



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

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## **Winners Announced for the 2008 Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge Essay Contest; \$13,000 in Prizes to be Awarded**

*Monterey, California*—A worldwide writing competition announced last year by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies to encourage innovative approaches to “resolving contemporary nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons challenges” generated submissions from nearly a dozen countries, including Austria, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Uganda, and Turkey. Within the United States, there were entries from twenty-four states and the District of Columbia.

The winning entries in the first annual Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge Essay Contest, announced today, include:

- a detailed critique of the nature—and effectiveness—of nuclear deterrence;
- a strategy for building and sustaining public support globally for the elimination of nuclear weapons;
- an exploration of how the European Community of Atomic Energy (Euratom) Treaty could be used as a model for enhancing nuclear safeguards and confidence-building measures in the Middle East; and
- an analysis of the competing paradigms employed by key international political groupings and how these affect support for nuclear nonproliferation policies.

New Jersey-based independent scholar Ward Wilson took the \$10,000 grand prize with his essay, “The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence.” Nathan Pyles, president of Johnson Health NA in Wisconsin, earned a \$1,000 first runner-up prize for his submission, “Creating a Nuclear-Free World: A Challenge to Accept.”

Contest judges also selected two outstanding essays to share the award for best student entry. The recipients of this \$1,000 prize are Grégoire Mallard, who just completed his doctorate in sociology at Princeton University, and Russell Leslie, who is enrolled in a master’s degree program in nuclear science at Australian National University. Their respective essays are “Can the Euratom Treaty Inspire the Middle East? The Political Promises of Regional Nuclear

Communities,” and “The Good Faith Assumption—Different Paradigmatic Approaches and Discussions of Nonproliferation Issues?”

All the winning entries will be published in forthcoming issues 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.

“The judges were impressed by the high quality and creativity of many of the contest entries,” said William C. Potter, director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. “We look forward to publishing the work of the winning essays, as well as several of the other submissions, in the *Nonproliferation Review*. I believe these essays advance the field of nonproliferation studies and also offer very practical policy recommendations.”

Philanthropist Doreen McElvany, who together with her husband Jim underwrote the contest, said, “We hoped to stimulate new thinking about some very old problems, and we were very happy with the results. Based on the outcome of this year’s effort, my husband and I are very pleased to announce that the Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge Essay Contest will become an annual event for CNS.” McElvany added, “I look forward to meeting the winners at our event later this year and to reading their papers in the *Nonproliferation Review*.”

Judges for the contest were drawn from the CNS staff and included: Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, Sarah Diehl, Arjun Dutta, Dennis M. Gormley, Cristina Hansell, Gaukhar Mukhatzanova, William C. Potter, Lawrence Scheinman, Stephen I. Schwartz, Amy Smithson, Nikolai Sokov, Leonard S. Spector, and Jing-dong Yuan. For additional background on this year’s contest, please visit <http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/npr/contest/index.htm>. An announcement about next year’s contest, including 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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