

Richard Jordan UN Presentation at UVU



Students and faculty host Mr. Richard Jordan for lunch at UVU. Taylon Thomas is the first from the left.

Richard Jordan on a daily basis has been at the UN for 40 years. He states that he has spent more hours at the UN than any other Non-governmental representative in its history has. He has participated in many UN High-level meetings and summits, including the Earth Summit in Rio, 1992, the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Rio + 20 Conference in Rio in 2012, and the entire preparatory process that created the Sustainable Development Goals. At Richard Jordan’s presentation at UVU, he talked about the “Arc of History” and “What will the UN look like at 75.”

Mr. Jordan first discussed how important he feels engaged learning is. He feels that UVU is doing a great job at getting students involved. He was happy to see many students participating in clubs around the school such as UIMF. He discussed how amazing the “Roots of Knowledge” windows are at UVU. He discussed some meaning and representations he found in the art. He used

the example of President Holland teaching in the last window. He discussed how he thought about how not only the professors are teaching students but also students teaching professors. This is showing the focus on engaged learning. He loved how many of the students were getting involved and have visited the United Nations with UVU. He believes that it is important for UVU and UVU students to work on getting involved with the United Nations. UVU works a lot with Mountain Sustainability and Gender Poverty.



Joel Frost, President, Foreign Affairs club introduces Mr. Richard Jordan to the audience

In the UN 1989, the process started in creating the first earth summit. Which includes the sustainable mountain agenda. Also, in 1989, were the beginning of many other summits. These summits have created a path for a lot the changes the UN have made since 1989. Some of these changes included a greater emphasis on coordination and harmonization, and subsidiary bodies to align with the theme of the economic and social council. Meaning that the UN councils should examine the same issues. Another idea Mr. Jordan feels is important is the involvement of member

states. He feels the movement to directly speak with these member states. This change coming with the change of times and the technological advances.

The idea of women in UN was the other issue that Mr. Jordan addressed. He shared an experience with an Iraqi princess. How she wanted the UN to address, “Women in Science” although, they wanted to address girls, which became “Women and Girls in Science.” He told us how 25 countries signed the outcome document of the Intl. Day for Women and Girls in Science.

Richard Jordan addressed many other issues at the presentation as well but these are the ones I found most important and he felt applied most to UVU. It was a great experience being able to learn from members of the UN. It is a rare educational opportunity that I am glad that I could participate in. I was lucky enough to have had the opportunity to help Joel in preparing for Mr. Jordan’s presentation. I was able to create a poster for the event that Mr. Jordan signed afterwards for UVU. This was a unique opportunity that helped me learn a little bit of what goes into planning a presentation that takes place at UVU. It was great being able to be a part of engaged learning. I really liked being engaged and then learning how important Mr. Jordan thinks it is. I really liked how Mr. Jordan addressed his personal views on how these changes and what other changes needed to be made when the UN is 75. It was a great educational experience and I learned more about the UN that I did not understand before.

Taylon Thomas, UVU student