MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

As we conclude the Winter Quarter at the Josef Korbel School, the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate students are busy planning for their summer internships and post-graduation jobs. In this edition, we invite you to learn more about the interests and experiences of some of our students. We also highlight the events that the Humanitarian Assistance Program hosted during the quarter. In particular, we collaborated with the Global Health Affairs Program to organize a week of events in honor of International Women’s Day. All events were organized by a committee of dedicated students. You can read more about International Women’s Day on page 2.

As always, we welcome your questions and comments.

Enjoy,
Chen Reis

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STAYING CONNECTED

Website

Check out our website at: http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance
Learn more about the Humanitarian Assistance Program and our current students.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/du.haprog

Be sure to “like” HA’s Facebook page and stay up to date with news both here at the Josef Korbel School and around the world.

Email

Contact the Humanitarian Assistance Program at haprog@du.edu and the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG) at haarg@du.edu.

Twitter

@DU_humanitarian

Follow our tweets for the latest buzz in the humanitarian world and live-tweeting during HA events.
The Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs Programs joined efforts to celebrate International Women’s Day 2015 with a week of events starting on March 2nd. A student committee organized a panel discussion, film screening, career talk, and a collection for SafeHouse Denver.

**Film Screening: A Walk to Beautiful**
Korbel students watched the award-winning documentary, *A Walk to Beautiful*. This documentary tells the story of rural women who make their way to Ethiopia’s capital seeking treatment for obstetric fistula, a serious complication of childbirth. GHA certificate student, Jordan Rief, spoke on the issue of obstetric fistula in Ethiopia.

**Career Talk with Lara Ho**
Before speaking on the Expert Panel, Lara Ho held a round-table discussion with students about her career path and her work as a Senior Technical Advisor at the IRC. Ms. Ho advised students on how to best prepare for working in the field, and she highlighted the importance of learning another language, being flexible, and having strong interpersonal skills.

**Donations to SafeHouse Denver**
In honor of International Women’s Day, Korbel students, faculty, staff, and alumni contributed toiletries, household supplies, clothing, and other items to SafeHouse Denver, which serves victims of domestic violence and their children through an emergency shelter and a non-residential Counseling and Advocacy Center. For more information, visit: www.SafeHouse-Denver.org.

**Student Planning Committee**
The International Women’s Day events were organized by a student planning committee: Roop Wazir, Vessi Radieva, Silvia Roscot, Dani Murphy, Julia Hanby, Amanda Neiman, Kara Page, Sarah May, Amber Prainito, Robin Colombin, and Chris Thurman with the support of the Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs staff.

**Expert Panel: Women on the Frontlines of Ebola**
The Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs Program hosted an expert panel discussion on the issue of gender within the recent Ebola outbreak. Panelists were Lara Ho, Martha Anker (via Adobe Connect), and Louana George. Lara Ho is a Senior Technical Advisor with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) based in Washington, DC. She has supported health programs in Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Thailand, and Myanmar. Martha Anker is a statistician, retired from the World Health Organization (WHO), who has extensive experience in rapid assessment methodologies and has researched gender issues throughout her career, most recently working on the effects of sex and gender on disease transmission and control during outbreaks of epidemic-prone infectious diseases. Louana George has recently returned from Liberia, where she helped to set up an Ebola Treatment Unit through the organization AmeriCares sponsored by WHO and the Ministry of Health in the city Buchanan.

The panel discussion focused on the sex and gender issues that are relevant in the recent and past Ebola outbreaks. The panelists discussed the need for these issues to be incorporated into preparedness for future epidemics. HA certificate student, Roop Wazir, facilitated the panel discussion.
Speaker Review

Every Quarter, the Humanitarian Assistance Program strives to bring relevant guest speakers and other humanitarian assistance related events to the Josef Korbel School. See below for a recap of events from the Winter Quarter.

Yoni Bock
When the U.S. Military Does Foreign Disaster Relief: Lessons Learned and Best Practices

On February 17th, Yoni Bock spoke with Korbel students about the U.S. military's involvement in the international response to natural disasters. He discussed the lessons learned from the Department of Defense's experiences in recent disaster responses within the broader context of how the U.S. government approaches foreign disaster relief. Mr. Bock highlighted the importance of communication and coordination between key players, including the U.S. military, governments, NGOs, and UN organizations. He also discussed the significance of the US military having a clear doctrine and understanding of its mission in foreign disaster relief. To contextualize the U.S. military's response and lessons learned, he drew upon two case studies, Hurricane Mitch and Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

Mr. Yoni Bock is a visiting Adjunct Professor at the Josef Korbel School. He taught the course, “Civil-Military Relations in Foreign Humanitarian Operations.” Mr. Bock serves as a Humanitarian Assistance Advisor for USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in Washington, DC, and he has worked with OFDA for nearly ten years.

