MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

As the 2014-2015 academic year comes to a close, the graduating Humanitarian Assistance Certificate students are accepting positions at a variety of humanitarian organizations. Continuing students are heading off to internships with UNOCHA, Oxfam, InterAction, IFRC, and WFP. We are proud of our students’ many accomplishments and invite you to read more about their plans on pages 7-11.

We concluded the Spring Quarter with the annual Humanitarian Crisis Simulation, which gave students the opportunity to apply the lessons learned in class to a practical scenario. You can read more about the simulation on page 2.

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: www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance
Learn more about the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate 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 Korbel 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.
Humanitarian Crisis Simulation

The Humanitarian Assistance Certificate students had the unique opportunity to participate in the Humanitarian Crisis Simulation on May 22nd-25th. Students spent a day in training, and they learned skills related to safety and security, media response, and field technology. Trainings were taught by experts in the field who have worked with Save the Children, the BBC, and Enketo. Participants were students from the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate program, other Josef Korbel School degree programs, the International Disaster Psychology program, and the Graduate School of Social Work.

Four teams of students participated in a 36-hour crisis simulation, testing their abilities to apply lessons learned in class with real-life stressors in a challenging environment. Participants conducted needs assessments, held meetings with stakeholders, developed funding proposals, and presented to a donor panel. Students received valuable feedback from evaluators and experts in order to help guide their progress. The crisis simulation occurs annually every Spring Quarter.
**Anna Gadzinski**

Anna is a first-year International Development student at Korbel pursuing a concentration in Humanitarian Assistance.

What project are you currently working on with HAARG, and at what stage in the project are you?

For the last few months, I have been working on an applied research project for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) entitled “Community-Driven Reintegration and Reconstruction (CDRR) in Rural Liberia.” In an effort to improve material well-being, reinforce political attitudes, and increase social cohesion, IRC-UK assisted in the development of community governance structures in Lofa County, a former epicenter of conflict and displacement. My primary project responsibilities include Stata data cleaning, categorization, and analysis based on an extensive survey of households conducted at the conclusion of the program in 2008. Having recently completed work on all “priority” data subsets related to social cohesion, I will now address those related to material well-being and political attitudes.

Have you encountered any challenges while working on this project?

My greatest challenge working on this project has certainly been the absence of a key project code related to the identification of Liberian villages and towns. Applied widely throughout the survey but excluded from the IRC’s trove of project files, the code’s absence ultimately necessitated its reverse-engineering through extensive Stata and Excel work. On the bright side, I learned several new Stata commands.

Do you think HAARG has helped you to develop the skills/experience necessary to be competitive for humanitarian-related jobs post-graduation?

This experience has taught me a lot about the practical applications of data and afforded me a much greater familiarity with Stata software. I definitely think my time with HAARG will benefit me in my job search post-graduation. It’s already helped me to find a summer internship!

What advice do you have for others interested in joining HAARG?

To those interested in joining HAARG, I would advise them to take advantage of the Humanitarian Assistance classes offered in the quarters to come. Also, whether you’re a current student or a recent grad, reiterating your interest to Courtney Welton-Mitchell, HAARG Director, can only help your chances. Best of luck!

**Nathalia Cubillos**

Nathalia Cubillos is a second-year Peace Corps Master’s International student in the International Development program with a concentration in Humanitarian Assistance.

What project are you currently working on with HAARG, and at what stage in the project are you?

I will start working with the Norwegian Red Cross of the Americas this month on a project conducting desk review of policies for work conditions, rights, and obligations for national staff among international humanitarian agencies with an eye towards informing the work of NRC and Red Cross affiliates.

Have you encountered any challenges while working on this project?

I do not expect any major challenges while completing this project, and I am excited to have the opportunity to further develop my research and interviewing skills. The project will require developing a tactful strategy to approach these organizations to gather information on their policies and to conduct a careful review of these in order to create recommendations to the NRC, their affiliates, and potentially, the humanitarian sector as a whole.

Do you think HAARG has helped you to develop the skills/experience necessary to be competitive for humanitarian-related jobs post-graduation?

Although this is my first HAARG project, I am convinced that these skills, combined with the academic knowledge I have acquired this past year and half, will allow me to be more effective in my future humanitarian and development career. Specifically, I hope to use these skills during my Peace Corps service in Cameroon. (More about Nathalia on page 9).
HAARG

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.

