

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

---



**NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL,  
EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

*Promoting Knowledge and Understanding of the  
Arab Region, the Middle East, & the Islamic World*

# ABOUT

---

Founded in 1983, the **National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations** is an American non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab region.

The National Council's **mission** is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world. Its means for doing so encompass but are not limited to programs for leadership development, people-to-people exchanges, lectures, publications, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers conference, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study experiences.

The National Council's **vision** is a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. Such a foundation, viewed from both ends of the spectrum, is one that would be characterized by strengthened and expanded strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation ties; increased joint ventures; a mutuality of benefit; reciprocal respect for each other's heritage and values; and overall acceptance of each other's legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and objectives.



# 37th

CONSECUTIVE  
YEAR  
OF PROMOTING  
ARAB-U.S.  
UNDERSTANDING

## PRESIDENT & CEO MESSAGE

---

2020 brought forth a host of new challenges and opportunities for the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations as it pursued its **educational** mission to further knowledge and understanding of the Arab region, the Middle East, and the Islamic world.

While the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the global community, with resultant havoc, death, and despair, America's relationship with the Arab countries faced novel and familiar challenges. Despite life often seeming quite different due to public health circumstances, the bonds of friendship and partnership between the United States and its Arab friends, partners, and allies proved again to be strong.

For the National Council, there were many changes amidst constancies. While the location and format of many of the Council's programs, projects, events, and activities may have often looked different in 2020, the Council's underlying focus on education endured. Despite the challenges, the Council redoubled its efforts to continue the pursuit of a relationship between the American & Arab peoples based on enhanced cooperation, deepened understanding, and reciprocal respect.



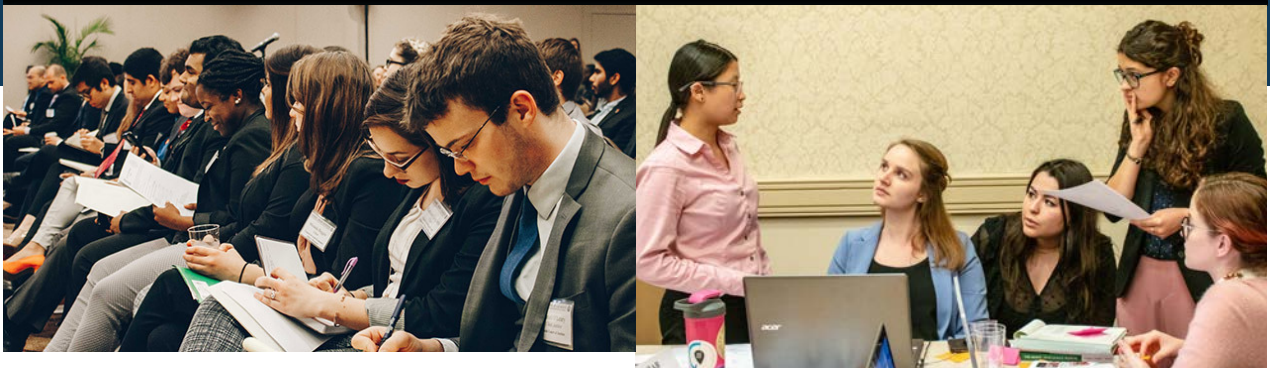
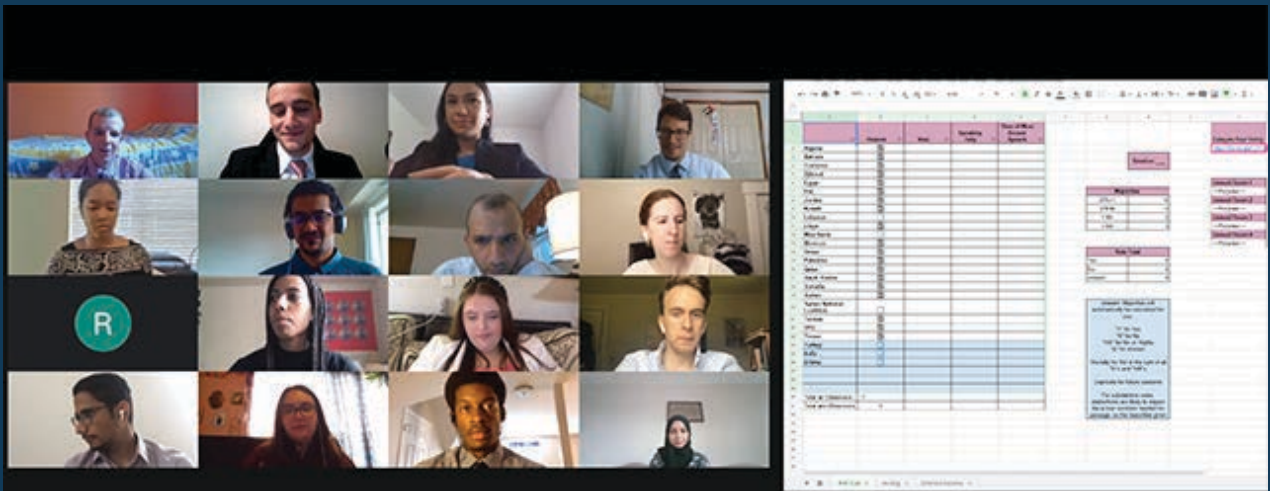
Dr. John Duke Anthony  
Founding President & CEO

