

Council Chronicle

31 years of promoting understanding



Vol. 8, No. 3

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the **26th edition** of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's periodic newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated expanding the nature and extent of the Council's efforts in pursuit of its vision and mission. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports on the Council's programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, and for ongoing supporters keen to keep abreast of the Council's accomplishments, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at ncusar.org.

Message from the President

Reduced to a phrase, the National Council's mission is: **"education, training, and leadership development."**

In response to the question, "For what?," the answer is:

To continuously search for, find, and pursue ways to *strengthen and expand* the Arab-U.S. relationship;



The National Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program provides students with an energizing and demanding mix of professional involvement, intellectual challenge, and career and cultural exploration.

To increase Americans' knowledge and understanding of the ongoing issues, challenges, and opportunities in America's relations with its Arab Friends, allies, and strategic partners.

To serve as an information clearing house with regard to Arab culture, society, economics, political dynamics, and the growing strategic positions, roles, and importance of the Arab world in regional and global affairs;

To enhance American awareness of the extraordinary mutuality of benefit derived from the ever-growing interdependency between our two peoples and our respective legitimate needs, concerns, interests, aspirations, and key foreign policy objectives; and

To achieve such goals not through theories but practice and to do so not by words alone but *by example*.

With profound thanks to the National Council's financial and in-kind contributors, supporters, and participants, the following pages illustrate the progress that the Council has been making toward accomplishing these goals.

Dr. John Duke Anthony
Founding President and CEO
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



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About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world through **EIGHT** different annual programs, events, and activities.

First, the National Council is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. From one Council leadership development effort alone, the Model Arab League Program, there are more than 38,000 alumni. The number of participants in the Council's sixteen annual Models – through 2013, held in thirteen cities throughout the United States and in Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia – averages 2,000. Illustrative of the increasing national and international recognition of the leadership skills that this one Council program provides its participants, we are pleased to report the following: contributions from supporters have enabled the Council to administer **three additional Models in 2014-2015**. As evidence of the extraordinary value that comes through participation in the Models, *every single Council employee is a graduate of this program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship.

Second, the National Council is unique in another way: it is the world's only organization to have administered for 23 years and counting an annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers' Conference. The Conference brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. *For each of the past three years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,250 registrants*. Through coverage for four of the past six years by C-SPAN, the award-winning international satellite television network, additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at ncusar.org.

A **third** National Council highlight is its intensive student work-study internship program. *In the past year alone the Council trained more than thirty interns over the course of the academic year and the summer*. In cooperation with The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the ten-week University Student Summer Internship Program, administered for the seventh consecutive year in association with *eighteen* sister organizations in the nation's capital, provided a professional work experience and a series of site visits to and meetings with and briefings by representatives of Arab embassies, Congress, the Supreme Court, the Department of State, and other institutions in the nation's capital, together with the world's only known twenty-part seminar on "Arabia, The Gulf, The GCC, and The U.S.-Arab Relationship."



National Council on
U.S.-Arab Relations



Arabia, the Gulf, &
the GCC Blog



U.S.-GCC Corporate
Cooperation
Committee



An exciting new feature of the National Council's 2014 University Student Summer Internship Program, in which 25 interns participated, was *the institution of the first-ever Findley Fellowships*. The Fellowships were granted at the end of the program to four of the most outstanding interns. The awardees were selected for having met two multifaceted criteria. First, they excelled in the program's academic component – organization, productivity, research, analysis, assessment, composition, writing and editing within tightly prescribed deadlines, and role-playing as make-believe Arab diplomats in a simulated real-life introduction to Arab challenges and opportunities. Second, in their character, integrity, dedication, and overall professionalism, the award-winning fellows were judged as having exemplified throughout the seminar the critical thinking and communications skills as well as the moral, leadership, educational, and, especially, extraordinary traits of courage, conviction, and commitment associated with the life and works of Congressman Paul Findley, who served for 22 years in the U.S. Congress. Upon his retirement, Congressman Findley became a founding member of the Council's International Advisory Committee, and, since 2014, the Committee's Co-Chairman, together with HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud, former Chairman of the Arab Open University Forum.

