Greetings!

This academic year, the Humanitarian Assistance Program welcomed 11 new certificate students with a wide range of interests and experiences. We also welcomed back our second-year certificate students who completed internships with humanitarian organizations such as OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, and InterAction. During the Fall Quarter, we were pleased to host several excellent guest speakers. Three alumni of the Josef Korbel School discussed their career paths and shared insights and advice for current students who are interested in working in the field of humanitarian assistance.

In this edition, we invite you to learn more about the great accomplishments of our current students and alumni. As always, we welcome your feedback and questions.

Enjoy,
Chen

**STAYING CONNECTED**

**Website**

Check out our website at:

du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance.html

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 Certificate Program prepares students to work in the humanitarian field. The program provides students with the theoretical and practical underpinnings for humanitarian work which is technically sound, engages with affected communities, responds to the diverse needs of affected populations and sets the stage for sustainable and inclusive recovery and development.
New HA Certificate Students

Emma Dunn  
International Development  
I hope to pursue a career at the intersection of law and humanitarian assistance, specifically in regions of protracted conflict and forced migration issues.

Stephanie Jones  
International Development  
I am interested in alleviating suffering by meeting immediate needs during sudden-onset crises, through diligent logistical planning and rapid, responsible program implementation in the early stages of a humanitarian emergency.

Rachel Dyussengaliyev  
International Human Rights  
My main interests include refugee protection and disaster response.

Michelle Lampton  
International Human Rights  
My main interests are in humanitarian assistance and response, especially in logistics and program implementation.

Chris Thurman  
International Development  
I am interested in gender-based violence prevention, protection, and gender-related issues in conflict and disaster areas.

Rougui Toure  
International Human Rights  
I am very interested in Refugee Rights in times of crisis and migrants’ rights.

Elayna McCall  
International Development  
My main interests include the promotion of human mobility and the protection of human rights during and after migration for refugees and other people of concern.

Catie Fowler  
International Development  
My primary interest is in civil conflict, post-crisis diaspora, and refugee rights.

Adedamola Ladipo  
International Development  
My main interests include disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shanea Kemen  
International Studies  
My main interests in the humanitarian sector are in refugee studies, particularly in the Middle East.

Sandy Pham  
International Development  
I am interested in protracted refugee crises, the protection of aid workers, and the coordination of logistics in humanitarian aid settings.

We extend a warm welcome to the 11 new students who have been admitted to the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate Program this year!

Full profiles for each HA student are posted on our website.

haprog@du.edu  
http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance
Every Quarter, the Humanitarian Assistance Program strives to bring guest speakers and other relevant events to the Josef Korbel School. See below for a recap of events from the Fall Quarter.

**Jeff Franklin**

**Career Talk**

On September 24th, the Humanitarian Assistance Program invited Jeff Franklin to speak to students about how he entered the humanitarian field after graduating from the Josef Korbel School in 2005 with an MA in International Development. He has been in various technical and leadership positions with established NGOs ever since and has responded to humanitarian disasters, led emergency and development teams, and represented agencies in seven countries. Jeff was most recently a Regional Advisor in Asia for the Norwegian branch of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement (IFRC) and was in Nepal during the devastating April 2015 earthquake.

During his talk, Mr. Franklin addressed the topic that eats away at most students, especially our second years: “OMG, what do I do next and how will it all turn out?” He urged students to get the most out of their time at the Joseph Korbel School by taking practical classes and participating in simulations such as our Humanitarian Crisis Simulation this coming Spring quarter. He also emphasized the importance of building up networks and relationships to further career goals. For him, an internship with CARE in Vietnam blossomed into a job prospect. He encouraged students to volunteer for every opportunity that comes their way and to grow from the experience they gain from each of them. He told students, “you won't have all of the skills you need right away, but you will learn them on the job.”

**Tim Melvin**

**Career Talk**

On October 16th, Tim Melvin shared with the Josef Korbel School students his experiences from working with countries undergoing civil and political transition for nine years. Tim Melvin graduated from the Josef Korbel School with an MA in International Studies in 2006. Since then, he has gained extensive experience working with community leaders and government partners to develop strategies aimed at reducing the sources of instability, rebuilding fractured economies, and manage diverse teams during times of crisis. He has worked for several well-known NGOs and was most recently working as the Country Director of Building Markets in Liberia.

Mr. Melvin discussed his dynamic career and the crucial role his interest in conflict history played in shaping it. He gave students advice on the interviewing process and the dynamic interview settings of different institutions. He urged students to reapply for positions and to not be discouraged if they are not accepted the first time. He reflected on his experiences in both isolated areas and conflict areas to emphasize the importance of adapting to one's organizational environment. He encouraged students to take positions that most people are unwilling to take in order to gain experience and test themselves. Throughout the career talk, Mr. Melvin was open to student questions. All topics were welcome, and he addressed a wide range of questions from how he experienced the health care system during the Ebola outbreak to how students should select upcoming internships.
Karin Wachter
The Continuity of Risk: A Qualitative Study on Congolese Refugee Women in the U.S.

