



Sam Nunn Fellows Visit Washington DC

May 5-9, 2008- The fifth class of Sam Nunn Fellows visited Washington DC during early May to meet with individuals involved in policy making and implementation. The Sam Nunn Security Program of Georgia Tech is one of nine US programs funded by the MacArthur Foundation to bring greater levels of scientific and technological advisement to the policymaking process on those issues related to national and global security. The trip is capstone to a yearlong graduate seminar that teaches pre- and post-doctoral scientists and engineers the skills of policy analysis and advisement.

On day one, our Program was first hosted by the Policy and Global Affairs Program of the National Academies where they heard from experts on the life sciences, the task of coordinating scientific communication related to national security issue, and the process of evaluating the impact of new and future technologies. Next, Fellows traveled to the Department of State where they met with the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation (VCI) as well as other members of the VCI Bureau. This agency takes the lead in ensuring that other states comply with the arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation agreements to which the US is a party- whether for conventional arms or weapons of mass destruction. The final visit for the day was to meet with the Deputy Science and

Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State. The Science and Technology Advisor, and her staff, assist the Secretary of State by providing insight and recommendations on the many technical issues that may require a scientific or technological education to understand - such as technical treaty verification requirements, the ramifications of technology transfer, or the projected effects of climate change - but that are crucial to America's diplomatic efforts.

Day two was spent on Capitol Hill. The morning involved meetings on the Senate-side with representatives of the professional staffs of both the Foreign Relations and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees. During lunch participants were visited by Senator Johnny Isakson. The Nunn Fellows also heard from personnel and former Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) about AAAS fellowships as a route into public service. The afternoon was spent on the House side meeting with professional staff members working for the House Science and Technology and Homeland Security Committees.

Day Three was split between a morning visit to the Office of Science and Technology at the National Institute of Justice and to RAND in the afternoon. The National Institute of Justice facilitates the development of technologies and methodologies used by state and local law enforcement agencies. The focus of the talk with the Associate Director of the Office was the technologies being developed in the realm of counter-terrorism, homeland security, and forensics. RAND is a think-tank that has been in operation

since 1948 that is largely known for its research for the Defense Department and the broader national security establishment. The Fellows were given insight into the work of specific researchers related to defense and homeland security, as well as an overview of the firm's overall operations.

Day four was spent at the National Security Agency. This agency has the double-edged role of both collecting and decoding intelligence against foreign enemies while also protecting US secure systems against attack. Through the morning and early afternoon, fellows heard a about how the Agency goes about conducting its operations. Later in the afternoon, Fellows received a guided tour of the National Cryptologic Museum. This museum covers the history of US code-making and code-breaking activities from well before the NSA was established to post-Cold War activities.

The final day included meetings with the representatives of the Department of Energy's Office of Policy and International Affairs. The first meeting was with the Acting Director of the European and Asian Affairs and a member of his staff who expounded on many challenges related to Asian energy security such as the affect of rising regional energy demand and the India-US nuclear deal. The next meeting was with a member of the Office of Climate Change Policy and Technology who engaged the Fellows in a discussion about the difficulties of trying to develop a global consensus on an approach to the task of radically cutting the levels of carbon emissions produced globally in order to avert severe effects later.