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT / MODEL ARAB LEAGUE DEBATE FORUMS

## 20 Youth Leadership Development / Model Arab League Debate Forums

Youth Leadership Development / Model Arab League Debate Forums were administered (some virtually) during the year by hosts in **13 U.S. cities**.

The National Council's Youth Leadership Development / Model Arab League Debate Forum Alumni grew to more than **51,000**.





# ENGAGING ARAB AND AMERICAN STUDENTS

# 37

University students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences completed 10-week and semester-long virtual Arab-U.S. relations internships with organizations based in Washington, D.C.

## EMERGING LEADERS INTERNSHIPS

---

The internships required that the students produce twice-weekly written analytical critiques of published works by scholars and other specialists on contemporary issues and challenges pertaining to Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC experiment in sub-regional cooperation.

In addition, the interns were introduced to, briefed by, and provided the opportunity to converse with a dozen of the region's foremost authors, diplomats, and other authorities on Arabia and the Gulf.

Simultaneously, the interns benefited from a full-time, real-life professional work experience. The experiences were provided by the National Council in association with one of its fellow NGOs active in America's relationships with the 22 Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world.

# 29th

YEAR OF ADMINISTERING THE  
WORLD'S ONLY ANNUAL  
ARAB-U.S. POLICYMAKERS  
CONFERENCE BASED IN THE  
HEART OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ANNUAL ARAB-U.S. POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

---

The 29th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, ***The Next U.S. Presidency: Implications for the U.S.-Arab Relationship***, was broadcast live online **November 17-19, 2020.**

The proceedings featured **32 internationally renowned specialists** analyzing, discussing, and debating issues of over-arching importance to the American and Arab people's needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives.

# 29TH ANNUAL ARAB-U.S. POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE FEATURED SPECIALISTS



HRH Prince Turki  
Al Faisal Al Saud



Dr. John Duke  
Anthony



Ms. Raghida  
Dergham



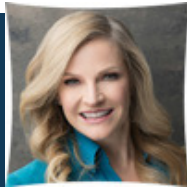
H.E. Dr. Nayef  
Falah M. Al-Hajraf



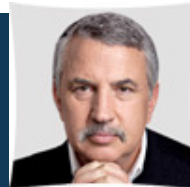
HRH Princess Reema  
Bandar Al Saud



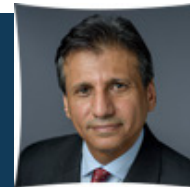
General Kenneth F.  
McKenzie, Jr.



