WASHINGTON, DC — On Wednesday, November 6th, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute co-hosted, together with the Atlantic Council and Georgetown University, a program marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The two-hour event, held in Georgetown’s Gaston Hall, was moderated by former ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson and Dean Joel Hellman of Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, and featured welcoming remarks from former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III.

“What happened three decades ago this week fundamentally changed the world...”
— Former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III

Secretary James A. Baker, III, speaks live via satellite with NBC News’ Tom Brokaw, who is in front of Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate, during the Bush Foundation Berlin Wall event November 6, 2019. (Photo credit: Georgetown University)
Neil and Pierce Bush joined the Foundation’s guests on November 8th in College Station to celebrate Union Pacific’s decision to donate the George Bush Locomotive for permanent display on the ground of the Bush Presidential Library and Museum. (Photo credit: Butch Ireland/Bush Foundation)

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID B. JONES

Our Fall 2019 edition of Fidelity coincides with the first anniversary of President Bush’s passing. While we continue to miss both President and Mrs. Bush greatly, and always will, we are ending this first full year without them going full speed ahead — as they would have it.

For example, we just finished a very full fall schedule of programs marking the 30th anniversaries of the seminal 1989 Education Summit and the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Special thanks to President Bill Clinton, Sec. James A. Baker, III and our other event partners in helping make both events exceptionally engaging and successful.

Last month, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation announced, together with partners Union Pacific and Texas A&M University, the coming of the iconic UP No. 4141 George Bush Locomotive to the Bush Library and Museum grounds later next year.

In October, we helped welcome former Defense Secretary and CIA Director Leon Panetta to the Bush School as the inaugural Cameron Fellow, and are excited about the future of this wonderful program to bring distinguished and respected leaders of a very high caliber to the Bush School. What a fitting legacy left by our very dear friend Flo Cameron Crichton, whose passing this past March leaves a tremendous void.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy, in October we were also pleased to join in welcoming David Bohigian — who just this month stepped down from running the Overseas Private Investment Corporation — to the Bush School for a terrific and wide-ranging conversation with our Foundation trustee Rob Mosbacher (who himself ran OPIC from 2005 to 2009).

Speaking of our Foundation’s Board of Trustees, we recently welcomed three outstanding new members — Bob Zoellick, Marlene Malek and Wayne Berman.

Look for an announcement early in 2020 regarding our capital campaign to take the education mission at the heart of the three entities that comprise the George H. W. Bush Presidential Center — the Foundation, the Bush School and the Bush Library and Museum — to new levels of excellence and engagement.

As always, everything we do the Bush Center relies very much on your generosity and active support. We cannot say it often enough: THANK YOU. Our upcoming Spring issue of Fidelity will feature our roster of 2019 donors, but in the meantime the entire Foundation team wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas, the happiest of holidays, and a wonderful 2020 ahead.

David B. Jones,  
President and Chief Executive Officer
“What happened three decades ago this week fundamentally changed the world,” Secretary Baker said. “The lessons that Presidents Reagan and Bush provided during that critical window of history remain as pertinent today as they were back then.”

The audience was then treated to a genuine surprise when NBC News’ Tom Brokaw joined the program live via satellite from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and asked Secretary Baker to elaborate further on the significance of the events of 1989.

“I think history will clearly mark the correctness of George Bush’s moderated response to what was a cataclysmic event.

— Former Secretary of State, James A. Baker, III
because he knew we still had a lot of business to do with (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev and (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze,” Mr. Baker said. “We weren’t going to stick it in their eye.”

Following a spirited discussion between scholars Jeffrey Engel of SMU and Peter Robinson of the Hoover Institute, former White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater reunited with Peter Maer and Gene Gibbons — former members of the White House press corps — to reflect on November 9, 1989, the actual day the Wall fell. All three men were in the West Wing when President Bush met with the media reacting to the development in Berlin.

“When the pool came into the Oval at 3:22 p.m., the President gave a very measured statement saying he

“I think history will clearly mark the correctness of George Bush’s moderated response to what was a cataclysmic event because he knew we still had a lot of business to do...”

