

## **The PPNT Tradition Remains Strong at IGCC**

Seventh summer "boot camp" provides training on nuclear weapons policy and technology

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They came. They saw. They argued nuclear detection strategies and how to contain nonstate actors. They took field trips to a nuclear power plant and to the beach. It's summer in La Jolla, and the new cohort of Public Policy and Nuclear Threats fellows is in residence.

Now in its seventh summer, the nuclear "boot camp" is the longest-running of several intensive summer training workshops coordinated by IGCC. "We think it's a great model," said IGCC Director Susan Shirk. "Students have the chance to hear from experts from organizations like the IAEA, the NNSA, the UN, the DND, the FBI, and technical experts from the national labs and to talk to them at meals. We encourage the speakers to stay a few days so they can interact more informally with the students and with each other."

The twenty-six participants in this year's PPNT come from a range of backgrounds. More than half are graduate students, in disciplines ranging from nuclear engineering to public policy. The rest are professionals from the policy, research, and technical worlds. They work together, eat together, and live in close proximity for the three weeks of the program. "We think that this is the best way to rapidly build connections between the participants," said Program Director Robert L. Brown. "We hope they will stay connected during the course of their careers."

The program grew out of an NSF-funded training program for UC doctoral students run by IGCC from 2002 to 2009. It is now supported by the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the Department of Homeland Security and the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy. Brown, an assistant professor of political science at Temple University, is one of the original PPNT fellows.

The three-week workshop finishes up this week with presentations on nuclear weapons trouble spots Iran and North Korea, a policy simulation led by expert in residence Amb. Linton Brooks, and a panel of PPNT alumnae, who will discuss nuclear taboos and abolition. After the final meal together, participants will return to their studies or careers as part of a network of 150-plus PPNT alumni. They will have a chance to meet up again, and to present their own research, at the annual PPNT winter conference in Washington, DC.