A **fourth** National Council program is designed to contribute positively to the national public and private sector conversations about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions towards the Arab world and its peoples. To this end, the Council administers year-round a series of seminars on Capitol Hill and in other venues. In each instance, one or more internationally renowned specialists is tasked with analyzing, assessing, and recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers. The seminars held in Congressional Hearing Rooms are typically filled to capacity. In attendance are Members of Congress, Congressional staff, media representatives, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, members of the international diplomatic corps, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

A **fifth** National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the *past seven* years, the Council has achieved this, in part, through an electronic newsletter – the *Council Chronicle*, of which this issue is an example – that appears four times a year, through an *Annual Review*, and through its ongoing close relationship with the publications of the *Saudi-U.S. Relations*

Information Service (SUSRIS) and the Saudi-U.S Trade Group. Still another feature of the Council's publications outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to the overall Arab-U.S. relationship, and to Arabia and the Gulf in particular, is the Council's blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Drs. Imad Harb and Nawaf Obaid, and other specialists. Visit the blog at: ncusar.org/blog.

A **sixth** National Council activity is organizing and providing scholarly escorts for delegations of American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries – in the past year, to Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

A **seventh** National Council activity is a public service in the form of facilitating the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences in Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman.

The **eighth** National Council activity is its ongoing participation in year-round heads of organizations meetings. These forums, which began under the Council's auspices in 1991 in the aftermath of the reversal of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait,

periodically gather the CEOs and other key representatives of like-minded sister organizations that are committed to strengthening and expanding the overall Arab-U.S. relationship. The objective of the meetings, beyond deepening the



Former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, a founding Member of the National Council's Advisory Board and since 2014 its Co-Chairman, pictured here with Dr. John Duke Anthony in 1985, served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years, representing the 20th District of Illinois. In 2013, the Council presented Congressman Findley its first-ever Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2014 the National Council instituted the Findley Fellowship Award to recognize outstanding participants in the Council's University Student Summer Internship Program. Students honored as Findley Fellows are presented this lapel pin to display their achievement.



H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Ambassador of Qatar to the United States, addresses an April 2014 National Council Congressional Briefing Event in the Rayburn House Office Building.

bonds of trust, confidence, and a willingness to join forces in pursuit of common goals, is to provide evidence to the respective organizations' "shareholders" that their financial, in-kind, and other investments in and contributions to what the organizations seek to accomplish have not been and are not in vain.

Running through all of the National Council's programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council's vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council's **vision** is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, the vision encompasses the belief that the relationship is strengthened continuously by a range of richly rewarding projects, programs, events, and activities, chief amongst which are exchanges and the Arab-U.S. relations skills development of present and emerging American and Arab leaders.

The pages that follow highlight the nature and number of many of the extraordinary leaders who have joined forces with the Council in support of its vision. Each recognizes the Council as the only American organization that annually organizes and administers an event expressly designed to improve the U.S.-Arab relationship: namely, the annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.



The National Council's **mission** is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab public and private sectors. The Council seeks, in particular, to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, human resources, and leadership development clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information, insight, and learning opportunities for national, state, and local grassroots educational organizations, media, and public policy research institutes in addition to select community civic, business, and professional associations.

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Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program

June 2 - August 8, 2014

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program, highlighted recently in *Council Chronicle* Vol. 8, No. 2, has been linked for many years to the Council's **Annual University Student Washington, DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern Program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American and Arab leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Gnehm made it possible for the 2014 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2014 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs allowed for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2014 Summer Internship Program.

