Anita Ramasastry,
Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law

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directs the UW Law School’s Sustainable International Development Graduate Program. A pioneer in the field of business, anti-corruption and human rights, she has won numerous teaching awards and the UW Outstanding Public Service Award.

In addition to her position at the university, Prof. Ramasastry is involved in the diplomatic sphere. For the United Nations Human Rights Council, she serves as a Special Rapporteur as a member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights and currently chairs the governance committee of all of the Special Rapporteurs for the United Nations Human Rights Council. She was also recently appointed as the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption at the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) in Europe. Through these efforts, Prof. Ramasastry sheds light on the roles that businesses and governments have in combating corruption and human rights, which are often closely tied. She also collaborates with two Foundation partners: the UW Jackson School’s Center for Human Rights and Human Rights First.

Prof. Ramasastry said, “The Jackson Foundation and I have many common causes, and this professorship embodies the values I also hold important in terms of fostering international cooperation and the key role of international human rights to global peace and security.”

This endowed professorship, along with the Magnuson-Jackson Moot Courtroom that the Foundation helped support, ensures that the Senator’s legacy continues. We are so pleased to see Professor Ramasastry holding this position and to support this outstanding leader in human rights, sustainability, and public service.
We see the Foundation’s mission exemplified in the individuals highlighted in this newsletter.

First, we feature Professor Anita Ramasastry, whose interests remarkably align with the Foundation’s goals; we are excited to be connected with her. In particular, Anita’s efforts on business and human rights strongly tie to our interest in the Global Magnitsky Act, which targets human rights abuse and corruption. Furthermore, her focus on international sustainability and leadership at the UW Law School closely parallels the Foundation’s other key aims. We are proud and inspired to see the Jackson Professor of Law engaged in all these areas that are so close to our work.

In addition, we share updates on a number of Jackson Leadership Fellows and provide a snapshot of how they contribute and express leadership. I was pleased to have an opportunity to draw attention to the Jackson Leadership Fellows program in a recent interview for the UW Evans School. We feel honored to support these values-based leaders as they make a difference in the community.

Katy Terry
Executive Director

Haakon Ragde, Senator Jackson’s close friend and personal physician, passed away on April 17, 2021, in Bellevue, Washington. Dr. Ragde was closely involved in Senator Jackson’s political campaigns, and accompanied him on his 1979 trip to China. Like Senator Jackson’s parents, Dr. Ragde hailed from Norway. When Jackson met Dr. Ragde in 1965 at a civilian hospital in Vietnam, the Senator asked if the hospital had any needs. Several weeks later, the physician received all the supplies he had asked for and more. After the Vietnam War, Dr. Ragde took up Senator Jackson’s suggestion and relocated to Seattle. He practiced medicine at the University of Washington and pioneered a number of medical innovations. We are saddened by this loss and offer our condolences to Dr. Ragde’s family.

Haakon Ragde’s Seattle Times’ obituary may be read here.
It’s a Wrap: 2021 Jackson Leadership Fellows

The sixth Jackson Leadership Fellows cohort just completed its formal program, with the exception of a delayed trip to Washington, D.C. Due to COVID-19, this cohort’s program took place entirely online, yet the Fellows were still deeply engaged in the program.

In addition to conducting training sessions on leadership and communication skills, we held several special sessions with key leaders in our community. For example, the cohort had insightful discussions with Martha Choe, community leader and former CAO of the Gates Foundation; Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson; and Rhonda Lewis, Chief of Staff for King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay. These meetings offered the group an opportunity to ask questions and learn from different leaders about their experience and perspective on leadership.

The Jackson Fellows Network also played a pivotal role this year. Many became “buddies” and met with individual cohort members over the year; some interesting professional collaborations developed as a result. The Network held a virtual welcoming event and included the class in other activities for its members, as well. We appreciate the Network’s efforts to connect with the 2021 cohort. And we eagerly await meeting again in person!

Fellows on the Move

Maria Abando has joined the Stephanie Gallardo for Congress Campaign as Finance Director.

Marc Berger has a new role as President and Partner at Nyhus, a strategic communications firm.

Nonprofit consulting firm Changemaker Strategies spotlighted Radha Friedman for her work around intersectional gender equality and philanthropy.

Monica Guzman now serves as Digital Director for Braver Angels, a national nonprofit working to depolarize America.

Seattle School Board Vice President Brandon Hersey declared his campaign to retain his District 7 seat.

Washington State Senator Joe Nguyen announced his candidacy for King County Executive.

Shin Yu Pai started as the Program Director for Town Hall Seattle, an organization at the forefront of promoting civic dialogue in Seattle.

Kristine Reeves has been selected as a 2021 Leadership in Government Fellow by the Open Society Foundation. Kristine will develop a public policy process model and toolkit to address the perpetuation of systemic oppression and exclusion by promoting intercultural sensitivity coaching, training, and policy evaluation.

Sarah Reyneveld has a new role as the Managing Assistant Attorney General with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) at the Washington State Attorney General’s office.

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Jackson Fellows inspire students at UW leadership class

The University of Washington’s Community Engagement and Leadership Education (CELE) Center (formerly the Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center) invited Jackson Leadership Fellows Maria Abando and Brandon Hersey to speak this spring at Leadership Firesides. In this course, students develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes to become effective change agents and contributing members in their communities.

Leadership Firesides encourage students to engage with a range of civic and corporate leaders in an informal setting. Guest speakers address a contemporary leadership challenge; this year speakers shared their perspectives on leadership in a time of disillusionment.

Maria Abando, a community organizer and artist, reflected on her work with Common Purpose and new role as Finance Director for the Stephanie Gallardo for Congress campaign. Maria shared that building personal connections can lead to empowered communities that drive change. She also emphasized aligning one’s personal values with one’s work and encouraged the students to speak up—for themselves and others. To resist disillusionment, Maria said, “When we’re working through moments of great loss like this one, we must accept that there really isn’t enough time to spend worrying about the perfect way to get out of it. Inaction could lead to more loss. We have to do our best to let go of ‘perfect’ and just try something, knowing that others are trying, too.”

In his remarks, educator and Seattle School Board Vice President Brandon Hersey spoke about his experience in fighting for equitable education. Brandon explained why he sought a position on the Seattle School Board, “It’s not enough just to be a good teacher in my classroom; we have to be able to change the environment. The only way we can do that effectively is through policy.” About recent years, Brandon noted, “The biggest thing that keeps me from becoming disillusioned is just getting things done in the interest of kids, specifically Black kids.” And finally, Brandon highly encouraged the students to run for office: “Three letters: R-U-N! Run, do it, try it!”

This course gave the undergraduate students a chance to hear dynamic local leaders. In addition, it connected the Jackson Leadership Fellows with programming at the CELE Center, which also runs the Jackson Munro Public Service Fellowship program. We are grateful to Maria and Brandon for sharing their perspectives and for providing such great models of leadership to these students.

The Jackson Foundation Newsletter is a publication of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

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