



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

As the Humanitarian Assistance Program continues to evolve, our goal is to provide students with a comprehensive set of knowledge and skills in order to prepare them for a wide range of careers within the humanitarian field. To accomplish this, we continue to refine course offerings, seek out informative guest speakers and provide access to simulations, internships and other trainings.

In this edition of the HA quarterly newsletter, you will find new ways to stay connected to the HA community, read reviews on this quarter's full schedule of HA events and get to know students, alums and organizations doing exceptional work in the field of humanitarian assistance.

Enjoy,

- Chen Reis

In this Issue...

p1 - A Message from the Director
- Staying Connected

p2 - Event Reviews

p6 - Student Profiles

p10 - Student Internship Highlights

p12 - Alumni Profile

p13 - Organization Spotlight

p14 - Trainings

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

YouTube  <http://www.youtube.com/user/HAProgramDU>

The Humanitarian Assistance Program has recently created 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. Currently, you can view a presentation by Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino - Executive Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, from March 29th, 2012 as well as a presentation by Dr. David Scales from TechWeek@Korbel's Health Development Day on April 18th. Stay tuned, more events will be posted soon!

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>

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 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. Application forms will also be available on portfolio soon and we will begin to accept submissions starting in the Fall 2012 quarter.

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!



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.2

EVENT REVIEW

The winter quarter brought a full schedule of guest speakers and other humanitarian assistance-related events to Korbel. The next 4 pages give you a recap of all the exciting events the winter quarter had to offer.

Women's Security Panel -- March 8th

In observance of International Women's Day, the Humanitarian Assistance Program and Denver Women in International Security hosted a panel discussion in order to analyze the challenges women face in the field of humanitarian assistance with Korbel students. The panel included HA Program advisory board member, Sue Weinstein - a GBV specialist with experience working with the IRC and UNHCR, Kate Earle - a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) who served in the Republic of Kiribati and a first response trainer with experience in Haiti and the Phillipines (For more on Kate, please see the winter edition of the HA newsletter), and Alex Adel - an RPCV who served in Kenya. The panel was moderated by Suki Hoagland and fostered a safe and informative discussion on the challenges faced by women working in the field, the role of male colleagues in creating a safe or unsafe operating environment, strategies for women to be proactive about creating and accessing resources for protecting themselves, and mainstreaming gender and protection issues into program design and pre-deployment trainings.

Carrie Hasselbeck -- March 12th



During an informal brownbag lunch conversation with Korbel students, Ms. Hasselbeck shared her extensive experience working in the field of humanitarian assistance and complex emergency response. Ms. Hasselbeck has experience working on gender-based violence, women's empowerment and impact assessment in Afghanistan and Iraq. She has also held coordinator and country director positions addressing natural disasters, global health and famine response in Haiti, Liberia and Somalia. During her visit, Ms. Hasselbeck answered questions about job placement and career progression, necessary skill sets for working in the field, as well as safety and security concerns while working in conflict areas.

(left) Carrie Hasselbeck responds to student questions during her lunchtime discussion - Photo by Chen Reis

Korbel Alum, Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino - Executive Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative -- March 29th



Dr. Bollettino addresses students during his presentation - Photo by Greg Maly

During his visit to the DU campus, Korbel Alum Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino briefed students on his career progression stemming from his early interests in political science during undergrad, to his doctoral work in International Politics and Political Theory at Korbel (formally the Graduate School of International Studies, or GSIS) and finally to Harvard University and his current role as Executive Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI). Dr. Bollettino finished his presentation by giving students an overview of the HHI program and its achievements. During the rest of his visit, Dr. Bollettino also made himself available for one-on-one advisory sessions with interested students

You can view Dr. Bollettino's full presentation to Korbel students at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/HAProgramDU>

Also, check out the Alumni Profile section on page 12 of this newsletter for more questions and answers with Dr. Bollettino.



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.3

EVENT REVIEW (cont...)