Roop Wazir

Roop Wazir is a second-year student in the International Development program with a Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance.

What project are you currently working on with HAARG, and at what stage in the project are you?
I am assisting on a project with International Rescue Committee. The IRC is implementing a large community-driven reconstruction program in four provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A huge component of this program is a community scorecard which is used as an accountability mechanism between service users and health and education service providers at the community level. For this project I was tasked with doing a desk review of community scorecard methodologies other organizations are implementing by conducting Skype interviews with key staff members in other NGOs and also conducting data analysis on scorecard processes conducted in 1000 communities in DRC.

Have you encountered any challenges while working on this project?
Some of the main challenges for me were trying to understand the expectations of supervisors and managing my time effectively to complete tasks especially during midterms and finals. I also had to overcome some self-doubt I had about being able to effectively do data analysis which is something I had not done before.

Do you think HAARG has helped you to develop the skills/experience necessary to be competitive for humanitarian-related jobs post-graduation?
Yes, definitely. Although at times it was challenging, I definitely believe that the work I have done in data analysis and my experience with data management will be especially useful in the future. I think being exposed to staff members in organizations implementing projects currently is extremely beneficial too, you can then maintain the relationship for the future when you are looking for an internship or job.

What advice do you have for others interested in joining HAARG?
Make sure you have the time to devote to a HAARG project and manage your priorities so that you don’t overwhelm yourself. Also, once you have a project, be honest with your supervisors about your schedule and abilities. Ask for help from your supervisor, colleagues, Courtney the director of HAARG, or other professors when you need it.

HAARG Presentations

HAARG organized several trainings this quarter.

Qualitative Research Presentation
Courtney Welton-Mitchell presented on qualitative research and how to adapt best practice methods to applied research with humanitarian organizations. Highlighted were the importance of conducting interviews and focus groups with participants to gain their perspective and a deeper understanding of the issues, as well as the coding process to turn qualitative data into quantitative data.

NVivo Webinar
A webinar was hosted by NVivo to give RAs a better understanding of this useful software program. A basic overview was given of the user interface, as well as a lesson on how to code qualitative data and some of the features of the program, including word trees and clouds and their application in qualitative data analysis.

Matlab Longitudinal Study
Randall Kuhn presented on his longitudinal research in Matlab, Bangladesh. This matched control research design has taken over 25 years and is still being conducted. It focuses on the effects health interventions have on livelihoods over a multiple generations, including migration and wage earning.
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.

**Jay Lemery: The Effects of Climate Change on Human Health**

On April 21st, Dr. Lemery spoke at the Josef Korbel School about climate change and its many effects on human health. He cited the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, which portend numerous negative factors related to forced migrations and climate-related stresses on vulnerable populations. These include worsening extreme weather events, changes in infectious disease patterns, respiratory illness, and morbidity. He also discussed climate change and its effects on human rights. Dr. Jay Lemery is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and is Chief of the Section of Wilderness and Environmental Medicine.

Dr. Lemery is the immediate Past-President of the Wilderness Medical Society and is currently the EMS Medical Director for the United States Antarctic Program. Dr. Lemery has an academic expertise in the effects of climate change on human health and serves as a consultant for the Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and sits on the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine.

**Laura Perez: Career Talk**

On April 23rd, Laura Perez spoke about her career path in international protection and shared her advice for students who are interested in pursuing a career in this field. Laura Perez has more than 10 years of experience advocating for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, including children. She has worked with UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs, and is currently the Child Protection Team Leader at DPKO. Prior to joining DPKO, she worked with UNICEF as the Regional Monitoring Reporting Mechanism (MRM) Specialist for West and Central Africa, covering CAR, Chad, DRC, Mali and Nigeria.

Ms. Perez also spoke to the International Protection in Humanitarian Context Class. She lectured on child protection and the MRM on grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict.

**Caroline Haas: Interning with Save the Children**

Caroline Haas is a second-year MA Candidate in International Administration with a Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance. On April 9th, Caroline spoke with students at the Josef Korbel School to share her experiences from interning with Save the Children, as well as her insight and advice for other students applying for internships.