— Former Secretary of State, James A. Baker, III
was pleased, and this was a good development,” Fitzwater recalled. “Eventually, Leslie Stahl (of CBS News) asked, ‘This is a sort of great victory for our side in the big East-West battle -- but you don’t seem elated.’ To which the President replied, ‘I am not an emotional kind of guy.’ That made all the news.”

Fitzwater added: “In this case, the answer served to emphasize that President Bush was not going to dance on the wall, or appear to be celebrating in any way. And just one month later, after Mr. Gorbachev had said the German people should be allowed to determine their own future, he thanked the President for not dancing on the wall.”

Dean Hellman moderated the final panel examining the legacy of the Berlin Wall and its implications for U.S. relations in Germany and Europe today and tomorrow. Joining him were distinguished scholars and policy practitioners Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, a Senior Fellow at the Future of Diplomacy Project at Harvard; Ambassador Eric Edelman of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; and Dr. Charles Kupchan, Professor of International Affairs in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown.

“The Soviet Union fell apart because Gorbachev tried to reform it and lost control,” Dr. Kupchan observed. “And what we ended up with was the kind of flowering of the human spirit, the overthrow of the structures of the Soviet Union, and then Gorbachev, and Reagan and George H. W. Bush and others stepped in and did a remarkable job of controlling the aftermath. It’s stunning that the Cold War came to an end without war. Most transitions of that sort are usually very bloody.”

Roger Zakheim, the Washington Director of the Reagan Institute, concluded the program.
BIDDEFORD, Maine — On September 27, more than a thousand people assembled in UNE’s Harold Alfond Forum on the Biddeford Campus to witness President Bill Clinton and former Governor Jeb Bush participate in a moderated discussion in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush’s Education Summit, held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in 1989.

The UNE event, which served as the University’s 10th annual George and Barbara Bush Distinguished Lecture, was made possible through a partnership with the George & Barbara Bush Foundation and through the generosity of Peter and Ros Whalon. The audience was composed of students, faculty, professional staff, members of the public and special guests, including Maine Governor Janet Mills and former Maine Governor John Baldacci. Roger B. Porter, IBM Professor of Business and Government at Harvard University’s Kennedy School and former assistant to the president for economic and domestic policy under George H.W. Bush, served as the event moderator.

In what was only the third time in the history of the United States that a president convened all 50 governors to discuss a matter of national
importance, President Bush’s Education Summit of 1989 successfully created a unified set of national educational goals at a time when the country feared that its public education system was failing. The summit’s establishment of national standards of practice and accountability in education, known as the National Education Goals, was revolutionary at the time. As UNE President James Herbert noted in his welcoming remarks, “This work brought data and research at long last into the process of creating education policy.”

Alexander “Hap” Ellis, III, chairman of the George & Barbara Bush Foundation, who offered introductory remarks at the UNE event, echoed President Herbert’s affirmation of the importance of the Education Summit, noting that “the four years that George and Barbara Bush served in the White House were four years that changed our world for the better.”

As distinguished guest speakers at the event, Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States, and Jeb Bush, the 43rd governor of the state of Florida, spoke to the UNE audience for more than an hour and a half. Clinton, former governor of Arkansas, offered a unique historical perspective, having served as the co-chairman of the National Governors Association’s education task force and one of the leaders in forging and drafting the summit’s goals – goals that were endorsed by all 50 governors and announced at President Bush’s January 1990 State of the Union Address. “It changed the definition of what being a governor was,” Clinton said of the summit. “You could not be a decent governor … you could not cross the threshold of acceptability unless you were serious about … education and were serious about kids’ futures.”

Jeb Bush brought other important viewpoints to the discussion – both as the son of the president responsible for convening the summit, and of Barbara Bush whose lifelong passion was education and literacy, and as a governor of a state that experienced a significantly positive transformation in its educational outcomes under his leadership.