On October 15th, the Humanitarian Assistance Program hosted Karin Wachter. Ms. Wachter spoke about her previous work in humanitarian assistance and her current research. She spent ten years working with the International Rescue Committee as a humanitarian aid worker and senior technical advisor focused on violence against women and girls in war and displacement. Her expertise includes intervention design, logic models, and program monitoring and evaluation. Her current research at the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) in Austin, Texas includes a focus on women’s experiences with social support in forced migration.

Ms. Wachter presented the study entitled *The Continuity of Risk: A three-city study of Congolese women at risk resettled in the U.S.*, which she co-led at IDVSA. By 2019, the U.S. plans to resettle approximately 50,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This recent study was conducted to identify and understand the challenges, risks, and strengths of adult Congolese refugee women resettled in the U.S. to help policymakers, service providers, and other stakeholders prepare for their arrival. The findings of this study delve into the complex and dynamic nature of Congolese refugee women’s resettlement in the U.S. Throughout her presentation she highlighted the importance of addressing the intersection of pre and post migration factors during resettlement.

Jerry Montgomery
Career Talk

On November 5th, Jerry Montgomery offered Josef Korbel School students advice on mapping out their careers and discussed how his own career developed. Mr. Montgomery received his MA in International Development from the Josef Korbel school, and has had thirteen years of experience in both humanitarian and development sectors. He is currently the Humanitarian Advisor for the Department of Humanitarian Response at Save the Children where he works to increase humanitarian response preparedness. For emergency responders to gain insight into emergency response mechanisms, he creates comprehensive scenario courses for NGOs.

During his talk, Mr. Montgomery urged students to map out strategies for finding a job. He recommended using ReliefWeb as a source to see the type of skills employers are looking for and how students can position themselves to gain those skills. Many of those desired skills come from field experience, so he encouraged students to step away from headquarters as well as be willing to move to locations that are not ideal. “Your first job probably won't be your dream job.” He reminded students that they also have a lot to offer in terms of flexibility, reliability, and experience, and motivated them to not give up on the job hunt. There are volunteer opportunities, internships, job fair events, and online courses to help students market themselves.
Interning with WFP Uganda and OCHA

On October 22nd, HA students, Silvia Roscot and Jessie Cochran, shared their experience and advice on HA internships. Silvia Roscot discussed her internship with WFP Uganda over the summer, and Jessie Cochran Skyped in to tell students about her ongoing internship with OCHA in Geneva.

Silvia Roscot is an MA candidate in International Development with a Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance. She worked as a Programme Assistant Intern with World Food Programme Uganda in the Emergency Humanitarian Action Sub-Unit (EHA).

Her main role was overseeing the implementation of WFP activities done by the cooperating partners. She offered students tips to prepare them for their upcoming internships including learning how to use excel and knowing the organization you are entering into. She encouraged students to ask to help and for help as well as to be "politely persistent.” In her experience, Silvia learned that an organization values fast learners, flexibility, service orientation, and problem solving skills.

Jessie Cochran is an MA candidate in International Development with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance.

She is currently a Humanitarian Affairs Intern at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Geneva, Switzerland. She is conducting an evaluation of OCHA's Global Mapping of Emergency Stockpiles online tool to determine its usefulness in emergency preparedness and response worldwide. Jessie reminded students to network, work hard, and contribute to their internships.

Why did you choose this internship?

Through my studies at Korbel, I became interested in finding a six-month internship in a humanitarian field office, working with refugees. I decided to look for a longer internship so I could truly integrate myself in a community and use the experience to further my career goals. Also I had been told by other UN interns that field offices were looking for interns who could commit six months to the position. I sought out a position with UNHCR in Latin America, as I already spoke fluent Spanish.
Elayna Continued

How did you get the internship?
Using reliefweb as my main search engine for humanitarian jobs, I applied for three different protection internships in UNHCR-Latin American field offices. I had three interviews and the Ibarra field office offered me the position.

What did you take into the internship from your classes or experiences at Korbel?
The Spring 2015 quarter I enrolled in International Protection in Humanitarian Context and Contemporary Issues in Refugee Studies with professors Jeremy Harkey and Courtney Welton-Mitchell, respectively. Both classes have been extremely helpful in my current position, as every day the topic of Durable Solutions comes up in meetings and interviews. Also I believe that using my knowledge of the Cartagena Declaration from Professor Harkey’s class during the interview helped me obtain the position. Professor Sally Hamilton’s class on Gender and Development has been extremely relevant to understanding women in Latin American culture and their role in the development process. As well as Professor Chen Reis’ class on the Introduction to Humanitarian Systems, which introduced me to the foundational standards for international protection.

