About the Korbel Dinner

The Korbel Dinner is the principal fundraising event of the Josef Korbel School and is essential for the continued refinement and expansion of the school’s programs, scholarships and centers, which are designed to serve the School’s students and the community at large. The first dinner was held in 1998 and has grown every year since, becoming one of Denver’s major social events.

Honorees

The Korbel Dinner is also an opportunity for the community to recognize those local leaders who exemplify the School’s mission as set forth by its founder and first dean, Josef Korbel.

University of Denver International Bridge Builders Award

The Bridge Builders Award honors persons who have distinguished themselves as builders of ties between Colorado and the world beyond our national frontiers.

University of Denver Josef Korbel Humanitarian Award

Eleven years ago, the Josef Korbel School established the Josef Korbel Humanitarian Award to recognize individuals who have given concrete expression to the values underlying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through unusually generous philanthropic work within the Denver community.

50th Anniversary Celebration

2014 marks the Josef Korbel School’s 50th Anniversary. The School invites the community to participate in the Korbel Dinner to celebrate its rich legacy and to look forward to its exciting future. As part of the celebration, the School has invited noteworthy Alumna and 66th U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to be the evening’s keynote speaker.

History of the Josef Korbel School

Josef Korbel

Josef Korbel was a scholar and diplomat. His diplomatic career began in 1937 as a press attaché in the Czechoslovak legation in Belgrade. In 1939, he fled Czechoslovakia to London after the Nazi invasion and joined the Czech government in exile under Edvard Beneš. During the war years he also worked with the BBC on their daily broadcasts to Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Upon returning to Czechoslovakia in 1945, Korbel became the youngest serving Czech ambassador and was assigned to Yugoslavia where he remained until the Communist coup in 1948. Korbel was subsequently named a delegate to the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan and served as its chair. In 1949, he was granted political asylum in the United States. He then moved with his young family to Colorado and joined the University of Denver.
Social Science Foundation for one year as a visiting professor and to write his first of several scholarly books. His one-year professorship turned into a lifelong passion, and Korbel remained at the University until his death in 1977.

Throughout his career, Korbel helped pioneer the field of international studies and was a recognized scholar on Central Europe and Soviet foreign policy. He was passionate about teaching and watching his students’ successes, and he was serious about academic scholarship. He was rigorous and demanding in his research and expected the same from the School’s faculty and students. His books on Yugoslavia, Poland and Czechoslovakia established him as a leading authority on post-World War II Central Europe; his 1954 Danger in Kashmir is still considered a classic for its penetrating diplomatic analysis of a territorial dispute and armed conflict with implications for international security.

Though Josef Korbel died in 1977, his legacy lives on in the establishment of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, named in his honor, and in the Josef Korbel School’s many distinguished graduates. But what is also quite remarkable, not only for the University, but for the nation as a whole, is that Josef Korbel mentored two U.S. Secretaries of State - his daughter, Madeleine K. Albright, the 64th and first woman Secretary of State, and his star student at the University of Denver, 66th Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

**Graduate School of International Studies**
In 1964, with enthusiastic support of former DU Chancellor Ben Cherrington, and with Josef Korbel’s distinguished academic and scholarly career and administrative acumen, the Graduate School of International Studies was founded. Korbel became its first dean.

**Josef Korbel School of International Studies**
The Graduate School of International Studies was renamed Josef Korbel School of International Studies on May 28, 2008, thanks to the family of Josef Korbel. The new name recognizes that Korbel’s life and work serve as the intellectual pillars of the school, and that his spirit continues to inspire students and faculty.

### Today and Beyond

Today the Josef Korbel School of International Studies is one of the world’s leading schools for the study of international relations. Located in Denver, Colorado, the School is a community of global thinkers harnessing the innovative spirit of the Rocky Mountain West to examine global issues from multiple perspectives and create actionable solutions.

Propelled by its rich history and legacy, the Josef Korbel School is poised to become a state-of-the-art center for preparing future global leaders. The strategic initiatives implemented over the past five decades have helped establish the Josef Korbel School globally as a premier educational institution. Further boosting recognition throughout the world, the School boasts a number of renowned faculty members, an accomplished dean, and a number of alumni who play prominent roles on the world stage. An abbreviated list of prominent alumni includes:

- Condoleezza Rice, 66th U.S. Secretary of State; former national security advisor; former provost, Stanford University
- Heraldo Muñoz, Foreign Minister of Chile
- Mohamed Javad Zarif, Iranian Foreign Minister
George W. Casey, Jr., 36th chief of staff of the United States Army; former commanding general, multinational force, Iraq
Cindy Courville, former U.S. ambassador to the African Union

Anna & John J. Sie International Relations Complex
On March 25, 2014, the Josef Korbel School announced receipt of a $17 million gift from philanthropists Anna and John J. Sie. The donation will support the School through the construction of a 43,000 square foot building and marks the largest single private gift in the Josef Korbel School’s 50-year history.

“Anna and I are both immigrants to the United States and we understand the importance of global education and engagement. It is not only the cornerstone of world peace but also economic advancement,” said John J. Sie. “With what Josef Korbel and his family have built, we believe the Korbel School is poised to be one of the top three schools in the world preparing future global leaders. We are proud to be able to support Ambassador Hill in this important endeavor.”