Jeremy Harkey and Pilar Robledo
Careers with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees: the challenges and joys

On February 26th, Jeremy Harkey and Pilar Robledo shared their experiences working with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their insights on pursuing a career in the field of humanitarian assistance. They spoke about their career paths, the many positive aspects of their work, as well as the challenges of working abroad with UNHCR.

According to Mr. Harkey and Ms. Robledo, working at the UNHCR has helped them to develop diverse skill sets and given them opportunities to do field-based work that is highly rewarding and engaging. For students that plan to pursue a career with UNHCR, Mr. Harkey and Ms. Robledo recommended gaining relevant work experience and regional and thematic expertise.

Jeremy Harkey is an independent research consultant and program design and operations specialist who focuses on humanitarian and international protection systems. He has worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean with UNHCR. Mr. Harkey is an Adjunct Professor at the Josef Korbel School, and he will teach “International Protection in Humanitarian Settings” in the Spring. Pilar Robledo has spent the last six years working for the UNHCR in Islamabad, Pakistan. Before joining UNHCR, Ms. Robledo worked for the International Rescue Committee and Save the Children.
Jessie Cochran

What is your background?
I grew up in Leesburg, Georgia and knew from an early age I wanted to eventually have a career where I could assist others. After graduating from Furman University with a degree in history in 2005, I moved to Washington, DC and began a career in non-profit fundraising and event planning. I spent more than eight years in that field, first raising funds for a dementia care unit at a retirement community for retired military officers and later planning fundraising events to support the National Building Museum's exhibitions and education programs. Even with a career raising money to help others and participating in numerous volunteer activities, I knew I needed to do more with my skills to help those in the most need worldwide.

Why did you choose Korbel?
I honestly chose Korbel because of the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate program, the Field Operations class, and the opportunity to participate in the spring HA Crisis Simulation. I knew that if I wanted to be a humanitarian I needed to go to a school where I could have opportunities to learn and experience as much about the career as possible.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?
Getting into the HA Certificate Program had been my goal since before I applied to Korbel! I really enjoyed my first few humanitarian courses and knew I had made the right decision to come to Korbel and apply for the certificate program. I realized the certificate program would teach me what I needed to know in order to be a humanitarian worker.

What certificate program courses have stood out most to you?
The Introduction to Humanitarian Systems course was a good starting point for my humanitarian studies because it lays the foundation of knowledge that all the other courses build upon.

Of course, Field Ops with Jerry Montgomery is a high point of the certificate program as it is an incredibly practical hands-on study in preparing and operationalizing a humanitarian response. I think that is a class I will be drawing on for years to come. I also enjoyed Health & Humanitarian Aid as I felt it showed how each sector of humanitarian assistance affects the health and well-being of beneficiaries.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
I am most interested in organizing humanitarian responses and equipping colleagues with the supplies and materials they need to carry out programs. I hope to begin a career in humanitarian logistics and operations, perhaps with an international NGO, when I complete my studies at Korbel.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
I think the HA certificate will show future employers that I am serious about a career in the humanitarian field, especially as a career-changer. The fact that I am spending two years of study dedicated to humanitarian assistance and earning the certificate will go a long way in displaying my commitment to my new career path.

Silvia Roscot

What is your background?
I’m an ethnic Romanian who grew up in the Republic of Moldova, a small country in Eastern Europe with a rich history and a beautiful culture. I moved to the United States my senior year of high school. After graduation, I pursued a BA in Political Science at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. While in school, I interned for CIFAL Atlanta, a training center of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). After I graduated with my BA, I joined CIFAL Atlanta as a project manager and had the opportunity to be at the forefront of several unique projects such as the Americas Education Forum held in Cali, Colombia. Prior to joining Korbel, I was part of the World Food Programme in Ecuador. I was primarily working within the Emergency Relief and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit. I was involved in an array of programs including designing and implementing food-security programs, as well as drafting inter-agency contingency planning for emergency relief.

