In March we were pleased to welcome The Honorable John M. Deutch as the inaugural Henry M. Jackson / James R. Schlesinger Lecturer and Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence at the UW Jackson School. The Jackson Foundation initiated this lecture series to honor Senator Jackson’s longtime friend and colleague Jim Schlesinger by bringing high-level foreign policy experts to the Jackson School.

Over the course of his visit, Professor Deutch, currently emeritus Institute Professor at MIT and former director of the CIA and Director of Central Intelligence, spoke at a number of events. A private luncheon in downtown Seattle drew diplomats, business people, and community leaders. In the evening he gave an excellent, engaging lecture on nuclear deterrent policy and how that policy may or may not change going forward. To a packed crowd of over 150, he spoke about his relationship with both Jackson and Schlesinger, remembering Schlesinger’s keen intellect and noting the influence of Jackson and Schlesinger on his own thinking. Professor Deutch stated, “The intellectual and political leadership of Jim Schlesinger and Senator Jackson had a lot to do with the new nuclear deterrent policy, which led to a relatively safe Cold War relationship with the Soviet Union.”

Professor Deutch also met with Jackson School students and served as an evaluator for its Task Force program, a capstone course during which students share their research and policy recommendations on a variety of leading global issues. The Task Force members presented their findings and showed the substantial knowledge they had gained over the quarter on nuclear energy policy. Professor Deutch, drawing on his decades of experience, challenged the students to direct their findings toward a specific audience that could implement the policy recommendations. He also said, “I’m quite impressed with the product. It is well written and not everything—even at high levels of government—is well done.”

James Schlesinger’s daughters, Ann and Emily, attended all the events. Ann said, “For our family, this has been meaningful—we were very glad to see the Jackson/Schlesinger lecture come to fruition, linking their two names. It is an honor to both men, who as friends, colleagues, and public servants, and in difficult times, gave the best of themselves to this country. We were pleased, too, that Dr. Deutch was chosen to give the inaugural lecture, and Emily and I were grateful to be there.”
California, San Diego, and her M.S. in Homeland Security from San Diego State University. Her background in conflict studies stems from six years working in the defense industry, as well as her time spent in Bangkok, Thailand, researching the intersection of human trafficking and Western tourism.

Regarding her fellowship, Megan writes: “Because of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowship, I have been able to continue my doctoral research on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands at the University of Washington. I have had the pleasure to work with diverse faculty and interdisciplinary approaches in the field of international studies. My academic background informs my current research on informal religion, human rights, and law enforcement policing practices. Prior to my time at the University of Washington, my graduate work focused on North American policing culture and its effect on marginalized religious groups in Mexico. I am grateful to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation and its commitment to international studies. Its support has enabled me to advance research which I hope will someday address international issues of human rights and policing practices.”

The Foundation, in addition to having a blog and YouTube Channel, is now on Facebook and Twitter. We hope to attract a new generation of followers who will connect with the legacy of Senator Henry M. Jackson through the work of the Jackson Foundation.

Please follow us at twitter.com/Jackson_Fdn and like us on facebook.com/HenryMJacksonFoundation.
In January, the Jackson Foundation was pleased to celebrate the induction of Daniel Bessner as the first Anne H.H. and Kenneth B. Pyle Professor in American Foreign Policy. The professorship was established with a gift from the Jackson Foundation. Dr. Kenneth B. Pyle and Senator Jackson shared a remarkable professional and personal rapport founded on their joint commitment to a strong and deeply knowledgeable American foreign policy community. A recognized leader in international affairs education, Dr. Pyle is a former director of the Jackson School and the founding president of The National Bureau of Asian Research.

Jackson Foundation Board President John Hempelmann said this about the professorship, “Ken Pyle’s distinguished career is firmly planted in what Senator Jackson believed to be paramount in today’s world—that our students be well-informed of global challenges and very much involved in advancing the best of the United States.”

With this position, the Foundation and the University sought to attract and retain at the Jackson School an exceptional scholar whose teaching and research on American foreign policy would have lasting impacts on future generations. Daniel Bessner, the first recipient of the Professorship, is just such a scholar.

In his welcoming remarks, Jackson School Director Reşat Kasaba said, “Daniel is one of the youngest members of our faculty, but already within the short three years he has been with us, he has made a name for himself in U.S. foreign policy, and also is a very effective teacher, advisor and member of our community.”

As the new recipient, Daniel Bessner lectured to a full crowd of 100 students, faculty and community members on “Democracy in Exile: Hans Speier and the Defense Intellectual.” Prof. Bessner began by praising Prof. Pyle as “the best example of what an engaged intellectual should be.” Bessner then addressed his research and findings that will be the subject of his upcoming book. It explores the role social scientists played by exerting influence on U.S. foreign policy during and after the Cold War.

Speaking about the impact of foreign policy experts on American policy making, he argued, “The public has lost faith in the foreign policy establishment, because the elite [experts] are rarely held accountable.” He continued, “… the public should know information being presented to government.” “Democracy needs expertise, but we also need to hold these experts accountable,” he concluded. “So I am for expertise, but I am for a ‘humble and modest’ expertise.”

The Foundation concurs with Professor Pyle, who in his concluding remarks said, “We look forward to Daniel Bessner’s promising career.”
The Foundation’s long-time Finance Officer, Jelena Jurkovic, is retiring at the end of April after 18 years of dedicated service to the Foundation. Jelena has been a loyal team member, providing efficient and timely help on all matters she supervised. Jelena gained the friendship and respect of all of her colleagues over the years, both on the staff and in the community, and certainly of the Board of Governors. Executive Director Lara Iglitzin had this to say about Jelena’s departure: “We will miss her. She has added to the work of the Jackson Foundation in ways that have proved invaluable. Equally important, her spirit and compassion for others will be hard to replace. She will always hold a special place for those of us associated with the Jackson extended family.” We wish her the best in her retirement.