Message from the Program Chair

Traditional classes continue to be one element of education at the Monterey Institute, but our students also have opportunities to extend their education and build professional credentials through non-traditional class formats and a variety of activities outside the classroom. In this, the second annual newsletter from the M.A. in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies, we report on some of the major achievements and experiences of our students during the past year. I am proud to be able to share with you these selected highlights from the NPTS program.

~Dr. Jeffrey Knopf

MIIS Launches New Cyber Security Initiative (MCySec)

The Monterey Institute launched the Cyber Security Initiative (MCySec) in May 2013. The initiative’s goals are to coordinate the Institute’s existing cyber efforts, foster a collaborative community of interest, provide a forum for international, key-leader engagement and increase research and education on cyber security. As a continuation of the cyber security policy instruction at the Monterey Institute over the past several years, MCySec is offering courses and workshops this academic year that address various issues related to the information age. In conjunction with the initiative, students also created the Cyber Security Student Working Group (CSWG) to build cyber knowledge among the next generation of policy professionals.

MonTREP’s 2nd Annual Conference: “Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Africa”

The Monterey Terrorism Research and Education Program (MonTREP) hosted its second annual student-run conference on March 6-7, 2014, focusing on terrorism and counterterrorism in Africa. Four current NPTS students working for MonTREP, Kate Gunderson, Jacqueline Rieger, Trisha Thibodaux, and Jennifer Tribble, along with MIIS graduate Dave Uyehara-Perryman presented their research. The conference also included a presentation of the Monterey Threat Analysis Platform (MTAP), a terrorism tracking tool created by current NPTS students Peter Soroka, Lucas Brader, and Marques Watson through generous funding from the Bradley Foundation. Three panel discussions with noted experts in the field as well as a keynote address by former Congressman Jim Kolbe rounded out the event.

The conference was organized by a group of NPTS students, with academic supervision and support from Brig. General (Ret.) Russell Howard, director of MonTREP, and financial support from the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, McGraw Hill Publishing and the Monterey Institute.

NPTS Students Present Their Research

Students Jack Lomicky, Charlie Thorsen, Ruben Gzirian, and Aleksandr Vlasenko Attend the 2014 Conference
Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) Director William Potter has pioneered the use of simulations as a tool for teaching students the intricacies of international arms control negotiations. Although many senior diplomats, including foreign ministers, have met with students in his classes at MIIS, this fall for the first time a former president participated in the course, and two ambassadors actually played themselves in the semester-long simulation of the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting. Former Kyrgyz President Roza Otunbaeva addressed student negotiators at the opening of the mock NPT PrepCom in September 2013, and Chilean Ambassador to International Organizations in Vienna Alfredo Labbé and former U.S. Nonproliferation Ambassador Susan Burk joined the student Chilean and U.S. delegations in November for hours of intense negotiations related to nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Austrian Ambassador Alexander Kmentt also spent one week in October with the MIIS student negotiators and shared his country’s perspectives on a number of new disarmament initiatives under review in the class and in the real world. Thanks in part to their unusual classroom experiences, many MIIS simulation alumni have moved quickly from student negotiations to representatives of their countries in arms control negotiating fora in Geneva, Vienna, and New York.

Several Students who participated in the NPT simulation will be accompanying Dr. Potter to the NPT PrepCom in New York, April 28-May 9, 2014.

**Senior Diplomats Participate in NPT Simulation Course**

**NPTS Students Participate in High School Outreach**

Lewis Dorman and Daniel Gifford, two students from the NPTS program, visited the KIPP Collegiate high school in San Jose, California, as part of an outreach initiative. They guest taught three of Jacob Emrey’s twelfth grade government/economics classes, bringing lessons from the NPTS program to the college-bound students.

**New NPTS LinkedIn Group!**

The NPTS LinkedIn group is being created to help current students and alumni network. Look for it soon!

**Presidential Management Fellowship Finalist**

MANPTS May 2014 graduate Trisha Thibodaux has been named as a finalist for the Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF). This rigorous, two-year paid fellowship is the federal government’s premier leadership development program designed to bring high quality recent graduates of advanced degree programs (MA, JD, PhD) into federal service. It is quite an honor and only 8.7% of applicants were chosen as finalists.

**Shane Mason Awarded Spring 2014 Scoville Fellowship**

Shane Mason, Winter 2013 MANPTS graduate, was awarded the prestigious Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship for 2014. He will be working at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Mason served as Professor Avner Cohen’s graduate research assistant.

**Pandora’s Promise Screening**

NPTS and International Environmental Program students arranged a screening of the film Pandora’s Promise in Fall 2013. Following the film, there was also a faculty discussion panel. The film tells the intensely personal stories of environmentalists and energy experts who have undergone a radical conversion from being fiercely anti- to strongly pro-nuclear energy.

**NPTS Student Publications:**


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