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Silvia Roscot (continued)

Why did you choose Korbel?
I chose Korbel because of the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate. Also, I liked the diversity offered by the MA Curriculum.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?
Working with a humanitarian agency exposed me to a host of issues. I wanted to further develop my knowledge of these critical issues. The certificate complements and enriches my previous work experience and provides an avenue for interaction with like-minded people and future colleagues. Also, all the professors teaching classes within the certificate program have real life experiences, which make for a fantastic opportunity to learn about the realities of the humanitarian sphere far beyond the classroom environment.

What certificate program courses have stood out most to you?
The certificate courses that shaped my understanding of the humanitarian field include: Field Operation in Humanitarian Context, Critical Issues in Humanitarian Assistance, Contemporary Issues in Refugee Studies and Protection in Humanitarian Context.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
Food Assistance Emergency Relief Officer is my dream job, and I know that having my Humanitarian Assistance certificate and my MA in Development will put me on the right track to achieve my goal.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
The certificate has solidified my understanding of the humanitarian system and helped me advance my knowledge and skills. The program is preparing me to be a more conscious and informed aid worker.

Roop Wazir

What is your background?
I was born in Bhopal, India but was primarily raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I went to the University of Arizona and received my Bachelor’s degree in International Studies with a focus track in international development and public health. During college, I interned for the International Rescue Committee as an assistant program coordinator for their local Refugee Youth Coalition through AmeriCorps. Following college, I interned at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation in their development and prevention departments.

Why did you choose Korbel?
It was clear to me after my undergraduate experience that I wanted to continue my studies in international development, but I also wanted the ability to focus on health and humanitarian settings. Given that the Korbel School offered certificates in Global Health and Humanitarian Assistance, as well as the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group, I knew it was worth looking into. After I researched professors and classes offered by Korbel, I knew it would be a great fit for me.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?
When I first arrived at Korbel, I had decided to pursue the Global Health Program, given my background in public health. However, during my first term, I took Health and Humanitarian Aid, and I realized that while I was still very much interested in global health, I wanted to focus my studies on the health concerns of displaced populations, especially women. I saw that there was still a gap in the availability of quality sexual, reproductive and maternal health services for women in humanitarian settings, and I felt that the HA certificate could equip me with the skills and knowledge to help address these issues in a future career.

(Continued on page 6)
Roop Wazir (continued)

What certificate program courses have stood out most to you?
Health and Humanitarian Aid was a fantastic course which provided a great overview of the health challenges that face humanitarian contexts. Protection in Humanitarian Crises was also a great class which encouraged debate and discussion and pushed my perceptions of what protection in humanitarian assistance constitutes. Field Operations in Humanitarian Crises was an extremely challenging course but also one of the most valuable. Our professor, Jerry Montgomery provided an immense amount of practical knowledge about how humanitarian operations are logistically organized and implemented. The group project pushed me outside my comfort zone and challenged me to develop skills which I had not previously explored.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
My goal is to work for an international non-governmental organization to help design and implement programs which address issues related to gender-based violence, as well as the provision of quality sexual, reproductive and maternal health services in humanitarian settings.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
The HA certificate provides the theoretical knowledge of the structure of the humanitarian system as well as the political and ethical elements of humanitarian aid; this is then supplemented by a wide range of practical skills. The certificate program has provided many opportunities to develop my professional interests and skills through coursework, participation in the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group, networking opportunities, an internship component and an upcoming simulation exercise.

Internship Profile: Jimmie Braley

Jimmie interned at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

Title of Internship and Description of Duties:
My official title was Stagiaire, which is French for Intern or Trainee. It isn’t a glamorous title, and fortunately I’m not one for glamour. Specifically, I was Stagiaire - Healthcare in Detention (OP_ASSIST_SANTE), which is Operations_Assistance_Health.

Why did you choose this internship?
For me, an opportunity to work everyday under the roof of the International Committee of the Red Cross was something truly special. Working in operations, and witnessing first-hand how humanitarian aid at a major institution is coordinated is really a first-class experience. (Continued)
Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG) provides students with supervised opportunities to be involved in needs assessment, program evaluation and other forms of applied research with humanitarian organizations.

Featured HAARG Researcher - Sarah May

Sarah is a second-year International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Certificate. She joined HAARG in September ‘14.

