University of Washington’s President Ana Mari Cauce recently presented the Henry M. Jackson / William Van Ness Lecture on Leadership. In her talk “Leadership for a World in Flux,” President Cauce spoke frankly about her personal evolution as a leader and what she has learned in her journey. In reflecting on successful and influential leaders in her own professional life, Cauce emphasized, “Strong values are the basis of capable leadership.”

In his introduction, Foundation President John Hempelmann drew attention to the glass ceilings Cauce shattered. She rose through the ranks to become UW’s first woman, Latina and openly gay president one year ago. As Cauce herself mused, she may not come to mind as a typical university leader.

President Cauce explained that in a university setting, leading with a more democratic and collaborative style is necessary. Yet certain situations demand unilateral action, for example during a crisis or when an issue represents a non-negotiable core value. She suggested that making the correct diagnosis of a situation is critical, along with matching leadership behaviors to what is required.

Cauce highlighted the role of authenticity in leadership. Authentic leadership requires self-awareness, self-monitoring and impulse control—all familiar concepts to a president who trained as a clinical psychologist. She said, “I’d recommend that any leader spend some time watching themselves on film with someone else critiquing their performance; it’s both humbling and instructive.” She continued, “Self-monitoring is so essential because as a leader your behavior sets the tone.” Reflecting on her own Cuban heritage and boisterous family, she learned that, “If I want someone’s opinion, I need to tone it down,” and humorously noted that “sitting on her hands” could be used to tamp down her natural impulse to speak, rather than listen.

President Cauce has considered how to develop leadership skills in the next generation at the University, especially for those students who, like herself, may not be obvious leaders—either to themselves or others. She seeks to teach students “to practice leadership in whatever they do.” Cauce concluded that, “Preparing as many people as possible with the skills to lead—lead themselves, lead their communities, lead through crisis and to lead change will make our whole society stronger and, with a little luck, produce the kind of leaders our country and our world needs—now more than ever.

The Henry M. Jackson / William Van Ness Lectures on Leadership recognize the remarkable qualities that its immediate past president, William Van Ness, and Senator Jackson demonstrated in their decades of service. Both exemplify the good judgment, integrity, and character inherent in true leadership.

A UW faculty member since 1986, Ana Mari Cauce became interim president and then the UW’s 33rd president in 2015.
Leadership. We’ve all been thinking about what it takes this election year. We had the benefit of a provocative lecture on the subject by Dr. Ana Mari Cauce, the new president of the University of Washington, who spoke in our Jackson-Bill Van Ness Lecture Series on Leadership. We’re glad to showcase that here today.

We’ve also had a busy fall with events in Seattle and Washington, DC. Our conference with the UW’s Jackson School on migration and refugee policy touched on local issues—how refugees are being integrated into our community here—as well as international implications of U.S. and Western policy. It was heartening to see a packed room at the UW and tens of committed citizens engaged in the discussion.

In Washington, DC we tackled water security and climate change. Working with the Wilson Center, we highlighted the connections between water, food, energy, and security—and the role that climate plays in the equation. Read about these conferences and other Jackson news in these pages. And please tell us what you think!

Happy holiday season to all.

Lara Iglitzin
Executive Director

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Jackson School holds inaugural conference on global migration crises and human rights

Adapted from an article by Oded Oron, former Henry M. Jackson Doctoral Fellow at UW Jackson School

The Jackson School of International Studies and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation hosted a public conference in October called “The Global Migration Crisis and Human Rights.” The all-day event brought together over a hundred academics, students, NGO professionals, civil society activists and community members who discussed the evolving trends in international migration crises, with a focus on root causes and the role of government and non-profit actors.

In his welcome, Jackson Foundation President John Hempelmann emphasized the commitment of the Foundation to connect a broad range of experts on global issues to policymakers, and to engage the greater public. “I hope we can come up with some concrete ideas we can then pass on to our elected officials,” he said.

Foundation Executive Director Lara Iglitzin moderated a panel, which discussed the evolving trends in the role of local nongovernment and government agencies in helping resettle refugees. Nicky Smith, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee of Seattle, spoke about the increase in global displacement with the main exporting countries being Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and South Sudan. Washington State remains committed as a refugee-hosting state, keeping its place as one of the top 10 resettling states in the U.S., she noted.