Landmines: Past and Contemporary Issues -- April 4th

The Humanitarian Assistance Program commemorated International Landmine Awareness Day on April 4th. The HA program was proud to host presentations by Korbel faculty Lewis Griffith, Claude d'Estrée and Peter Van Arsdale. The presentations covered various issues relating to the history of landmine usage, their long-term effects on civilian populations, as well as insights into contemporary policies and removal initiatives. To conclude the event, students also viewed "Surviving the Peace," a documentary film from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), highlighting their efforts relating to UXO removal in Laos.



*A young Angolan landmine survivor
- Photo by Sean Sutton/Mines Advisory Group*

In addition to the presentations, students also participated in a landmine trivia contest. Students were asked various questions relating to landmine awareness issues and, based on their answers, were eligible to win prizes from MAG, Illegal Pete's, South Philly Cheesesteaks or Beans Coffee Shop. Interested in learning more about landmine issues? Visit the HA Portfolio page for more information.

Linda Poteat - Director of the Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) -- April 5th

Ms. Poteat engaged students in a lunchtime discussion about the ECB program and its aim to improve the speed, quality and effectiveness of the humanitarian community. Ms. Poteat also informed students about career strategies for entering the humanitarian field, including relevant skill sets and the importance of networking.

ECB | **Emergency Capacity Building Project**

Civil-Military Panel Discussion -- April 5th

On the evening of April 5th, the Humanitarian Assistance Program hosted a Civil-Military Panel discussion including Former United States Army Chief of Staff - General George Casey, Senior Civil-Military Policy Advisor for the UN - Michael Marx and ECB Director Linda Poteat. Moderated by professor Rachel Epstein, the panel examined the relationship between the military and civilian aid agencies, their joint impact on the efficiency of humanitarian response and the debate as to when military involvement is appropriate in a humanitarian context.



(right) General George Casey responds to a question during the Civil Military Panel Discussion - Photo by Greg Maly

Stay tuned to the HA YouTube page, video from the Civil-Military panel will be available soon.

Laura Perez - Central African Analyst with the International Displacement Monitoring Centre -- April 9th



Laura Perez engaged students in a lunchtime discussion relating to her work as a Central African Analyst with the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Ms. Perez also discussed her career progression stemming from her extensive field experience regarding issues of protection for vulnerable populations in the Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan.

During her visit to Korbel, Ms. Perez was also a guest speaker in Professor Chen Reis' Humanitarian Information Management class.

(left) A camp for Internally Displaced Persons - Photo by Chen Reis



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.4

EVENT REVIEW (cont...)

TechWeek@Korbel -- April 16th-19th

TechWeek@Korbel brought four days of conversation discussing how technology is changing the fields of diplomacy, development, and complex operations in the 21st century. Partnering with the Global Health Affairs program (GHA) and the center for Sustainable Development and International Peace (SDIP), the Humanitarian Assistance Program engaged students in some of the most cutting edge groups working on crisis mapping, SMS based data collection, and communication technologies for complex emergencies and disaster response.

Pre-Kickoff Event & Overview Presentations by TechChange -- April 16th

TechWeek kicked off with a DU student and faculty event featuring some of Korbel's very own players in the field. Moderated by Kaakpema Yelpalla, adjunct professor at DU and founder of Denver's access.mobile, events ranged from how information and communication technologies (ICT) have evolved, to how SMS can be used to aid in medicine delivery in sub-Saharan Africa. The day was brought to a close by Chris Neu and Rob Baker from TechChange, who provided students with an overview of how eLearning platforms are changing education across the globe.



Moderator Kaakpema Yelpalla addresses the audience during the TechWeek Pre-Kickoff Event - Photo by Greg Maly

Complex Emergency Day -- April 17th

Nathaniel Raymond, Operations Director of Harvard University's Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) joined Korbel for day two of TechWeek. Mr. Raymond walked students through how satellites are currently being used to monitor violence in South Sudan.

