MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Humanitarian Assistance Program wraps up the 2013-2014 school year, we concluded the Spring Quarter with yet another successful Crisis Simulation which put the certificate students through their paces. By bringing in experts from the field, we exposed students to techniques currently used in humanitarian settings. You can read more about the simulation on page 2.

The quarter finds graduating certificate students heading off to positions with WHO and Save the Children, and First Year students heading to internships with UNHCR and ICRC. We are proud of what they have accomplished and invite you to read this newsletter to learn more about their plans.

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

Web site  www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance

The HA web site is a great resource for program information and requirements for the HA Certificate. Please join our listserv to receive biweekly emails on our latest news and events.

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  haprog@du.edu

Feel free to email HA with any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this newsletter or other activities.

Twitter  @DU_humanitarian

Follow our tweets for the latest buzz in the humanitarian world and live-tweeting during HA events.
Humanitarian Assistance Program certificate students had the very unique opportunity to participate in a crisis simulation. Two days were spent in training as they learned skills related to security, media response, and field technology, as taught by experts in the field who have worked with Save the Children, the BBC and Enketo, respectively. Student teams represented members of HAP, the International Disaster Psychology program, and the graduate Social Work program.

The teams participated in a 36-hour crisis simulation, testing their abilities to apply lessons learned in class with real-life stressors in a challenging environment. This program gave students the chance to experience an emergency recreation in the safety of the campus, and receive valuable feedback from evaluators and experts in order to help guide their progress. The HAP crisis simulation occurs annually every Spring Quarter.
Formally launched in early 2014 by the Humanitarian Assistance program, the 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.

Linking students with humanitarian agencies through HAARG provides students with real world experience in applying knowledge gained from their classes. This gives students a competitive advantage in the post-graduation job market. Humanitarian agencies benefit from having qualified research assistants supporting research and evaluation needs that cannot always be fulfilled internally due to staffing and other resource and capacity challenges.

While working on HAARG projects, research assistants receive support and guidance from seasoned professionals. These include DU alumni, faculty with applicable experience, HAARG director Courtney Welton-Mitchell who has worked with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, independent researchers, and staff from the participating organizations.

To date, HAARG has worked with International Medical Corps, Oxfam America, CARE, Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council, and local NGOs. Although research assistants are university-based, project locations have included Haiti, Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Mali, Libya, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Columbia, Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Projects have focused primarily on global health, disaster mitigation, and interpersonal violence. There are plans to expand project sectors to education, food security and other areas, dependent on available supervisors and agency interest.

LEARN MORE: http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance/practical-applications/humanitarian-assistance-applied-research-group.html

Silvia Tamminen
Norwegian Red Cross
Mapping of Violence Prevention Initiatives in the Americas

The purpose of the project is to map out violence prevention, mitigation and response initiatives in places in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Colombia, including the mission of the National Societies of the Red Cross and external initiatives. Currently, there are a number of programs addressing the multiple forms of violence but the efforts tend to lack coherent messages and methodologies.

My role in the project is to map out these external initiatives. I have conducted research in Spanish, created a database with information, reviewed documents produced under these programs, identified trends, and categorized and analyzed the data.

My HAARG experience has been very beneficial for my career from multiple stand points. Not only have I honed my skills in database creation, management and data analysis, but I was able to use my Spanish language abilities to conduct research.

Kelly Harvard
International Medical Corps, Libya

I conducted a desktop review in partnership with an IMC supervisor and HAARG partner. This extensive literature search strengthened my professional writing skills and the ability to accurately summarize and analyze findings.

The document was used to inform mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programming in detention centers located in post-conflict Libya. My next project will be performing a secondary evaluation of a new mental health program developed by IMC, Gaza.

CONTACT: haarg@du.edu
LEARN MORE: www.du.edu/korbel/about/news/20140516-043807.html
CAREER PATH DISCUSSION

Chiara Lepora, Médecins Sans Frontières

Chiara Lepora joined JKSIS students for a frank discussion of her career in the humanitarian field. She has worked with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, aka Doctors Without Borders) in various capacities across Africa and the Middle East.

