



Jordan Journeys

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MSC L.T. JORDAN INSTITUTE

Spring 2021

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MANY AGGIES ONE WORLD

By: Seth Jordan '21

Many Aggies, One World was created to highlight the different cultures and international experiences at Texas A&M. Throughout the Fall semester, we listened to the inspiring and uplifting stories with the hope to inspire others to think globally and to wander beyond the scope of their imaginations. Our podcast started with the revolutionary Professor Shayla Rivera. Professor Rivera said, "We need to do our laughter homework and find laughter each and every day" as she highlighted the importance of happiness and joy in our daily lives, no matter who we are or where we come from. We continued our series with a pre-medical student's story, Faris Zaibaq. Faris's storytelling abilities and perspective on the Middle East allowed us to enjoy a unique and inspiring episode. Then, former ILAP-Singapore participant, Dakota Plesa, taught us that traveling does not have to be fancy or expensive while he reflected on his extensive time traveling in college. Dakota, who has been to over 40 countries, shared with us how different cultures can shape someone's mindset and career and the independence he found abroad. Finally, Dr. Gary Wingenbach showed us that a kid raised on a farm in the Midwest can become an international traveler and study abroad leader.

Many Aggies, One World is about harnessing the power of experiences so we all can learn and also reflect on our own path in life. The



Spring semester brings new partnerships and fresh perspectives to the podcast stage, and we hope to carry the excitement from the Fall into the Spring. Our listeners will be transformed as Arianne Minks, a former student in the Mays Business School, reflects on her international travels that shaped her undergraduate years and current career in Washington D.C. The podcast will follow with faculty member Dr. Catharina Laporte as she brings humor and an Australian mindset to higher education and international experiences. After that, we are excited to share a partnership between Texas A&M Engineering and Arts et Métier as we seek the viewpoints of Texas A&M students who studied abroad in France. Our final interview is with former student and artist Eric J. Henderson, an avid traveler documenting his adventures around the world with his Kodak Brownie camera. Many Aggies, One World has just scratched the surface of possibilities, and we plan to keep digging deep to find the stories and international advice our faculty, staff, students, and former students have to offer!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Being a part of the MSC Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life over the past three years. It has been a center for leadership development, a professional network, an internationally-focused community, and a family. This organization continues to be a force of positive change in the community, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things this year, but one thing remains constant - the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute is composed of passionate leaders dedicated to spreading international awareness. In the Fall, we launched the “Many Aggies, One World” podcast, which focuses on the varying international experiences of the Aggie family. The International Education Outreach (IEO) program moved online, and we presented culturally engaging information to dozens of students through Zoom.

In the Spring, we welcomed the 33rd class of Jordan Fellows. We continue to provide support for those able to travel abroad through the Overseas Loan Fund (OSL). In addition to continuing the podcast, we will host various online programs and challenges in anticipation of an environmental sustainability program in the Fall made possible by the Student Affairs Fee Advisory Board.

I have been truly grateful to serve as the chair of the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness. Throughout my involvement, I have grown as a leader and a global citizen. It is all thanks to the fantastic staff, students, and all those connected to this organization. Sharing the experiences and stories of different cultures is an ambitious but crucial mission and one that I believe this group of leaders can do. I cannot wait to see all of the excellent work this committee will continue to do and the life-changing impact it will have on the world around us.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Roots".

Laura Roots '22
2020-21 MSC L.T. Jordan Chair

COVID-19 ILAP & ISP Updates

Due to the global pandemic, MSC L.T. Jordan's International Living Abroad Program (ILAP) and International Service Program (ISP) has been postponed to the Summer of 2022.

FELLOWS CLASS OF 2020-21 BIOGRAPHIES

By: Essynce Lewis '22

The Fellows Program provides funding opportunities for highly qualified graduate and undergraduate students to conduct their research abroad. Recognizing that students would not be able to travel due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute extended the Fellow's program eligibility to students conducting research within the United States with an international perspective. This year, the Fellow's 33rd class consists of four graduate students: Amirpooya Dardashti, Wah Wah Myint, Michael Portal, and Alyssa Schultz.

Amirpooya Dayani Dardashti is a PhD candidate in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Bilingual Education/ESL Education at Texas A&M University. He will be travelling to Texas A&M University in Qatar (TAMUQ) to study the attitudes and opinions held towards the English language within the student body at TAMUQ. Amirpooya is looking forward to engaging with the diverse Aggie student body in Qatar, conducting new research, as well as forging professional and academic ties.

