MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

This quarter, the Humanitarian Assistance Program welcomed back our students who returned from summer internships at humanitarian organizations such as Oxfam America, the American Red Cross, and UNHCR. Through student internship panels, we highlighted our students' work and how the Josef Korbel School has prepared them for these experiences. The HA Program also hosted several excellent guest speakers who engaged with Korbel students and shared their experiences working in the field of humanitarian assistance. In this edition, we invite you to learn more about our new certificate students, the projects pursued by our HAARG student researchers, and the many accomplishments of our students and alumni.

Enjoy,
Chen Reis

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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.

STAYING CONNECTED

Website
Check out our website at: http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance/index.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 program welcomes 9 new certificate students!

Jessie Cochran  
International Development  
My main interest lies in equipping humanitarian actors with the supplies needed for emergency responses and the implementation of response efforts.

Gabriel Garcia  
International Security  
My main interests include diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and counterterrorism.

Julia Hanby  
International Development  
My main interests include protracted refugee crises and the role of education programs in emergency response and development.

DaMon Mosley  
International Development  
I am interested in human rights, policy, and refugee protection in conflict zones.

Amber Prainito  
Human Rights  
I am interested in women’s rights and gender equality, particularly in West Africa.

Vessi Radieva  
International Development  
I am interested in gender-based violence, women's issues, IDPs, and protection of aid workers and refugees in humanitarian aid settings.

Silvia Roscot  
International Development  
My interests lie in food security programs and food aid delivery in protracted humanitarian crises.

Gururoop Wazir  
International Development  
I am particularly interested in the availability of sexual, reproductive and maternal health services during humanitarian crises, as well as humanitarian protection issues surrounding gender-based violence.

Douglas Winter  
International Development  
I am interested in international agricultural development as a foreign policy tool.

We extend a warm welcome to the students who have been admitted to the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate Program this year! Full profiles for each HA student are posted on our website.
Speaker Review
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.

Neena Jain
Translating Compassion into Action: Lessons in Listening

On September 29th, the Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs Programs invited Neena Jain and Bill Rohs to speak to Korbel students about their careers in Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health. Neena Jain, a former professor at the Josef Korbel School, is the Executive Director of emBOLDen Alliances. She previously worked at Médecins Sans Frontières, International Medical Corps, Australian Aid International, and Save the Children. Bill Rohs is emBOLDen Alliance’s Operations and Logistics Specialist and has over 10 years of direct field experience in humanitarian assistance and international development.

Ms. Jain encouraged students to think critically about the “Why, What, and How” of a career in humanitarian assistance and global health. Why do you want to work in this field? What skills are needed? Most importantly, How? She and Mr. Rohs drew upon several examples of their work that demonstrated the value of listening to the communities in which they worked in order to increase capacity and efficiency. They emphasized the importance of adapting one’s work to the local context by building upon existing community assets and local infrastructure. Learn more at http://www.emboldenalliances.org.

Pact
The Measurer, the Trainer, and the Belgian Tennis Player: Three Perspectives of Capacity Building in International Development

The Humanitarian Assistance Program was fortunate to have Reid Porter, Joris Vandelanotte, and Rachel DuBois of Pact speak with Korbel students on October 16th while they were in Denver to present at the American Evaluation Association Annual Conference. Mr. Porter, Mr. Vandelanotte, and Ms. DuBois presented Pact’s Organizational Performance Index (OPI) tool and each drew upon their experiences to share some methods and results of evaluating international capacity development initiatives with local civil society organizations. They also discussed their career paths and gave expert advice on searching for jobs and internships. Mr. Porter recommended that candidates hold off on accepting their first job offer if it is not a position of interest to them. He advised, “Don’t sell yourself short, and hold out for your market value.”

Reid Porter, Senior Results & Measurement Specialist with Pact based in Washington, DC, supports project-level M&E activities as well as organization-level measurement and ICT4D initiatives. Joris Vandelanotte, ICAPS’s Technical Director in Swaziland, is a Medical Doctor and Specialist in Public Health Medicine with over 18 years of experience in Sub-Saharan Africa. Rachel DuBois, a Josef Korbel School alumna, is Sr. Manager for Capacity Development with Pact based in Washington, DC. She provides technical support to Burundi, DRC, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe country programs in the design, implementation, and monitoring of capacity development initiatives. To learn more about PACT, visit pactworld.org.
Jerry Montgomery
I Want to be a Humanitarian Worker When I Grow Up: Suggestions on Finding the First J.O.B.

On October 16th, Korbel alumnum, Jerry Montgomery, gave advice to students about job searching in the field of humanitarian assistance. He is currently the Associate Director of Operations and Capacity Building for the Department of Humanitarian Response at Save the Children and has 11 years of experience in the development and humanitarian sectors. Professor Montgomery also teaches “Field Operations in Humanitarian Assistance” at the Josef Korbel School.