Health and Development Day -- April 18th

Day three of TechWeek focused on the cutting edge health monitoring forum - Healthmap.org. Joined by Dr. David Scales, issues surrounding best practices for data aggregation and visualization brought to fore how the internet helped bring a halt to the further spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and how citizens can become involved in monitoring the spread of disease worldwide.



Nathaniel Raymond discusses Harvard's Satellite Sentinel Project during Complex Emergency Day Presentations - Photo by Greg Maly



Dr. David Scales speaks to students during Health & Development Day Presentations - Photo by Greg Maly

Ethical Issues Day -- April 19th

After a week of events involving students, faculty, and guest experts, participants from the week gathered for a roundtable event to discuss some of the ethical implications surrounding the use of emerging technologies for diplomacy and development. From the implications around making information readily available to the public, to how information has the potential to create further asymmetries in development, TechWeek@DU proved that there is much left to be learned in this field, and that the Korbel school will remain actively engaged in the conversation.



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.5

EVENT REVIEW (cont...)

Korbel Alum, Jerry Montgomery - Save the Children -- May 3rd

On May 3rd, Korbel Alum Jerry Montgomery visited campus. Based on his experience as Senior Operations Specialist for Save the Children, Jerry led a discussion with students focusing on the components involved in emergency response and how this integrates into longer term development programming. With 10 years of experience in relief and development programs both domestically and internationally, Jerry provided a high level overview of NGO operations.

During his visit, Jerry also made himself available for one-on-one sessions, offering his insights to students interested in various career paths related to emergency response.

The Josef Korbel School will be welcoming Jerry back to campus during the Winter 2013 quarter. He will be teaching a 3 week intensive course relating to NGO operations in the context of emergency response.



*(right) Jerry Montgomery leads a discussion with Korbel students
- Photo by Chen Reis*

Cuatro de Mayo Graduation Celebration 2011/2012



Students enjoy Cuatro de Mayo graduation festivities outside Korbel - Photo by Tim Schommer

On Friday May 4th, the Humanitarian Assistance Program and Global Health Affairs celebrated this year's graduates who will be receiving certificates in either the HA or GHA program. A day shy of Cinco de Mayo, the programs celebrated with margaritas and delicious empanadas from Buenos Aires Pizzeria.

The Humanitarian Assistance Program would like to acknowledge the following graduates receiving certificates in humanitarian assistance during the 2011/2012 school year:

Andrew Bisson, Kate Earle, Christina Eyre, Kristina Hook, Brittney Irby, Iuliia Kononenko, Alexandra Madsen, Cheri Baker, Courtney Cohen, Amanda Doll, Rebekah Guthrie, Erin Kesler, Henock Kewendbelay, Rachel Koepsel, Maureen Mersmann, Phillip Price, Rhiannan Price, Stephanie Roberts, Rachel Smith, Claudia Artiles, Christi Sletten, Stephanie Selekman, Logan Boon, Danielle Porreca, Lorelle Yuen & Elmurad Kasym.

**Congratulations graduates
& good luck with your career endeavors!**

Be sure to stay connected with your fellow graduates via the Humanitarian Assistance networking facebook group. You can join by friending the facebook profile <http://www.facebook.com/du.hap.9>



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.

Elmurad Kasym

What is your background?

Although I have a B.A. in English and German, I have worked for several international organizations' offices in Kyrgyzstan: UNHCR, UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Mercy Corps. Prior to coming to the USA in August 2010, I worked for the UNHCR dealing with the consequences of an interethnic clash in Southern Kyrgyzstan. Also, I worked for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, a media organization. In summary, I am an ethnic Uzbek interested in facilitating the transition to democracy in a former Soviet republic.

Why did you choose Korbel?

Having worked for international organizations in Kyrgyzstan, I realized I wanted to learn more about international relations and international security dynamics. The world is "shrinking" and Kyrgyzstan cannot stay uninvolved in the global processes. I therefore wanted to be academically prepared to help my country in this process. Korbel stood out as one of the best schools in the field of international relations. Colorado's climate is also similar to that of Kyrgyzstan's. All these factors combined, the choice was obvious for me.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?