Moderator Roger Porter shared with the audience video footage of President Bush at the Education Summit and of first lady Barbara Bush speaking about the importance of education. In fact, her lifelong commitment to education was a common theme throughout the event. Jeb Bush said of his mother, “She was committed to adult and family literacy … [It] is really essential for us as a nation to get beyond the silos of the different buckets of pre-K, K-12, community college … In reality, this should be lifelong. The first teachers of every child are their parents, and if they can’t read, then that makes it harder and harder for children to start school ready to learn. She just believed that to her core.”

“It changed the definition of what being a governor was. You could not be a decent governor … you could not cross the threshold of acceptability unless you were serious about … education and were serious about kids’ futures.”

— President Bill Clinton on the magnitude of the 1989 Education Summit
College Station, Texas — On Friday, November 8th, Union Pacific officially announced it is donating the UP No. 4141 George Bush Locomotive for permanent display at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Scott Moore, UP’s senior vice president for corporate relations and chief administrative officer, made the announcement at an invitation-only, trackside media event in front of 40 Bush Foundation guests and the 4141 Locomotive itself.

“With today being its final day of service to Union Pacific, it’s appropriate now that this locomotive will find its final home here in College Station,” Mr. Moore said. “For today, I am announcing that UP is working with the George & Barbara Bush Foundation to donate UP 4141 for permanent display on the grounds of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.”

The 4141 engine was pulled into College Station for the announcement by another

This rendering is but one concept of how the UP No. 4141 George Bush Locomotive could be displayed when it is permanently installed on the grounds of the Bush Library and Museum. (Photo credit: McKissack & McKissack)
“With today being its final day of service to Union Pacific, it’s appropriate now that this locomotive will find its final home here in College Station,”

— Scott Moore, Union Pacific Senior Vice President

iconic train engine — the Big Boy No. 4014 steam engine, which is on a tour across the Southwest to mark the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad’s completion. The 4141 will be taken to a locomotive shop in Little Rock, where it will undergo a year-long process preparing it for permanent display.

Sometime later in 2020, it will be brought back, taken off the tracks, and moved to the Bush Library and Museum. The exact location of the exhibit has not been determined yet, but it likely will be placed somewhere around the front of the presidential library near the Annenberg Conference Center.

The design of the exhibit is also still being determined in coordination with Texas A&M, but early designs depict the 4141 on display in a partially enclosed, outdoor exhibit with one side open.

“For this train that has this iconic moment in dad’s life to be resident on the museum property is just an amazing tribute to a great man and a great life well lived,” Neil Bush said. “We are so grateful to Union Pacific for this generous gift.”

“It is safe to say that our relationship with Union Pacific is woven into the DNA of the Bush Library, Texas A&M and the George & Barbara Bush Foundation,” added David Jones, president and CEO of the Bush Foundation.

Other speakers at the announcement included Dick Davidson, former CEO of Union Pacific; Bush Foundation board member and former Transportation Secretary Andy Card; Warren Finch, director of the Bush Library and Museum; and Elaine Mendoza, chairman of the Texas A&M University Board of Regents.

With its paint job matching the color scheme of Air Force One, the George Bush Locomotive was first unveiled at an event in College Station in October 2005. Dick Davidson was heavily involved in the creation of No. 4141, and he recalled how, after he retired from UP, President Bush asked him if the 4141 Locomotive could carry his casket to the Bush Library — which it did on December 6, 2018.

“What drew dad to Texas A&M and to trains is the common thread of something nostalgic,” Neil Bush summarized. “Something patriotic. Something that lifts us up and reminds us of goodness and kindness and gentleness. This is the perfect marriage of a wonderful blending of the things dad loved the most.”

“We are so grateful to Union Pacific for this generous gift.”

— Neil Bush

Union Pacific’s Scott Moore, left, joined Bush Foundation board member Andy Card and Bush Library director Warren Finch in unveiling the 4141 rendering.

