We are excited to announce the new class of the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program—our second—an initiative at the heart of the Foundation’s work. The Fellows Program is designed to provide a small cohort of young professional leaders in the Puget Sound region with training, mentoring, and networking to build their skills. The program is values-based. We founded it on the principles that anchored Senator Jackson and that we believe translate to a younger generation. Their enthusiastic, community-oriented, and passionate outlook invigorates all of us.

The 2017 class is diverse in so many ways, with Fellows drawn from the government, non-profit, academic, philanthropic, and business sectors. We believe the variety of viewpoints represented will help generate new ideas and new ways of solving problems. The Fellows range in age from young 20’s to 40. They share an enthusiasm for their careers: this year’s class is engaged in natural resources management, climate, and renewable energy as well as rule of law, human rights, political communication, racial equity, and civil discourse. It is that tremendous commitment to success—coupled with a desire to give back to the community—that has already made them stand out.

The Jackson Foundation hopes to contribute to the continued development of these exceptional young people. We will keep you informed of the work they are doing together and individually in the spirit and tradition of Senator Henry M. Jackson.

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We intend to keep them connected to the Jackson Foundation and the Jackson legacy. In fact, the Foundation recently established the Jackson Leadership Fellows Council as a more formal means to engage the Alumni Fellows in its work.

We know you will be excited to learn more about the new Fellows and how they will contribute to our region—and our nation—in the years ahead. Please visit our website to discover more information about these young leaders.
Ambassador Nick Burns examines looming foreign policy challenges

“I think you have to go back 70 years to find a time when we have been so challenged around the world. It’s a complex time,” said former Ambassador and Harvard Kennedy School Professor Nicholas Burns, speaking on “Memo to the Next President: Challenges for the U.S. in a Complex World” to a large University of Washington audience.

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation sponsored the public event together with the Jackson School and Center for Global Studies at the UW.

The Anne H.H. and Kenneth B. Pyle Assistant Professor in American Foreign Policy Daniel Bessner introduced former Ambassador Burns, noting his long diplomatic career, including his time as former U.S. Ambassador to NATO and to Greece. Burns currently serves as a member of Secretary of State John Kerry’s Foreign Policy Advisory Board.

Ambassador Burns opened the talk by emphasizing Senator Jackson’s vision that America’s strength and defense should be preserved. He reminded the audience, “The Scoop Jackson legacy is a great one.”

Burns identified three issues the next U.S. president should address as the largest threats to the vital interests of the U.S., namely (1) how to contain Russia’s “opportunistic” leader Vladimir Putin and his assault on the independence of other states, (2) what the U.S. can do to calm the violence in the Middle East, focusing on power struggles in four failed states (Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Yemen), and (3) how to balance U.S.-China relations as both a friend and a threat.

“These are the three big challenges before us, and we’ve got to get them right if we want to have a peaceful, stable future,” he concluded.