



Jordan Journeys

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MSC L.T. JORDAN INSTITUTE

Spring 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

2 Letter From The
Chair

Fellows Class

2022

ILAP & ISP

Updates

L.T. Jordan

Senior Spotlight

L.T. Jordan

Member

Spotlight

A Community

Conversation

Camel Lamp

The Intersection of the Local and the Global in Environmental Grassroots Activism started as simply an idea to have an environmentally-focused program, but it blossomed into a week full of events centered around international environmental grassroots activism and local sustainability efforts. In total, we engaged with almost 1,000 participants here on the College Station and Galveston campuses. This program even led us to participate in the national Disaster PRIMR (Prepare, Respond, Innovate, Mitigate, and Recover) conference at University of North Texas in March.

Our On-Campus Executive Erin Dent represented the L.T. Jordan Institute on March 6-8, 2022 at the Disaster PRIMR Conference, which aims to bring together a variety of people who are involved in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating disaster events, from wildfires to floods to pandemics and everything in between. L.T. Jordan does a lot of great work in introducing students to many different international issues (like disaster management), and Erin notes that presenting our Fall 2021 program at the conference made her realize that we have so much potential to create a connection between students and the people already working in various fields to solve human-made and natural disasters.

"We are able to show to professionals and leaders the importance of involving students, even at an undergraduate level, and we are able to show students the different ways in which they can be involved and to connect them with established professionals and leaders. Before attending the conference, I thought I knew what disaster management was, but I did not realize the full extent of what it involves. For example, I had never thought about how to communicate on weather to communities whose primary language is not English or about how disasters can precipitate legal problems surrounding home ownership, but these are absolutely important issues, especially for someone (like myself) who is interested in working in environmental justice."

-Erin Dent

Our impact was global. Not only by addressing a worldwide problem like climate change, but also by engaging with people all over the world. Every single one of us impacts and is impacted by our environment, whether we are hikers in South Africa, journalists in Thailand, or Aggies in College Station. There were many goals for this program: to illustrate that we must remember that we all live on one planet, to show that the effects of environmental degradation are not equitable, and, most of all, to remind our students that we have the power and responsibility to be stewards for our planet.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Since 2019, I have served in many different roles within the Memorial Student Center Leland T. and Jessie J. Jordan Institute, and it has been an honor to see how the committee has transformed and adapted over the years. I can honestly say that my experience with the L.T. Jordan Institute has been a rollercoaster of excitement, growth, and adventure. As the current Chair of the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, I am pleased to share with you the work our committee has done this year to provide international exposure amid the world-altering constraints produced by the pandemic and other global events.



The L.T. Jordan Institute, along with the rest of the Texas A&M campus, resumed 100% in-person activities for the 2021-2022 academic year following the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. We encountered many challenges during this transition; however, we embraced this change with an earnest desire to spread more selflessness and thoughtfulness to the world.

In the Fall semester, we hosted an environmental grassroots activism event to bolster local sustainability efforts through collaboration with the Texas A&M Galveston campus and environmentally-oriented leaders who have worked in Thailand, South Africa, and Ghana. We also selected 5 student researchers to participate in our Fellows program, 13 students to participate in our Internship and Living Abroad program, and one student to participate in our International Service program. And we continue to support Aggies on their travel abroad excursions through our non-interest-bearing overseas loan fund. This Spring, we are entering the 4th season of our Many Aggies, One World podcast series, and are partnering with the Bush School of Government and Public Service to highlight Mexican artists from the Oaxacan region. We also worked with the TAMU International Studies Department, the Houston Russian Cultural Center, and MaroonBase to showcase the film *Gorbachev. Heaven* during our annual Russian Film Festival.

When I first joined the L.T. Jordan Institute my freshman year as a member, I had no idea how large of an impact that L.T. Jordan had on the Texas A&M student body and local community. Since then, this committee has taught me how to be a more effective leader, and more importantly, they gave me a community. They showed me how L.T. Jordan shapes the experiences of students on campus through our programming, and how I can support others who come from different and/or marginalized backgrounds. I look forward to seeing how the Institute's future leaders will continue to expand our reach on the Texas A&M campus, in the Bryan/College Station community, and around the world.

Yours,

Essynce Lewis

Essynce Lewis '22
2022 MSC L.T. Jordan Chair

FELLOWS CLASS OF 2021-22 BIOGRAPHIES

By: Mahera Muquith '23

The MSC L.T. Jordan Fellows Program provides highly qualified Texas A&M University students with the opportunity for personal enrichment and education through an international research project. Participants design a specific independent research project that will enhance their education or professional goals. The program annually selects qualified graduate or undergraduate students to conduct their research abroad. This year, the Fellow's 34th class consists of four graduate students: Kristian Cantens, Sami Jabarkhail, Charlotte Jarvis, Tanner Ogle and one undergraduate student Sarah Judkins.

