



Name: Laura Morales

Josef Korbel School Program: [International Development](#), 2012

Undergrad Institution/Major: Georgetown University, International Studies

Tell us about yourself:

At Georgetown, I studied International Studies with a concentration in Development Studies. I wasn't ready to go back to grad school immediately, so I took three years to work and travel a little bit. I worked in D.C. at a public charter school, as an office manager. I travelled a bit in South America, and then here in Colorado I worked as a case manager in Arapahoe County for the Workforce Center, and part time worked as a case manager for a foster care program. Now I am working with DU in public achievement. We go to Denver public schools and I oversee the "coaches" who go into the public schools and we help them. I really enjoy working with communities and education development.

What brought you to Korbel?

On my last travel stint I was in Brazil and I had an itch to volunteer, but I couldn't speak Portuguese so I decided to go back to Peru and volunteer with a school. That was when I realized this I knew I wanted to go back to school. So I went back to Colorado and I applied to a few programs. Korbel was not only in CO where my family is, but I was also afraid of becoming a Latin American specialist, which is what I would have had to be with so many other schools. That is my niche and that is what I am interested in, but it is not what I want to make my career about. Korbel was one of the places where I could study Latin America but also expand my horizon and take classes that I had no background in. I still made Latin America my concentration because that is where my experience is, but the flexibility was important.

Internship: State Department, American Embassy in Iceland

Intern Title: Public Affairs Intern

How did you obtain your internship?

I learned about the State Department Priority Internship from Korbel. Right at the beginning of last year when they were promoting it I went to an info session and after a long process I eventually got the internship. I originally picked a Spanish speaking country where I hadn't been, and I was accepted into Spain. But then I

got a phone call from the embassy in Iceland who really pitched the program. The ambassador himself called me and talked to me on the phone. So I decided to take the Iceland post instead. I wanted a new experience, and that is certainly what I got.

What were your main responsibilities?

It's a small embassy so a few officers with some local staff that help out. We did a lot of cultural outreach. I helped out with all of that, and then they additional role that I wanted to take on was social media. My big project was getting more fans to like our page on Facebook, and get more people connecting with the embassy. We ran a contest with an iPad as the prize where people could redesign our logo. They really trusted me, and they walked out with triple the number of fans from when they started, which was great. I also worked with a lot of the artists that were coming in. During the summer there is a festival every week. We sponsored lots of artists to come up, culture nights, and working with the Fulbright program- a lot of partnerships. I didn't want to simply be writing memos, and I wanted to be working with people and so this was a good place to have the work merge with my interests.

How did Korbelt prepare you?

Professional communications was a class that was going to help me no matter what. You get so much information that I know I will be turning back to it no matter what the job. I definitely think the practical classes are really valuable. I really credit Korbelt with this experience. Not just having learned about the priority internship, but helping me get there. Helping me reorganize my resume and having the interview on campus. It was a long process but I knew that people had my back and that I was going to get the support I needed.

What are your career goals?

I want to stay with community involvement. I think I want to work in a larger organization with branches abroad, perhaps a non-profit, hopefully in education. Really my passion is helping people discover opportunities and open doors because I am a believer that education is the main impetus for development. I really think that education is the key, and while I don't want to be a teacher, I really think that there are so many opportunities around the field. Finding a job that will allow me to connect with people, and deal with education around the world would be great, I just don't know where that might be yet.

Why would you recommend the Josef Korbelt School?

My biggest thing I like about Korbelt is the flexibility. When you're looking for a grad program and you're not sure exactly where you want to take it but you know this is what you want to do, Korbelt offers the flexibility to be broad in a way that makes sense. I have been able to mix practical courses with a lot of writing and theory. I think that the professors and are all really good and different. You're not going to get the same line in every class. They are all really supportive, and I have made some great friendships here as well. I haven't gotten so much involved in the community of Korbelt because I have a job and a dance company and not that much time, but you really feel the support. I think that's why I really connected with the [career office](#) because they are part of that next step. They are really resourceful and knowledgeable and if you take time to take advantage of that, you can get a lot out of it. So I would recommend Korbelt for the variety of the professors, the flexibility of the courses you can take, the flexibility of the shape of studies, and the resources that I wouldn't be able to find all on my own. I definitely feel prepared.

-Sarah Crozier, MA Candidate, International Development
Josef Korbelt School of International Studies