



Name: Steven Myers

Josef Korbel School program: MA, [International Security](#), 2012

Undergrad Institution/Major: The College of New Jersey; International Studies, Minors in Political Science and Religion

Tell us about yourself:

While I was in college, I studied abroad in Costa Rica and then I did a summer program with the United States Indonesia society. I then lived in Indonesia for a while. I first lived in Jakarta, and then went back in 2010 and travelled around doing research with colleges. The year after I graduated, I worked for a small company that made battery powered pool vacuums, and I worked with sourcing products in China and doing operations analysis, but then I decided it time to do something with my life so I came to Korbel.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

I really liked Korbel's reputation when it came to Security studies, and I had also never been to Denver before. I came to [Discover Korbel](#) and thought, "this is awesome." I factored that in as well as the cost of living and Denver just seemed like a great place to be. It felt that Korbel had more of niche reputation, whereas I had also gotten into some D.C. schools and I thought I would be paying a lot more money and there are thousands of people coming to them each year so I might as well have my own special path.

Internship site: 1. US Global Leadership Coalition ([USGLC](#)); 2. [US Southern Command](#)

Intern title: Government Relations Intern; Strategic Communications Intern

Main responsibilities:

USGLC lobbies for more spending in international affairs and development so State Department budgets, things like that. I was a Government Relations Intern so basically I was in communication with staffers for various congress people, writing letters etc.

For Southern Command I was drafting message guidance for the director. I worked on illicit trafficking issues. We make sure that what's being said is what we're doing and what we're doing is what is being said from the strategic level.

How did the Josef Korbel School prepare you for your internship?

The internship I just did was part of the [D.C. program](#) so I was there taking classes and doing the internship. It's run through Korbel and we take classes with people from Syracuse and the University of Pittsburg. You do your fall quarter there. You take 2 classes and do an internship which rounds out a full quarter of work. It's all done through the student affairs office so there's no transfer credit issues. It's a really cool program and one of the reasons I chose to go here because I can get the Denver experience and also get the D.C. experience. I also worked for the [career office](#) so I had a leg up on a lot of people getting my internship, but ultimately I just networked with a lot of people who had gone to Korbel. I have a focus on the soft power of security where I think that development and things like that are an integral part of security so I got to learn a bit more about that through work at the USGLC.

What are your career goals?

I came in wanting to do intelligence analysis, which I still want to do, but now that I've had this experience working on the strategic communications, public affairs side, and then the government relations side I see that there's a lot more options out there. So I am keeping myself open to opportunities. I realize I'm going to be back on the East Coast either way, so I'll be closer to home.

Any advice for prospective Josef Korbel School students?

I love [Dr. Griffith](#) in the Security Department. He's fantastic so take any class with him. My biggest advice would be to stay focused on your career from the moment you come in because that's why we're all here. I definitely let gaining professional experience take a front seat.

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