



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Professor and New Zealand Graduate Student Win 2011 McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge

Monterey, California (December 15, 2011) — The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies is pleased to announce that John Krige, the Kranzberg Professor of the History of Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Lyndon Burford, a Ph.D. candidate in political studies at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, have won the prestigious Doreen and Jim McElvany 2011 Nonproliferation Challenge essay competition.

Krige's essay, "The Proliferation Risks of Gas Centrifuge Enrichment at the Dawn of the NPT: New Light on the Negotiating History," utilizes overlooked archival sources to reassess the concerns of the negotiators of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, regarding the proliferation potential of gas centrifuges for uranium enrichment. (Unlike other enrichment technologies, gas centrifuges are relatively inexpensive to build and operate; they also require significantly less space and consume less electricity, making them harder to detect.) Contrary to popular belief, writes Krige, the negotiators—particularly in the United States and United Kingdom—debated the issue extensively. The United States believed the risk could be managed via classification, safeguards, and a focus on peaceful uses, while the British worried that secret centrifuge operations would undermine the treaty.

Asked what winning the McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge means to him, Krige said, "I have been engaged, in one way or the other, with nuclear matters for much of my professional life. The competition provided me with a wonderful opportunity to write a short, punchy article that used historical insights to enrich current proliferation debates." He added, "Deep personal satisfaction apart, my success has vindicated the importance of history to policy, and the value of crossing disciplinary boundaries and of breaking national frames of analysis."

Burford's essay, "No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: A 'Nuclear User Pays' Model of International Security," proposes a new way to fund efforts to mitigate the risks posed by nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. In lieu of the current system—which is voluntary, unpredictable, and viewed as unjust by states with no nuclear or dual-use industries—Burford proposes a transparent, equitable system, where those states creating the largest potential risks pay a proportionally larger share than those that don't. Such a model, he argues, would encourage states and corporations to reduce the risks associated with their activities, lead non-nuclear states to view risk mitigation programs with increased legitimacy, strengthen nuclear nonproliferation, and progressively devalue nuclear weapons.

Burford was equally enthusiastic upon hearing he was a winner of the McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge. “I am honored and delighted to receive this award. There is a relatively small community of analysts working on nuclear issues in New Zealand, so this is a great way of raising the profile of the innovative work being done here. The opportunity to publish in the *Nonproliferation Review* is very exciting, and offers the chance to push the boundaries of traditional thinking about nuclear politics in dialogue with international experts.”

Burford also discussed the importance of his essay topic. “Justice issues are pervasive in nuclear politics, but are seldom addressed by analysts, limiting the utility of policy prescriptions. Applying a justice lens to nuclear risk mitigation sheds light on issues that hinder vital cooperation on nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation, and security at present. User pays models, for example, are increasingly prevalent globally in areas such as health, education, and transport. It seems incongruous that the same standards of individual responsibility are not applied to nuclear countries and corporations whose activities generate national benefits, but international risks.”

In addition to a \$2,000 cash award for each winner, Krige’s and Burford’s essays will be published in the July 2012 issue of the center’s journal, the *Nonproliferation Review*, and each will be invited to present and discuss his work at a forum next year hosted by the center’s Washington, D.C. office. Each will also receive a complimentary one-year subscription to the journal.

The McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge, an annual international essay competition now in its fourth year, is sponsored by CNS and designed to encourage innovative scholarship in the nonproliferation field. Submissions were received from more than a dozen universities in ten countries, with undergraduate and graduate students submitting a little more than half of the entries. The twelve judges for the competition were CNS specialists drawn from the broad spectrum of nonproliferation disciplines.

For additional information on the 2011 Nonproliferation Challenge and past winners, please visit cns.miis.edu/npr/contest.htm. An announcement about the 2012 Nonproliferation Challenge, including the theme and deadline, will be made early next year.

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, with offices in Washington, D.C., and Vienna, Austria, CNS is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues.

Contact:

Stephen I. Schwartz, *Nonproliferation Review*
(831) 647-4154
Stephen.Schwartz@miis.edu

###