A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

The Humanitarian Assistance Program welcomes 18 new students to the certificate program! Over the last year, the HA program has continued to evolve, offering students new course selections, as well as opportunities to complement classroom learning through interactions with guest speakers and participating in humanitarian crisis simulations.

In this edition of the HA quarterly newsletter, please take a moment to get to know our new students and read about what inspires them. Also, take a look at the fall quarter’s guest speaker lineup, and discover what fellow students, alums and organizations are doing in the field of humanitarian assistance.

Enjoy,
- Chen Reis

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The goal of the Humanitarian Assistance Program is to prepare 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.

STAYING CONNECTED

Portfolio - https://portfolio.du.edu/pc/port?portfolio=haprog

The HA portfolio page is also a great source for information regarding the HA program. You’ll find the latest forms for the HA certificate and concentration, as well as a monthly calendar of upcoming events here at Korbel. In addition, click the Listserv link under the “Stay in Touch!” section of the portfolio page to join our Listserv and receive our bi-weekly informational emails!

The new requirements and application forms for the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate program have recently been posted to the portfolio page. These new requirements will not affect those already admitted to the program. Please email us for more information about applying for the certificate program.

Email - haprog@du.edu

As always, feel free to email the Humanitarian Assistance Program with any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this newsletter or other HA activities!

Facebook - www.facebook.com/du.haprog

If you haven’t done so already, be sure to check out and “like” the Humanitarian Assistance Program’s facebook page. Stay up to date with HA news, both here at Korbel and around the world, through links to relevant articles, trainings and videos. Also, networking is the single most important thing you can do as you begin to seek out internships and jobs. We have set up a private facebook group for alumni networking which you can join by friending the facebook profile http://www.facebook.com/du.hap.9

YouTube - http://www.youtube.com/user/HAProgramDU

The Humanitarian Assistance Program also has a YouTube page. We will be continuing to post video recordings of recent guest speakers and other events for those who couldn’t make it to an event in person. Event videos can also be viewed on the HA portfolio page.

Stay tuned, more events will be posted soon!
HA welcomes 18 new certificate students to the certificate program!

**NEW HA CERTIFICATE STUDENTS**

**Teresa Baranowski**  
California  
I am interested in refugee policy, emergency humanitarian assistance and the United Nations.

**Cassie Crook**  
Colorado  
As an MSW student, my focus is immigrant and refugee youth. This certificate will provide the knowledge and experience to be effective with this population.

**Rachael Davis**  
Florida  
I am interested in working with refugees in post-conflict situations.

**Miriam Edwards**  
Louisiana  
The Korbel School has an excellent international program, and focusing on Humanitarian Assistance is a practical enhancement to my International Studies development concentration.

**Liyam Eloul**  
Arizona  
I am a psychosocial worker with a focus on refugees and asylum-seekers from North/East Africa and the Middle East.

**Hyshyama Hamin**  
Nepal/Sri Lanka  
My interests are gender-based violence and women’s rights issues, particularly in conflict and humanitarian situations in the South Asian region and Muslim community.

**Irina Karic**  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
I wish to shape policies in response to complex emergencies with refugee populations and IDPs with a focus on gender equality and emergency education.

**Jessica Kovarik**  
Minnesota  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Panama. I am interested in health and the provision of psychosocial support in the humanitarian assistance setting.

**Xiaoyu Li**  
China  
I am interested in China’s ethnic policies and trying to find a durable approach to combine China’s religious policies with international rules and laws.

**Amanda Livingstone**  
Illinois  
While Korbel does an excellent job of providing a theoretical foundation, I am interested in the practical, hands-on learning approach that the HA Certificate offers.

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NEW HA CERTIFICATE STUDENTS, cont...

Nathan “Paco” Mathew
New Mexico

Deborah Nicol
California
I am interested in working with women and children affected by conflict in Africa.

Kelly O'Connor
Arkansas
I am interested in working on child protection issues relating to conflict, primarily in the greater Sudan region.

Pedro Perera
Oman/Venezuela
I am interested in policy risk analysis in complex and hostile environments.

David Resetar
Louisiana
I am ultimately looking for opportunities to build operations and program capacity for organizations working in crisis and conflict areas.

Christi Yoder
Colorado
I am in the International Human Rights program. Specifically, I am interested in issues of gender-based violence in the context of conflict.

Jordan Young
Nevada
I am interested in health and infectious diseases in the humanitarian to development context.

Heather Randall
Arkansas
After conducting research about the Rwandan genocide, I joined the Humanitarian Assistance program to study refugee issues in post-conflict communities.