After a 2008-2010 Fellowship in Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health, Lepora taught Global Health Affairs and served as the Director of the Josef Korbel School Humanitarian Assistance Program before returning to MSF.

She currently works with MSF as Programme Manager for operations across the Middle East. Based in Syria, she could not discuss her current work for security reasons but was happy to field questions regarding her career.

Lepora has focused mainly on areas of conflict, often questioning the meaning of the situations. Though eager to discuss her viewpoints, she decided that “being a doctor was easier than being a teacher,” and her first role as a field doctor was in Angola acting as medical coordinator, head of mission and emergency coordinator. She launched a vaccination campaign and opened a 200-bed hospital for trauma surgery. She reflected that her career history in medicine, academia and research led her to the job opportunities she has had.

When asked how Korbel students should approach their careers, Lepora said it was important that students realize that “humanitarian actor” in itself is not a job; “humanitarian” is a context. Innocent civilians do not exist, she said, and it is important to treat everyone.

Lepora stressed that there is an accountability factor in reporting facts and bearing witness. Aid workers need to be able to measure quality when lacking control over a situation, such as within a chaotic conflict region. She noted that it takes years to hone a special capacity and to be able to decide on a specific interest. “Think now about your career,” she said.

Lepora listed the following skills as ones to build while attending Korbel: diplomacy; negotiation abilities with community leaders; and the ability to negotiate with official bodies.

In applying to jobs, she recommended that students think very clearly about the job and be specific in demonstrating the skills claimed. She advised not to claim expertise at everything, but rather illustrate skills in a specific focus and demonstrate capacity and flexibility.

“It’s survival of the fittest,” said Lepora.

For more information on Médecins Sans Frontières:
Tania Bernath has worked as Regional Researcher for Amnesty International in Sierra Leone, held positions as officer and advisor for Médecins Sans Frontières in several locations, served as UNICEF’s Regional Child Protection Advisor in Nairobi, Kenya, and is currently a Senior Evaluator at Harvard University. Bernath spoke to Korbel students about the troubling situation of the Rohingya population in Rakhine Myanmar.

Bernath explained the complex situations which abound regarding the Rohingya population, such as the limitations of the population being treated as foreigners while permanently living in the region. Rules for marriage and family growth, education and movement create a restrictive environment that disregards protection and fails to apply basic human rights.

She discussed the difficulty of NGOs attempting to address the needs of this population, not only due to lack of access but limitations of services. Humanitarian organizations must be creative while attempting to facilitate access for the communities. Bernath illustrated the need for diligence and respect for communities with a limited voice, and the priority of advocacy within humanitarian assistance. She noted the importance of finding the positive stories while discovering a common ground for communication.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) focuses on improving the lives of children worldwide. Active in more than 190 countries and territories through country programs and national committees, UNICEF acts as Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster lead in: water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); Nutrition; Education (co-lead with Save the Children); and within the Protection cluster UNICEF leads the Child Protection sub-cluster.

UNICEF responds on average to over 200 emergencies per year and works to mainstream humanitarian action within its programming in order to promote rapid recovery and build resilience in conflict-affected and disaster-prone countries. UNICEF’s Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) coordinates headquarters support during emergencies to country and regional offices. Within EMOPS, UNICEF’s Operations Centre (OPSCEN) monitors humanitarian crises and disseminates information to field offices and senior decision-makers.

More information can be found at: www.unicef.org
Oliver Cunningham ‘12

What is your career background? I attended Bowdoin College where I received a B.A in Government, Environmental Studies and Spanish. After graduation, I served in the Peace Corps in a remote Mayan village in Guatemala. During my service, I worked with the community and developed a keen interest in international development and humanitarianism.