Since Summer 2014, Caroline has interned in three positions with Save the Children. Her roles include HIV/AIDS Intern (Washington, DC), Logistics Intern in the Department of Humanitarian Response (Washington, DC), and Awards Management Donor Compliance Fellow (Kinshasa, DRC).

(More about Caroline on page 8).
ALUMNI PROFILE

Read about what Korbel graduates are doing now, how they feel their education contributed to their career development and what advice they offer to grads entering the humanitarian field.

Chloe Bass (Josef Korbel School 2010)

What is your career background?
I have been working pretty consistently since my sophomore year of college. I’ll highlight some of the more meaningful jobs I’ve had. After undergrad, I worked in foster care in New York City as a Youth Development Counselor in a residential facility (group home) for teen girls. It was there that I first became interested in doing international work, as the girls and their families came from many countries around the world. While studying at Korbel, I worked as a Barista and Shift Supervisor at Starbucks and as a Program Associate for ICAP. It was through a Program Manager in the organization’s headquarters’ office in DC. For the past two years, I have been working as a Program Management Specialist on the Food Security and Livelihoods Team of World Vision US.

How did your time at Korbel contribute to your career development?
When I was at Korbel, I studied International Administration with the certificate in Humanitarian Assistance and concentration in Human Rights. It served as a solid foundation for a rights-based approach to development. In addition, both the Administration and Humanitarian Assistance coursework assisted me in developing skills that I immediately put to work when in the field in Liberia.

Do you have any words of wisdom for Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?
I’d like to share three pieces of advice. One, if you don’t already have a focus/specialization/strategy for your career right now, get as much exposure to various issues as you can with the aim of refining your interests. If you have a focus area, get as much experience as you can. Take advantage of relevant coursework, internships, jobs, informational interviews, etc. Specialization in a certain area – if you truly have an interest in it – can set you apart from the crowds of people with masters degrees. It also helps people help you when you are looking for jobs. If you can point to a specific sector, region, etc., it will both focus your job search after graduation and help your contacts to point you in the direction of helpful leads. That brings me to my second piece of advice. Begin to build your network now. As I mentioned earlier, one of the jobs I had while in grad school was as a Program Associate for ICAP. It was through connections in that job that I heard about the position I took in Liberia. My third piece of advice is to foster your curiosity. I love asking people with interesting careers how they got to where they are. It’s a nice way to get to know people and it also inspires me to try new things.

Please describe your job and what you find most challenging.
The Food Security and Livelihoods Team is a publicly funded team that encompasses work in the climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, economic development, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors. The team focuses on early recovery and long-term development work. There are four main parts to my job. The first is supporting proposal development for US Government and US foundation grants. The second is program management; once we win an award, the program manager works with the national office implementing the grant to support the understanding of and compliance with donor requirements. The third is gender mainstreaming and gender synchronization efforts. I review proposals and program reports to ensure that we are considering the different needs of men, women, boys and girls as well as the impact that our work may have on them. The fourth main part of my job is administrative – reviewing the team budget, working with interns, etc. Of course, being based in DC, I also participate in working groups and briefings on issues related to international development and food security.

Working with World Vision has been really fascinating. It is one of the largest NGOs in the world, with almost 100 offices and over 40,000 employees. One of the things I have enjoyed most has been working with colleagues all over the world. I have been blessed to be able to travel to Haiti, Kenya and Bangladesh and work with staff in many more countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Southeast Asia. At the same time, it can be challenging navigating the complexities of such a large organization.
Graduation - Spring 2015

What are your big picture plans?
My internship with UNHCR and my academic experience at Korbel strengthened my desire to work with vulnerable populations displaced by conflict. I would like to continue working with protection in an emergency setting, with a UN agency or an INGO, hopefully in francophone Africa.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
The HA certificate was instrumental in shaping my career plans and experiences at Korbel. It helped me focus my goals and gave me a better understanding of opportunities in the field. Courses such as Field Ops and Protection provided me with great foundation on the challenges and practical aspects of a field position and I am certain that these skills will be very useful in my career.

What will you remember about Korbel?
The things I will remember most about Korbel are the wonderful people I met here. I am so fortunate to have such incredible and driven friends and I can't wait to see where everyone will be a few years from now. I really look forward to work with such amazing people in the future.