Kristian Cantens is a 5th year PhD student in Philosophy. He is currently in Spain conducting his research on the present-day controversies that surround the practice of bullfighting. To understand the nature of this moral disagreement, Kristian plans on examining the various images, metaphors, and myths that Spaniards make use of in orienting themselves to this rich tradition. Some see it as torture, and urge that we enter into the bull's perspective. Others see it as art, and celebrate the skills and virtues displayed by the matador. Why are some inclined to imagine it in one way and others in a different way?

Sami Jabarkhail is a Fulbright scholar and a PhD Candidate in the Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development. During his time as a PhD student, Sami has taught several courses and managed teams of undergraduate researchers. Additionally, Sami often writes op-ed articles on US foreign policy towards Afghanistan. In 2014, Sami was selected by the Atlantic Council in a worldwide competition to attend the NATO Future Leaders Summit in Cardiff, Wales. He has used his L.T. Jordan Institute Fellowship grant to study the educational challenges and opportunities of Afghan refugees in Tajikistan.

Charlotte Jarvis is finishing up her MSc in the Department of Anthropology's Nautical Archaeology Program. Her thesis looks at genever (the original form of the gin we know today) consumption amongst Dutch and British Sailors during the Age of Sail (1550-1850). The primary findings of this research include insight into the staggeringly high amounts of alcohol that sailors drank and a possible

new way to identify shipwrecks of unknown origins. Over the winter break, she was able to travel to the Netherlands to conduct primary source research in the archives and meet with scholars in the field of Dutch maritime history and genever production. She also experienced some Dutch Christmas and New Years traditions!

Tanner Ogle is a second-year PhD student in the History Department. He is currently conducting research on how memories of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 influenced policy-making during the American Revolution. This summer Tanner will explore the papers of nearly a dozen Scots with ties to both the '45 and the American Revolution. While conducting archival research at five repositories in Edinburgh, Scone, and the Isle of Bute, Tanner will also visit the cultural sites related to the '45 and former properties of the Scots he is researching.

Sarah Judkins is a 4th year undergraduate in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design. This summer, she plans to travel to Detroit, Montreal, and Toronto to study inner city challenges and responses to food insecurity. Sarah will investigate methods of urban cultivation to understand facets of environmental justice. She hopes to learn how to plan at a city-wide level to turn agricultural green spaces into a municipal utility. Sarah looks forward to conversing with policymakers, community garden locals, and underserved community members to gain insight into connecting gardens into a comprehensive network.

INTERNSHIP AND LIVING ABROAD PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

By: Ethan Beauregard '22

Both the Internship and Living Abroad Program (ILAP) and International Service Project (ISP) allow Texas A&M students to study abroad and gain work experience all over the world. As the name suggests, ILAP is focused on providing professional internships to students based on their major or future career goals. ISP is a community-based service project for high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students, usually in the fields of environmental sciences, public health, or marine conservation.

This year, our participants will have the opportunity to go to either England, Singapore, Spain, or Costa Rica for six weeks or longer. Both programs provide cultural immersion, professional skills, and amazing experiences that will last a lifetime. The students spend time during the spring semester preparing for travel abroad, learning how to be safe, successful, and culturally confident. They are committed to performing exceptionally in the countries of their choice and representing Texas A&M, the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute, and themselves with excellence on a global scale.

L.T. JORDAN SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Zainab Sunny '22

Cristina Camargo

My name is Cristina Camargo, and I am a member of the class of 2022. I am a Political Science major from Tomball, Texas and I have been a member of MSC L.T. Jordan since my freshman year and a part of the executive team since my sophomore year.

As L.T. Jordan's first Social Media Executive and as the Student Development Executive, I have learned crucial marketing and development skills as well as team and leadership skills. MSC L.T. Jordan has been an integral part of my college experience and has allowed me to grow both professionally and personally. I am so proud of the work that we have done and of the work that Jordan will continue to do for years to come.



Zainab Sunny

My name is Zainab Sunny, and I am a member of the class of 2022, majoring in International Studies and minoring in Cybersecurity, from North Zulch, Texas. I have been a part of MSC L.T. Jordan since my sophomore year as a member.

During my junior year, I served as the Development Executive, and currently I serve as the Overseas Loan Fund Executive and Vice Chair. Throughout my years at MSC L.T. Jordan, I have not only had the opportunity to broaden my horizons, but I also grew as both a leader and individual due to great mentorship and stepping out of my comfort zone. Beyond leadership, I have met the greatest people, built long lasting friendships, and a community that has had a massive impact on me.



Essynce Lewis

My name is Essynce Lewis, and I am a member of the class of 2022 from El Paso, Texas, majoring in International Politics and Diplomacy. I have been a part of MSC L.T. Jordan since my freshman year.