(Photo credit: Butch Ireland/Bush Foundation)
The U.S. Postal Service honored President George H. W. Bush on what would have been his 95th birthday — June 12th — by issuing a Forever stamp with his likeness during a ceremony at the Bush Center that highlighted the 41st President’s many contributions to our Nation.

“Without a doubt, the four years that George and Barbara Bush occupied the White House were certainly four years that changed our country and world for the better,” said the Bushes’ grandson, Pierce Bush. “These were years when freedom, opportunity and basic human decency carried the day.”

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets opened the ceremony, joined at one point by 1976 A&M graduate and former Singing Cadet Fred McClure — who also serves on the board of the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. Speakers included grandson Pierce Bush, the Honorable Robert Duncan, Chairman of the Board of Governors at the United States Postal Service; Chase Untermeyer, former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar; Warren Finch, Director of the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum; Jean Becker, member, Bush Foundation Board of Trustees and George H. W. Bush’s post-White House Chief of Staff; and David B. Jones, President and CEO of the George & Barbara Bush Foundation.

President Bush personally approved the artwork for the stamp, which is based on a photo taken by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders in 1997 for a spread in Texas Monthly — on the opening of the Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station that fall.

“Without a doubt, the four years that George and Barbara Bush occupied the White House were certainly four years that changed our country and world for the better...”

— Pierce Bush
Adapted from a Sept. 16, 2019 article by Megan Rodriguez in The Bryan Eagle.

It was his decade in the White House and closeness to the Bush family that inspired former Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater to write “Calm Before the Storm: Desert Storm Diaries and Other Stories”.

Fitzwater — who served as press secretary to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush — spoke to a crowd of hundreds in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center about his book. The book, dedicated to George H.W. and Barbara Bush, centers around Desert Storm, but focuses heavily on how Bush approached the situation, not solely the military operations. It also contains writings from some of Bush’s National Security staff and senior officers.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, Fitzwater knew he wanted to keep a diary of the behind-the-scenes actions from the Persian Gulf Crisis and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, even if it only stayed in his family.

“I thought if this is the piece of history that makes George Bush a legend, and a great president, I want to write down as much as I can about him,” Fitzwater said. “About his personality, about how he approached the decision and particularly I wanted to leave a record of his words. … What he said in private.”

As one of the longest-serving White House press secretaries, Fitzwater is the only one to serve under two presidents. And this is not Fitzwater’s first time to write; he has experience with fiction, nonfiction and plays. He won the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1992 and is the founder of Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication at Franklin Pierce University. Fitzwater’s role as press secretary meant he was in the group, which included the vice president and secretaries of state and defense, who discussed the war with Bush on an almost daily basis.

“[I tell] the fun parts of being in the presidency as well as the war and other very serious parts...”

— Marlin Fitzwater, former Press Secretary

I believe it was one of the most successful and most well managed conflicts in American history.”

It begins in Kansas, where Fitzwater was visiting family when he learned of Saddam’s actions. From stories of Bush pulling on a short corded phone as he spoke to the King of Saudi Arabia, to Bush’s desire to have a parade so people knew the war was over, Fitzwater said he aimed to tell details that nobody else previously knew.

“I knew it was going to be worth my memory and I wanted to write it down, even if it is just for my kids and my family,” Fitzwater said. “I want them to remember George Bush the person when all this is over.”

“[I tell] the fun parts of being in the presidency as well as the war and other very serious parts...”

— Marlin Fitzwater, former Press Secretary

Former White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater address a packed audience in Hagler Auditorium on September 16, 2019.

(Phot credit: Butch Ireland/Bush Foundation)
Grandkids, a skydiving demonstration and country star Lyle Lovett headlined the George & Barbara Bush Foundation’s all-day birthday celebration June 15th at the George H. W. Bush Presidential Center honoring the foundation’s namesakes 95th and 94th birthdays. The occasion marked the largest gathering of Bush family at the Bush Center since President Bush’s interment on December 6, 2018.