While earning my M.A in International Studies and certificate in Humanitarian Assistance from JKSIS in 2012, I completed two internships: one in logistics with the American Red Cross and another as a Humanitarian Logistics Support Officer for Save the Children in Washington, D.C. I applied this knowledge of humanitarian logistics to a remote operations outpost for the Carter Center South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Programme. Now at Project C.U.R.E, I am in the operations department in charge of procurement, container shipping logistics and several government and corporate programs.

Please describe your job and what you find most challenging. On a day-to-day basis, my work focuses on different aspects of project planning. I review completed hospital assessments and identify the most needed medical supplies for the respective hospitals, filling containers with these supplies. I then coordinate the logistics from the door of our warehouse to the door of the hospital. Much of my job is reacting: planning ahead so that when someone else acts, I am ready to move to the next step in our planning and shipping process. I also must plan around procurement, and coordinating schedules to pick up goods all around the country. The biggest challenge regards monitoring and evaluation and whether the equipment and supplies will be utilized properly in-country.

How did your time at Korbel contribute to your career development? My time at Korbel was useful for multiple reasons. First, it solidified my interest in logistics, and through classes I gained a better understanding of the humanitarian infrastructure and the skills needed to work within that structure, especially project management and grant writing.

Also, it provided me a network of like-minded people which has been really useful after graduation. I had a great internship with Save the Children through a Korbel alum (professor Jerry Montgomery), and my current job at Project C.U.R.E was facilitated through another alum.

What other experiences have contributed to your career development? Peace Corps in Guatemala was a big part of what set me on the track of humanitarian assistance. During that time, I read a lot of books about how development was done. William Easterly, Jeffery Sachs, Paul Collier, Amartya Sen, Paul Farmer and others got me really interested in development. Coupled with my experiences in Guatemala, I realized that the key to development for me lay in the logistics of getting the right goods for the right price at the right time to the right place. For me, this was good development, and that’s what I’ve been working towards since Guatemala, through Korbel, and into the present day.

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Working at Save the Children in D.C. gave me a taste of what working in non-profit logistics from the home office was like. I was able to backstop the Mali/Sahel Drought crisis and worked in support of domestic emergencies like the wildfires in Colorado and Montana, and was even able to deploy for a week to manage the logistics of Save’s Hurricane Sandy New Jersey response. I got a good feel for managing assets, procurement and logistics policy, plus some hands-on experience. It was a good segue to working professionally in humanitarian operations and set me up well for my work with the Carter Center.

I left for South Sudan about two weeks after graduating from Korbel, but I think the hectic and rigorous schedule of the D.C. semester prepared me for the demands of my job as Operations Manager of a remote office near the Ethiopian border.

While there, I managed a compound and six staff and was responsible for handling all of the non-technical needs of the staff working to eradicate Guinea worm. That meant if they needed supplies, if a car broke down, or if a satellite phone stopped functioning, it was my responsibility to meet their needs.

This often entailed working long hours, and having limited resources and information to complete my work. South Sudan can be a very unstable and unpredictable place sometimes, so even the best planning and hardest work did not always result in the desired outcomes. Sometimes it would rain and the runways or roads would wash out and be impassable, or other times not even Jimmy Carter himself could convince the South Sudanese government to let trucks of food (to feed our entire staff for a year) pass customs at the border.

All of the infrastructure challenges were compounded by the ongoing regional instability and the fact that during the rainy season very little could be accomplished, so all pre-planning and logistics had to be done before the rains set in. Working in such resource-scarce environments challenges you to innovate, make do with what you have, and prioritize, which can be frustrating but also a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience.

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

Know what you want to focus on and pour all your energy and enthusiasm into it. Do internships, take relevant courses, talk to people already working in the field. Really leverage the network and support resources available to you at Korbel. And email people or call them; it shows real commitment and interest as compared to social media.
The Humanitarian Assistance Program is very proud of its graduating students.
As we wish them luck in the humanitarian world, read here about some of their future plans.