The certificate encouraged me to take classes concentrating on humanitarian issues, a field I am very interested in. I also felt that the HA program's requirements complimented those of the security program, with topics such as refugee issues and information management. The HA program—classes, speakers, activities, etc.—not only helped me gain more academic knowledge and practical experience, but also allowed me to get the most out of my two years at Korbel.



Elmurad (right) near the main UN office - Khojand, Tajikistan

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?

Professor Peter Van Arsdale's Field Protocol and Survival class is rightfully one of the most memorable experiences I had within the HA program framework. Professor Chen Reis's Information Management class was also extremely helpful in understanding how information—one of the most important components—is managed in this field.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?

Before arriving in Denver to pursue a master's degree, I had the intention to return to Kyrgyzstan and use my gained knowledge to advance my country's image and status on the global level. I still have that aspiration!

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?

Being able to provide my certificate and the list of classes I have taken within the HA certificate program, I am certain I will be very competitive in terms of employment. The certificate (backed by the knowledge I gained) will also help me navigate through the field of humanitarian affairs. I must also mention Professor Claude D'Estree's IHL/LOAC class will help me have a clear understanding of the legal component, which only strengthens my position as an individual seeking a professional career in the field.

More Student Profiles Page 7



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.7

STUDENT PROFILES (cont...)

Christina Eyre

What is your background?

Before coming to Korbel, I spent more than 10 years working in the nonprofit/NGO sector, working in social marketing, microenterprise, and women's empowerment. I created a small microenterprise project to make Plumpy'Nut in Uganda with women IDPs, worked in External Affairs at PSI in D.C., and was a founding board member and on staff at the Women's Bean Project. I also own my own marketing/communications company, DenverCrat.



Christina at the Democratic National Convention representing DenverCrat

development programs in post-disaster and post-conflict environments. Just and sustainable development must include community-led recovery and preparedness initiatives like Techos in Chile, which can teach us a lot about community resiliency.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?

I'm grateful that the HA Certificate has hosted so many excellent speakers, particularly over the course of this last year. Besides developing enormously useful contacts, this has offered me a great opportunity to hone my interests and find out about practices and resources I might have otherwise missed. A recent example is Tech Week, which inspired me with the creativity and utility of

innovations that have transformed fieldwork in powerful ways. I fully anticipate learning more about and incorporating many of these tools into my professional skill set.

Why did you choose Korbel?

I chose Korbel for the Master's in Development Practice program (MDP). I applied to other schools that offered the program, but the proximity to home and original leadership involved in the design of the program convinced me to come to DU. When I was informed of the administration's plans for the degree, I sought to redirect my course of study and strengthen my focus on Humanitarian Assistance.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?

Given my interests in fieldwork and in particular the relief-to-recovery phase of development, it made sense to learn new quantitative and logistical skills and strengthen the ones I've gained in my career so far. I also recognize the value of studying and working alongside students who share my passion, as well as connecting with faculty who have valuable expertise in this field.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?

Practical Applications in Global Health (Lepora) and the two part IM/GIS class offered this Spring (Reis/Hick). Given my experience and interests, it made sense to focus more on practical skills-oriented classes to fill in the gaps in my professional 'toolkit.'

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?

I want to get back into the field as soon as possible, working on the reciprocity and sustainability of relief- and relief-to-



Tina working with women IDPs - Gulu, Uganda

More Student Profiles Page 8



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.8

STUDENT PROFILES (cont...)

Lorelle Yuen

What is your background?

I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in Journalism in 2009. Since 2007, I have been working with the refugee population from Burma in various capacities at the non-governmental and government levels. My experiences with this population sparked my interest to pursue a Master's degree in International Development at Korbel.

Why did you choose Korbel?