Wah Wah Myint is a Doctor of Public Health student in the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences at Texas A&M School of Public Health. She plans to research women's health by using nationally representative secondary data. Her research focus is on women's health in Asia and the Pacific region. Her analysis will include the help-seeking behavior of women who face domestic violence in India. She will also analyze the factors that influence women's prenatal care services, especially for mothers who had an early sexual debut and early marriage within the island countries of Asia and the Pacific region.

Michael Portal is a PhD student in the Department of Philosophy and Master's student in the Department of History. Michael will conduct archival research at the Houghton Library at Harvard University (Cambridge, MA). There, he will study the rich correspondence between two French philosophers and friends: Maurice Blanchet and Emmanuel Levinas. His research aims to, in paying close attention to their particular friendship during WWII, reconsider the general structure of friendship and how it might prove helpful for understanding our current political situation.

Alyssa Schultz is a PhD student in the Department of Geography. Schultz will be traveling to several locations in Australia to further her research on deep-sea corals and collaborate with international leaders in coral reef sustainability and management. Her research will be conducted at the Australian National University involving radiocarbon dating and the development of new geochemical methods for paleoceanographic reconstructions using deep-sea corals. Schultz is looking forward to experiencing Australian culture and nature, learning new research techniques and methodologies, and building valuable research relationships.

E-WEEK EARTH CHALLENGE

By: Heath Buttery '22

The E-Week Earth Challenge is an educational and engaging program that L.T. Jordan will be hosting over social media! From April 19-22, L.T. Jordan will post educational resources for viewers to learn more about important aspects of ecological conservation and sustainability. Each day will feature an environmentally-focused challenge to encourage participants to enact changes in their daily lives that will reduce their environmental impacts. Though these challenges may be small steps preserving environmental security, they can have drastic impacts over time. The first 100 participants who complete the daily challenge will receive a sustainability-themed prize ranging from reusable bamboo utensil kits to custom water bottles.

INTERVIEW WITH MARIE BARJAU

By: Zainab Sunny '22

This past fall semester, Marie Barjau had the opportunity to work with the MSC L.T. Jordan Collection Room as the L.T. Jordan Collection museum intern through her minor in Museum Studies. With the sudden transition to remote work, Marie's goal was to make a virtual exhibit and self-guided tour for visitors and students to access the numerous unique items in the MSC Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan's collection online.



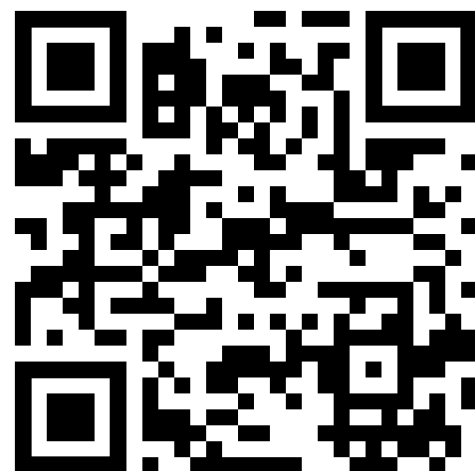
Marie was the first intern for the collection room and began to create this virtual tour from scratch. Throughout her journey, she chose to research 10 items from the MSC L.T. Jordan collection room to not only gain a deeper understanding of their connection to the Jordan family, but also the significance of each individual piece. With everything transitioning to online access only, Marie felt that her biggest obstacles during this internship were challenges with communication and interaction. This was primarily due to scheduling conflicts and being unable to physically be present on campus to interact directly with the staff. With the help of her co-workers and advisors, Marie was able to succeed in accomplishing her goal. Despite not researching the entire collection, Marie's endeavors allowed her to plant the seeds for future interns by authoring a handbook which will continue to be added to by future interns recording the remaining collection items.

This enabled a legacy that will continue to flourish. Equally important, Marie worked alongside Allie, the MSC L.T. Jordans International Education Outreach Executive for this year, by collaborating in the creation of IEO's activity sheets, resulting in students being able to learn about specific items, like jewelry, paintings, and rugs, according to the countries presented in an engaging and interesting way. These activity sheets included both the history of the specific items and a coloring page to go with it. They were able to create info sheets about a camel bladder lamp and a scarf gifted by Queen Elizabeth along with a veil that Mrs. Jordan wore when she lived in Kuwait!

