN AMERICA

By Lara Andres & Ebby Beatrice

On November 2, 2017 MSC L.T. Jordan had the honor of hosting some of the most inspiring and insightful leaders in American diplomacy. U.S. State Department Officer Oni Blair, Former Ambassador Michael Hammer, and Texas A&M's Bush School of Public Policy Professor Andrew Natsios collaborated in a panel discussion titled "Understanding Humanitarian Diplomacy: A Case Study in Latin America," with the aim of addressing the duties American diplomats have towards both the United States and the countries for which they represent the United States.

Before Former Ambassador Michael Hammer served as the United States Ambassador to Chile, he held office as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Special Assistant to the President, spokesman at the National Security Council at the White House, and many other distinguished positions.



(Left to right) Oni Blair, Professor Andrew Natsios, and Ambassador Hammer speaking on different humanitarian issues in Latin America.

He served abroad in Bolivia, Norway, Iceland, and Denmark as a Foreign Service Officer. Due to his expertise on Latin American affairs, he also served as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

Ambassador Michael Hammer put forth some very compelling and important points regarding the importance of humanitarian diplomacy and the magnitude of the impact the United States and governmental programs, such as USAID, have had on the recovery and rebuilding of other countries after humanitarian catastrophes occurred.



The MSC L.T. Jordan Executive Team pictured with Former Chilean Ambassador Michael Hammer and Foreign Service Officer Oni Blair.

Throughout the panel discussion many historical events were brought up by Dr. Natsios regarding the role of the U.S. in humanitarian aid. For example, the panelists discussed the United States' response to the 2010 Chilean earthquake. Another important topic mentioned is the importance of raising awareness about humanitarian issues and taking action as civilians in order to create a more sensible and socially aware society.

As members of LT Jordan, we had the opportunity to meet Ambassador Hammer for breakfast and for dinner. This was an invaluable opportunity as it allowed us to connect eye-to-eye with a diplomat who has experienced many different cultures. As we dined together, we learned his perspective towards international issues and gained insight on his many different governmental positions. As students with backgrounds overseas, these conversations directly coincide with our past experiences and interests for the future. This experience, as a whole, was very enriching to us and to the Texas A&M community because it raised awareness about international issues and encouraged us as students to actively participate in humanitarian diplomacy.



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On behalf of the L.T. Jordan Institute, the Jordan Journeys staff would like to thank you for your contributions. We are looking forward to another successful year! Thanks & gig 'em!

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

email: coryarcak@tamu.edu

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

ltjordan.tamu.edu

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Lara Andres '20
Ebby Beatrice '21
Angie Evans '21
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- _____ **MSC Jordan Institute Annual Programs** (05-53059) — Support the Jordan Institute's on-campus and abroad programs such as International Educational Outreach, Internships and Living Abroad Programs (ILAP), and Jordan Fellows. *To give by credit card, go to give.am/SupportJordanInstitute.*
- _____ **MSC Jordan International Awareness Endowment** (04-53059) — Help build the endowment to support the Jordan Institute's mission of providing Texas A&M and the community with international exposure through on-campus programming and travel abroad opportunities.

All contributions are tax deductible as defined by law. Please include company gift matching information if applicable. **Thanks & Gig 'Em!**