I chose Korbel because of the flexibility of the International Development program and practical experience I would gain from the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate. Both of these factors have allowed me to develop an expertise on issues surrounding Burma as well as equip me with the knowledge and tools needed to successfully conduct field research along the Thai-Burma border for my thesis.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?

I chose the HA Certificate program after my internship this past summer which introduced me to the complexities involved in the field of humanitarian assistance. This experience drove me to enhance my understanding of the intricacies of humanitarian assistance as well as the normative and theoretical structures of the humanitarian system.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?

Health and Humanitarian Aid and Geographic Information Systems stood out most to me. Health and Humanitarian Aid provided me



Lorelle with an indigenous woman from the H'mong tribe of Sapa, Vietnam

with good foundational knowledge of internationally agreed upon standards in refugee camps which proved useful when I was conducting research in the refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. GIS has equipped me with relevant skills such as mapping using the ArcGIS software and it has also exposed me to the growing importance of technology in the humanitarian assistance and development fields.

What do you hope to do with your degree & certificate?

I hope to gain field experience in either humanitarian assistance or in implementing development projects in Southeast Asia. More specifically, I hope to leverage my degree and certificate to work in the field of refugee assistance along the Thai-Burma border.



How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?

The HA Certificate will exemplify my passion for the field as well as my firm grasp on the practical, theoretical, and normative dimensions of the field of humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, it will prepare me for field work outside of an academic setting.

More Student Profiles Page 9

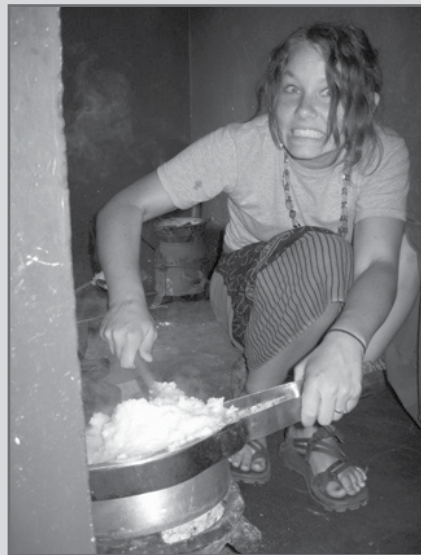
Lorelle interviewing a teacher at the LMTC (Leadership Management Training Center) post-10 school at Mae La refugee camp - Thailand

STUDENT PROFILES (cont...)

Erin Kesler

What is your background?

Although my regional interests lie in Southeast Asia, I have participated in humanitarian outreach and development trips throughout Africa, Central America and South America working primarily with education and sustainable development. I graduated from Taylor University in 2008 and have slowly been gaining more field experience including my last internship and thesis research in Thailand.



Erin cooking a dish called "ugali" for her home stay parents - Tanzania

Why did you choose Korbel?

I chose Korbel due to the flexibility of the program and its emphasis on both practical and theoretical skills. At the time I applied, I was considering the MI Peace Corps program. Despite dropping my MI status, I still had my heart and brain set on Korbel. Let's be honest, the ski season in the Rockies was also a draw.

Why did you choose the HA Certificate Program?

Within the realm of international development, humanitarian assistance is the field in which I hope to launch my career. Not only did the classes in the program peak my interest but I also desired more technical and educational expertise. Ideally, I would love to work in refugee rights and assistance, and the HA program has allowed me to tailor my coursework to those interests.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?

Health and Humanitarian Aid, Civil Wars I and II, and International Project Analysis were the four classes I gleaned the most from at Korbel. They greatly enhanced my theoretical understanding and practical skill components of post-conflict humanitarian assistance. Field Protocol and Survival was the first time I was exposed to the study of actual logistics of refugee camps including camp design, spacing of facilities, etc.

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?