Corey Nelson
Phillip Price
Rhiannan Price
Timothy Schommer
Mike Smith
Lorelle Yuen

The Humanitarian Assistance Program would also like to extend its congratulations to this quarter’s HA Certificate graduating class. We wish you the best of luck with all your career endeavors!
Every quarter the HA program strives to bring relevant guest speakers and other humanitarian assistance-related events to Korbel. See below for a recap of events from the fall quarter.

**Stephanie Shanler -- October 11th**

During a lunchtime discussion at the Korbel School, Stephanie Shanler spoke to HA students regarding her work as UNICEF’s Emergency Child Protection Specialist in Kenya. She used her experience at Dadaab, the world’s largest refugee camp, as an example of cross-cutting issues in refugee and IDP scenarios. During her visit, Ms. Shanler also spoke to students during Chen Reis’ Health & Humanitarian Aid course.

Shanler discussed her career background, which includes 14 years of experience in public health, law and international humanitarian relief and development. She has worked for UNHCR and UNICEF in settings in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa that have been affected by conflict and natural disasters. Focusing on refugees and internally displaced persons, especially women and children in crises, she has been responsible for advocating on key issues with diverse stakeholders including community leaders, local and national government representatives, and military officials.

**HA Summer Internship Presentations: Kelly O’Connor & Mike Smith -- October 17th**

On October 17th, HA Certificate students Kelly O’Connor and Mike Smith presented on their summer internship experiences working in Africa.

Kelly spent two months working in Bor, Jonglei State, South Sudan with the Denver based NGO, Project Education South Sudan. She described her experience working within the Education Cluster helping to provide educational support to three villages – Konbek, Pagook and Maar. She discussed the difficulties of the project implementation process as well logistical issues regarding transportation in a country severely lacking in infrastructure.

Mike spent three months working in the rural area of Gambella, Ethiopia with the Center for Creative Leadership. During his presentation, Mike discussed his work centering on the empowerment of women and girls to become leaders of their own lives, in their homes, and in their communities with the underlying goal of reducing HIV/AIDS rates. He also discussed being involved in the grant writing process, hiring and training local staff, and the challenges of project implementation at the local level.
STUDENT PROFILES

An inside look at the background, experience and motivations of students in the Humanitarian Assistance certificate program. Find out why students chose Korbel and the Humanitarian Assistance Program, what courses they found most valuable and where they hope their academic work will take them.

Timothy Schommer

What is your background?
After graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Stout in 2002 with a BFA in Graphic Design, I worked for several years in the marketing and design field. In 2007, I joined the Peace Corps and served 2 years as a visual arts teacher at a school for the deaf in Ghana. I also worked with local entrepreneurs to establish a textiles shop and a milling business. My experience in Ghana inspired me to pursue a Master’s Degree in International Development with the intention of utilizing my communications skill sets in a more meaningful way.

Why did you choose Korbel?
I was drawn to the Korbel program because of its flexibility in allowing students to plot their own academic course and focus on the specific career tracks that interest them. I was also drawn to Humanitarian Assistance Program, which offered an additional focus within my development track. The financial benefits of Korbel's Peace Corps Fellowship program was also a major draw.

What did you choose the HA Certificate Program?
I chose the HA Certificate Program because I was interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the Humanitarian Assistance field and how it relates to the establishment of longer-term development initiatives. It also presented an opportunity to be a part of a relatively new and continually evolving program.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?
The certificate courses that stood out most to me were Peter Van Arsdale’s Humanitarian Aid in Complex Emergencies, Field Protocol & Survival, Chen Reis’ Health & Humanitarian Aid, and Kaakpema Yelapaal’a’s Mobile Technology for Development.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
I hope to utilize my background in design and marketing to pursue a career in communications within the non-profit sector. I have a keen interest in working with organizations striving to bridge the gap between short-term humanitarian relief and long-term sustainable development initiatives.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
During my time at Korbel, the HA program brought in a variety of great guest speakers. I believe the opportunity to hear directly from professionals in the field, along with the solid foundation I established through my course work, has been great preparation as I begin my job search. Being a part of the HA certificate program also kept me informed of potential internship opportunities, eventually leading to a summer internship with the Center for Civilians in Conflict in Washington, D.C. I believe these combined experiences will make me much more marketable in a very competitive job market.
What is your background?
My background is in cross-cultural psychology. I was initially research-focused and managed a lab at Stanford for a year and a half, looking at cultural effects on the expression of agency, particularly in response to Hurricane Katrina. I received a Fulbright Scholarship to Oman to replicate elements of this study following Cyclone Gonu in the Indian Ocean. During this time I became involved in clinical work at the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, including with a handful of Iraqi refugees, which piqued my interest in the experience and expression of trauma across cultures. I joined a brief Georgetown University-UNHCR medical mission to Syria where I trained Iraqi peer support volunteers in individual and group techniques. After this I became fascinated with trauma and resilience in displaced peoples, and I enrolled in a graduate diploma at the American University in Cairo focused on Psychosocial Support for Refugees and Forced Migrants. As part of this program I worked as an individual and group counselor at Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance, a local NGO providing legal and psychosocial support for East African refugees and asylum seekers in Cairo. From Egypt I was offered a contract position to return to UNHCR Damascus to continue with my training program and to assist in the evaluation of UNHCR’s pilot psychosocial program there. After the contract finished, I returned to the US to pursue my MA in International Disaster Psychology and the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate at Korbel.

