GHOSTLY INSPIRATION

FEATURING: JORDAN, STUDENT AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
**Jordan**

**Hometown**
St. Louis, Missouri

**Alma Mater**
University of Illinois (BA)

**Certifications**
First Aid/CPR/AED, OSHA 10

**Interests**
Writing, traveling, and photography

**Background**
Coming from a hardscrabble neighborhood in East St. Louis, Jordan helped support her family from an early age by working as a dishwasher for a local restaurant. The management introduced the NIOSH Safety Matters program to the staff; through it, she felt inspired to do more to help protect her fellow workers.

A gifted writer, Jordan graduated college and worked as a reporter for several regional magazines, writing comprehensive and award-winning articles on workplace safety and labor laws. Determined to do more, she landed a position in a corporate safety department for a regional construction firm. She is exploring options for postgraduate education in safety or law, recently acquired her OSHA 10 certificate, and is ready to apply for her Safety Trained Supervisor Construction (STSC) certification.
WE TALK ABOUT HEROES LIKE THEY'RE OTHERWORLDLY, BEYOND OURSELVES.

WE OFTEN DON'T RECOGNIZE THE HEROES RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

SO VIKRAM, WHAT HERO DO YOU WANT TO DRESS UP AS FOR THE COSTUME PARTY?

I DON'T KNOW.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKE ALL OF THEM.

DID YOU KNOW YOUR AUNTIE JORDAN WAS ONCE A GHOSTBUSTER?

NO WAY!
I never tire of telling this story, because it was a turning point in my life.

Okay, I give up!

I only busted one ghost, but it was an unusual one.

That's how I ended up doing the work I do now.
I had just started college, working part-time as a security guard at an old hospital known for being haunted.

My best friend Subena dared me to explore the hospital's basement, an area I'd never visited before.

Not backing out now, are you?

No.

I didn't believe there were ghosts. It was just an old building ready for renovation.

But it was probably a bad idea to watch ghost movies the night before.
The basement had been closed off for years.

It was definitely creepy.

After being down there for a while, I started to feel tired. I spotted a couch in one of the offices near the back.
That's where I thought I would rest for a few minutes.

But eventually I felt drowsy and I drifted off to sleep, when I heard a low moan and rattle...

Auuuuuuu!

I saw a ghost walk by the office door.
I got up and ran for the exit!

I couldn't believe I'd seen a ghost. How was that possible?

The next day, I told Subena the whole story.

I really don't know what it was.

I'm telling you, it was a ghost. That hospital's totally haunted.
I don't know. There's more to this than some silly supernatural thing.

Excuse me, ladies?

Yes, professor?

I couldn't help but overhear. You say you saw a ghost? Could you tell me more?

I recounted the events to the professor. He listened, then asked me a question that changed my life.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO INVESTIGATE THIS FURTHER? USING PROPER TECHNIQUES?

YOU'RE SERIOUS?

MEET ME IN MY OFFICE LATER.

TURNS OUT THE PROFESSOR WAS ALSO CONSULTING FOR THE PROJECT TEAM RENOVATING THE HOSPITAL.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE ACRONYM ARECC?

NO.

IT'S A 5-STEP RESOLUTION PROCESS: ANTICIPATE, RECOGNIZE, EVALUATE, CONTROL, AND CONFIRM.
WE FIRST ANTICIPATE A PROBLEM OR HAZARD WHERE YOU MIGHT BE: YOU MUST ALWAYS BE AWARE OF WHERE YOU ARE.

SECOND, BE PREPARED—RECOGNIZE POSSIBLE DANGER IN THE AREA. FOR INSTANCE, THERE MIGHT BE UNSTABLE FLOORING, EXPOSED WIRING, OR OTHER HAZARDS PRESENT.

SO A GHOST IS A POTENTIAL HAZARD? THAT SEEMS... UNUSUAL.

YES AND NO. THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF YOU RUN INTO SUCH A HAZARD.
SO BASICALLY, ASK MYSELF WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

EXACTLY. THAT LEADS TO CONTROLLING THE SITUATION; KEEPING BAD THINGS FROM HAPPENING.

WE WORKED OUR WAY TO WHERE I HAD SEEN THE GHOST.