Twelve of the Bushes’ grandkids led by oldest grandson Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush traveled to the Bush Center intending to skydive with the All Veteran Group to celebrate their grandparents’ own sense of adventure and encourage others to serve. High winds forced the cancellation of their tandem jumps mid-day – but the celebration continued that evening with a proper Texas BBQ, tributes by grandson Pierce Bush and granddaughter Ellie LeBlond Sosa, a skydiving demonstration by the All Veteran Group, and a moving performance by Lyle Lovett backed by three members of his talented band.

“It was a meaningful day of family and friends highlighting two of the most special, giving and accomplished people we’ll ever know.” — Sam LeBlond, grandson

President and Mrs. Bush’s grandkids gather to pay their respects at the Bush Family Gravesite on June 15, 2019. (Photo credit: JP Beato III)
ordered by the President of the United States and carried out by a special honor guard led by Major General Tracy R. Norris, the Texas Adjutant General.

“We wanted to honor our Ganny and Gampy by capturing the spirit of their full and exciting lives of service and the way they lived both in and out of public life,” said grandson Sam LeBlond, who emceed the BBQ dinner provided by 1775 Pit BBQ restaurant. “It was a meaningful day of family and friends highlighting two of the most special, giving and accomplished people we’ll ever know.”

The dinner program also featured the announcement of a new monument dedicated to President Bush’s service dog, Sully, which is now located inside the special exhibit wing of the Bush Library and Museum. California sculptor Susan Bahary, known worldwide for her service animal monuments, led the project. In 1994, Bahary created our country’s first official war dog memorial, “Always Faithful,” that was unveiled at the Pentagon and dedicated at the U.S. Naval Base in Guam. She’s currently spearheading a proposed National Service Animals Monument.

After the dinner, over 300 of the Bush Foundation’s friends and supporters gathered in the Annenberg Conference Center walked out to witness a special skydiving exhibition by the All Veteran Group led by Mike Elliott, Retired Sgt. 1st United States Army, Elite Member of the US Army Parachute Team – Golden Knights. Elliott has tandem-jumped each of the three times President Bush has skydived since the re-dedication of the Bush Library in 2007.

During the celebration dinner, the Bush Foundation also debuted a special video devoted to President Bush’s skydiving pursuits through the years, going back to September 2, 1944 when he was shot down over the Pacific island of Chi Chi Jima.
Now more than ever, we look to our supporters to help sustain the extraordinary legacy of President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush. At the end of 2017, we launched a new Leadership Annual Giving program providing the opportunity to directly connect and make a lasting impact with the George & Barbara Bush Foundation.

Annual contributions to the Foundation directly fund the educational mission that is at the heart of everything we do at the George H. W. Bush Presidential Center — and are absolutely vital to maintaining the high standards that President and Mrs. Bush set. Your leadership gift allows the Foundation to direct funds where they are needed most — to The Bush School student scholarships and faculty research, to the library and museum’s educational mission, and to the Foundation’s dynamic programs inspired by the sterling example of our namesakes.

By joining the 41st Society, you are preparing today’s students for careers of service, while ensuring the Bush Center's visitors better understand the timeless values that were at the heart of everything George and Barbara Bush accomplished in their full and meaningful lives. With our common interest in the legacy of George and Barbara Bush, we hope you will consider an annual leadership gift as a member of the 41st Society.
By making a gift to the 41st Society, you are helping to preparing today’s students for careers of service, while ensuring the Bush Center’s visitors better understand the timeless values that were at the heart of everything George and Barbara Bush accomplished in their full and meaningful lives.

**LEVELS:**

**Presidential Partners**

*Annual gifts of $2,500 and above*

Presidential Partners support the Foundation with annual leadership gifts of $2,500 or more. Members receive annual membership for four to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Presidential Partners receive exclusive benefits including recognition commensurate to your level of support in our Annual Donor Report, invitations to the Foundation’s annual donor events, as well as special programming events held across the country and the distinctive 41st Society lapel pin.