Why did you choose Korbel?
My primary degree is at GSPP (Graduate School of Professional Psychology), with an MA in International Disaster Psychology. However, I was excited by Korbel’s diverse course offerings and by the fact that many of the professors have extensive field experience to draw from as well as academic backgrounds.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?
The HA Certificate program nicely compliments my primary program by giving me a broader perspective of the policy and organizational structures within-which psychosocial focal points operate.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?
The courses dealing with health and humanitarian assistance, community-based program evaluation, operations and logistics, and the ins and outs of running an NGO all stood out to me.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
With my degree and certificate I hope to return to the MENA region to continue working with NGOs to set up sustainable, community-based psychosocial programs for refugees and asylum-seekers.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
The coursework I have encountered in completing the HA Certificate has given me a language and a nuanced understanding for the humanitarian systems within which I work, and it will greatly facilitate my ability to navigate these systems effectively.
Student Internship Highlights

Searching for an internship? Find out where Humanitarian Assistance students have completed internships, what they did, for which organizations and how they managed to land their assignment.

Oliver Cunningham - Save the Children

What is your background?
As an undergraduate, I studied Government, Environmental Studies and Spanish at Bowdoin College in Maine. Following graduation, I worked as a backpacking guide in Wyoming and Montana. I also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala, working in Sustainable Community Ecotourism, helping to organize and promote a community rafting project in a rural village. I trained local guides in everything from marketing skills to first aid, and worked on several infrastructure projects like fuel efficient stoves and solar lighting. I also taught environmental education in the local school. Following Peace Corps, I led community service trips in Costa Rica before attending Korbel.

Where did you intern?
Emergency Logistics intern at Save the Children in Washington, DC.

Why did you choose this site/organization?
I have always been very interested in logistics. As an HA Certificate student, I wanted experience in a humanitarian organization. I had already registered for the DC semester, and I was looking in the DC area in order to better understand the organizational culture and responsibilities of a logisticsian.

How did you get the internship?
Phil Price, a fellow Korbel student, interned at Save the Children in fall 2011 and connected me with Senior Logistics Specialist, Korbel alum Jerry Montgomery. Without the Korbel connections, it would have been much more difficult.

What did you do?
Initially, I was extremely busy learning the organizational culture and internal processes both within Save and regarding logistics as a whole. The Sahel drought response in Africa started in June, so I was mostly backstopping procurement of emergency supplies for the response. I saw firsthand how difficult it is to get the right goods to the right place at the right time. I also wrote concept notes for proposals relating to Go Kits (emergency supply kits for responders to the field) and prepositioning of goods.

Another role was to support transitions between various Save branches and Save the Children International. I assisted in the revamping and reviewing all of the logistics processes and documents, especially looking at the system of tracking assets at both the country and field office levels. Lastly, I developed reporting templates for SCI’s new procurement management and warehousing system, Aid Matrix.

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Kelly O'Connor - Project Education South Sudan

What is your background?
My background is in International Human Rights with a regional focus on greater Sudan from a historical and socioeconomic perspective.

Where are you interning?
I have been interning with Project Education South Sudan (PESS) since the Fall of 2011.

Why did you choose this site/organization?
I chose this organization because it is a small NGO operating out of Denver with a specific focus on primary education rights in South Sudan.

How did you get the internship?
I got this internship by following up with a professor at Korbel via African Initiatives who was aware of my interest in East Africa and in greater Sudan in particular. He put me in contact with Project Education South Sudan’s Executive Director, and I was able to procure an internship after speaking with her.

What are you doing?
My duties and responsibilities with PESS have run the gamut from grant research and fundraising/marketing to program development and field research. This past summer, I traveled to Bor, South Sudan as part of a two-person team to conduct a series of surveys pertaining to PESS’ Girls Leadership Development Program. We conducted a Feminine Health and Hygiene survey, a Sports Empowerment Survey and a Student Government survey with female students from P5-P8 at two primary schools in Bor County. We also conducted a series of HIV/AIDS and sexual rights lessons with both girl and boy primary students. In addition, I also worked closely with the Education Cluster in Jonglei State to conduct a needs assessment for the reconstruction and provision of two TLSs for a girls’ primary school following its destruction in a storm in late April.

