NPS Establishes New Global Public Policy Academic Group

By MC2 Kellie Arakawa

A strong need for in-depth research that explores the relationship between globalization and national security recently prompted the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) to establish the Global Public Policy Academic Group (GPPAG), an interdisciplinary group and institute from across the NPS campus to create defense-related global public policy research and educational programs.

At NPS, an academic group is an organization led by a core team of faculty that addresses multidisciplinary topics and initiatives, NPS Provost and Executive Vice President Leonard Ferrari said. The school currently has an academic group dedicated to space systems, which includes academic departments that study computer science, engineering, mathematics and applied sciences.

While the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP) as well as the School President Leonard Ferrari and Provost and Executive Vice President President Daniel T. Oliver, Sivaguru Sritharan, Dean of the Graduate School (GSBPP), an interdisciplinary group was formed from across the NPS campus to create defense-related global public policy research and educational programs.

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“Welcome to the world of light speed,” said Chris Brophy, Associate Professor of MAE and Director of the Rocket Propulsion Laboratory. “This is just the beginning,” said Doug Weisman, the Collaborative Networking Program Manager for ITACS. He brought to the forefront the fact that the challenging task was accomplished thanks to incredible assistance and cooperation between ITACS, the Annex Lab Research Faculty and Staff, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), which runs the golf course. Through the combined efforts of these NPS forces, every stage of the new network project was laid down almost seamlessly.

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I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. John Van Bibber to NPS Dean of Research. A former Chief Scientist of the Physical Sciences Directorate at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Dr. Van Bibber supervised an organization of 400, including 275 Ph.D. scientists, and was a member of the core management team that developed the National Ignition Facility Sciences program. Educated at MTI, Dr. van Bibber also taught there and at Stanford and UC Berkeley, Dr. van Bibber's major research interests include being a cosponsor for large-scale dark matter axion search, a project leader for LING's PEP-II accelerator and Ballar detector; and a program leader for the Linac Light Source. Equally good news is the appointment of Associate Provost of Research Bill Gates as the Dean of the Graduate School and Public Policy effective February 1, 2009. A graduate of Yale (Ph.D.) and UC San Diego, Dr. Gates has been an economist at the Johns Hopkins Lab, a professor of economics at GSPPP and an adjunct professor of economics at Golden Gate University and MIES. A recipient of the Allen Griffin award and a finalist for the National Adm. John Jay Schieffelin award, Dean Gates' distinctions include policy analysis, microeconomic cost-benefit analysis, game theory, incentive contracting, economics of defense alliances, government R&D and technology policy. On March 11-13, 2009 a team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WSCAC) will visit NPS to examine and review NPS' capacity to provide high-quality graduate education, to explore the School's funding, facilities and resources, and to conduct interviews with faculty, students, administrators and staff. By law, every 10 years educational institutions undergo a reaffirmation of their regional accreditation, and NPS is midway in that process. Chaired by Dr. Mary Lyon, President of the University of San Diego, and faculty and administrators from the National Acad. UCSC, San Francisco State University and the University of Maryland, the visit by the WSCAC will examine the submissions of the Capacity and Preparation Review (CPR) Report. The document received broad review, and input from across campus, and presentations of findings were made to major NPS governance committees and councils. The final report was distributed to the Board of Advisors in October and submitted to WSCAC in December 2008. During the month of February, there will be further briefs on the process to prepare the campus for the visit. WASC will be making available a confidential e-mail address to which faculty, staff and students can comment on accreditation issues. The e-mail address will be circulated by bulk e-mail shortly. Please join me in welcoming the WASC team in March, and Drs. Gates and Van Bibber to their new positions at NPS, as we continue our march toward reaccreditation and greater success.

Faculty Notes

Prof. Kwok T. Millsaps, Chairman of the Mechanical and Astronautical Engineering Department, has become the Editor-in-Chief of Gas Turbine News, a quarterly publication with a circulation of over 13,000, in the world for the gas turbine, power and propulsion industry. NPS recognized the passing of retired Adm. Thomas J. O. Richardson, a member of the first NPS class, for development of wireless telegraphy. “Recent developments in communication technology have taken their place among the great traditions of the U.S. Navy.” The submarine tender USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16) was commissioned in his honor in May 1944. Gilmore’s “inspiring words and courageous sacrifice have taken their place among the great traditions of the U.S. Navy.” The submarine tender USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16) was commissioned in his honor in May 1944. Gilmore’s “inspiring words and courageous sacrifice have taken their place among the great traditions of the U.S. Navy.”

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Dr. Arthur C. Sotomayor, Assistant Professor in National Security Affairs, was an assistant professor in International Relations and Latin American Politics at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) in Mexico City for three years before joining NPS in January 2009. He held a post-doctoral fellowship position at Tulane University’s Center for International and Policy Research in New Orleans in 2008, and was a public policy scholar in the Mexico Institute College’s Monterey program, with Frederick Schubelt of High Point University, recently published the edition titled “Cooperation and Military Affairs” (2007).

Field demonstrations, begun three years ago via a series of progressive graduate student research projects and led by Profs. José Sinibaldi and Ron Brown (Physics Department), culminated at the Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nev., where a low-cost, surgically precision-shaped charge device for neutralizing explosive ordnance was demonstrated. The plastic-encased 25 mm device weighs less than 40 grams and contains nitromethane, a flammable organic liquid used commercially in fingernail polish removers, super glue solvents and race car fuels. It is sensitized in situ by the automated injection of an organic amine just prior to use along with the insertion of a plastic-encased sleeve, with the explosive package inserted through the sleeve and connected to the sleeve with a fuse. The system was fired through the sleeve at a target 1,600 feet. (Aviation did not come to Annapolis until 1910. Orville Wright set an altitude record by flying at 1,600 feet. (Aviation did not come to Annapolis until 1910.)

The Arapahoe transmitted an SOS distress signal, becoming the first American ship to do so. Is there life on Mars? Astronomer Percival Lowell won the Nobel Prize in physics for development of wireless telegraphy. “Recent developments in radio telegraphy,” were featured in the early years of NPS curriculum.

Looking Back at 1909

As the School celebrates its centennial year, the Alumni Relations Office reviewed some of the events of 1909 in Navy, national and international history. Here’s what was happening in the world during the initial year of what is now the Naval Postgraduate School:

• U.S. troops left Cuba.

• The U.S. Navy’s Great White Fleet completed its circumnavigation of the globe.

• Polar explorer and Navy Rear Adm. Robert Peary reached the North Pole.

• In June, the Naval Postgraduate School was established as the School of Marine Engineering at the Naval Academy. The school began with 10 students and two instructors.

• Capt. Edward L. Beach published Ralph Olsen: Madshipman at Annapolis, the latest in his series of boys’ books about the Naval Academy.

• Gaughran Maitland, recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics for development of wireless telegraphy, “Recent developments in radio telegraphy,” were featured in the early years of NPS curriculum.

Looking Back at 1909

• Osvald Wright set an altitude record by flying at 1,600 feet. (Aviation did not come to Annapolis until 1911.)

• The Arapahoe transmitted an SOS distress signal, becoming the first American ship to do so.

• Is there life on Mars? Astronomer Percival Lowell wondered in an article in Science magazine. A century later, NPS has 34 astronauts, more than any other graduate university in the world, and scientists are still asking that question about Mars.

• The Navy established a base at Pearl Harbor, and Lt. J. O. Richardson, a member of the first NPS class, began postgraduate study; Richardson would become Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, in 1940. A lot has happened since 1909, but one thing hasn’t changed: the Naval Postgraduate School is still making history! To find out how you can get involved with the NPS Centennial, contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@nps.edu.