How do you think it will affect your career path?
Six months in a UNHCR field office has definitely led me to look for positions in human rights advocacy and migration research. This role has given me a greater perspective on human mobility networks and migration systems in South America. I have seen firsthand that there is still a great need for humanitarian assistance in Latin America, especially in promoting human rights and collaborating with government institutions to make sure vulnerable populations have access to health, education, legal services, and physical security. Collaborating with local government ministries, NGOs and other multilateral organizations is crucial for building capacity for the integration of refugees in the host community. This internship has allowed me the chance to develop an expertise in international protection and provided me with a network of professional contacts for future career possibilities.

Amber Prainito, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Geneva, Switzerland
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Volunteer Researcher

I am conducting research into the gendered nature of dignity in the hopes of being able to better inform programming for the societies going forward, including at the upcoming International Conference here in Geneva. My duties include conducting a literature review, interviewing key informants in person here in Geneva and via Skype if abroad (usually at different organizations, including IFRC, ICRC, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, etc), as well as writing the report. My internship is loosely structured with a lot of freedom given by my supervisor, but we have weekly meetings to check in on progress and troubleshoot problems.

Why did you choose this internship?
I was presented with the opportunity to do this research and jumped at the chance. It was not a position I applied for, but more of one that my supervisor and I created. Because of this I was able to have some say in the direction and methodology of the project. It doesn't hurt that the topic is very interesting to me, and having the chance to meet with different humanitarian workers around the city is a bonus. My supervisor is also a former GenCap, and as this is a career I wish to someday have I really couldn’t pass up the opportunity to work with and learn from her.

How did you get the internship?
I got the internship through networking and luck. The process of getting an internship in Geneva is extremely difficult and competitive, so as soon as I knew I was accepted into the Korbel in Geneva
Amber Continued

program I began searching. I spoke with my boss, Director of HAARG Courtney Welton-Mitchell, to see if she knew anyone in the gender field in Geneva who would be interested in having an intern for six months. She sent out emails to contacts, one of whom was a former student of hers working at the IFRC, who then passed along my information to my eventual supervisor, who luckily had some research she wanted to get done and not enough time to do it.

**What did you take into the internship from your classes or experience at Korbel?**

I think Korbel, specifically the HA coursework, prepared me very well for this internship. I came in with a good understanding of the humanitarian world, including the different actors and the state of affairs. I also think it was important that I forged relationships with people at Korbel who were able to help me (and are still helping me) navigate my internship, including professors and staff.

**How do you think it will affect your career path?**

There's no doubt in my mind that this internship will be beneficial in terms of helping me secure a job come graduation. I have been able to connect, oftentimes face-to-face, with people I otherwise would not have been able to meet, as well as attend conferences and trainings. I already have some field experience from my time in the Peace Corps, so it was important to show that I could also work in an office and research effectively.

Julia Hanby, InterAction

**Why did you choose this internship?**

I chose this internship because it allowed me to explore my interests within the field of humanitarian assistance, as I had the chance to work in all of the Humanitarian Policy and Practice Team’s workstreams. I also chose this internship to gain a greater understanding of NGOs’ engagement in the humanitarian architecture.

**How did you get the internship?**

I applied through the regular application process posted on the InterAction website. Prior to applying, I visited InterAction on Korbel's DC Career Connections trip, which probably supported my application.

**What did you take into the internship from your classes or experiences at Korbel?**

Humanitarian Systems, Field Operations, and International Protection in Humanitarian Contexts were extremely helpful for preparing me for this internship. The fact that I had a foundational understanding of things like the cluster system, the IASC, and online research tools was very useful.

**How do you think it will affect your career path?**

This internship affirmed my interest in working in humanitarian assistance, particularly with an NGO. It was a great learning experience, and I met many incredible people during my internship. I’m sure that my experience with InterAction will be an asset in my future job search.
Expansion of the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG)!
Courtney Welton-Mitchell, HAARG Director

The Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG) has grown significantly in the past few months, accepting many new RAs at the start of Fall quarter. At the moment we have 27 research assistants and associates involved with HAARG, including 17 current students and 10 DU graduates. This is a substantial increase from the initial group of 6 RAs recruited during the first quarter of 2014. To date, 39 researchers have participated in over 40 projects through HAARG.

