

Report from Georgetown



Washington, District of Columbia. Ever since the War of Independence of the United States, this city has been influencing the course of history almost all over the world. So it is today. This is where you can meet the most important leaders from around the world, leading politicians, businessmen and academics. In this environment the elite Georgetown University is located, with its Georgetown School of Foreign Service, one of the best schools of foreign policy and international relations in the United States, a West Point of American diplomacy.

It was an honor to be able to go to this place to participate in the prestigious Georgetown Leadership Seminar 2015. The stay in Washington was an extraordinary experience. For me, as a diplomat, it was an unique opportunity to acquire extremely valuable knowledge and experience necessary for my further work in the Polish foreign service. The program was extremely intense and included many interesting elements, conducted by leading figures of American political life, journalism and science. These scrolled to names like, among others, Madeleine Albright, Chuck Hagel, EJ Dionne, Joel Hellman and Peter Krough. Also, the group of participants was exceptional. A bunch of not only diplomats, but also journalists, representatives of think-tanks, NGOs and the private sector, all leaders from their respective fields came from all around the world.

Activities included a series of lectures and discussions on the most important challenges of the modern era. Topics included globalization in the contemporary world, US foreign and security policy, cyber security, as well as climate change. It was supplemented by meetings with invited guests, taking place in interesting locations on the map of Washington, such as the World Bank, Cosmos Club, or the modernist building of the Embassy of Sweden. The Seminar ended with the alumni reunion, enabling us to establish contacts with the people who participated in this program since its establishment in 1982. The whole week ended with a dinner during which the foreign minister of Jordan, also a GLS alumni, gave a speech on the situation in the Middle East.

All of this, thanks to Jan Karski and the Educational Foundation of his name, which in order to educate young leaders in accordance with the principles professed by the great Polish hero, funded a scholarship enabling them to attend the seminar. It fills me with pride when I look at the character of the Professor, who is widely known and respected at Georgetown University. This respect is reflected not only by the bench of his name located in a charming corner of the campus, but also in the memories and stories of staff and students of Georgetown School of Foreign Service, the top academic position of which had been built also by Jan Karski.

For me, the stay at Georgetown was not only an extraordinary adventure, but also a unique opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and experience. Thanks to this, I hope to

continue serving in the Polish diplomacy and conscientiously, with dedication and commitment, work for the good of my country...like Karski did.


Andrzej Fajara