MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

I am pleased to share with you the Humanitarian Assistance Program’s Winter Quarterly! As we head into the Spring, our students are busy searching for internships for the summer and for post-graduation jobs. You can read about some of these students on pages four and five as well as about recent events hosted by the program.

I am also happy to announce the launch of the HA Program website http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance where you can learn more about the program and our students. We have posted videos of selected events and look forward to having you visit the site. As always, we welcome any comments haprog@du.edu

Enjoy,
Chen Reis

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

Portfolio

www.portfolio.du.edu/haprog

The HA Portfolio page is a great resource for program information and requirements for the HA Certificate. Under the “Stay in touch!” section, 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 the Josef Korbel School and around the world.

Website

http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance/index.html

Check out our brand new website by following the link: http://www.du.edu/korbel/humanitarian-assistance/index.html

Twitter

@DU_humanitarian

Follow our tweets for the latest buzz in the humanitarian world and live-tweeting during HA events.
The Humanitarian Assistance Program celebrated International Women’s Day with a week of events starting on March 4th. This year the focus is on recognizing that “Equality for women is progress for all” and ‘inspiring change.’ The events at the Josef Korbel School focused on celebrating women who continue to inspire change.

**Panel Discussion:** The Humanitarian Assistance Program hosted an expert panel discussion on issues affecting women refugees. The panel consisted of Jana Mason a Senior Advisor for External Relations and Government Affairs with UNHCR in Washington, DC, Beth Martin, a local social worker with extensive experience in humanitarian settings and Dr Courtney Welton-Mitchell, who has worked with refugees and continues to undertake projects for UNHCR. HAP student Teresa Baranowski facilitated the panel discussion.

The discussion focused on the need to incorporate women participation in assessments and responses in order to ensure that services meet the needs of women. Dr Welton-Mitchell talked key challenges to be the availability of psychological counseling for vulnerable groups including women who experience intimate partner violence in the settings. Beth Martin discussed her work with refugees in West Africa in the early 2000s and reflected on advances made in the field since that time and Jana Mason discussed the role of UNHCR in implementing effective programs that address women's security in refugee camps as well as for refugees in urban settings.

**Spreading the word:** Humanitarian Assistance students spread the word to celebrate Women’s Day by scribing ‘inspiring change’ in popular locations across campus.

**Testing our knowledge:** The Humanitarian Assistance Program invited Josef Korbel School students to take an online quiz on notable women in International Affairs. Winners of the quiz received several prizes! A big thank you to the local businesses which donated coupons: Zaza’s Pizzeria, Ali Baba Grill, Renegade Publik House, and the University of Denver Bookstore!

**A chance to contribute:** Throughout the week, DU students, faculty and staff contributed items to SafeHouse Denver which works with victims of domestic violence and their children. More information: www.SafeHouse-Denver.org.

The International Women’s Day events were organized by a student committee: Teresa Baranowski, Kelly-Elizabeth Thayer, NathaliaCubillos, Caroline Haas, Samuel Madison, and Sarah May with assistance from Silvia Roscot and the support of the Humanitarian Assistance Program staff.
Jerry Montgomery
Career Discussion: Life of a Humanitarian Worker

Jerry Montgomery, who is an adjunct professor at the Josef Korbel School, spoke with students on January 23rd giving much insight to the life of a humanitarian worker. Jerry, who taught this quarter’s popular Field Operations for Humanitarian Assistance course, advised Josef Korbel School students on crafting specific skills through the various skill set courses offered at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies.

Jerry is a Josef Korbel School alumnus and is a Senior Operations Specialist for the Department of Humanitarian Response at Save the Children. His work focuses on improving emergency preparedness and deploying emergency responses to humanitarian needs.

Learn more about Save the Children: www.SaveTheChildren.org

Abby Erikson
Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Emergencies

Abby Erikson spoke to Josef Korbel Students on February 11th about her career with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and her work with gender based violence (GBV) in Humanitarian Emergencies. Abby shared her experience as a Senior Technical Advisor for IRC with students during the two hour discussion.

Abby spoke extensively about her current research projects in Liberia, DRC and Ethiopia. She gave an expert analysis on the field of GBV prevention and response. Abby also shared her own experiences in searching for jobs at the start of her career and encouraged students to move to viable job locations after graduation to increase the likelihood of finding jobs.