Dr. Faried Alani of Sea Mar Community Health Centers shared his personal story. Formerly the head of orthopedic surgery in Alkarkh General Hospital in Baghdad, Dr. Alani described the challenges refugees face: “I was forced to leave. I sacrificed a career and a home I loved. My children had to leave friends and family. But I was fortunate to use my skills as well as build on my education. Most refugees have a lot of challenges, language barriers, even if there is an interpreter in the room when getting medical care, for example.”

At other panels throughout the day, local experts shared their views with University scholars and Jackson School graduate students, who also led table discussions with the audience on the issues presented and questions raised by the panelists.
Experts call water issues fundamental to climate change at Wilson Center event

In a packed half-day, public and private event in Washington, DC in October, the Jackson Foundation and the Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program tackled “Water and Security in an Uncertain World” in an effort to address what Foundation President John Hempelmann termed “the close intersection of climate change, national security, and water.” Sherri Goodman, former Deputy Undersecretary for Defense and a current Wilson Center Public Policy Fellow, concurred and called water “the front line of climate change.”

The two sessions assessed the risks to water security globally and explored responses to both ongoing problems and short-term water crises. Lieutenant General Jeffrey Tailey (ret) lamented that “many people are indifferent to water security, which often takes a crisis to make us respond adequately.” When asked how to generate both interest and policy progress to ensure greater action on water security and water rights, Christian Holmes, Global Water Coordinator, U.S. Agency for International Development, talked of generating a long-term strategy: “You need to tell a story to engage people. We haven’t been delivering a narrative.” This approach could also help interest a U.S. president or Congress in taking more decisive action. Foundation Vice President Craig Gannett noted in remarks seconded by many that the U.S. has historically—even in Senator Jackson’s day—not done well in water management in its own backyard. “We are not a great model for the world,” he cautioned, even as these events focused primarily on international water concerns in regions such as South East Asia, Africa and the Middle East—and often on America’s leading role in the water management field abroad.

Ken Conca, American University Professor, raised the need to extend robust human rights protection to people advocating for water rights: “Water is one of the real fulcrums for multiple goals—rights and democracy,” he stressed. Sherri Goodman highlighted the reverse side of the importance of water: “Water can be a source of strategic instability,” exacerbating international conflicts and worsening human rights violations globally.

Roger-Mark de Souza, director of the Environmental Change and Security Program at Wilson, in closing the session, sought to pull together the threads of policy suggestions from the discussion. He reiterated that major national reports, including the September 2016 Presidential Memo on Climate and Security, as well as the World Bank 2016 Climate Change Action plan, had raised to the highest policy levels the links between climate, security and water. It is through gatherings such as this that water, climate, and national security will continue to be assessed and pushed forward to the front burner of the policy world.
At times we are struck at the enduring impact that Senator Jackson had on so many individual citizens of this country. Working as we do under the Scoop Jackson banner, it is perhaps not surprising that we hear often of the value of his leadership to our nation and to the state of Washington. Still, over 30 years since his passing, it is striking and humbling that the Jackson Foundation just received a major bequest of over $400,000 from a voter in Washington State whose life he had touched—and who remained impressed by what Jackson still stands for today.

While we did not know this donor well, we appreciate that he stayed in touch with the Jackson Foundation’s work and our efforts to keep Jackson’s legacy vibrant and forward-looking. The world has changed much in those three decades—among many changes, the Soviet Union has imploded, the Internet has helped generate a technology-driven society, and China’s thirst for energy resources and power continues to challenge the U.S. While many say to us, “we wish Scoop were around today,” we prefer to be guided by what we consider to be his core principles and view today’s challenges with modern eyes. His steady, well-informed world-view, his defense of America’s national security concerns, his prescience on environment and natural resources, and his commitment to next generation leadership all inform our work at the Foundation.

We are so grateful for the bequest we just received because it will help us do our work, and more of it, in the years ahead. As you know we have targeted climate change and national security; rule of law and human rights, particularly as it relates to Russia and its role in global politics; and on building future leadership that is steeped in the bipartisan, civic-minded Jackson tradition. Please consider the Jackson Foundation in your estate planning in the years ahead. Help strengthen our ability to have an impact and further the Jackson legacy for years to come.

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