



Name: Michael Marcous

Josef Korbel School degree program: M.A. in [Global Finance, Trade and Economic Integration](#)

Undergraduate Institution/Major: B.A. in International Studies, University of Central Florida

Language skills: Intermediate Arabic and Spanish

Tell us about yourself:

I was born in New York but I grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida. I went to college to be a screenwriter but ended up with a BA in International Studies after receiving scholarships to study Islam and world politics at the University of Cambridge and Arabic in Tunis, Tunisia. I also interned for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL 18th) as part of the [Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship](#) prior to starting at Korbel.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

I wanted a unique perspective on international issues and the Korbel School offers that. At the same time, the Korbel School has a solid [APSIA](#) reputation and stays connected with active policymaking centers like New York and Washington, D.C. I also have to mention the faculty here; they're not the reason I came to Korbel, per se, but they're easily the best part of the program.

What are your career goals?

As a Rangel Fellow, I'll be going into the [U.S. Foreign Service](#) after I graduate from Korbel. I would like to serve as an Economic Officer overseas.

Internship site: U.S. Embassy Rabat, Morocco

Intern title: Public Affairs Intern

How did you obtain your internship?

I applied for this internship through the Rangel Fellowship. Embassy Rabat was my preferred choice. I will be entering the Foreign Service in 2012, so this internship provided an excellent opportunity to engage in the work of a Foreign Service Officer. It also helped to improve my Arabic language skills.

What were your primary responsibilities?

I worked with the Cultural Affairs Section on a “Summer Science Caravan,” which brought a team of U.S. science educators to schools all throughout Morocco to conduct hands-on science exercises with Moroccan youth. I also assisted with the nomination process for the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and hosted religious gatherings during Ramadan.

What's the most important lesson you learned during your internship?

There is always something you can contribute to, a job or project that is uniquely yours to contribute; whatever it is, seek it out and don't be afraid to build on it.

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

Two courses in particular, “Problems/Challenges of Democratization” and “Democratization in the Middle East,” greatly informed my understanding of Morocco’s constitutional reforms vis-à-vis the ongoing Arab Spring.