Ms. Kirsten  
Fontenrose



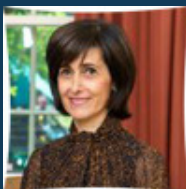
Mr. Thomas L.  
Friedman



H.E. Dr. Mohamed  
Al Hassan



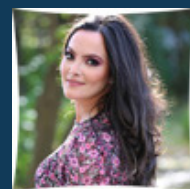
General (Ret.)  
David Petraeus



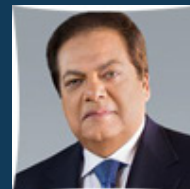
H.E. Dina Kawar



Mr. Leo A. Daly III



Ms. Nidal Ibourk



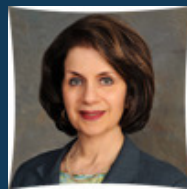
H.E. Mohamed M.  
Abou El Enein



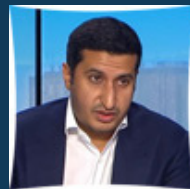
Ambassador  
John Abizaid



Mr. Joey Hood



Ambassador (Ret.)  
Susan Ziadeh



Mr. Mohammed  
Alyahya



Mr. Timothy  
Lenderking



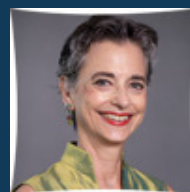
Mr. Richard Kaplan



Dr. Abdullah  
Al Shayji



Mr. H. Delano  
Roosevelt



Ms. Barbara Slavin



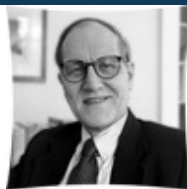
Dr. Abdullah  
Baabood



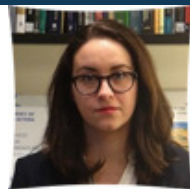
Ms. Susanne Koelbl



Dr. Anthony H.  
Cordesman



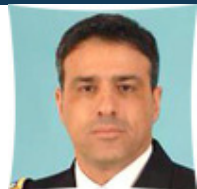
Mr. David H. Rundell



Dr. Cinzia Bianco



Dr. David Ottaway



Colonel (Ret.)  
Abbas K. Dahouk

# 29TH ANNUAL ARAB-U.S. POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

---

Audio and video recordings of sessions and speakers at the 29th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, along with other past Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences, are available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, the National Council's website, and elsewhere online.



[youtube.com/c/NcuserOrg](https://youtube.com/c/NcuserOrg)



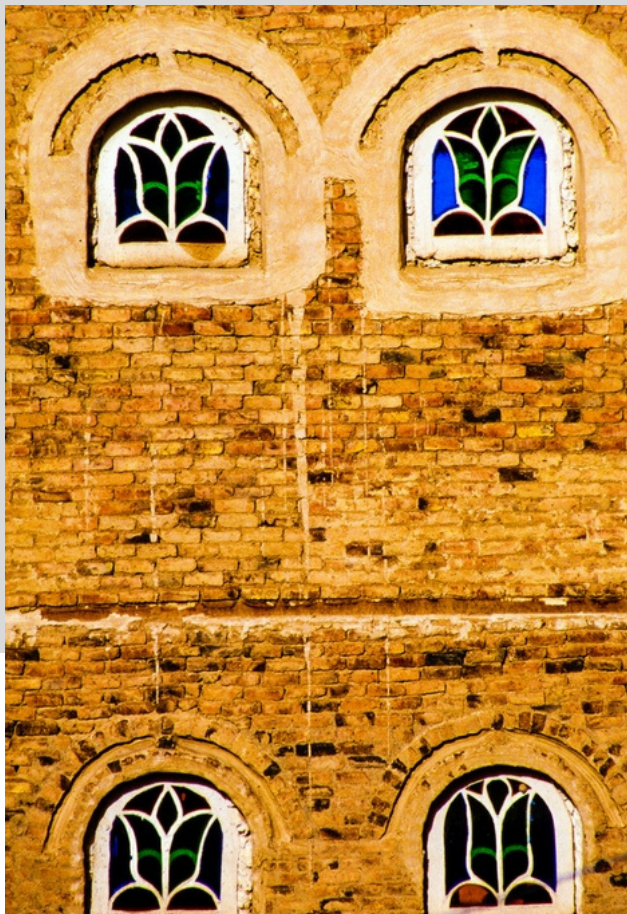
[apple.co/2rGLnt3](https://apple.co/2rGLnt3)



[spoti.fi/373cSxd](https://spoti.fi/373cSxd)



[ncuser.org](https://ncuser.org)





# ARAB WORLD STUDY VISITS

---

Despite international travel limited for much of 2020, **24** individuals participated in **National Council Study Visits to the Arab Region**.

In addition, **49** individuals completed follow-on activities from **National Council Study Visits to the Arab Region** in 2019.