Why were you interested in joining HAARG?
I was interested in joining HAARG because I am interested in conducting humanitarian assistance related research after finishing my degree. I also think that research is an integral component of any successful humanitarian response.

What project(s) have you worked on with HAARG?
I worked with Save the Children US on two projects. For the first project I compiled a literature review to support Save the Children staff members working on a program to combat sexual violence in the mining zones in DRC. For the second project I created a data collection tool which I used to categorize the measurable impact indicators of a variety of Save the Children’s child protection projects. Currently, I am working with IRC’s Research, Evaluation and Learning Unit to examine the evidence-base underpinning key interventions in acute emergency contexts. The end project will be a “gap map” of the available evidence and possibly a report as well.

What are some of the agency-related challenges you’ve encountered while working on these projects?
As I’m sure we all know, there is always more work to be done in humanitarian assistance! Because of this, supervisors often have a lot on their plates, which can make occasionally make it a challenge to get last minute feedback or meetings. I found that scheduling a regular check-in early in the project is helpful.

What is your ideal job post-graduation?
I would love to work in research in the field of education in emergencies!

How has HAARG helped you to develop the skills/experience required to be competitive for such a position?
In addition to being able to practice some of my research skills, I have learned in classes, HAARG has also been a great networking opportunity, a great perk since there are not any humanitarian assistance NGOs in Denver. Our monthly professional development sessions have also been quite helpful.

What advice do you have for others interested in joining HAARG?
Join! HAARG is a great opportunity to meet people working in the field of humanitarian assistance while participating in valuable projects for the partner organizations.

HAARG Training Session: Intro to GIS

On January 23rd, Christi Yoder, a Korbel alumna, offered an introduction to GIS training session which was open to all HAARG researchers and other interested students. The training session familiarized students with GIS technology and explored examples of GIS in humanitarian contexts. Students were introduced to both commercial and open source GIS programs that can be useful in a variety of contexts. The training demonstrated that a command of GIS is an asset for pursuing several types of positions in the field of humanitarian assistance.

Christi Yoder graduated from the Josef Korbel School in June 2014 with a MA in International Human Rights and a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance. In 2014, she received a GIS certificate from FRCC. Since then, Christi has been working part time at Enketo collecting user stories, and has also been involved in putting together GIS maps for projects in Haiti, Nepal and Central America.
Global Health Advanced First Aid Class

On November 23th-25th, nine students participated in the Global Health Advanced First Aid Class at the Josef Korbel School. The course was taught by faculty from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine. The class is designed to prepare global workers, travelers, and students to identify and respond to common first aid, emergency, and serious medical situations in an international, austere environment.

The Global Health Advanced First Aid Class focused on prevention, assessment, and self-treatment. Instruction included a combination of lecture, discussion, hands-on practice, and scenarios. Emphasis was placed on pre-travel preparation, emergency assessment, neurological injuries or illness, respiratory injuries, wounds, musculoskeletal injuries, hypothermia, and litter building. There was also discussion on what items should be included in a personal health care kit for travel in austere environments. In addition to the advanced first aid instruction, students had the opportunity to take an additional CPR training. After three days of lecture and hands-on experience, students were awarded a certificate in Global Health Advanced First Aid.

We are pleased to offer this course again at the Josef Korbel School on March 20th-22nd.

Students who completed the Global Health Advanced First Aid Class.
Laura Lloyd-Braff

Laura Lloyd-Braff is a Technical Officer at WHO Ukraine. She graduated from the Josef Korbel School in 2014 with a MA in International Development and Certificates in Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs.

What is your career background?
I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine from 2009 to 2012. Right after leaving Ukraine, I enrolled at Korbel and became involved in both the HA and GHA programs. Needing to fulfill the requirements for both certificates, I interned over the summer with WHO’s Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) in the Disaster Risk Management unit. I worked on analyzing WHO’s response to the 2012 Typhoon Bopha. After graduating from Korbel, I had the opportunity to return to WPRO as a consultant in response to the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan. I worked there for about eight months, assessing health facilities that had been damaged or destroyed by the typhoon and analyzing the WHO response to the emergency. While I was working in the Philippines, my former supervisor from my internship contacted me on Linkedin, telling me that she had recently become the WHO Ukraine Emergency Coordinator, and asked if I would be interested in working under her in Ukraine as a field coordinator, as I had some experience in the country and knew the language. So, in January of this year, I found myself back in Ukraine as a part of the emergency response team to the conflict in the east.