After being a member for a year, I became the Fellows Assistant Director and helped manage one of my now-FAVORITE L.T. Jordan programs! I loved the Fellows program so much, I applied to be the Fellows Executive the following year. Since then, I served as Vice Chair and Chair, and had the opportunity to be the Development Executive while on my study abroad to Ukraine. Each of these positions have taught me something new about myself as a young professional, but more importantly, I learned from some of the best leaders along the way. L.T. Jordan gave me a lot of support and friendships and for that, I am forever grateful.



Michelle Pappoe

My name is Michelle Pappoe, and I am a senior International Studies (INTS) major from College Station, Texas. My track in INTS is Politics and Diplomacy, and I am also minoring in Economics. This is my second semester in MSC L.T. Jordan and I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience so far.

As a senior, I wanted to make sure that I was involved on campus during my final year, while also using all that I have learned in my major. MSC L.T. Jordan has allowed me to share my excitement for studying abroad and learning about other cultures with the A&M community while getting to connect with some amazing people! I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of such a passionate and outward-focused organization.



L.T. JORDAN MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

By: Essynce Lewis '22

Valeria Laya, International Studies 24'

I joined MSC L.T. Jordan, because I feel very passionate about its mission of creating international and cultural awareness for the Texas A&M community. Through my participation in interviewing students for ILAP, I learned a lot about what makes a good interviewee and specifically how to come prepared and what to expect. One of the events I helped implement during my time in L.T. Jordan was the Russian Film Festival, where we showed the movie *Gorbachev. Heaven* and had a Q&A session with the director of the film. I helped oversee the sign-in table for this event, which I thought was an incredible opportunity for Aggies to get first-hand knowledge from someone who spent time with Gorbachev, a very prominent political figure. In the future with Jordan I hope to join the executive team, and be more involved in the planning of projects, meetings, and member relations. I cannot wait to see what the rest of my time in L.T. Jordan has in store for me!



Alice Liang, Telecommunication Media Studies 24'

Katy, TX and member of the Support Subcommittee. Alice first joined MSC L.T. Jordan because she was interested in promoting international awareness at A&M but has since learned that there is so much more to the organization and its mission. Since joining, Alice has gotten to work on creating graphics for social media, co-hosting an episode of the Many Aggies One World podcast, and assisting with on-campus programs throughout the semester. The relationships formed and leadership skills she gained have helped her to accomplish other endeavors along the way, and she looks forward in continuing her involvement with MSC L.T. Jordan this semester."



A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

On March 9, 2022, the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness and the International Student Association held a safe-space for Ukrainian and Russian Bryan/College Station members to come together as a community to discuss the global and personal impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Our conversations ranged from talking about our feelings of guilt, our loved ones in the region, our understanding of the invasion, the damage caused by misinformation and propaganda, our desire for peace, and most importantly, our solidarity of support for the Ukrainian people. Support can manifest itself in multiple ways, and there is no right formula for how we each express our support; it may even be invisible to some.

The fast-paced conditions of war often cause an overwhelming sense of emotions, especially as every day becomes filled with rapidly-changing news. Politics aside, we were able to have constructive conversation to contextualize the most recent invasion of Ukraine and the cumulative events occurring there since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. The L.T. Jordan Institute is grateful to have had the opportunity to hear the personal stories of those directly affected and to learn from all those who attended our community conversation.

CAMEL LAMP

By: Cristina Camargo '22



The MSC L.T. Jordan collection room is a fascinating room filled with a variety of international and cultural items and memorabilia, including from countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kuwait, and Venezuela. On display, we have authentic Persian rugs, a scarf gifted to Mrs. Jordan by Queen Elizabeth II, and various pieces of jewelry. One of our most favorite pieces is also an extremely authentic collection item. The camel bladder lamp was gifted to Leland and Jessie Jordan by the Kuwaiti leader as an honorable gift. It is a small, beautiful lamp that stands in the back of the collection room and is always on display. The MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness has always found this hand painted lamp to be fascinating, and as a result, our former intern Marie Barjau created and designed coloring sheets and activity pages with the lamp. These beautiful and intricate lamps have been around for thousands of years, originating from the Middle East and now with our activity sheets, you can create your own!