According to Professor Montgomery, humanitarian organizations are looking for experience in emergency contexts, organizational and management experience, self-starters, reliability, flexibility, a sense of humor, and ability to handle complex situations. Tangible skills are essential in the humanitarian sector and will set candidates apart from others. He recommends taking courses that make candidates more marketable, such as the Fritz Institute Humanitarian Logistics Certification Program. Professor Montgomery encouraged students to take advantage of internship opportunities in DC and abroad, as well as Korbel’s Career Connections and Korbel in DC programs. Students should step out of their comfort zones, build professional networks, and always follow up with their contacts.

Sabrina Karim
The Emperor Has No Clothes: Ebola and its Effects on Governance in Liberia

On October 29th, the HA and GHA Programs hosted guest speaker, Sabrina Karim. Ms. Karim, a PhD candidate in political science at Emory University, is an expert on peacebuilding, peacekeeping, gender, and security sector reform (SSR).

The Ebola epidemic has hit Liberia the hardest out of all the countries in the world. Why is this the case? At the Josef Korbel School, Ms. Karim addressed this question by discussing how the Ebola epidemic in Liberia has been exacerbated by the country’s weak governance.

Ms. Karim focused on three main issues: limited state capacity, the Liberians’ lack of trust in government institutions and foreigners, and a lack of a community-based response. Based on her extensive fieldwork in Liberia, she also shared her experience of what it is like to be on the ground during the epidemic. In order to ensure a better future for Liberia, Ms. Karim stated that it is critical for Liberians to build trust in the government. This could be achieved through collaboration between community leaders, such as village elders, and the security sector. She also recommended that more funding be invested in education and health infrastructure.
Interning with the UNHCR

On October 8th, the Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs Programs presented a panel discussion about interning with the UNHCR. The three panelists Kelly Thayer, Mariana Alcoforado, and Elizabeth Harrell each had a unique set of experiences.

Mariana Alcoforado (M.A. candidate in International Human Rights with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance) was a Protection Intern with UNHCR in Maputo, Mozambique. Kelly Thayer (M.A. candidate in International Development with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance) interned in the Programme Unit with UNHCR in Zambia. Elizabeth Harrell (M.A. candidate in International Human Rights with a certificate in Global Health Affairs) interned with the Individual Assistance/Health Department at UNHCR Malaysia.

The panelists reflected on their experiences and recommended several classes that helped them to prepare for their internships, as well as classes that they wish they had taken prior. These recommended classes include Project Management, Research Methods, Data Analysis, International Protection in Humanitarian Context, Intro to Humanitarian Systems, Field Operations in Humanitarian Assistance, Contemporary Issues in Refugee Systems, and Applied Field Methods. The panelists noted the importance of having detailed Terms of Reference in order to have clear expectations and a determined role before beginning an internship. They also recommended that during an interview, candidates ask several questions to better understand the details of the potential internship assignment.

HA & GHA Internship Panel

On October 23rd, Humanitarian Assistance and Global Health Affairs students shared their recent internship experiences at Oxfam America, the American Red Cross, and AIDS Action Committee.

Jessie Cochran (M.A. candidate in International Development with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance) interned in the Emergency Management Coordination unit at the American Red Cross national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Sarah May (M.A. candidate in International Development with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance) is an intern at the Disaster Cycle Services at the Denver Red Cross. Dani Murphy (M.A. candidate in Human Rights with a certificate in Global Health Affairs) interned at both Oxfam America and AIDS Action Committee in Boston. Teri Smith (M.A. candidate in International Development with a certificate in Humanitarian Assistance) interned at the Oxfam America DC Office as a Global Humanitarian Reform Research Intern.

Jessie, Sarah, Dani, and Teri agreed that their studies at the Josef Korbel School helped them to be competitive candidates for these positions and offered them the critical background knowledge that was needed to excel in their internships. Their experiences also helped them to further explore and narrow down their career interests within the fields of humanitarian assistance and global health. The panelists recommended that students do thorough research about their internship sites and do necessary preparation work prior to beginning internships. They also recommended taking skills-based classes such as Qualitative Research Methods, Applied Field Methods, and Project Evaluation.
Updates from the Director of the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG)

As highlighted in the recent Korbel presentation by International Rescue Committee researcher Anjuli Shivshanker, applied research and program evaluation skills are becoming increasingly important for many positions within humanitarian agencies. Recognizing this, the Humanitarian Assistance Applied Research Group (HAARG) was launched in January 2014, as an initiative of the Humanitarian Assistance Program.