Ideally, I would love to find a job that would launch me straight into "the field" upon graduation. I'd prefer that field to be a field in Asia somewhere, perhaps a rice paddy in Vietnam or within view of the northern Thai mountains. All jokes aside though, I do hope to work in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border or in refugee camps under the auspice of UNHCR in any country that would take me. My husband and I are also in the final stages of our Peace Corps applications. We intend to move ahead with those plans unless another opportunity presents itself - specifically, the opportunity to work in refugee camps as UN volunteers.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?

If my husband and I proceed with the Peace Corps, I perceive that certain experiences and skills developed as a direct result of the certificate program will come in handy. Drafting a significant project proposal, presenting project proposals to donors, digging latrines, designing the layout of a refugee camp, and leading a search-and-rescue operation that turned disastrous are all experiences I have had in the HA certificate program at Korbel.



Erin with a refugee family at the Umphiem Refugee Camp along the Thai-Burma border



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.

Christi Sletten - UNDP, New York

What is your background?

My graduate work has primarily focused on international conflict management and post-conflict recovery, of which the humanitarian assistance program has been an invaluable component. After leaving my career as a high school teacher in 2010, I started at Korbels with a vague idea of 'peacebuilding.' At that point, I didn't know much as to where I specifically wanted to work, only that I wanted to figure out where I could contribute in the larger scheme of things.

Where are you interning?

I am interning with the crisis governance unit within the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at the United Nations Development Programme headquarters in New York.

Why did you choose this site/organization?

Ideally, I would like to work at the policy level of post-conflict recovery. But it is also important to me to never be disconnected from work actually occurring on the ground. This internship has given me great insight not only into what occurs at the levels of both policy and practice, but also as to how policymakers and field offices interact on a daily basis and advocate for different agendas to strengthen governance in countries that are fragile and/or conflict-affected. The chance to work with this specific unit in the broader UN system has proved to be the perfect professional complement to my academic work at Korbels.

How did you get the internship?

I got this internship through both the formal application process and by networking with others in the unit. I am incredibly thankful to have had a couple of contacts who were willing to put me in touch with the right people, and put in a good word on my behalf after I applied. The combination of personal interaction and the ability to demonstrate academic knowledge of crisis governance work somehow (magically)



Christi, outside the UN Secretariat building - New York, NY

came together to get me here. I don't think it will ever stop feeling surreal!

What are you doing?

My unit is responsible for assisting national stakeholders to gain control of the recovery process in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, and to lay the foundations for long-term transitions from fragility. As such, I have primarily provided support to my colleagues who go "on mission" to countries that fit this profile, such as Somalia, Libya, and Afghanistan. In addition to the usual ins and outs of bureaucratic work, I have been asked to substantively collaborate on many reports and documents, including a line of upcoming publications highlighting the work of UNDP's country offices. I have also prepared presentations that have been given by my supervisors to different partnering organizations around the world about the crisis governance agenda and the implementation of BCPR initiatives in corroboration with the g7+

"New Deal." Some of the best parts have been the chances to attend interesting meetings with my colleagues, and be introduced to many people whose work I've been aware of for some time. Again, it has been quite surreal.

How do you think it will contribute to your HA/Korbels education?

As I mentioned, this opportunity has provided the chance to put what I have learned at Korbels into professional practice. In particular, this experience builds directly on the foundation that the humanitarian assistance program has given me through courses like Civil Wars I and II with Tim Sisk, and the International Humanitarian Law course with Claude d'Estree. Having the solid knowledge base that I gained from Korbels has proven to be of tremendous benefit in both my work and discussion with colleagues at UNDP, and the chance to intern at UNDP has made my HA/Korbels experience all the more meaningful.

More Internship Highlights Page 11



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.11

STUDENT INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS (cont...)

Erin Kesler & Lorelle Yuen - Partners Relief and Development, Thailand

Where did you intern/conduct your research?

We interned at Partners Relief and Development, a non-profit that works along the border of Thailand and Burma, from January to March of this year. We interned in the social development department at Partners Mae Sot field office.

Why did you chose this location and organization?

