

# Learning from Mr. Richard Jordan about NGOs role at UN



*Mr. Richard Jordan speaks at UVU*

On April 8, 2019 I had the pleasure of attending a lecture from the Dean of UN Non-governmental Representatives- Mr. Jordan. Richard Jordan spoke about the Arc of History at Utah Valley University and told students the importance of being involved in the change that we offer the world. As a first generation student, I often feel intimidated when participating in student led events because of my general lack of experience. Hearing Mr. Jordan speak about the power of change and innovation starting with our university truly motivated me to become a part of that.

Mr. Jordan talked about the change of the United Nations since 1989; there is a greater emphasis on coordination and harmonization. Subsidiary bodies to align with the theme of economic and social council. Lastly, joint briefing for member states with ECOSOC and The President of the General Assembly. With an organization like the United Nations, its key element is improvement. Constantly trying to make the organization more inclusive and create a space for multilateralism.

Mr. Jordan explained roles of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the UN to accumulate informal mechanisms such as the daily brainstorming sessions with co-chairs of the

drafting group during the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. I found Richard Jordan to be informative and insightful; he got students thinking about future serious. For example to transition the commission on the status of women in the council. Involving more women in NGO councils increases the diversity in the work field and allows for more inclusiveness.



*Students and faculty during lunch with Mr. Richard Jordan*

I was able also to participate in a lunch with Mr. Jordan where he talked about the importance of being involved and informed of what is happening in the world. Being able to speak directly with member states holds a great importance - as a student at UVU the engaged learning method has helped me branch out and create a name for myself in a political network. Mr. Jordan suggested for UVU to involve themselves in global engagement with the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF). As member of the student hosting team through student engaged learning model, I helped coordinate Mr. Richard Jordan's visit by creating a memo on the UN DPI Conference taking place in August 2019 in Salt Lake City. I am very pleased that I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Jordan and being able to use what I learned in my POLS 2200 class.



In my Comparative Politics class we asked ourselves if a single global state was possible; I asked Richard Jordan this exact question a day earlier and his response was that it was inherently impossible. I was able to engage in class with ideas that bloomed from my learning experience with Richard Jordan.

*Dalila Munoz, UVU student*