Enjoying every moment, Marie found this internship to be a very rewarding experience as it allowed her to work on her creativity by writing paragraphs, editing pictures, and designing the blueprint spaces found on our website.

ACCESS THE LELAND T. AND JESSIE W. JORDAN VIRTUAL COLLECTION ROOM

Or Visit: <https://ltjordan.tamu.edu/tour/>



THE AMERICAN EXILE SCREENING

By: Zainab Sunny '22

On February 4th, the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, Carlos H. Cantu Foundation, and MSC CAMAC: A Latinx Programming Committee screened the upcoming PBS film: American Exile (2021) by John J. Valadez & Carleen L. Hsu.

This documentary captures Valente and Manuel Valenzuela's lives, who volunteered and fought in the Vietnam war, and returned decorated and disabled. Both brothers received government letters in 2009, "notice of hearing in removal proceedings" despite having grown up in the U.S. and having served in the U.S. military. They faced deportation, and in the process of fighting for their rights, discover veterans who now struggle with the same fate: Zahid Muhammad, a Pakistani native, joined the US Military and married Anne, a US citizen. When he applied for citizenship, he was denied and faced the same struggle of deportation as the Valenzuela's. There has been no legislation passed so far to prevent the deportation of Veterans, and due to that, Valente went back to Mexico by self-deporting and living in exile. He also wrote a book called *El Enemigo interno* (internal enemy) recounting his time and experiences in the US military.



A Q&A followed the screening with the film's producer, John J. Valadez, who personally answered questions and gave insight to the audience in a thought-provoking discussion. Many of the 102 attendees took this Q&A as an opportunity to engage and ask about how they can contribute to spreading awareness about the struggle of deportation. Mr. Valadez responded that one of the best things we can do is to share and amplify the voices of these men in an effort to bring more awareness of the situation. Every day, millions of people are affected by this issue worldwide, and this film helped bring this issue to light.

JORDAN MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

By: Sarah Neidhardt '21

Zachery Finney '22 is a junior Economics major from Austin, Texas! He is a member of A Co. in the TAMU Corps of Cadets, and he is an Army ROTC contract. This is his first year with MSC L.T. Jordan, but he has also had experience in the MSC as a member of the MSC SCONA (Student Conference on National Affairs) committee! He joined MSC L.T. Jordan because he has traveled some, and with his military background, it is important to him to understand the United States' role as it relates to other countries. As a member of L.T. Jordan's International Programming subcommittee, Zach has helped support his subcommittee with the Fellows program and the banquet that took place this year. He also was able to present with IEO!



Asia Buford '22 is a junior International Studies major from Austin, Texas and member of the On-Campus programming committee. She is also a student executive in the Maroon and White Leadership Program. Asia joined MSC L.T. Jordan because she is passionate about increasing international awareness in our diverse community after having her own international experiences. Asia treats every experience as a new adventure, and we have seen that with her this year! Asia has worked with her subcommittee in the planning of our on-campus programs as well as presented with IEO!



JORDAN INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OUTREACH

By: Allie Goldreyer '22

In the 2020-2021 school year, I have had the pleasure of being the International Education Outreach Executive. Through this position, I had the opportunity to present to K-12 students in the College Station-Bryan area about different countries and cultures around the world. This past semester, a team of L.T. Jordan members and I presented to two different school districts about Peru's history, culture, and current events. In October, Asia Buford, Zach Finney, and I presented to a class at College View High School consisting of ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders. Later in November, Asia, Zach, and I along with Mahera Muquith, Heath Buttery, Zainab Sunny, and Ebby Beatrice presented to Jane Long Middle School. We presented four times to a total of 250 sixth graders!

Through this position, I have grown immensely. I learned so much about Peru's history and culture from Peru's widely played sports, to their wildlife, to their food, to their traditions. I now have a better understanding of the country despite not having visited. I also learned greatly how to communicate and delegate tasks to people. Through constant communication with the teachers months before the presentations and coordination of each of the presenters, I learned a lot about important components of communication. Although the research and communication were an interesting and crucial part of this experience, the most fun and rewarding part was presenting to the students. The students were all very engaged and interested by asking lots of great questions throughout the presentation and answering all the questions that we asked them.

The presentation was not a traditional in-person presentation, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I think that everyone involved, from teachers to presenters to students, had a great experience and learned a lot. Encounters like these, especially in a time where school and life are so unconventional, encourages us to seek out knowledge to learn more about the world around us. It was great to see the eagerness on the students' faces as they had the opportunity to explore new countries and cultures right from home. I cannot wait to see the future impacts this program will have on new students and increasing their international awareness this upcoming semester.

