



**James Martin Center
for Nonproliferation Studies**
Monterey Institute of International Studies

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**Nuclear Weapons as Fetish Objects—
Innovative Topic Takes \$10,000 Prize in the
2009 Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge**

*\$1,000 Student Prize goes to unique analysis of the role that
corporations play in the manufacture of nuclear weapons*

Monterey, California—The winner of this year’s prestigious McElvany Prize was announced today by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). Anne Harrington de Santana, a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago, won the \$10,000 prize with her essay, “The Currency of Power,” which examined nuclear weapons as “the mature expression of the fetishism of force.”

Judges awarded the \$1,000 Outstanding Student Essay Prize to Joshua D. Masters, graduate student at New York University School of Law, who investigated the proliferation responsibilities of private businesses in his essay, “Nuclear Proliferation: The Role and Regulation of Corporations.”

Both essays made policy recommendations for resolving today’s proliferation problems, which was a requirement of the second annual Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge. The international essay competition, sponsored by CNS to encourage innovative nonproliferation scholarship, attracted a global response. Submissions were received from more than twenty universities and nearly a dozen countries: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Denmark, Egypt, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Within the United States, entries arrived from fourteen states and the District of Columbia.

In her winning essay, Anne Harrington de Santana laid out a fresh and lucid theory about the interdependence of nuclear deterrence and nuclear proliferation. She is currently completing her dissertation in the University of Chicago’s Department of Political Science.

“As one of a new generation of scholars studying international politics, I feel a responsibility to participate in the growing dialogue about how to bring nuclear policy into the twenty-first century,” said Harrington de Santana. “This is a challenging topic because nuclear weapons push everything we know and believe about politics and war to its logical extreme.”

“This competition provided a valuable forum for my work, especially because my project, which questions many of the assumptions of current nuclear policy, does not fit neatly within the field of security studies. I was overjoyed upon learning I had won the grand prize, and I look forward to using my award to give me the time to complete my dissertation. Looking ahead, I hope this prize will open doors for me as I pursue an academic career.”

Joshua D. Masters, winner of the student prize, was similarly thrilled with his accomplishment. “I entered this competition in the hope of making a contribution, however small, to the global discussion of nuclear proliferation,” said Masters. “Winning the outstanding student essay prize is very exciting. In fact, it has strengthened my resolve to pursue further research in this area. As a young professional, I am grateful for the opportunities the McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge has opened up for me.”

The winning entries will be published in the November 2009 issue of the center’s journal, the *Nonproliferation Review*, and the authors will be invited to present and discuss their work at a November event hosted by the center’s Washington, D.C. office.

“Once again, the judges were impressed with the creative ideas and high-quality writing of many of the entries,” said William C. Potter, director of CNS. “In fact, in addition to the winners, we have approached the authors of seven additional essays about the possibility of publishing their work in a future issue of the *Nonproliferation Review*.”

Philanthropist Doreen McElvany, who together with her husband Jim underwrote the competition, said, “We were impressed with the essays submitted this year, and even more so by the geographic diversity of the entrants. It is a pleasure and an honor to be associated with this contest, especially because it encourages new and innovative solutions to some of the most pressing problems of our time.” McElvany added, “I look forward to meeting the winners at our special event later this year and to reading their papers in the next issue of the *Nonproliferation Review*.”

Judges for the competition were drawn from among the experts on the CNS staff. For additional background on this year’s competition, please contact *Nonproliferation Review* Editor Stephen I. Schwartz, or visit cns.miis.edu/pubs/npr/contest/index.htm. An announcement about next year’s competition, including the theme and deadlines, will be made in September.

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. Based at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, CNS is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues.

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