National Council Study Visits to the Arab Region project participants into the dynamics of Arab-U.S. relations and provides first-hand exposure to the region's considerable cultural, economic, political, and social diversity pursuant to increased knowledge and understanding.



A panoramic view from atop the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, historical capital of the former Imamate of Oman located deep in the Sultanate's interior.



# 272

Individuals participated in National Council Study Visits to the Arab Region from 2015-2020

# BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES, & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

# 83

Lectures, seminars, briefings, interviews, roundtables, discussions, and other educational sessions convened by the National Council



# 90

Publications, articles, monographs, podcasts, & videos featuring hard-to-come-by analyses and perspectives on contemporary affairs and policies related to U.S.-Arab relations and the Arab world from Morocco to Muscat, Baghdad to Berbera, and Algiers to Aden, with Aleppo and Alexandria in between



**His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Al Hassan**  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, New York



**Dr. John Duke Anthony**  
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



The National Council remains among the top-rated charities for program effectiveness, public accountability, and fiscal stewardship.



# INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

---

2020 marked the first full year that **Ambassador (Ret.) Richard W. Murphy**, one of America’s most accomplished Arabist statesmen, served as Co-Chair of the National Council’s International Advisory Committee.

The Board’s other Co-Chair is **HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**. In October 2020, HRH Prince Abdulaziz was appointed President of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (sometimes better known by its acronym, “AGFUND”), where he succeeded the humanitarian organization’s Founding President and his father HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz.



**Ambassador (Ret.) Richard W. Murphy**



**HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**



## ARAB CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON

Work continued toward establishing the first-ever Arab Cultural Institute in the heart of the nation's capital. The Institute will showcase the extraordinary and multifaceted range of Arab contributions to humanity, world civilization, and American civic culture.

# GLOBAL CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

---

On January 24, the National Council presented its first-ever **GLOBAL CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD** to **Monsieur Dr. Jack Lang**, President of the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) in Paris, France. The Award was bestowed in recognition of Monsieur Lang's achievements in expanding knowledge of the Arab region and promoting cross-cultural understanding.



**National Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony (right) Institut du Monde Arabe President Monsieur Dr. Jack Lang (center), and National Council International Advisory Board Member Leo A. Daly III (left).**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

---

Financial data is from the National Council's most recently completed fiscal year. Public copies of the Council's 990 IRS Tax Return and its Audited Financial Statements are available on the Council's website.

**Total Revenue.....\$987,869**

Program Expenses

Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.....	\$345,560
Model Arab League.....	\$283,867
Youth Programs.....	\$307,517
Alwaleed bin Talal Fellows Program.....	\$18,403
Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies.....	\$97,553
Congressional & Public Affairs Briefings.....	\$158,780

Total Program Expenses.....\$1,211,680

Administrative Expenses.....\$163,642

Fundraising Expenses.....\$52,587

**Total Expenses.....\$1,427,909**

**Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year.....\$3,693,265**



# FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

---

**H.E. Abdulwahab Alhajjri**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Khalid Al-Jaber**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Ms. Nahlah A. Al-Jubeir**

*Senior International Affairs Fellow*

**Mr. Khaled Almaeena**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Saud Saleh AlSarhan**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Abdullah AlShayji**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Saad Alsubaie**

*Distinguished International Security Studies Fellow*

**Mr. Nawaf Althari**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Mr. Badar Al Yazeedi**

*Cultural Affairs Fellow*

**Ms. Sarah Bakhsh Wedhaya**

*Senior International Legal Affairs Fellow*

**Mr. Arthur Clark**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Professor David Des Roches**

*Senior International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Raymond Jallow**

*Distinguished International Economic Affairs Fellow*

**Mr. Jeremy Jones**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Mr. Robert Lebling**

*Senior International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Ghiyath F. Nakshbendi**

