

Meet Guy Padgett, MA candidate in International Studies at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. He expects to receive his degree in 2011.



To what other schools did you apply and why did you choose the Josef Korbel School?

I applied and was accepted to the University of Amsterdam and the University of Denver. I chose the Josef Korbel School for its diverse and challenging set of courses that reflect the increasingly complex nature of the world today.

Tell us about the classes and professors that have inspired you.

I can't speak highly enough of the quality of the instruction I've received at the Korbel School so far. One course in particular that has stood out for me is American Government and Policy Making with Professor Lynn Holland. While U.S. government is a subject most students entering Josef Korbel School will be familiar with, the thorough re-examination of this topic we undertook in this course was enlightening.

What makes Korbel distinctive?

The Korbel School doesn't rest on its laurels. While it is a highly ranked and internationally recognized program, it still strives to provide its students with opportunities in the form of speakers, study-abroad and workshops, among other things. This, in combination with the breadth of courses, sets the Josef Korbel School apart.

Where did you get your undergraduate degree and in what?

I received a bachelor of arts in social sciences with a focus in history from the University of Wyoming in 2008.

You were the first openly-gay politician elected in Wyoming. Tell us about that and how it influenced what you wanted to do.

I was proud to be not only the first openly gay elected official in Wyoming but also the youngest mayor in the history of Casper, Wyo. If we are to have a representative democracy, then it must represent us. We all have a role to play in our communities and our nation. After more than seven years as an elected official, I found that what you do for your community is far more important than any one aspect of your being.

Don't underestimate the effort it takes to make a difference, but neither underestimate the worth of that effort. Contribute to your community; it is the only way to make it better. Serving on the council also made me very aware of how interconnected the world really is. Events on the other side of the world have a profound impact on all of our lives. If the price of oil goes down, the economy of Casper

suffers. Having experienced this cause-and-effect cycle while holding local office, I wanted to gain a better understanding of the world and how we are all connected.

What person, alive or dead, inspires you?

I have always admired Elizabeth I of England. She steered her country through difficult times, including a religious settlement, warfare and economic crisis and emerged as one of England's most beloved queens. All this in a time when a female head of state was something of an anomaly.

What do you view as the biggest challenges to the nation and the planet in the next 10 years?

The biggest challenge to the United States in the next 10 years will be our ability to define ourselves in a world where we are no longer the world's sole superpower but a superpower in a world of emerging powers. Be it China in Asia, the European Union or Russia in Europe, or Brazil in South America, the United States is faced with numerous growing powers. How we chose to deal with those powers will define the next century.

--By Shane Eric-Eugene Hensinger, MA candidate in International Security,

Josef Korbel School of International Studies