

Laudation for Professor Peter F. Krogh by Ambassador Stephen Mull

It is an extraordinary honor today to pay tribute, in the name of our beloved patron and hero Dr. Jan Karski, to one of America's leading educators in the field of foreign policy and international relations, Dr. Peter F. Krogh, the Dean of my alma mater, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, from 1970-1995, and currently Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the School. On a personal level, today's event offers me a rare chance of redemption. I certainly was not one of Dean Krogh's best students during my time at Georgetown in the 1970's. I hope that during our meetings today, I can convince him that maybe, after all, it was not a serious mistake to grant me a diploma all those years ago!

Today we are all honored guests of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation. How appropriate that "education" is a central word in the name of the Foundation, for Professor Karski's enduring legacy is that of an educator, in every sense of the word. As a young man, Jan Karski strove to educate the world on the evils of fascism, with his eyewitness accounts to Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and other Allied leaders of the horrors of the Holocaust and the other terrors of Nazi German occupation of Poland. And he did so at great personal risk and sacrifice, enduring brutal torture and imprisonment that drove him, fortunately unsuccessfully, to suicide, in his quest to enlighten the world about the rising tide of evil engulfing Europe.

After the war, Professor Karski continued his work as an educator in the more civilized environment of academia, receiving his PhD from Georgetown University in 1952, going on to teach Georgetown's lucky students, including me, for more than 40 years. Being Professor Karski's student was a privilege unlike any other during my education. I wrote about the experience of being in Professor Karski's classroom in the foreword of the new edition to his principal work, "The Great Powers and Poland":

On a hot summer evening in July 1979, the impeccably attired Jan Karski strode briskly into a small Georgetown University classroom, trailing a thick afterburn of cigarette smoke. "I am Karski!" he declared with dramatic flair in his thickly-accented English. "This summer, you will learn theory of communism!" The other students and I, who had been lazily trying to keep cool in our shabby shorts and t-shirts, sat up at attention. Who was this guy? A secret agent? A communist? A movie star? For the next three weeks, he held us in thrall as he eagerly paced the classroom, wildly gesticulating, lecturing on the labor theory of value, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the darker secrets of democratic centralism. His passion was so strong, his zeal so overpowering, that many of us thought perhaps he was a communist sent to convert us. To our eternal shame, none of us knew who he really was; how he had earned those terrible scars on his face; what unspeakable horrors those clear blue eyes had seen; and what coldly realistic insights into the nature of power and its uses that he had gained risking his life for a free Poland during the Second World War.

If anything, the importance of education in confronting the world's problems as we all become more inter-related and inter-dependent has only grown more urgent as we all confront the deadly costs of willful ignorance, destructive nationalism and fear of the "other", disinformation, and fake

news. For that reason, it is more than fitting that today's honoree in Karski's name is none other than his principal partner in his later years at Georgetown, Dr. Peter F. Krogh, who in his own way has contributed so much to the education of the world on the issues and challenges of international affairs. At the tender age of 32, Dr. Krogh became the new Dean of Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Although founded as America's first school devoted exclusively to foreign service 100 years ago in 1919, after America's decisive entry onto the world stage as a major power at the end of World War I, the School of Foreign Service had been in significant decline. Dean Krogh's energetic, visionary leadership rescued the School from what seemed to be inevitable collapse, and laid a foundation on which one of America's leading institutions devoted to the study of international relations continues to thrive and grow today.

In retrospect, it seems impossible that someone so young facing so many challenges could accomplish so much in building what has become one of the most prestigious institutions in American higher education today. The elements of Dean Krogh's success are almost too numerous to mention. He:

- Revolutionized the curriculum by introducing a requirement of core courses that grounded its students in the principles of international relations, world history, economics, and foreign languages; and later expanded its scope to focus on previously ignored dimensions of international relations such as science diplomacy, international trade and commerce, international law, and the role of women's issues in national security;
- Pioneered an interdisciplinary approach to the study of international affairs, underscoring the interconnectedness of all aspects of the human experience in understanding the dynamics of relations between nations and cultures, and giving his students a fundamental grasp of the transnational issues that have come to dominate foreign policy since the end of the Cold War;
- Greatly enriched education at Georgetown by regularly attracting world-famous practitioners such as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Henry Kissinger, Madeleine Albright, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Michael Armacost, Chester Crocker, David Abshire, Paul Nitze, Leslie Gelb, and Donald McHenry, among many others;
- Further integrated the School into the top echelons of the American foreign policy community by creating an Advisory Board of Visitors to help guide the School's development, including such figures as:
 - Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk
 - Future Senator and Secretary of State John Kerry
 - Paul Warnke
 - Ellsworth Bunker
 - Joseph Nye
- Substantially expanded the School of Foreign Service's academic prestige by overseeing the creation of a multitude of Centers, Institutes, and Programs that expanded the world's understanding of key issues in the conduct of international affairs, including:
 - The Center for German and European Studies
 - The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
 - The Institute for the Study of Diplomacy (in which I was proud to serve as a Resident Senior Fellow last year)
 - The Landegger Program in International Business Diplomacy

- The McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies
- The Georgetown Leadership Seminar
- The African Studies Program
- The Turkish Studies Program
- The Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding

The extraordinary impact of Dean Krogh's historic leadership of the School of Foreign Service is indisputable. The School has become Washington's premier venue for the independent study and discussion of the world's most pressing foreign policy issues. More than 75 current and former U.S., and hundreds of other diplomats and policy leaders, are alumni of the School of Foreign Service.

As one of those Ambassadors, I can personally attest that were it not for Dean Krogh's leadership of the School of Foreign Service, I certainly would not be standing before you today. When I enrolled at Georgetown as an international politics major in 1976, I was the first person in the history of my family to attend University. I had never been outside the United States, and did not even possess a passport. The fundamentals of foreign policy-making, the major themes in international relations through the centuries, and the principles of international trade and economics were all unknown to me. Dean Krogh's success in creating an extraordinarily rich learning environment, unprecedented opportunities to engage with so many leading practitioners of diplomacy, and his high standards of excellence transformed me and my life, and gave me the tools to serve and succeed in America's Foreign Service for 36 years.

Dean Krogh's success as an educator did not stop at the gates of Georgetown. Over the course of his decades at Georgetown, he also became one of America's leading foreign policy journalists on public television, hosting three separate series devoted to international affairs: "American Interests", "World Beat", and "Great Decisions" – together producing between 1981 and 2005 over 200 episodes and a series of documentaries on such diverse topics as the Palestinian uprising, nuclear proliferation, and the end of apartheid in South Africa, the demise of the Soviet Union, and challenges in U.S.-Cuban relations, reaching hundreds of thousands of viewers over the years.

Dean Krogh's TV career did not get off to an auspicious start. He recounted in his memoirs that when he taped the pilot show of "American Interests" with the Egyptian Ambassador to Washington, he was puzzled by an unusual sound he heard during the taping – it turned out to be the snoring of the cameraman who had fallen asleep during the interview! America's foreign policy community is grateful to you, Dean Krogh, for persisting in your TV career despite this early experience!

When Dean Krogh retired in 1995, he received a hand-written letter from Professor Karski congratulating him on his historic leadership of the School of Foreign Service. He wrote: "You made the School what it is – the best of them all. You are its founder. You made it out of confusion, chaos, and incompetence. Nobody will be able to match your energy, self-sacrifice, and talents. Nobody will command such devotion, loyalty and trust. You gave it your all."

Dean Krogh, you can be proud of a legacy of serving your nation, the world, and the higher cause of peace and mutual understanding in our common quest for the truth; a legacy we recognize today

by presenting you with the Spirit of Jan Karski Award. Somewhere, I am certain as we gather here today that Professor Karski is smiling down on us as we pay tribute to this remarkable educator whose work in educating thousands of world citizens has contributed immeasurably to making the world a better place. I can imagine Professor Karski opening his grade book, looking for your name and exclaiming, “Aha, Peter! I give you an A!”

Thank you to all of you for joining us today in this tribute.

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