Please describe your job and what you find most challenging.
My position is Field Coordinator for one of the three field offices WHO has set up in the east in response to the emergency. I organize health cluster meetings, meet individually with partners and other agencies to get an understanding of which actors are doing what activities, and cooperate with the government and health authorities and local partners to coordinate different health activities in the oblast. I am also working to implement two WHO projects supported by ECHO and CERF funds. First, we are cooperating with the Ukrainian Red Cross to set up mobile clinics in areas affected by the conflict. Right now, we are trying to identify communities that would benefit from these mobile clinics, looking for areas with high numbers of IDPs who have poor access to healthcare. Second, I work with a doctor and an interpreter/assistant to assess hospitals and understand how they have been affected by the conflict. Some hospitals in Eastern Ukraine have been damaged due to shelling; others are dealing with big influxes of war wounded and IDPs. We try to identify if there has been a strain on the hospital’s resources and figure out how to fill any needs. The biggest challenge has probably been getting used to a new role with new responsibilities. When I was working in the Philippines with WHO, I was doing more Information Management, which was a bit more within my comfort zone. Here in Ukraine I am doing much more coordination, and it has been a lot of learning by doing.

How did your time at Korbel contribute to your career development?
My HA classes helped me understand the humanitarian system and the roles of different types of organizations within it. That was really beneficial to me because once working, no one really wants to take the time to explain to you what OCHA does or how the cluster system works. My GHA classes were also useful in giving me a broad overview of public health. Epidemiology and Major Diseases were particularly helpful in introducing me to some key concepts that come up in my work. The internship was, of course, invaluable, and ended up ultimately leading me to the position I have now. (Continued)
Alumni Profile (continued)

See what the Josef Korbel School graduates are doing now, how they feel their education contributed to their career development and what advice they offer to upcoming grads looking to enter the humanitarian field.

Laura Lloyd-Braff

Do you have any words of wisdom for Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?

Develop a specialty. Aid organizations are generally composed of experts in different fields (doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc). Of course, it is rather impossible to become an expert in any of these fields during a two-year international studies masters’ program, so focus on the tangible skills you can develop now; excel, GIS, writing, and information management skills can all be seen as huge assets and can get you in the door to your desired organization. Once you are working, you can then really identify what direction you want to take your career and you can pursue more education to develop your expertise. Your master’s at Korbel may not be your terminal degree, but you do not need to become the leading expert in your field before you start working. Many of my very experienced colleagues have told me that they are constantly searching for educational opportunities to better themselves professionally.

Also, try to consider the HA internship requirement an opportunity, rather than a nuisance. Think carefully about the organization with which you want to intern and identify what you want to get out of that internship. Working for a small NGO doing on-the-ground field work for two months may be really interesting but that NGO may not have the funds to take you on as a paid staff afterwards. Internships with the larger agencies and organizations may be somewhat less interesting and involve more desk work, but those are the organizations that have more of a capacity to hire you later on (for interesting field work).

Do not hesitate to contact me with questions at any time: laura.braff@gmail.com. Let me know if you find yourself in Ukraine!

Chester Lee Brinser III Endowed Scholarship Fund

Congratulations to our 2014/2015 Brinser Endowed Scholarship recipients: Roop Wazir, Silvia Roscot, and Jessie Cochran!

Students at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies who are completing the Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance are eligible for consideration for the Chester Lee Brinser III Endowed Scholarship Fund. Recipients are selected from Humanitarian Assistance Certificate students based on their contributions toward and demonstrated commitment to humanitarian service. We are pleased to announce that Roop Wazir, Silvia Roscot, and Jessie Cochran are this year’s scholarship recipients.

Chester Lee Brinser III is a well regarded alumnus of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies (formerly Graduate School of International Studies) who was devoted to a life of helping others. He completed a master’s degree, emphasizing development issues, and graduated with honors in 1997. After completing his studies, he spent the next four years working in Nicaragua. Upon Chester Lee's unfortunate and untimely passing (in March of 2006), his mother, Joann Upchurch, and sister, Allison Jeffords, graciously created a fund in his honor. Although the Program in Humanitarian Assistance was not in existence at the time of his matriculation and graduation, he very much exemplified the principles of humanitarianism throughout his life.