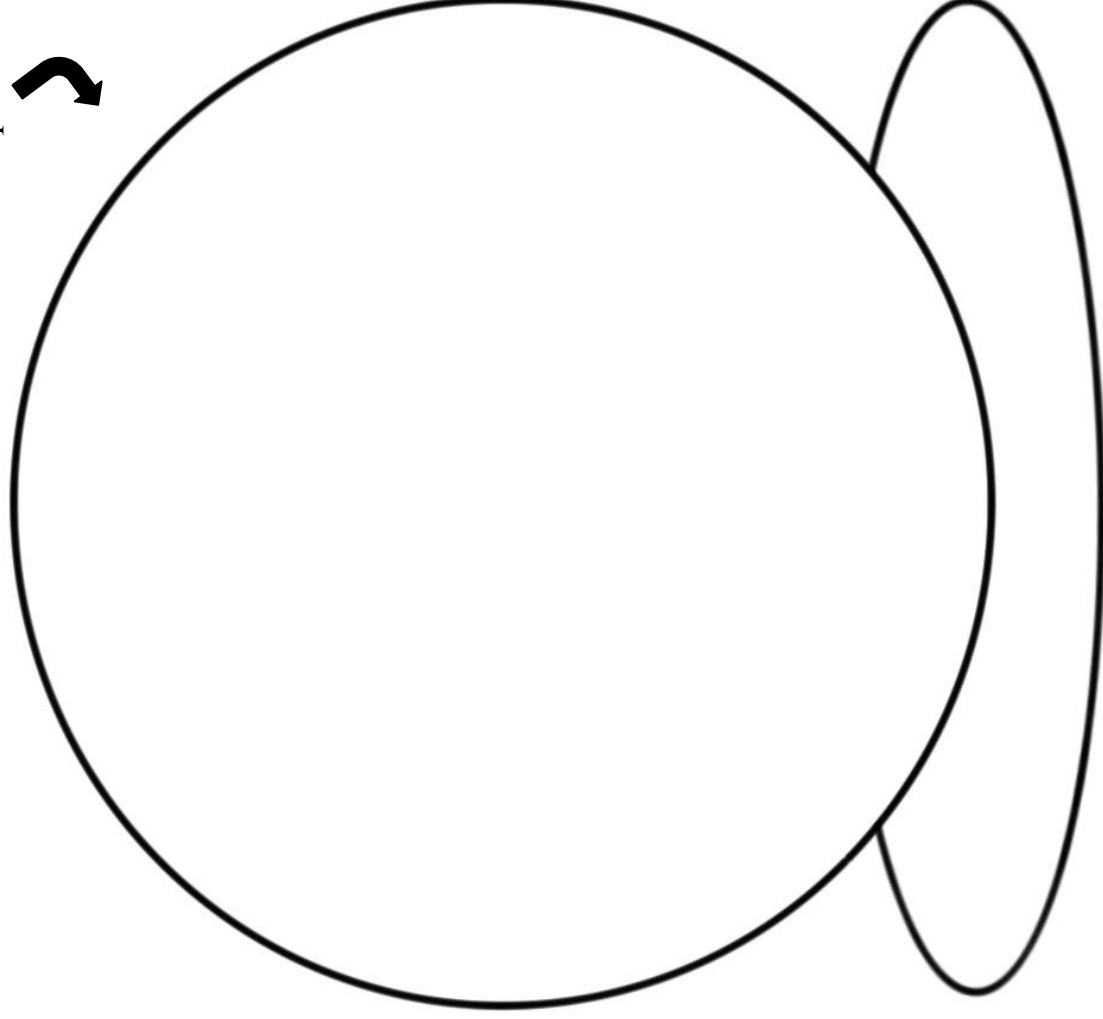
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Camel Bladder Lamp Worksheet

Design your
own lamp



It takes the collaboration of three artists to create the lamps, a clayman, a Naqash, and a Dabgar. A Naqash designs the product and delivers it to Clayman. The Clayman molds the clay according to the required design and sends it to Dabgar. The Dabgar removes hair and flesh from the camel skin and makes several skin layers after cleaning it. He then wraps the wet skin onto the clay mold, and the joints in the skin naturally mix after being dried for two days.



Camel bladder lamps have been around for thousands of years in the Middle East. Multan, Pakistan popularized the lamps in 1910 and is now known globally for their camel lamps. The art on the lamps represents the local culture of where they are made.



The bladder for this lamp was gifted by Sheikh Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, the 10th ruler of Kuwait, to Mrs. Jordan.

Design your own camel bladder lamp by coloring inside the circle. Think about what images would best represent you and your culture.



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Memorial Student Center | Texas A&M University
Student Programs Office Suite 2240 | 1237 TAMU | College Station, TX 77843-1237
Tel. 979.845.1914 | Fax. 979.862.3082

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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

JORDAN JOURNEYS STAFF:

Essynce Lewis '22 - Chair & Development Executive
Zainab Sunny '22 - Vice Chair & OSL Executive
Muhammad Isad Mitsal '22 - Graphic Design Executive
Erin Dent '24 - On Campus Executive
Mahera Muquith '23 - Fellows Executive
Ethan Beauregard '22 - ILAP & ISP Executive
Cristina Camargo '22 - Student Development Executive



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☐ 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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