

Mr. Richard Jordan's visit to Utah Valley University



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Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted Mr. Richard Jordan during April 8-11, 2019. The Foreign Affairs club as part of UIMF, with its President Joel Frost took a lead in implementing student engaged learning model in hosting dignitary.

Mr. Jordan spoke before the UVU audience on April 8, 2019 on the topic of the United Nations (UN) at 75th anniversary.

As Richard Jordan took to the podium, he began with reflecting upon his experience and time at the UN with a correlation to the Memoir: Five-Thousand Nights at the Opera. He explained that his next venture in a jokingly manner would be embarking on 10,000 days at the UN. Engaged learning is what Mr. Jordan is all about, as he is passionate about the fact that UVU is a university of connections. Mr. Jordan embraced the arc of history as he feels strongly about the connection of different nations to UVU's Roots of Knowledge gallery. He explains that Roots of Knowledge consumes his essence through its connection of history, people and culture, it symbolizes more than human drama, it describes what is known as the “noosphere” as it outlines the beginning of the Earth and takes the viewer through a wonderful depiction. Mr. Jordan connects the Roots of

Knowledge to his extensive learning experience through presentations of women, the climate, and what the world is really coming face to face with. “The complex organism” of the UN is one that Jordan knows the ins and outs of as he has taken his career at the U.N. to truly connect with it and understand the true meaning of being a part of such an impactful organization.

Mr. Richard Jordan allowed us to get connected to the U.N. Charter and outlined Article 71 and its true importance as it allows for the ability to consult with member states and other parts of the U.N. system. He connected with the clever ways that one can get inclusive here at UVU, such as by defining what the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implementation really mean not only to the U.N. but also to our University. In order to create a truly great transformative agenda that will satisfy the needs of our nation, we must bring in the women and girls in science who are going to revolutionize the SDGs as they come to expire. Particularly close to my heart, he discusses how we must change the system now, the pay system particularly because if we do not, it will remain a harmful institution of pay parity for at least 85 years to come. As a New York Native, I immediately connected with Mr. Jordan’s initiatives and goals for our future and our human stability, as he remarked that human security is more than simply defense and strength, it is all about providing equal work for equal pay. As a multicultural student as well, hearing Mr. Jordan’s mission to accomplish groundbreaking UN initiatives with students and to use our faith traditions in the most creative ways to bring out change connects personally with a large population here at the UVU.

Mr. Jordan has taken the time to understand the true catalyzing power that UVU has the raise the bar in the United States through multiculturalism and cultural engagement. His approaches to respond accurately to the needs of our society are several, but the best response in Mr. Jordan’s eye is to host a retreat with a small group of U.N. staff and Ambassadors accredited to the UN with the Executive Board of UNWomen, and really connect to a vision that will transform the future and shift work to the betterment of not only women but for our new generations to come. He also touched on the UN Civil Society Conference coming to Salt Lake City as he expresses his remarks in the awe that he has felt upon arriving at UVU as he describes the strong community that our university has built and the importance it brings to creating true reforms.

Working for me as part of student team under Mr. Joel Frost was an absolute pleasure, as he delegated tasks appropriately and allowed us students to really be connected with Mr. Jordan.

Joel Frost delegated each of us assignment to getting to know Mr. Richard Jordan, and prepping for his time at UVU. I was responsible for introducing him to the multicultural audience at UVU and explaining how his initiative aligns perfectly with our university inclusion model. With his tour around our university, he was able to see the initiatives that I am a part of the Multicultural Student Council have set out to spread in the university with the inclusion committee through the Hall of Flags, the Center for Global Engagement, and the Pacific and Latino initiatives. Mr. Richard Jordan will be marked in UVU history as a true trailblazer for his call to change, and elevation to not only our platform but also our students and their commitment to true excellence. Speaking with Mr. Jordan was a pleasure as he defined the true help that NGOs and their representatives do to help establish and strengthen democracies every single day through awareness and respect for all individuals to be themselves and participate in ensuring that the playing field is truly leveled for all. NGOs are so crucial to democracy, and all of the governments all over the world created international rules to protect them. Mr. Richard Jordan shows us the way to expressing our opinions and truth creating meaningful change, not only here in UVU but globally.

Eilen Castellano, UVU student