



Name: Jesse Hunter

Josef Korbel School program: MA, [International Development](#), [Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Fellow Program](#), 2012

Undergraduate University/Major: University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Anthropology

Tell us about yourself:

I have always really liked world culture and I actually thought about med school, but then after taking chemistry I decided I would study what doctors are doing. Then I went to Peace Corps as a health advisor, and in honing my interests, I realized I like health and water issues, water politics. I found myself drawn to more of the business aspects of non-profits in general. My skill set and my personality really aligned better with the organizational side. So in deciding to pursue that track, I wanted a grad program that would make me qualified for a lot of things and allow me to figure it out as I went along. I have really enjoyed the program. I feel like I have gotten exactly what I wanted out of it. For me, I came out of undergrad feeling like I wasn't an expert in anything. I just knew I would go back to school. What I really wanted was a program with enough variety and flexibility to be able to back and forth with different things, but be able to hone myself into something narrower as the year went on.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

I served in Peace Corps in Jamaica and I was looking at the list of Fellows program schools and Denver came up. It's far from home, which was interesting. I am from Nashville, TN and I had never lived out of the southeast. Really, something just clicked about the program when reading the information. I came and visited, and I liked how this was under the radar a little bit, yet still a great quality school. Korbel is not flashy. It is a really solid program that is a functional degree. The culture here is great. I never recycled before Peace Corps, I really just got a lot more into active, natural, healthy living. So when I was looking at prospective schools I wanted to be in a city and community that would help me foster those lifestyles living in the U.S. I knew I would need a bit of help because I would be going through transition. Denver is that perfect place to really encourage you to keep that up: health-conscious, waste resistant people. I really found that aligned with what I wanted my life to be.

Josef Korbel School of International Studies UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Ben M. Cherrington Hall • 2201 South Gaylord St. • Denver, CO 80208 • 303.871.2544 • www.du.edu/korbel

Internship site: [Water for People](#)

Main responsibilities:

At first I was learning Razor's Edge software and doing some data entry, basically being an assistant in the Strategic Resource Development department. They do grants, they do events and a lot of strategic planning with funding and relationships with donors. About half way through they wanted someone to do corporate research for their due diligence process. I used to be in HR and it worked well for me. The corporate research is preparing briefs on the companies that they are doing business with or getting support from. It's the ethics base that I'm really interested in.

How did the Josef Korbel School prepare you?

The Peace Corps program doesn't require an internship for credit, but they require a practicum. I was really in love with Water for People from the first description online. I just went on the Korbel Careers website last winter and saw that they had posted an opening. [Korbel Career Office](#) did a workshop at the winter orientation. That was really helpful. I had already emailed Water for People on my own, but I was able to get a more direct line through Korbel. There are a lot of Korbel alums that have interned there and gotten jobs there. The name and the connections matter. I think there is this misperception with grad school in general that people think that they are just going to hand you a job, but I really do feel like because of the connections, especially in Denver it's so easy to call up any organization and have a connection. Korbel really provides opportunities of low hanging fruit. It's not a gimme, but it's there if you want it.

In terms of skills, I took [Ted Zerwin's](#) class, Fundraising and Management for Non-Profits, and it helped me to hit the ground running talking to managers and trustees. We had to call up people to get them to come into class.

What are your career goals?

My ultimate goal is to be a consultant for non-profits, or for profit, but in corporate social responsibility. I want to help the people who are doing well to do better and the people who aren't making the cut to go find another job.

Sarah Crozier, MA Candidate, International Development
Josef Korbel School of International Studies