A VISIT FROM DR. EIDE: TORTURE AESTHETIC

By: Victoria Van '22

On March 17, guest speaker Dr. Mariane Eide joined us during our general committee meetings to inform us about her lecture: The Torture Aesthetic. Eide began her lecture with a historical background about Steve Biko. Biko was a South African civil rights activist during the 1960s and 1970s who was arrested for pamphlet distribution. Following this, police tortured Biko over a period of nearly a month until his death due to internal bleeding. Although Biko's death was brutal, his death was not aestheticized. As a cry for justice, people (specifically artists) from around the world kept his memory alive through music, poetry, and other forms of art. The global audience was captivated by Biko's life story and wanted to pay their respects accordingly by producing a shared obligation to seek out justice for social issues such as police brutality. Biko's death represents a martyr that takes a tortured subject and turns it into spurring action to the issues at hand.

The members of L.T. Jordan were simultaneously heartbroken and left shocked at the lecture. Yet, we used this opportunity to open up conversations about how to approach difficult topics such as the lecture and what we can do to be properly informed about afro-centric liberation. Lastly, we discussed the possibility of alternatives to aesthesizing movements in order to strike a balance between performative activism and being a true ally.

JORDAN SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Essynce Lewis '21

Aleksandra Williams

I have been a part of the MSC since my freshman year and joined L.T. Jordan my sophomore year as a member. I am a member of the class of 2021, double majoring in Sociology and Anthropology, from Canyon Lake, Texas. During my junior year, I served as the Internship and Living Abroad Program (ILAP) Executive, and this past year I served as the Overseas Loan Fund Executive. I joined the committee because of my passion for traveling and learning about international cultures. I wanted to help others have the opportunities to experience new things and impact fellow Aggies during their time in college. One of the things that I liked the most about the committee is its smaller size, which allows for everyone to really get to know each other and make long lasting relationships.



Gregory Wong

Joining MSC L.T. Jordan as a freshman was one of the best decisions I've made here at Texas A&M. During that time, I was an On-Campus Programming Executive twice and put on multiple programs. While those were all amazing experiences that broadened my horizons and taught me a great deal about leadership, I will remember Jordan most for the relationships that I've built. Some of my bestest friends in the world have come from this organization, and I am a better person for having those relationships. Beyond friendship, L.T. Jordan has provided me with amazing opportunities, such as being mentored by Cory Arcak, LT Jordan Chairs and student executives, all of whom have had a massive impact on me. L.T. Jordan will always have a very special place in my heart.



Seth Jordan

While my time at MSC L.T. Jordan has been short, I will cherish these memories and friendships I have made for a lifetime. In the spring of 2020, as a 3rd year transfer student, I yearned to find a community that wanted to make a real impact; this search brought me to the Institute. That spring, I was a general member for On-Campus Programming, and we did some exciting things such as host the Venezuelan Ambassador, Carlos Vecchio, as well as host the first ever virtual program about coffee. Seeing the impact of the on-campus subcommittee, I applied for the On-Campus executive position and have served in that role for this academic year. This year my co-executive and I started a podcast, Many Aggies One World. MSC L.T. Jordan positively impacts the mindsets and attitudes of students and community members through our programs and international travel support. I am truly excited for the future of the institute and know I am leaving it in wonderful hands!





Jordan Journeys

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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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Aleksandra Williams '21 - ILAP & ISP Executive
Seth Jordan '21 - On Campus Executive
Sarah Neidhardt '21 - Student Development Executive
Laura Roots '22 - Chair
Essynce Lewis '22 - Vice Chair & Fellows Executive
Zainab Sunny '22 - Development Executive
Muhammad Isad Mitsal '22 - Graphic Design Executive
Allie Goldreyer '22 - IEO Executive
Heath Buttery '23 - On Campus Executive
Victoria Van '23 - Member

A NOTE ON COVID-19:

Given the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the ongoing worldwide pandemic, all of our international travel and on-campus programs after March 2020 have been cancelled or reformatted to a virtual mode as is appropriate until further notice. Nevertheless, we continue to develop globally minded student leaders and promote international awareness on campus. Please follow us on our social media for updates.

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Please make your check payable to Texas A&M Foundation and indicate below how you would like your contribution to support the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness.

_____ MSC L.T. 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 L.T. 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.

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