Learn more about the International Rescue Committee: http://www.rescue.org/
Student Profiles

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

Alena Sims

What is your background?
After graduating from the University of Colorado- Boulder with a BS in business administration, I spent several years working in marketing. Realizing that my true interests did not lie within the marketing field, I joined WorldTeach and spent a year working as an English teacher in rural China. Upon returning from China, I took a job teaching adult refugees at a technical college in Denver. Within this job, I taught workplace related skills to help resettled refugees obtain and maintain employment within the US. My experience working with refugees led me to pursue my master's degree in international human rights alongside the certificate in Humanitarian Assistance.

Why did you choose the Josef Korbel School?
I chose the Josef Korbel School because of the flexibility it offers in allowing students to determine their own academic path that focuses on their specific career interests. Additionally, I was drawn to the Humanitarian Assistance Program and the specific classes available that were geared towards humanitarian assistance. The option to continue working part-time at my job in Denver while attending graduate school was also an added benefit.

Why did you choose the HA certificate program?
While working with refugees, I became highly interested in the conflict-ridden environments from which most of them came as well as in their experiences of what life was like after they were uprooted. I chose the HA certificate program in order to gain a better understanding of the Humanitarian Assistance field and how the rights and wellbeing of refugees can be safeguarded.

What certificate program courses stood out most to you?
The certificate program courses that stood out to me were Health and Humanitarian Aid, Protection in Humanitarian Contexts and International Disaster Psychology (at the DU Graduate School of Professional Psychology).

What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?
With my degree and certificate, I hope to obtain a career working on the efficacy side of humanitarian assistance. More specifically, I hope to obtain a position working on women and children's protection.

How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?
I believe the coursework I have completed through the program has given me the practical skills necessary to enter the field. It has also given me a better knowledge of the structure of the system and how to navigate that system once in the field.

Jordan Howard-Young

What is your background?
I grew up in Las Vegas, NV. After graduating from high school, I worked in a few random positions (including as a graphic designer for a church) until 2007 when I joined the presidential campaign of Barack Obama. After the election, I worked as a policy analyst on health care legislation until 2010. I worked on HIV/AIDS education in rural Zimbabwe in 2006 and did field research into health access in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan in 2011.

Why did you choose the Josef Korbel School?
My position on the Obama campaign took me through more than 40 states before I ended up in Colorado for the general election, and I pretty much fell in love with the state. So I started by looking at schools in CO for my undergrad and eventually decided that DU was the best fit for me largely because of the Josef Korbel School's development program.

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**Student Profiles, cont.**

**Why did you choose the HA certificate program?**
I was very interested in getting a degree that went beyond theory to tangible skills and practical applications. The HA certificate absolutely offered that with a keen emphasis on maximizing the efficacy of services offered to those affected by disasters. And in many ways I suppose I've always been a humanitarian at heart. I've always had a profound sense of justice and a desire to serve those with the greatest need. My mom can show you pictures of me running around the yard with a towel around my neck if you need proof.

**What certificate program courses stood out most to you?**
The Field Ops course has been absolutely fantastic. I've never been so excited to put this much energy into a group project, but the process of designing a complete response has been really useful and I've greatly appreciated working with such a talented group of likeminded people. The Health and Humanitarian Aid course was also excellent and really helped me gain a better understand of how to essentially triage public health, prioritizing services based on need and situational feasibility.

**What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?**
My wife and I will be heading to Jefferson Medical College in July to earn our MDs. I'd like to specialize in internal medicine and infectious diseases, with a particular focus on HIV and TB. Ultimately, we want to practice medicine in humanitarian and developing settings.

**How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?**
Since I was first trained as a community organizer in 2007, I've always been passionate about helping empower people to live the kind of life they choose for themselves and I don't believe disease should ever stand between a person and their dignity. I always knew that a medical degree would be necessary to treating illness, but the Josef Korbel School and the HA program have helped me get a better grasp of how to understand the complex social determinants that affect people's lives and how to intervene with more than just good intentions.

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**Christi Yoder**

**What is your background?**
I have a bachelor's degree in zoology, a master's in wildlife biology, and a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology. I worked as a wildlife researcher developing contraceptives for wildlife of all things.

**Why did you choose the Josef Korbel School?**
I chose the Josef Korbel School because of its reputation and the fact that it had a separate degree for human rights. I was also interested in the Global Health Affairs and Humanitarian Certificate Programs. Plus, I already lived in Colorado, so that was a bonus!

**Why did you choose the HA certificate program?**
I started out in the Global Health Certificate program because of my background in reproductive physiology. It only took one class for me to figure out that wasn't really what I wanted to do. I was most interested in the humanitarian field and I really liked the classes for the certificate program that were being offered.

