

Mr. Richard Jordan about the UN Approaching 75



At the start of a new week, on April 8, 2019, Utah Valley University (UVU) had the privilege to host Mr. Richard Jordan. Richard Jordan worked at the United Nations for 40 years and has attended countless of conferences throughout the world. He complimented our institution by considering UVU as a place for connections and connectors. It was a real treat listening to Richard educate us all about the United Nations.

In 1989, the United Nations was in process of new projects. Since then, a greater emphasis has been placed on both coordination and harmonization to improve the function of summits and agendas. In these cohorts, the roles of NGO's and CSO's are to manage informal mechanisms by brainstorming sessions on the daily with the co-chairs of a drafting group during the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. This will open up the opportunity to speak directly with Member States and increase reliance in reporting mechanisms such as the ENB.

Under the concept of human security as explained by the Mr. Jordan, groundbreaking initiatives are taken by Pat and Gerry Mische and associates of Global Education. They all form a creative use of faith tradition like the Earth Covenant as the basis for the Earth Charter. Along those same lines, they have also built partnerships for Safe Journeys. It's been over ten years in the making, a whole decade of Action for Road Safety. Last but not least, the Ocean Conferences have kept everyone very busy. It is all thanks to the work of President of the General Assembly Peter Thompson who also serves as the Specialist Envoy on Ocean Issues.

After Richard Jordan concluded his presentation, it was my pleasure to thank him with a folder filled with essential documents from UVU that relate to his work in the United Nations. Richard has been a kind, informative, and inspiring leader to us all. He has kept us hopeful and intrigued with his insights of future scenarios that could be potential realities with the great advancements his summits and agendas have been accomplishing. I look forward to learning more about the works of the United Nations.

Leslie Sixtos-Cruz, UVU student