

Meet Alex Monroe, an International Human Rights MA student with a dog named Justis.

Tell us a bit about yourself: I was born in Mississippi, but claim Atlanta, Georgia as my home. My dad worked in the military and we moved around a lot, so I became acclimatized to living an itinerant lifestyle. It's definitely played a role in who I am today, and what my interests are now. I have a B.A. in Political Science from Georgia College, a small liberal arts school. I also did Peace Corps in the Philippines, where I taught English in a public school and worked with a non-profit that helps survivors of human trafficking and does advocacy work. Before the Peace Corps, I knew about working to end human trafficking—working for people who don't have a voice is my thing—but it was incredible to have hands-on experience, and to see where I fit in the field.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School? It's the only school to offer an actual degree in Human Rights, not just an International Studies degree with a concentration. I knew [Professor Claude d'Estrée](#), special rapporteur to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, but the [Human Trafficking Clinic](#) was still in its initial stages, so I found out about the school mostly from research. There was also the Peace Corps Fellows program, and when I met [an Admissions Representative] at a Grad School fair in Los Angeles, she provided me with so much information on the clinic. It was interesting just to see that a class on Contemporary Slavery and Human Trafficking was being offered at the graduate level. It's very progressive, and it fit me.

How are you involved with the Human Trafficking Clinic now? Last year, I was outreach coordinator, and this year, I am co-associate director. I'm focusing on development, forging domestic and international partnerships, as well as outreach and education in the Denver community. There's some awareness about human trafficking, but there's definitely a need.

Last year, we worked with the 1010 Project, giving information to Iraqi refugees and doing activities with the kids. Then we had our big event, the Rocky Mountain News Summit, where [some] of the kids were already informed, but there was a lack of awareness among the majority. We also spoke at a social science series in Parker, Colorado, just talking about what human trafficking was; we got some very interesting comments from people. "Why would you sell your child?" said one man. "That means you don't love your child. There must be something intrinsically wrong with those people." They don't understand the deep poverty that exists in the world, and that if somebody knocks at your door offering an opportunity for your child, saying they will be educated and fed and can send money home, then even if you're hesitant, you take the risk, because anything is better than the current situation. These are risks you and I never even have to think about.

What are your research interests? My research is an impact assessment of an anti-trafficking advocacy curriculum. I actually developed my own curriculum, and am comparing it to two others; Denver middle schools are my case examples. It's really about what is effective; what do the children remember? I will do an initial awareness survey, and in a month or so, implement the anti-trafficking program, and then conduct another survey a few months later. The goal is to use the data to make my anti-trafficking advocacy program more thorough so that I can present it school boards and have it implemented in the curriculum.

Are you enjoying living in Denver? It took a little while for Denver to grow on me. I'm a city boy, and I like the city; it felt like Denver wasn't a city, just a big town. But now, I really do love Denver, and I'm really enjoying my time at the Josef Korbel School. I feel fortunate to be doing something I love.

What are your future plans? My future plans are to work in the international non-profit community, working on children's rights and on the prevention side of human trafficking. I love the babies.

For more information about our MA program in International Human Rights, click [here](#).

For more information about the Human Trafficking Clinic, click [here](#).

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