We chose this internship specifically because we were impressed by their efforts for sustainable development. We chose the Mae Sot office because it allowed us access to the border region – the area we had chosen to conduct our theses research.

How did you get the internship/ research position?

We had made separate contacts to the organization through our various involvements in the Denver refugee community. Our contacts led us to one of the field offices of Partners and we began e-mailing. The application process was simple and we were accepted soon thereafter.

What did you do?

Our roles at the internship involved jointly researching, writing, and compiling a large report on development policy in Burma. The report contained various international standards and norms pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples during large-scale development projects. Specifically, as Burma is inviting foreign direct investment in a push toward development, many investors are pouring money into Burma's Special Economic Zone. Together, we produced a 29-page report that the Karen National Union will use in negotiations with developers to secure the rights of the effected and displaced people.

Alongside the internship, we both conducted research for our individual theses. We are both studying, in various capacities, non-formal education (NFE), English language training programs, and cultural orientations (CO's) in terms of how we may better equip and prepare refugees for third country resettlement.



Erin & Lorelle with co-workers outside the Partners Relief & Development Office - Mae Sot, Thailand

How do you think it contributed to your humanitarian assistance and/or Korbel education?

As far as the Humanitarian Assistance Program goes, we have both been utilizing the flexibility of our humanitarian assistance classes to concentrate our studies and research thus far on all issues related to Burma and/or refugees. Of course, our classes have also given us a strong foundation from which to draw and they truly gave us a broader perspective on these issues.

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



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.12

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.

Dr. Vincenzo Bolletino - Executive Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

What is your background?

My interest in international affairs started early. It began with courses I took in Political Science as an undergraduate and was really solidified when I came to what was then called the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. I was fortunate enough to land an internship at UNICEF during one of my summers while at GSIS. I worked in NYC headquarters for the security coordinator and was asked to identify emerging threats to UNICEF staff in the field. We realized quickly, at the time, that routinely collected, standardized data on security was simply not available.

This became a question of personal and academic interest for me. What kinds of threats would humanitarian aid workers face in the field, from whom, when, and why? What sorts of measures could be taken to improve the way information was collected and analyzed to better understand emerging threats? Lastly, how could this information provide views for enacting measures and policy that would seek to avoid the threats altogether or mitigate the impact of events on staff and property? This work became the subject of my academic work and dissertation and the focus of my professional career.

How did your time at Korbel (formally GSIS) contribute to your career development?

It was at GSIS that I developed a theoretical background in international politics and international security. Courses provided analytic skills and reasoning that have been instrumental in all of my subsequent professional jobs. Most important were the years of conversations with faculty and students that shaped how I approached real world challenges. The conversations taught me how to take ideas about how to tackle these changes and transform them into concrete actions. Colorado is an amazing place to reflect, think, and build and then take new ideas and concepts out into the world. I loved it.



Dr. Bolletino at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative office, Cambridge, MA

Do you have any words of wisdom for current or future Korbel students who want to pursue a career in humanitarian assistance?

Yes, two things! First, pursue your passion. Of course it is essential to develop the requisite research methods and content knowledge appropriate for the kind of work the student ultimately chooses. There are many good programs that offer opportunities to learn these skills and lots of people out there that are qualified and capable. But it is only true passion for ones work that leads to creativity, the development of new thinking and new approaches, and is ultimately the only thing that will sustain you through the inevitable ups and downs of what is likely to be a very dynamic and fluid career.

Second, be positive and learn to say yes to things. We spend lots of our academic careers learning to be critical, independent thinkers. This is great and essential for success, but it does not prepare you for being able to manage teams and come to decisions that take into account many competing visions. Bringing a can-do attitude to your work will give you and your colleagues the confidence that you are the right person for the work and that you are prepared to lead. Learn to listen and observe and figure out what will work, and then make that thing happen.