Any advice for fellow Korbel students?
Take advantage of all of the opportunities offered by the school, the speakers, events and simulations. Enjoy your time as a student and take advantage of everything Colorado has to offer. Cherish the connections you make here. You will be surrounded by incredible, passionate people, who will teach you as much, if not more, than any class.

Kelly Thayer

Graduation - Spring 2015

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
I am planning on guiding a few canoe trips up north while I search for a gender management/program position with a humanitarian organization.

What are your big picture plans?
To manage the integration of gender issues into humanitarian responses in both times of peace and emergencies.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
I will use everything I have learned in the HA program, including during my internships with UNHCR and UNFPA, as I plan to work within the humanitarian system.

What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember the sim from last year, and working on the funding proposal with my group at 1 am that turned into a happy baby moment. I will remember my professors who have inspired me with their work and encouraged me in class and during my internships. Finally, I will never forget the amazing people that I shared this crazy ride with, through all the dinners/happy hours/whatsapp sessions/midnight study sessions/life events/walks it is they who got me through this program and it is them I will always love like family.....of course, it is also they who will probably hire me someday!

Any advice for fellow Korbel students?
Do internships, get involved with student groups, go to talks for more than just the free pizza. You only have two years so take every opportunity and don’t be afraid to ask for what you want. (I literally directly asked the powers that be for every internship I did. It worked!)
**Caroline Haas**

**Graduation - Spring 2015**

**What are your immediate plans after graduation?**
I will be moving to Washington DC. I have a tentative job offer that is still pending approvals and funding, so I can’t jinx it.

**What are your big picture plans?**
I want to work as a humanitarian responder with Save the Children in logistics.

**How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?**
The HA Certificate makes me a very competitive candidate in the world of humanitarian assistance, and hopefully will be integral in my work.

**What will you remember about Korbel?**
My cohort from HA have become some of my greatest friends and hopefully they will be my colleagues soon enough too. I will remember the simulation and the stress of Crisistan. I won’t miss a papers - not even a little bit.

**Any advice for fellow Korbelians?**
Take the unexpected opportunities – you never know how it will turn out. It will all make you better. Take risks and love what you do.

**Teri Smith**

**Graduation - Spring 2015**

**What are your immediate plans after graduation?**
It looks like I will be deploying to Nepal to respond to the earthquake with a small local NGO, Sustainable Communities Worldwide. I’ll be helping them with some program support and response stuff and hopefully looking for a permanent position while I’m there. My boss has some contacts at the IFRC and seems pretty positive he can hook me up with them, so that will be a goal.

**What are your big picture plans?**
Long term, I want to work on disaster risk reduction initiatives, as well as disaster response, and incorporating aspects of urban resilience and safe shelters. There may be another master’s degree required to turn that all into a reality though.

**How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?**
Initially I will be doing straight response stuff, so needs assessment, program design, and just familiarity with the whole humanitarian system will be really helpful. Crisistan was amazing prep for this.

**What will you remember about Korbel?**
My ability to spend all day in the basement and never see the sunlight? No seriously, I have made some amazing friends during my time here, and when I was writing a sum-up of what I can do to respond, I was really stunned by the amount of things that I can do that I couldn’t before.

**Any advice for fellow Korbelians?** Make your own opportunities. You need to have a firm vision of what you want to do, and what skills you need to be able to do that. Otherwise, you’re wasting your time. But be creative about pursuing opportunities to get those skills.
Sarah May

Graduation - Summer 2015

What are your plans after graduation?
After graduation, I will be continuing my work as a research assistant for IRC, looking at the evidence underpinning humanitarian interventions during emergencies. After completion of the project, I'll be looking for the next step in my HA career.

What are your big picture plans?
I hope to work in the field of Education in Emergencies for an NGO, either in programs or research.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
I will incorporate both the practical and academic knowledge I gained during my HA classes and internships.

What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember my amazing and talented HA cohort!

Any advice for fellow Korbel students?
Take advantage of every opportunity you can. Meet guest speakers, participate in the simulation, get to know your professors, volunteer, and pursue multiple internships. You never know what opportunities may arise!

Nathalia Cubillos

We also congratulate Nathalia Cubillos, who will graduate from the Josef Korbel School after completing the Peace Corps component of her academic program.

