

Meet Adrina Durham, MA candidate in International Development. She's also pursuing a certificate in humanitarian assistance.



Describe your background.

I attended the University of Alabama and received a bachelor of science in geology and anthropology. I'm half American and half Persian, so I have grown up with an interest in culture and international relationships.

What brought you to Korbel?

After deciding not to become a geophysicist, I had the desire to make more of an impact. So I hopped on a ship and traveled around the world - from Hong Kong to Amsterdam -and took post-graduate courses in international relations aboard the vessel. In order to start a career in this field, I knew I would need a master's degree; there-fore, after applying to several graduate schools, I was grateful to find myself at Korbel. Plus, I love mountains. Voila.

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

I enjoyed a class I took with Dr. Tahira Khan about religion and politics in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Obviously, the material touched on a region that I am interested in but she fluidly linked the history of religion in this region with current conflicts. It really provided a comprehensive view of the situation and highlighted the concept of understanding the past to deal with the future.

What are your long-term interests?

Finish grad school. Visit Morocco. Start a career in providing better water resources to underdeveloped villages. Visit Nepal. Save the world.

What does international development mean? How do you view the field?

I view the field as the practical application of several disciplines (anthropology, economics, etc.) to improving, or developing, a community's well-being in terms of alleviating poverty and increasing health and food security.

How will a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance benefit you?

The certificate appears to be very beneficial in gaining the hands-on tools to contribute to future crises. For example, I am now taking a class on humanitarian aid in complex emergencies, which I think greatly complements the international development major and my interests in the developing world.

What is something you didn't expect from Korbel?

The lack of social interaction because of the crammed, 10-week quarters. Semesters are much more conducive to learning over a longer period of time and developing friendships.

If Korbel had a theme song, what would it be?

We are the World, by USA for Africa. Is that too cheesy?

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