**Leadership Circle**

*Annual gifts between $1,000 and $2,499*

Leadership Circle members support the Foundation with annual leadership gifts from $1,000 - $2,499. Members receive annual membership for two to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and are recognized in our Annual Donor Report for their outstanding level of giving. Leadership Circle members are invited to the Foundation’s annual donor events and receive the distinctive 41st Society lapel pin.
HoustOn, TX – The
George & Barbara Bush
Foundation presented its
2019 George Bush Award for
Excellence in Public Service
to the former Prime Minister of
the United Kingdom, Sir John
Major, on Thursday, November
21st at the Post Oak Hotel in
Houston. Former U.S. Secretary
of State James A. Baker, III
presented the award at the
start of the Bush Foundation’s
10th anniversary Vintner
Dinner and Wine Auction
– the organization’s leading
fundraising event of the year.

It marked the first time
the Bush Award has been
given since President Bush’s
passing, and is the first
such Award presented at the
Foundation’s Vintner Dinner.

"John Major never
backed down from duty or
responsibility," Secretary
Baker said in lauding the 2019
recipient of the Bush Award,
“and he always understood that
the special relationship which
binds the United States and
the United Kingdom relies on a
mutual trust born from a shared
culture, history and interests.
Years later, President Bush
said of John Major that “We
had no more loyal leader of the
(Persian Gulf War) coalition.”

Sir John, 76, entered the
British Parliament in 1979, and
government in 1983. He joined
Margaret Thatcher’s Cabinet as
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
in 1987; was appointed
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs in
July 1989; and Chancellor of
the Exchequer soon afterwards.
He became Prime Minister in
November of 1990.

As Prime Minister, Sir
John focused his efforts upon
securing peace in Northern
Ireland and upholding Britain’s
position in the world community
as a political, social and
economic leader. He also took a
leading role alongside President
George H.W. Bush in the first
Gulf War and survived an IRA
mortar attack on 10 Downing
Street.

"George Bush has now
become an American icon – and
to Europe, to Asia, and to the
Middle East, he is remembered
as a true citizen of the world who
was known and respected, liked
and trusted, in every corner of
the globe,” Sir John said. “He
was not merely a President who
was admired, he was a man who
was loved, because he embodied
the decency, humanity and
humility that many in politics so
often lack.”
The George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service recognizes an individual’s or group’s dedication to public service at the local, state, national or international levels. The ten previous Bush Award recipients are: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (2000); Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (2001); U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (2003); California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (2004); Reverend Bill Graham (2006); Secretary Bob Gates (2007); President Ronald W. Reagan (2011); Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser of Qatar (2013); U.S. Senator Bob Dole (2016); and former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (2018).

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the Foundation’s annual Vintner Dinner and Wine Auction, which directly benefits the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University and the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. As always, this year’s dinner features fine wines hand-picked to perfectly pair with a multi-course dinner. The event began with a silent auction of one-of-a-kind Bush Family memorabilia and specialty items, and ended with a live auction of luxurious excursions and unique wine packages.

Special gratitude goes to our world-class participating vintners, which include:

- Alexander Valley Vineyards
- Altamura Vineyards & Winery
- Aperture Cellars
- Champagne Pol Roger
- Cordelina Wine Company
- Corley Family Napa Valley
- Fisher Vineyards
- Frio Canyon Vineyard
- Groth Vineyards & Winery
- LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards
- McPherson Cellars
- Rombauer Vineyards
- Thompson 31Fifty Wines
- Tom Eddy Winery

Follow us also on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. More information at: georgeandbarabarabush.org.

ABOUT THE GEORGE & BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION

The George & Barbara Bush Foundation is dedicated to preserving the historic legacies of service best exemplified by President and Mrs. Bush by supporting the education and service-oriented programs at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and The Bush School of Government and Public Service — and by organizing and sponsoring programs inspired by the 41st President and Mrs. Bush that highlight the value and virtue of public service in its many forms.

