James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) 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 at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), CNS now ranks as the largest nongovernmental organization in the world devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues, with offices in Monterey, CA, Washington, DC, and Vienna, Austria.

Current and former CNS staff members serve on numerous expert and international commissions, testify before Congress, 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. Each of these activities contributes to the development and collective success of MIIS alumni.

“By the end, my two years at the Monterey Institute had given me a powerful combination of knowledge of nonproliferation issues and the skills to use that knowledge in the policy world. A degree from Monterey prepared me extraordinarily well for my current job with the U.S. Department of State, where I work on arms control and nonproliferation issues.”
Charles Mahaffey, MIIS 2004

A key component of CNS’s mission is to train the next generation of nonproliferation specialists. The Monterey Institute’s Graduate School of International Policy and Management offers a unique MA in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies, the first of its kind in the United States, as well as the Certificate in Nonproliferation Studies, with courses, seminars, and workshops taught by MIIS faculty and CNS experts. CNS also offers internship opportunities at international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations that expand career possibilities for Monterey Institute students.

“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

CNS Media Presence
In recent years, CNS experts have been quoted frequently on pressing international security issues such as Iran’s nuclear ambitions, North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, the Fukushima reactor meltdown in Japan, and concerns about the security of chemical weapons stocks in Syria. These quotes appeared in global media outlets including:

• Associated Press
• Bloomberg News
• Boston Globe
• Foreign Policy
• Foreign Affairs
• Haaretz
• International Herald Tribune
• National Public Radio
• New York Times
• PBS NewsHour
• TIME magazine
• Wall Street Journal
• Washington Post

Vienna Center
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.
Publications
Three times a year, CNS publishes the peer-reviewed journal The Nonproliferation Review, which has built a reputation as an indispensable source of information and expert commentary for policymakers and researchers.

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, Assistant Secretary of State for Verification Compliance and Implementation and Chief Negotiator for the Strategic Arms Reduction Follow-on Talks

CNS and MIIS Receive $1.2 Million to Support Nonproliferation Education and Training

In October 2011, the Monterey Institute and CNS announced grant awards totaling approximately $1.2 million from Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. These grants will support efforts to educate the next generation of nonproliferation specialists, both through the Institute's Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies degree program, and through CNS's ongoing education and training activities. Carnegie Corporation awarded a three-year, $900,000 grant to support education and training on nonproliferation, with an emphasis on the activities of the new Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The Sloan Foundation awarded two separate grants totaling approximately $298,000 to support initiatives aimed at strengthening science-based education for nonproliferation professionals, and supporting an effort to create a global approach to nonproliferation education and professional development.

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

- 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. As of 2012, the program has trained more than 200 fellows from former Soviet states, China, and recently, from Burkina Faso, Chile, Egypt, Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

- An interactive website dedicated to delivering up-to-the-minute news and updates from the April/May 2012 meeting of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference Preparatory Committee in Vienna.

- The arms control negotiation simulation, an annual MIIS 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 lectures numerous past and present U.S.- Russian arms control negotiators and other diplomats.

"The Arms Control Simulation was by far the most valuable educational and professional experience of my life. The non-stop intensity of having all my words and actions scrutinized by not only distinguished and admired faculty, but also senior-level diplomatic practitioners and highly skilled and knowledgeable classmates was a profound, inspiring and humbling intellectual and social experience."

Elena Hushbeck, MIIS Alumna, 2008