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
As a Peace Corps Master's International in the International Development program, my degree is divided into two parts: a) the academic component, which I completed this past Winter quarter, and b) 27 months of service, which I will start this coming September in Cameroon working with the economic development sector in the Agribusiness field. This combination will allow me to graduate with a strong academic and practical background that is bound to make me a strong candidate for any job.

What are your big picture plans?
In the long run, I hope to work with refugees and internally displaced people. Specifically, I hope to focus on the transition from the emergency response into the development stages.

How will you be incorporating your HA Certificate?
I hope to stay in Cameroon after completing my Peace Corps service to work with refugees, and the HA program has provided me with the skills to start a successful career in this sector. The program gave me the opportunity to learn about the many different aspect of the humanitarian work, and I know that all this knowledge, combined with the practical skills acquired, has provided us with the tools to become an asset to the humanitarian the community.

What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember the multiple opportunities I had to discuss development and humanitarian issues with my friends and colleagues, in and outside of the classroom. We learned to apply HA objectives and skills to almost everything! Sometimes we would even analyze fictional characters and series to determined how to best handle such crises from an HA perspective. I will also remember the conversations and the guidance my professors gave me. Many of them were true mentors, and their words of encouragement will never be forgotten.

Any advice for fellow Korbel students?
First, get to know other Korbelians! They are your primary network and they will be your colleagues in the field. Second, get to know your professors. They have been through this before and can give you honest advice. Third, truly learn from your internship(s). Learn about the different organizational styles and how you fit with these.
**STUDENT INTERNSHIPS**

The Humanitarian Assistance Certificate students have lined up an impressive batch of summer internships. Read below for details!

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**Jessie Cochran**

UNOCHA
Activation and Coordination Support Unit, Emergency Services Branch
Geneva, Switzerland

I will be evaluating the effectiveness of OCHA’s Global Mapping of Emergency Stockpiles program, which tracks the emergency supplies that are pre-positioned worldwide by humanitarian agencies. In addition to gathering information about what supplies are pre-positioned, I will also make recommendations for building up reserve supplies as well as how best to transport them to emergency sites. I will develop both a communications plan to disseminate this information to humanitarian organizations and disaster-prone countries and training materials for the program.

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**Julia Hanby**

InterAction
Humanitarian Policy and Practice Team
Washington, DC

The Humanitarian Policy & Practice (HPP) Team provides leadership and staff support to InterAction members that are active in humanitarian response and advocacy. As an HPP intern, I will participate in and support working group meetings, conduct research and writing projects, compile newsletters on humanitarian events and reports, and track working group participation. I will also have the opportunity to participate in InterAction’s Annual Forum.

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**Silvia Roscot**

World Food Programme Uganda
Program Assistant, Emergency Humanitarian Action (EHA)
Sub-Unit
Kampala, Uganda

My main focus is overseeing the implementation of WFP activities done by the cooperating partners. I do analysis of the monthly reports submitted by the partners, I also act as an liaison for the WFP sub-offices and cooperating partners in the documentation of results and lessons learned. My job includes being part of the AME (Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation) unit in their data collection process, data analysis, report writing and database improvement activities for the refugee settlements. My internship requires frequent field missions to the refugee areas to carry out partner monitoring activities, and facilitate technical guidance to the sub-offices. Also, I support the EHA sub-unit with other duties as needed.

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**Amber Prainito**

IFRC
Research Intern
Geneva, Switzerland

I will be working in the Gender and Diversity section of the IFRC undertaking research on “A Gendered Perspective of Dignity in Emergencies.” This research will be used to inform the IFRC and ICRC on their design of SGBV programming (targeted action) and humanitarian programming (mainstream action on SGBV) in the future.

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More on Page 11
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Jimmie Braley

Oxfam America
Research Intern

I will be working with Oxfam during the coming summer months, assisting their research team with their efforts to increase attention toward disaster risk reduction in humanitarian programming and planning. They are also deeply concerned with coordination and cooperation of humanitarian actors with respect to DRR, and other areas. This is the HA exclusive internship, and I am very honored to have been selected.

Congratulations to our graduating HA students!

Spring 2015 Graduates
Kelly Thayer, Mariana Alcoforado, Teri Smith, Caroline Haas, Bethel Abiy-Eshetu, Nathalia Cubillos (PCMI)

Summer 2015 Graduates
Sarah May, Jimmie Braley

Be sure to stay connected to Humanitarian Assistance Program programs & events:
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