THIS IS THE ROOM YOU WERE SITTING IN WHEN YOU SAW THE GHOST?

YES. I SAW THE GHOST THERE. IN THE DOORWAY.

OKAY. LET ME RUN THIS SAMPLING WAND ALONG THIS WALL...

BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

IT'S TELLING US THERE'S UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVELS OF CARBON MONOXIDE IN THIS ROOM!

I WAS SHOCKED, WE GOT OUT OF THERE ASAP BECAUSE OUR MASKS WOULD BE OF NO HELP.

RAMONE SAID ONE POSSIBLE SYMPTOM OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING WAS HALLUCINATIONS.

HOW DID SO MUCH GAS GET INTO THAT ROOM?

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
I'm consulting with the city on the building's renovation. I've already done some research based on what you told me.

It's possible a natural gas line inside the wall has a slow leak... but that wouldn't cause an increase in carbon monoxide.

Based on these blueprints, the boiler is in the next room over. It's possible the exhaust is rusted and carbon monoxide is being released.
Which brings us to my last point: confirm. Now we need to follow through with the result in order to protect others.

How do we do that?

I'll notify the city about the problem; they'll eliminate the hazard before proceeding.

We talked more about our adventure. I wanted to know what he did for the city.

He liked my curiosity and how I kept my cool. He wanted me to take his class and consider a career in industrial hygiene.
WHAT'S INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE?

BASICALLY, A SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM-SOLVER.

WHO KEEPS PEOPLE SAFE?

THAT'S RIGHT!

LIKE A SUPERHERO!

AUNTIE JORDAN, YOU SAVED LIVES!

I ADMIT, I HAVENT THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE, BUT MEENA WAS RIGHT.

AUNTIE JORDAN, I KNOW WHO I'M GOING TO DRESS UP AS.

OH YEAH? WHO?

YOU!

ME TOO!
YOU SAVED ALL THOSE CONSTRUCTION
PEOPLE FROM POSSIBLY DYING IN THAT
BUILDING. I WANT TO DO THAT.

WHAT? CATCH GHOSTS?

NO! SAVE PEOPLE!

WELL, LET'S SEE IF
YOU PASS THE
GHOSTBUSTER
TEST FIRST, OKAY?

A TEST?

I CAN'T CERTIFY YOU AS
GHOSTBUSTERS UNTIL
YOU TELL ME WHAT THE
5 STEPS ARE TO
BUSTING THEM.

UMMMM...

YOU GOTA BE AWARE OF
WHERE YOU ARE!
OH! AND BE PREPARED FOR DANGER...AND THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG?

FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP BAD THINGS FROM HAPPENING...AND THEN...

DO IT!

I WOULDN'T CALL MYSELF A HERO FOR DOING MY JOB...

BUT WHEN KIDS DO, THAT MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK. MAYBE I AM?

I DO KNOW THIS, THOUGH...

I AM IH.

END
Ramone

Hometown
Lubbock, Texas

Alma Maters
Texas State University (BS); University of Texas at Austin (PhD)

Certifications
CSP, CET, CIH

Interests
horseback riding, family camping trips, charity work

Background
Ramone always wanted to be an educator, and started teaching high school science after earning his BS in education from Texas State. In the aftermath of a major hurricane, he helped his community recover from the extensive devastation. Seeing first-hand the lingering health hazards posed by the damage from the mass flooding, Ramone decided to pursue a PhD in Public Health.

Wanting to help safety professionals and first responders be better prepared, he joined a consulting firm that instructs IH professionals in new and emerging technologies. Ramone is now the head of their training division, chairs AIHA’s Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Committee, and recently contributed to updating AIHA’s body of knowledge on IAQ practices.

“Ghostly Inspiration”
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Special thanks to Ian Cole and Don Weekes for their expertise and review and to all OHS scientists for their continued dedication to creating and maintaining healthy workspaces for our communities.
For more information about IH Heroes and to play the game, visit www.IHHeroes.org
Ever wonder how our IH Heroes get their start? The team’s newest member shares her ‘ghostly’ story about saving untold lives through her curiosity.

Learn more about these workplace heroes and their adventures in AIHA’s award-winning Tales from the Field graphic series at IHHeroes.org.