**What do you hope to do with your degree and certificate?**
Ideally, I would like to work in the field in Africa with gender-based violence issues. Eventually, I think I would like to move into a policy position, but I really feel like I couldn't do a good job without the field experience.

**How do you perceive the certificate will aid you in your professional endeavors?**
The classes I've taken and the internship I had over the summer with InterAction have helped me feel more focused and prepared for finding a job. I feel like the classes I've taken for the certificate have offered me a more real-world perspective than just reading a lot of papers on theory. Hopefully, I will be able to hit the ground running!
Organization Profile

International Organization for Migration

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a humanitarian agency which is leading the work in the field of migration around the world. IOM has widely implemented operations in Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DRR) for nearly a century.

Recent programs include providing much needed assistance to Syrian refugees by distributing vital relief items, working with unemployed and underemployed former combatants from vulnerable communities on business start-ups, and also providing humanitarian assistance to the Central African Republic.

One of the areas IOM extensively works in is the return and reintegration of former combatants back into civilian life. These successful reintegration programs enhance the transition from conflict to peace. IOM’s unique focus in this area helps to build local capacity and further empowers communities to assist in their own reconstruction as a way to mitigate and prevent forced migration.

Most former combatants which IOM works with are often marginalized groups in communities who blame them for the excessive violence in the region. As a result, they cannot find employment and this may lead to further escalation of armed conflict. Thus, IOM sees the successful reintegration of former combatants as a key element in the path to build stable communities with sustainable peace.

IOM is a trusted agency that works with its partners by sharing information and demonstrating response capabilities through effective simulation exercises both at regional and national level.
Alumni Profile

See what the Josef Korbel School graduates are doing now, how they feel their education contributed to their career development and what advice they offer to upcoming grads looking to enter the humanitarian field.

Lorelle Yuen

I worked at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a Rapid Response Officer for Information Management for the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. My job is extremely dynamic but rewarding. My responsibilities range from writing proposals for funding, managing and implementing ongoing global level projects such as with private sector companies like Deloitte to facilitate innovative approaches on improving coordination at the camp level, and coordinating surge capacity with standby partners during humanitarian crises. During emergencies, the rapid response officers are deployed to provide surge capacity in thematic areas. There are many challenging aspects of my job including meeting tight deadlines, completing tasks without any background information or experience, managing multiple projects simultaneously, and forming and maintaining relationships with key UN, NGO and private sector partners. Additionally, as the CCCM cluster is co-led by IOM and UNHCR at the global level, another challenging aspect has been coordinating and implementing inter-agency projects while respecting the respective mandates, procedures and internal demands of each agency.

What is your career background?
During my undergraduate career, I received a bachelor of arts in journalism and worked closely with a refugee resettlement agency and Habitat for Humanity International. These experiences exposed me to the issues of forced migration, refugees and development which inspired me to work with a small NGO in Bolivia and then pursue a career in international development at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies.

Describe your job and what you find challenging
I focused my coursework and research on refugee rights and migration and worked closely with local organizations in Denver to support resettled refugees. My research and experiences led to my internship with the Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) which further exposed me to the field of refugee and humanitarian assistance. As such, during my last year at the Josef Korbel School, I decided to conduct field research along the Thai-Burma border for my thesis on capacity building through language training for refugees in protracted situations. Following completion of my thesis, I obtained an internship with IOM which later turned into a full time position.

How did your time at the Josef Korbel School contribute to your career development?
The coursework at the Josef Korbel School provided me with the foundational knowledge necessary for me to be successful at my career today. The flexibility of the program to focus my studies on my passion enabled me to develop greater expertise. The program also offered a balance of theoretical and practical courses which enabled me to develop my hard skill sets. These courses, such as Statistics, Econometrics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), have set me apart from other candidates and have diversified my skill sets, allowing me to contribute and offer more to IOM. In addition, the professors at the Josef Korbel School provided great career advice and opportunities to further expand my potential.

Any words of wisdom for the Josef Korbel School HA students?
I recommend diversifying your skill sets and taking courses which will help develop your hard skill sets like statistics, econometrics, and GIS. Should you aspire to work within the sector of humanitarian assistance, I highly recommend completing the Humanitarian Assistance Certificate program and specifically taking Health and Humanitarian Aid and Information Management in Humanitarian Crises as these courses have given me the baseline knowledge required to work in this field. I recommend gaining as much experience as possible through extracurricular activities that develop your leadership and management skills and to complete multiple internships to widen your network and add to your valuable experiences. I also highly suggest becoming proficient (reading, speaking and writing) in French given the high number of crises in francophone Africa and lack of French speaking humanitarian workers.