*International Business & Investment Affairs Fellow*

**Ambassador (Ret.) Dr. Richard J. Schmierer**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Dr. Paul Sullivan**

*Distinguished International Affairs Fellow*

**Ms. Molly Williamson**

*Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence*

**Mr. Joshua Yaphe**

*Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence*

# INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

---

**HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal  
Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

*Co-Chair*

**Ambassador (Ret.)  
Richard W. Murphy**

*Co-Chair*

**Dr. Selwa A. F. Al-Hazaa**

**HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal  
Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

**Dr. Turki Faisal Al Rasheed**

**Mr. Charles Andreae**

**H.E. Abdulla Bishara**

**Ambassador (Ret.) Walter Cutler**

**Mr. Leo A. Daly III**

**Ms. Raghida Dergham**

**Ms. Harriet Mayor Fulbright**

**Ms. Linda Pappas Funsch**

**Mr. Robert Hager**

**Ms. Alison Hills**

**Dr. Michael Hudson**

**Mr. Richard Kaplan**

**Ms. Ann Zwicker Kerr**

**Mr. Christopher Johnson**

**Mr. Hani Masri**

**Ms. Dorothy M. Mazaka**

**Mr. Richard McFarland**

**Mr. John Mulholland**

**Mr. Dan Nelson**

**General (Ret.) David Petraeus**

**Ms. Tanya Rahall**

**Mr. H. Delano Roosevelt**

**Mr. David Rundell**

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

**Mr. Sabri Saleem**

**Ambassador (Ret.)  
Dr. Richard J. Schmierer**

**Mr. Charles Sills**

**Mr. Peter Tanous**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

- **Mr. John Pratt**  
*Chairman*
- **Ms. Elizabeth Wossen**  
*Treasurer*
- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**
- **Ms. Susan Wilson Bynum**
- **Mr. Abbas Dahouk**
- **Dr. Raymond Jallow**
- **Ms. Paige Peterson**
- **Mr. Tom Sams**
- **Mr. Oliver Zandona**

## FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND CEO

---

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**

## STAFF

---

- **Mr. Patrick Mancino**  
*Executive Vice President &  
Director of Development*
- **Mr. Mark Morozink**  
*Director of Communications*
- **Ms. Katie Grandelli**  
*Student Programs Coordinator*
- **Ms. Asmaa Katah**  
*Public Relations Specialist*
- **Mr. Rowland Robinson**  
*Special Programs Associate*

---

**[Front Cover]** The fortified village of Al-Hajjarah, approximately 40 miles southwest of Sana'a, sits nestled among the clouds 2,200 meters high atop a peak in the Jabal Haraz. Established in the 12th century by the Sulayhid dynasty, it is among the best examples of mountain architecture in Yemen, with houses erected directly on the rocks without foundations. Homes in the mountain-top villages of the Jabal Haraz are built with sandstone or basalt. In many places the buildings are so integrated into the landscape that it is difficult to tell where the rock ends and the village begins. The hillsides surrounding the villages contain terraced fields growing alfalfa, millet, lentils, coffee, and qat. Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 1997.

**[Page 2]** An inlaid Islamic niche at the Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory. Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 2006.

**[Page 8]** Among the most distinctive decorative features of Yemeni architecture is the qamaria, the multicolored stained-glass windows that grace some of Yemen's buildings. The qamaria, which comes from the word qamar, meaning moon, is said to let light reminiscent of the moon's beauty into the house. These intricately and ornately shaped and colored windows are both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Their carved shapes add color and charm to a home, and they help illuminate the inside without exposing it to direct sunlight. There are more than 150 traditional Yemeni qamaria patterns, with the most popular styles being Rommani, Yagoti, and Zanjery. Photos by Dr. John Duke Anthony.

**[Page 13]** The Mosque of Ahmad Ibn Tulun in the present day Sayyida Zaynab district of Cairo is one of the Islamic world's most famous. It is the only remaining monument from the City of Qata'i, which was established in 870 as the capital of the Tulunid state in Egypt. The mosque underwent restorations in 1077, 1296, and, most recently, 2004. The Egyptian capital's oldest and largest mosque lies within what is today referred to as "Historic Cairo." The area was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. Photo by National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, 2005.

**[Back Cover]** The city of Shibam, rising out of the cliff edge of Wadi Hadramaut and nicknamed "the Manhattan of the desert," is one of the oldest and best examples of urban planning based on multistoried construction. The 16th-century metropolis consists of sun-dried brick houses made from mixtures of soil, hay, and water, towering up to seven stories high. Shibam sits on an important caravan stop on the spice and incense route across the Southern Arabian plateau. Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 2008.



# PHOTO CAPTIONS & CREDITS





**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS**

1730 M Street NW  
Suite 503  
Washington, D.C., 20036  
U.S.A.