Relationships with organizations have also grown. To date HAARG RAs have worked with over 20 organizations including:

- United Nations agencies: OCHA, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO
- International Non-governmental Organizations: International Medical Corps, Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council, CARE, Oxfam America, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, Human Rights Watch
- Local Non-governmental Organizations/Community-based Organizations: Soulae Lespri Moun-Haiti, TPO Nepal
- Independent researchers working on grant-funded research linked to DFID and Wellcome Trust
- Independent consultants working with humanitarian agencies on GBV and other projects

Although students work from their university-base, projects span the globe and are linked to various countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. To date, project sectors have included disaster preparedness and response, violence mitigation, global health, disaster mental health, refugee livelihoods, emergency education, human rights, humanitarian logistics, and humanitarian information systems, and there are plans for expansion to additional sectors. HAARG researchers provide support for needs assessment, program evaluation, and applied research.
HAARG continued

Expansion of HAARG Continued

Most students are supervised directly by humanitarian agency-based staff and receive additional support from the HAARG director as needed. Guest speakers are invited to HAARG meetings to provide training in topics including research methods and data analyses. This past week we had a presentation from Mireia Cano, founder of GenderConsulting. She spoke about pursuing a career in gender-related humanitarian work, and emphasized the importance of finding an appropriate mentor, holding oneself to the highest standards in terms of work outputs, and being persistent when encountering obstacles. Mireia is a member of the IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project and Senior Trainer for the INSPIRE Consortium on ECHO’s Gender and Age Marker. She has worked with several UN agencies (UNFPA, OCHA, UNICEF) and NGOs (CARE, ACF, NRC and others) in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, DRC, Mali, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Thailand and Nepal. Mireia is just one example of the quality supervisors RAs are able to work with through HAARG.

An anonymous online evaluation of student and agency experience with HAARG was conducted end 2014, and again in the summer of 2015. Evaluations from agency-based supervisors and student researchers were overwhelmingly positive. Supervisor comments include: the final products were very polished, well-organized, and will be shared externally, including with donors, the [HAARG] model is great. Students have emphasized the role of HAARG in helping them to gain experience, make connections with staff in humanitarian agencies, secure internships, and be competitive during their job search.

Photo below: HAARG RAs are skilled at working remotely. During this meeting we had three RAs Skyping in, two from Geneva and one from Sudan.

For more information about HAARG visit their website http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance/practical-skills/humanitarian-assistance-applied-research-group.html
Alumni Profile

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.

Teri Smith (International Development, 2014)

Describe your job and what you find most challenging.
I work as an Information Officer (IO) in the Information Support Unit of USAID’s U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Our team writes all of the external and internal products put out by OFDA on any and all of our programs around the world. We write internal cables, talking points, humanitarian updates, and public products like the fact sheets, annual reports, and all of the other public products OFDA releases. Once I’ve been in my job a little longer, I’ll be deploying with Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) to disaster responses around the world, whether that’s something like the earthquake in Nepal, the Ebola outbreak, or the complex emergency in Syria. At this point though, I haven’t deployed yet, so my bigger stresses mostly involve getting things that I write cleared by all of the appropriate departments and striking the appropriate tone in our products, which can be a difficult balance.

What is your career background?
I worked in domestic politics as an organizer and international education as a teacher trainer before going to Korbel. I volunteered with the Red Cross for about five years, and also done some volunteering with All Hands Volunteers and Habitat for Humanity on post-disaster reconstruction programs.

How did your time at Korbel contribute to your career development?
Going to Korbel was an incredibly helpful experience for me, partially because as someone changing careers, I needed to make sure that I knew what I was talking about and had the credibility to be taken seriously. My undergraduate degrees also in international affairs, but a tighter focus on development and humanitarian issues in particular helped me to define my interests. That interest led to me getting a HA Program internship with Oxfam America, and I also had the opportunity to participate in the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG), which gave me a stronger grounding in both field and desk-based research.

What other experiences have contributed to your career development?
I think some of the things that have given me the best experiences and have set me apart from other candidates when applying for jobs have been some of the volunteer experiences I pursued. These are things I have done just because I’m interested in them, but volunteering has given me a much better perspective on the work that’s being done, and what actually goes into it, beyond the classroom or the desk-based research setting. It’s also led to some excellent opportunities like getting asked to assist with the design of a shelter program in Nepal before I graduated, because I’d worked on shelter programs before. And I’ve learned how to build an awesome septic tank. I’m always proud of that.

Do you have any words of wisdom for Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?
Know what you want and pursue it. But also know that you’re not going to do it right away. One of the biggest gripes that employers have is that people come to them with a romantic ideal of what humanitarian assistance is and what they’ll be working on. Remember that you want to position yourself with the skills for the job that you want in five or ten years, but that in the meantime, you’re going to have to pay your dues before you get that job. Long term, I want to work on shelter and settlements. That’s not what I do now. But I had coffee last week with the senior advisor for shelter and settlements at OFDA, and now he knows who I am, what I’m interested in, and he’s given me some good advice for how to get the skills to be a competitive candidate for the job I want in a few years. In the meantime, I really enjoy my current job, and I’m adding to the list of essential skills I’ve got all of the time.