Follow us also on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. More information at: georgeandbarabarabush.org.
FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY, CIA DIRECTOR LEON PANETTA INSPIRES BUSH SCHOOL FACULTY, STUDENTS AS INAUGURAL CAMERON FELLOW

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence Leon Panetta packed his two-day visit in October to The Bush School as the first Cameron Fellow by engaging with faculty and students and delivering The Bush School’s inaugural Cameron Fellows Lecture entitled, “The Challenges of U.S. National Security Decision Making.” The accomplished and widely respected public servant also made time to visit the Bush Family Gravesite to pay his respects to President and Mrs. Bush.

“I think this country can go in one of two directions right now in 2019,” Sec. Panetta told the Cameron Fellows Lecture audience gathered in the Annenberg Conference Center on October 10th. “I think one clear direction — and I think it’s achievable — is an America in renaissance. I see an America that has a strong economy and an America that is creative, innovative … I think we could be a country in which Republicans and Democrats work together to govern, and work together to find solutions to the problems that we face. We could be that kind of country.

“Or we can be an America in decline,” Panetta continued. “We could be an America that is deadlocked and gridlocked and unable to find solutions to the challenges that face us — an America caught up in partisanship and caught up in division, unable to solve problems and divided by our hates and prejudices.”

Panetta, 81, served as CIA director under President Barack Obama and oversaw the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011. He subsequently succeeded former Bush School Dean Bob Gates as Secretary of Defense. Previously, during the Clinton administration, Panetta served as director of the Office of Management and Budget and later White House Chief of Staff.

He represented the Monterey, California area in the U.S. House from 1977 through 1993.

Bush School Dean Mark A. Welsh introduced Panetta and later conducted a Q&A with his distinguished guest.

The Cameron Fellows Program was created and endowed by the late Florence Cameron Crichton, a dear friend of President and Mrs. Bush. The program began some 20 years ago as the Cameron Lectureship and featured over the years many high profile public servants who spoke at the Bush Center. Mrs. Crichton increased the Lectureship endowment and thus created the Fellows program, to enable speakers to spend additional time at the Center interacting with Bush School students and faculty.

The Cameron Fellows endowment is held at the George & Barbara Bush Foundation, and the Fellows Program is administered in partnership with the Foundation and the Bush School.
On October 30th, David Bohigian, the Executive Vice President and head of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and Robert Mosbacher — who also headed OPIC from 2005 to 2009 — discussed the role of the United States in supporting development and foreign policy goals through economic investment as a part of the Mosbacher Institute’s “Conversations in Public Policy” series.

Mosbacher and Bohigian started by outlining the tools the United States can use to bolster the economic standing of a country, with trade and foreign aid being the most well-known. Development finance, however, allows the United States to leverage private investment to promote economic development and advance foreign policy objectives, making it a very effective tool. Development finance can advance foreign policy objectives, according to Bohigian, in a variety of ways.

Bohigian cited investments in Central America’s Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) — which in turn strengthen local economies — as a way to curb illegal migration flows into the United States. Other economic development projects involve supporting infrastructure and logistics in Africa.

Perhaps the agency’s most impactful project is the global women’s initiative — run by Bush School graduate Kathryn Kaufman — that helps develop entrepreneurial incentives for women, so they, in turn, have a greater opportunity to invest in their families.

Mosbacher also discussed barriers to development finance. He noted how all projects must have a 25 percent American funding source, but sometimes American funding is hard to find. The Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act, passed in 2018, has broken down several of those barriers, which, as the speakers noted, increases America’s ability to compete on the global market. This also strengthens America’s ability to compete strategically with other projects, such as China’s Belt and Road initiative, by providing easier access to funding for more long-term, effective projects.

According to the speakers, as OPIC transitions under the BUILD Act, two key challenges face the agency. First, OPIC needs to counter the home bias in investment and convince people to invest in the global economy. Second, private and government investors must coordinate resources in a more effective way to better use their capabilities to achieve common goals.

In addition to their public talk, Bohigian and Mosbacher inspired and informed many students about the potential for development finance by speaking to Bush School classes, including Dr. Raymond Robertson’s Global Economy class, Dr. Jessica Gottlieb’s Institutions and Development class, and Leslie Ruyle’s Women and Development class.