**Rachael Davis**

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
I will be moving to Washington, D.C. at the end of May in hopes of finding a job.

What are your big picture plans?
I would like to work in the policy or research field dealing with women’s issues in post-conflict settings. I am not sure what career path that will mean for me, but I am open to all.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
The HA certificate has given me a lot of practical knowledge about the field, and I hope to use this to guide me through my entry into a career.

What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember my friends and the connections I made here at Korbel.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
Don’t wait to the last minute to write your paper. Just because you can write a 20-page paper in two days does not mean it will be good.

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**Laura Lloyd-Braff**

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
I am working as a short-term consultant with WHO at the Western Pacific Regional Headquarters in Manila, Philippines in the Emergency and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Unit. I am participating in EHA’s daily screening, early detection and monitoring of public health events due to natural and manmade disasters. Additionally, I am conducting an assessment of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines in November 2013, by analyzing the recovery process and documenting lessons learned. In case of a grade 2 or 3 crisis in the region, I will be a member of the Emergency Support Team, performing health risk assessment, post disaster surveillance, information and knowledge management, or risk communication.

What are your big picture plans?
I would like to continue work in Emergency Preparedness Response and hope to eventually secure a program management or coordination position, either with a UN organization or an INGO. I hope to continue to make health -- particularly communicable diseases -- a focus of my work.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
Classes such as *Health and Humanitarian Assistance* and *Field Ops* have helped me really understand what goes into an emergency response, as well as the different resources available (such as the Sphere Standards) for analyzing disasters. Classes such as *Statistics* have also given me some of the hard, tangible skills that I will be using on a daily basis in my entry-level position. Korbel has also really helped me with terminology and acronyms. I know I still have many more acronyms to learn, but without the ones I’ve learned at Korbel, I would be completely lost.

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What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember how approachable the faculty is here. They are always willing to help, share their expertise and offer career advice. I also really loved the student body; I have always felt supported by my peers Korbel and do not feel the competitive atmosphere that my friends in other programs describe.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
Take the internship requirement seriously, and see it as an opportunity to “try out” an organization you might want to work for in the future. Take in and learn as much as you can while you are there and don’t forget to maintain contact with the people you met during your time there. Don’t be afraid to reach out to those contacts when you are job searching!

Irina Karić

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
I plan to stay in Denver this summer and hike as many 14ers as possible, while taking additional courses in compliment to my HA certificate.

What are your big picture plans?
My big picture plans include fieldwork in the realm of humanitarian assistance and education. Since my passions also lie in the field of transitional justice, I would like to go back home to my native country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to help bolster the foundations of a new peaceful future using education as a reconciliatory tool.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
Hopefully, I will get to apply my academic knowledge and research experience in the field of education in both emergency and transitional, post-conflict settings.

What will you remember about Korbel?
I will remember my experience at Korbel as a time of personal growth and professional development, during which I created lasting bonds with some truly great friends. One of the most memorable experiences for me was the humanitarian crisis simulation, an intensely realistic and visceral experience, which gave me a glimpse into the unpredictable nature of work in the field.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
I would suggest broaden your skill base and take diverse classes that take you outside your specific and comfortable concentration. Additionally, make connections! Your internship, for instance, is a great opportunity to establish meaningful ties with people in your field.
What will you remember about Korbel?
I feel so fortunate to be part of the Korbel community. Conversations between programs and students helped to challenge my thinking, and the supportive environment pushed me ahead. I happily look forward to working with my amazing cohort in the future.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
The key to overcoming the fear of networking is to find a field that genuinely interests you, and then finding people working in that field who are doing what you hope to do in your future career. Build on those communications and learn from the experience of experts. Speak thoughtfully to your professors and HA guest speakers, and then reach out to people who intrigue you. Networking is great when you find people who share your passion.

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
If all goes as planned, I will be returning to Ethiopia in August to complete a second internship with Save the Children. I will be working on child education and registration within the Gambella region of Ethiopia for refugees who have fled South Sudan.