In the past year, HAARG student researchers and DU alumni-affiliates have provided needs assessment, program evaluation, and applied research-related support to numerous humanitarian agencies. HAARG researchers have worked with United Nations agencies such as UNHCR, and international non-governmental organizations, including International Medical Corps, Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council, CARE, Oxfam America, and International Rescue Committee. We’ve also provided support for local organizations such as Soulae Lespri Moun-Haiti and TPO Nepal. In addition, HAARG researchers have assisted with projects sponsored by DFID and Wellcome Trust. Although students typically 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 and violence mitigation, global health, and refugee livelihoods, and there are plans for expansion.

HAARG RAs work with agency-based supervisors and independent humanitarian researchers and benefit from specific trainings by the HAARG director, JKSIS faculty, and staff from humanitarian organizations. A new group of student researchers was recruited Fall quarter. Current HAARG students include: Sarah May, Silvia Roscot, Gururoop ‘Roop’ Wazir, Amal Azimova, Farrah Salisbury, Kelly-Elizabeth Thayer, Teri Smith, and Bri Erger. Several others have been added to a waitlist and are likely to be asked to join the group later this academic year. The new HAARG program assistant is Amber Prainito.

Photo above: Current HAARG Student Researchers meeting on November 3rd.
HAARG continued

HAARG was active during the summer, and has picked up several new projects. Since the start of Fall quarter, HAARG RAs have been recruited to provide support for – 1) a 10-year retrospective of the humanitarian response to the Indian Ocean tsunami with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN); 2) work with archival data sets at Save the Children US, Department of Child Protection and HIV/AIDS; and 3) data analysis for health and education ‘scorecard’ results in 800 communities in DR Congo with International Rescue Committee (IRC).

We will be interviewing HAARG student researchers and supervisors in future HAP newsletters, so stay tuned for more about these and other projects!

Courtney Welton-Mitchell, LPC, PhD
HAARG Director

Anjuli Shivshanker is a Research and Evaluation Officer with the International Rescue Committee, NYC. On October 17th, HAARG invited Ms. Shivshanker to speak to HAARG researchers, as well as other interested Korbel students.

Ms. Shivshanker spoke to students about the importance of research for humanitarian organizations. She presented on career options for humanitarian researchers and challenges associated with research in emergency contexts. She also drew upon examples of emergency education and anti-trafficking research initiatives in Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti.
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.

Phil Price

Describe your job and what you find most challenging.
Currently I serve as Chief of Staff for USAID's Iraq Task Force. In response to the current humanitarian crisis unfolding in Iraq, USAID has staffed several teams to manage/direct our response. My role is to serve as a primary point of contact for USAID’s various response teams in Washington and the field, advise and prepare USAID leadership for decisions and meetings, ensure that the continuous requests for information are prepared on schedule, and liaise across my agency as well as the numerous organizations involved in delivering humanitarian assistance in Iraq. The most challenging part of this role is ensuring the right information is getting to the right people at the right time. While this can be difficult, it is very rewarding to see so many talented people working in concert to save lives and alleviate suffering.

What is your career background?
My career development to this point has not progressed on a straight line. Throughout my twenties I worked a variety of jobs — many having no real connection to my current position. However, life took a very positive turn when I was hired as a research associate with a small human rights NGO. During my time with this organization, I worked alongside country partners, teachers, students and government officials in several post-conflict and divided states to implement a human rights framework into civic education programming. The work and people were inspiring, and I became hooked on development and humanitarian assistance. Following this, I decided on Korbel and focused my studies on education in emergency settings. I also accepted internships with InterAction's Humanitarian Policy and Practice Team, Save the Children's Emergency Health and Nutrition Team and USAID's Policy Office. The latter lead directly to my current position.

What other experiences have contributed to your career development?
I think life experience has helped my career development quite a bit. While I may have spent a little too long travelling around and working odd jobs, I actually think in the long run this has been to my benefit. These experiences not only taught me what I wanted to do with my life, but just as important, I learned what I didn’t want. So if you are coming into grad school a little late, don’t worry about it. It all works out with hard work and some luck.

Do you have any words of wisdom for Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?
To those pursuing careers in humanitarian assistance I would stress three things - the importance of working in/leading teams, following opportunities as they arise, and keeping a good sense of humor. To the first point, I have had the tremendous opportunity to work with USAID’s Counselor Susan Reichle. Under her mentorship I have come to learn that everything at USAID gets done as a team. While there are projects that you may have more influence over, the end product is always dependent on and improved by a collaborative and strong team. On the second point, I wouldn’t pass a good opportunity waiting on the perfect one. I have learned something valuable from each position I have held, as well as made great connections and friends. Third, and channeling our good friend PVA, “you don’t have to be a serious person to do serious work.” You will be working on some very difficult and challenging topics, so make sure you take time for yourself and live a full life outside of your job. It will keep you sane during the busy times. Finally, if you find yourself in DC, please feel free to reach out to me. I am always happy to meet up.