

Meet Sarah Jessup, MA candidate in International Human Rights



Could you describe your background?

"Internationalism" was always prevalent in my life, but from 1997-2003 I lived in Jakarta, Indonesia. We experienced so much there with the overthrow of the president and a new political regime, which pushed me to do something internationally related with my life. I went to Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where I majored in political science. Our community in Jakarta was very involved with local organizations such as the orphanage Tolong Anak Anak. In undergrad, I continued to be active in the region, spearheading a project that raised money for the victims of the 2004 tsunami.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

It's one of the few schools with a program for Human Rights and it allows me to specialize in a region – Southeast Asia. I love it so far; it's everything I wanted it to be. I worked as a grant writer for a completely non-profit children's hospital in Dallas; I would do that for an international organization in a heartbeat. That, too, spurred me to come to the Josef Korbel School.

What are some activities you have pursued at Korbel?

I was just accepted as a first-year assistant in the Human Trafficking Clinic, where I will be focusing on human trafficking in Eastern Indonesia, which has seen an increase in the prevalence of AIDS/HIV in the last decade. I'm really excited about my proposed project as I want to learn more about cohesion efforts in the region.

What are your long-term goals?

I would like to travel back to Southeast Asia and work there in a human-rights organization that deals with development or trafficking. It's one of the poorest regions in the world and is just plagued with a huge spectrum of problems. Plus, I miss the dirty Jakarta that I loved so much.

Which reality television show does Korbel most resemble?

"The Amazing Race" is probably the show we all want to be on, but it's a lot like "Survivor." You have the opportunities; it's up to you how you use them.

What's your favorite part about Colorado?

Looking at the snow on the mountains as I drive west! It never gets old.

-- by Nirvana Bhatia, MA candidate in International Human Rights,
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