The Humanitarian Assistance Program was proud to welcome Dr. Bolletino to Korbel as a guest speaker on March 29th, 2012. You can view his presentation at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/haprogramdu>



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.13

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Humanitarian Assistance and development organizations operate all over the world. In this section, the Humanitarian Assistance Program highlights organizations striving to find solutions to the humanitarian community's most pressing problems.



In a world where hardware and software tools are being developed at a pace difficult for even the most tech-savvy individuals to keep up with, a D.C. based organization has developed an online eLearning platform designed to bring development specialists and technologists from around the world together to learn from one another. The Institute for Technology and Social Change, or TechChange for short, is made up of a group of individuals who can not only "speak geek" with the technical community, but also have international experience in peacebuilding and development.

Joining the Korbel School for TechWeek@DU were two course moderators for TechChange — Christopher Neu and Rob Baker — who provided students with an overview on some of the applications currently being used in the field by development and humanitarian assistance practitioners. From lessons learned in the field on topics such as mobile phone use versus broadband connectivity, to an overview of the crisis mapping community and how the Ushahidi platform was used to respond to the earthquake in Haiti, students were exposed to how tech tools are changing the way humanitarians respond to complex emergencies.

Though TechWeek@DU has come to a close, students are welcome to join TechChange for one of their online courses at www.techchange.org to continue the conversation.



Rob Baker gives students an overview of various crisis mapping tools in Professor Chen Reis' Humanitarian Information Management class - Photo by Greg Maly



Christopher Neu addresses the audience during TechWeek@Korbel on April 16th - Photo by Greg Maly

Do you know a Korbel Alum or an organization doing ground breaking work in the field of humanitarian assistance? If so, the Humanitarian Assistance Program would love to highlight them in our next newsletter!

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



Humanitarian Assistance Program

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2012

pg.14

TRAININGS

Humanitarian Crisis Simulation -- May 20th

On Sunday May 20th, the Humanitarian Assistance Program, in conjunction with the International Disaster Psychology Program and the Humanitarian Training Initiative, hosted a Humanitarian Crisis Simulation on the University of Denver campus. This was the first simulation to involve graduate students from both the International Disaster Psychology and Humanitarian Assistance Programs and is intended to be a lead up to a full-scale event to take place next year.

The event was intended to help students apply what they learned in classes and to experience some of the realities of work in the field. Participating students were divided into teams of humanitarian aid workers sent to help internally displace persons (IDPs) affected by a conflict in Africa.

The aim of the simulation was to evaluate the students' ability to conduct a needs assessment, identify critical protection needs and design a project that addresses these. Groups presented proposals to a panel of donors and were required to respond to difficult questions raised by the panel. Projects proposed by the group included ones which addressed gender based violence and psychosocial and mental health issues. Throughout the exercise, students sharpened communication skills within a team environment, managed stress and learned to tolerate ambiguity and manage time constraints.

DU Faculty and members of the Denver community with international humanitarian experience served as team coaches and evaluators and various roles were also played by undergraduate volunteers. The HA program is particularly grateful to HA Program Advisory board members Debra Kreisberg, Elizabeth DiPaolo and Susan Weinstein, as well as Dr. Hilarie Cranmer from the Humanitarian Training Initiative (HTI), who all played critical roles in the planning and facilitation of the exercise.



(top) Participants of the Humanitarian Simulation. (bottom left) Team Green works together during a simulation exercise - Photos by Chen Reis. (bottom right) A simulation participant interviews an IDP - Photo by Amber Wolfe Pearson.



Special Thanks to Our Program Assistants

The Humanitarian Assistance Program would like to thank program assistants Claudia Artilles and Tim Schommer for their efforts throughout the 2011/12 school year. Both Claudia and Tim were instrumental in helping to organize and plan events, update program materials and communicate with certificate and concentration students regarding all things HA.

Congratulations to Claudia on her graduation from Korbel and we wish her the best of luck with her career endeavors in New York!

(right) Claudia and Tim bond during Professor Peter Van Arsdale's Field Protocol & Survival class - Photo by Rebekah Guthrie

