James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) is the premier education and training organization in the field of nonproliferation studies. The center strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis.

Founded by Dr. William Potter in 1989 with a handful of students, CNS is today the largest nongovernmental organization in the world devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues, with offices in Monterey, Calif., Washington, D.C., and Vienna, Austria.

Current and former CNS staff members are active in promoting prudent nonproliferation policies around the world. They serve on expert and international commissions, testify before Congress, work for and advise national governments and international organizations, publish numerous books and articles, lecture to civic groups, and mentor students and young professionals with an interest in the field.

“In D.C., the Institute’s nonproliferation program is well known and respected. It opens doors and gives alumni almost instant credibility among national-level policy makers. After graduating from MIIS in May 2014, I accepted an appointment to the Department of Defense as a Presidential Management Fellow. I had the great honor of working in the Countering WMD Policy office, and I have to say the classes at MIIS prepared me for the work they asked me to do.”

TRISH THIBODAUX MANPTS ’14

A key component of CNS’s mission is to train the next generation of nonproliferation specialists. The Institute’s Graduate School of International Policy and Management offers the country’s only Master of Arts degree in nonproliferation and terrorism studies. The Institute also offers a shorter Certificate in Nonproliferation Studies, with courses, seminars, and workshops taught by MIIS faculty and CNS experts. In addition, CNS offers unique internship opportunities for its students at international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations, which expand career possibilities for our students.

Our students are also engaged in groundbreaking work that employs 21st-century tools to address long-standing security challenges. In addition to using social media techniques to address questions of arms control verification, nuclear security, and illicit trafficking, students have developed innovative ways to integrate Google Earth maps and 3D modeling to analyze and depict sites of proliferation interest in North Korea, China, Syria, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

“CNS has done absolutely pioneering work ...in trying to promote the very concept of disarmament and nonproliferation education. ...I think CNS has triumphed. It has not only shown its own capabilities in this field, but helped to stake out a new academic discipline that is more vital than ever, given the challenges we face in the world today.”

DR. RANDY RYDELL, SENIOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, UN

Student Wins State Department’s Arms Control Challenge

In March 2013, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance announced student Lovely Umayam MANPTS ’13 as the winner of its Innovation in Arms Control Challenge. Members of the public were invited to submit innovative approaches to using commonly available technologies to support arms control policy efforts, and the competition drew more than 500 submissions. Lovely’s first prize reward of $5,000 is supporting the further development of “Bombshelltoe” (www.bombshelltoe.com), an online education platform that examines the intersection of popular culture and nuclear issues in order to facilitate better understanding among the general public of basic nuclear and arms control-related issues.
CNS maintains the Inventory of International Nonproliferation Organizations & Regimes, a regularly updated public reference document covering all international organizations, treaties, and agreements relevant to WMD disarmament and nonproliferation.

CNS also produces an Occasional Paper series, timely Feature Stories, as well as other publications on its website, and maintains comprehensive databases on WMD developments and nonproliferation regimes on the website of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

“...The professors who work at the center are very well plugged in, in their own communities, whether back in the former Soviet Union [or] here in the United States, and so I can always count on them to be particularly knowledgeable... it’s been extremely valuable for me to be able to use those materials. They’re high quality.”

THE HONORABLE ROSE Gottemoeller, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

VIENNA CENTER (vcdnp.org)

In October 2010, the Austrian Foreign Ministry for European and International Affairs announced the selection of CNS/MIIS as its sole partner institution in the establishment of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The new center opened in February 2011 and serves as an international hub for discussions among representatives of civil society, governments, and international organizations of the most pressing nuclear disarmament and proliferation challenges. A particular focus for the Vienna Center is devising creative but practical means to address these challenges and educate the public—especially young people—about nonproliferation issues.

WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICE

CNS has maintained a strong presence in Washington, D.C., for over a decade. The Washington office provides state-of-the-art conference facilities and hosts domestic and international experts, as well as government officials, visiting dignitaries, and other personalities. The D.C. office is also linked by modern telecommunication facilities to Middelbury, Monterey, and Vienna, providing for real-time international communications.

Special Educational Programs

As part of its educational mission, CNS sponsors a number of special programs and learning opportunities. A few highlights:

- The annual Critical Issues Forum (CIF) program has two major components. In the fall, an international group of high school teachers comes to Monterey for training in a curriculum that they then employ with their students for the rest of the year. Typically, in April teachers return to Monterey with their students for a series of student presentations representing the culmination of their learning experience. In 2012, the spring meeting of the CIF was held in Vienna, Austria, and featured a discussion with IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano.

- The Visiting Fellows Program assists young and mid-career professionals in various foreign ministries and national export control departments, as well as researchers, academics, and journalists, to have a positive impact on arms control and nonproliferation policy in their respective countries.

- An interactive website is dedicated to delivering up-to-the-minute news and updates on major global developments and major international meetings, such as the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the sessions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences.

- The arms control negotiation simulation is an annual Middlebury Institute course offering in which students take on roles for an entire semester as members of different delegations attempting to negotiate an international arms control agreement. Recent courses have featured guest lecturers including numerous past and present U.S.-Russian arms control negotiators and other diplomats.