What are your big picture plans?
I am hoping that interning in the field will provide me with opportunities to network and develop more skills which hopefully will lead me to a more permanent job in the humanitarian sector.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
I believe all of the classes I took within the HA certificate will be very beneficial in terms of understanding the environment in which I will be interning and hopefully working in for my career. I feel I better understand the challenges which I am likely to face and will be better equipped to navigate the field.

What will you remember about Korbel?
Sleeping in the Cyber Cafe during the HA simulation.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
Take advantage of all the speakers and events that take place but also enjoy your time as a student.

Christi Yoder

What are your immediate plans after graduation?
Sleep and hang out with my daughters!

What are your big picture plans?
Hopefully find a position in the field working on gender-based violence. I’m also exploring a range of opportunities in humanitarian technology.

How will you be incorporating your HA certificate?
Because I intend to work in the Humanitarian Assistance field, my HA certificate is directly applicable.

What will you remember about Korbel?
The things I will remember most about Korbel are the wonderful friends I’ve made and the amazing instructors I’ve had.

Any advice for fellow Korbelians?
Soak up all you can while you have the chance to learn from such a diverse set of people.
STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Humanitarian Assistance students have lined up an impressive batch of summer internships. Read ahead to find out what some of them will be doing!

Mariana Alcoforado
UNHCR
Maputo, Mozambique
Protection Intern

I will be assisting the UNHCR Protection team in Maputo with their urban refugee population. I will be supporting the protection unit in implementing activities for the urban refugee community, drafting notes and reports on the security and political context in Mozambique, participating in meetings and workshops, assisting with individual cases, and collaborating with research on protection policies and working strategies to be implemented in the country.

Nathalia Cubillos
NGO Taxi
Cusco, Peru
Admin Intern

NGO Taxi is a German social enterprise that supports local NGOs, NPOs and other development organizations. Even though their mission is to “make humanitarian aid operations visible and understandable,” I’ll be concentrating on their financial and management aspect.

Jimmie Braley
International Committee of the Red Cross
Geneva, Switzerland
Health in Detention Unit

I will spend the summer and fall quarters researching and analyzing data on the range of health issues faced by detainees in the world, as well as issues pertaining to security, human rights and the challenges faced by humanitarian organizations in conflict zones. I will also be taking classes at the Graduate Institute for International and Development studies in Geneva.

Caroline Haas
Save the Children
Washington, D.C.
International AIDS Conference Intern

I’m going to be working with their HIV/AIDS team as they prepare for the International AIDS Conference in the end of July. I will be coordinating with their field offices to consolidate their presentation materials. Additionally, I will be working on their marketing and reporting material to ensure continuity as well as present a uniform message.

More on Page 12
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Teri Smith

Oxfam America
Washington, D.C.
Global Humanitarian Reform Research Intern

I will be conducting research on increasing the capacity of governments around the world to respond to natural disasters and climate change. Oxfam is interested in repositioning itself to support the affected government’s humanitarian response rather than having the international community dominate the response, which requires a different approach. The project is interested in working with different governments to improve their ability to support disaster preparedness and response and to have the mechanisms to respond with international support.

Kelly-Elizabeth Thayer

UNHCR
Solwezi, Zambia
Program Intern

I will be developing and implementing a study among refugees within the Solwezi refugee camp. The study will evaluate the self-reliant livelihood activities that have been implemented by the Zambian government since 2009. This study is connected to the HAARG program.

Congratulations to our graduating HA students!
Rachael Davis, Jordan Howard-Young, Irina Karić, Laura Lloyd-Braff, Katie McCarthy, Deborah Nicol, Alena Sims, Christi Yoder

Be sure to stay connected to
Humanitarian Assistance Program programs & events:
Web site: www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance
Facebook: www.facebook.com/du.haprog
Twitter: @DU_humanitarian
Email: haprog@du.edu