How do you think it will contribute to your HA/Korbel education?
Getting to work with PESS has given me an opportunity to see the inner workings of a small NGO from both the headquarters and in-field perspectives. This internship has complemented much of my own research at Korbel as well as what I have learned in my classes. For example, this past summer in South Sudan I utilized many of the products I used or was exposed to in my Spring 2012 Information Management and Humanitarian Crisis class. Overall, my experience working in South Sudan was a good one. I learned a lot from the many challenges I faced, and on some small level I was able to provide the services that I went there to provide. Everyone said that working in this country would be difficult, and they weren’t lying! Despite the challenges and difficulties, this internship did one very important thing for my future: it solidified that this is indeed the country where I want to continue to focus on for the long term.

Do you know a student that you think would be a good candidate for the student profile or internship highlight sections in our next addition of the HA quarterly newsletter? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Please e-mail us with your suggestions at haprog@du.edu
ALUMNI PROFILE

See what Korbel 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.

Timothy Melvin

What is your background?
Since completing my degree from Korbel, I have been fortunate enough to have worked in three countries with NGOs, multi-laterals, contractors and government organizations. Through the contacts I made at the DU-Syracuse Fall program in Washington, DC, I landed my first job with CHF International providing administrative support to a project in Iraq.

I then moved to Europe to work with the Crisis Prevention and Recovery unit in the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre (where I completed a summer internship while studying at DU) in the Slovak Republic. While working for the UNDP, I had the opportunity to work with my former professor from DU, Tim Sisk, on a UNDP-funded global study on UNDP’s work in post-conflict societies.

In 2010, I left UNDP and moved to Afghanistan. I spent the next two-and-a-half years working in east Afghanistan, first with DAI and then directly with USAID on stabilization programs linking district governments and their communities while attempting to undermine the various insurgent groups. Finishing my tour in Afghanistan, I moved next door to Southern Kyrgyzstan where I am currently managing a conflict mitigation program with a French organization in the hopes of preventing or at least lessening tensions that led to the inter-ethnic and cross-community violence that erupted in 2010.

How did your time at Korbel (formerly GSIS) contribute to your career development?
I was fortunate to participate in DU’s first DC Fall program. Through this program and the events organized by the professors in the DU-Syracuse Fall semester, I became acquainted with people who would eventually assist me in obtaining my first position with CHF International. In addition, many of the topics I studied while at DU and the fall program in Washington continue to emerge in the course of my professional career — particularly those related democratization and post-conflict reconstruction.

Do you have any words of wisdom for current or future Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?
Remember that in the development/humanitarian field, landing your first job will be the toughest challenge. Therefore, I suggest following the same advice I received when I started grad school. From the first day of school, you should be searching/applying for an internship. Often it is through an internship that students find their first development job. Don’t be afraid to use student loans to take an overseas internship. In addition, take advantage of all the opportunities DU offers to meet alumni and to make connections. The development/HA field is a small one, and you tend to run into the same set of people in different countries and organizations. Establishing good connections early will pay off later.
Center for Civilians in Conflict works to make warring parties more responsible to civilians before, during, and after armed conflict. The organization is composed of advocates who believe no civilian caught in conflict should be ignored, and advisors who provide practical solutions to prevent and respond to civilian harm. The Center was founded as the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC) in 2003 by Marla Ruzicka, a courageous humanitarian killed by a suicide bomber in 2005, while advocating for Iraqi families.

The Center works with civilians on the ground and with people who have the power to change conflict’s lasting impact. The organization presses warring parties to protect civilians in conflict, to track and investigate civilian harm, and to create programs that recognize and help victims and survivors of armed conflict.

The team travels to conflict zones around the world and speaks directly to civilians affected by armed conflict, documenting stories and listening to civilian needs. They then bring civilian perspectives to those in power and advises them on ways to recognize, protect, and help them.

Since 2006, Center for Civilians in Conflict has also successfully engaged with militaries who show a commitment to, and maintain a successful track record of, civilian protection efforts in armed conflict. The organization’s work provides troops and their leadership with a modern, strategic, and moral view of civilians in the battle space—as well as the right tools to avoid and properly address harm.

The Center frequently collaborates with others to research issues important to civilians caught in armed conflict. Recent reports include an analysis of protection issues related to Qaddafi’s abandoned ordinance in Libya with Harvard Law School and, with Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Clinic, The Civilian Impact of Drones: Unexamined Costs, Unanswered Questions. The report, released on September 29th, is a critical analysis of US government procedures and standards for ensuring civilian protection and responding to civilian harm from drone strikes conducted outside of full-scale military operations.

For more information on the Center and its programs, please visit: www.civiliansinconflict.org
Also follow them on facebook and twitter: www.facebook.com/CiviliansInConflict @CivCenter