The program, which lasted from June 2 to August 8, provided 25 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at one of 18 international affairs organizations. All 18 organizations have for years worked hand-in-hand with the National Council to administer this unique program – the only one of its kind to be found anywhere. Each is involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. A distinguishing feature of the program is that by its very nature it could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. A further hallmark of the experience – one not known to be matched by any U.S.-Arab relations student internship program elsewhere – is that, in addition to working full time in their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program is also unique: it centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world, namely *Arabia and the Gulf*. The reason relates to three truisms. Each one has implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, relations, and key foreign policy objectives. **First**, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



As these maps illustrate, the academic focus of the internship program is on Arabia and the Gulf which, despite being of vital strategic and economic importance globally, remains little known and poorly understood by most Americans and many others.



National Council Internship Program participants visited The Islamic Center of Washington, a mosque and Islamic cultural center on Embassy Row, where they met with and were briefed by the local Imam.



Council Internship Program participants visited the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to meet with and be briefed by Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Embassy's Information Office.

Second, Arabia and the Gulf remain front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, hundreds of thousands of U.S. annual forces personnel and other foreign militaries have been mobilized and deployed in the past three decades.

Third, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen – is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states – or who can legitimately claim to be well-informed about the external and internal political dynamics of these countries – remains exceptionally limited.

In no way can this situation be considered healthy. Neither is it reflective of what is necessary in terms of conserving and sustaining the area's security, stability, and prospects for prosperity. Nor is it representative of what needs to be in place if the United States expects to be able to hold its own, let alone be regarded by others, as a responsible actor with regard to this particular region's affairs, Americas relationships with its people, and the legitimate interests of those who live and work in the countries concerned.

Accordingly, one of the program's educational objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners who are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures and discussion sessions address issues related, on one hand, to the dynamics of the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, and their foreign relations, and, on the other, American relations with this Arab sub-region and its neighbors – and *vice versa*.



Internship program participants' experience is one that could not be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus.



The interns visited the U.S. Department of State during one of their weekly excursions that allowed them to explore some of America's most important government institutions.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addressed the interns on eight occasions -- in this one on the topic of "Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn."

Internship Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world and elsewhere, in U.S. government Executive Branch agencies as well as Congressional Committees dealing with U.S.-Arab policy issues, major national and international print as well as broadcast media, leading American corporations engaged in U.S.-Arab trade, investment, technology cooperation, and the establishment of joint commercial ventures, and as teachers of Arabic and Arab area studies in American universities.

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the eighteen organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of the past year's program are varied. Included among their missions and activities are U.S.-Arab educational development and exchanges, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief services, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, Congressional Committees, and government agencies.



Internship program participants visited the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and received a briefing from Committee staff members.



National Council Internship Program participants joined other students working and studying in Washington, DC in a one-day Summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.

Administering the 2014 program were National Council President **Dr. John Duke Anthony** as Chairman and lead lecturer/resource specialist; Director of Student Programs **Megan Geissler** as Coordinator; and additional support from staff members Josh Hilbrand, Laura Tucker, and Kaylee Boalt as Assistants. Also included among the many briefers and specialists were **His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif**, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States; **Mr. Bill Corcoran**, President, American Near East Refugee Aid; **Dr. Amal Amireh**, Associate Professor, George Mason University; **Mr. Joseph Montville**, Director, Program on Healing Historical Memory at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University; **The Honorable Molly Williamson**, former Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Secretary of Energy, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, and Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations as well as the Middle East Institute; **Major Jason Howk**, U.S. Army and National Council Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies and former Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General; **Dr. Judith Yaphe**, Senior Research Fellow and Middle East Project Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University and former Senior Analyst on Near East-Persian Gulf issues, Directorate of Intelligence, CIA; **Ms. Michelle Upton**, Vice President and Managing Editor, *Al-Monitor*; **Bassel Korkor, Esq.**, Legal Director for the United Nations and United Nations Missions of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces; **Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir**, Director, Information Office, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; **Professor David Des Roches**, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University and National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies in Syria; **Ambassador (Ret.) Patrick Theros**, President and Executive Director, US-Qatar Business Council; **Ms. Laurna Strikwerda**, twice Program Officer, Freedom House; **Ambassador (Ret.) Walter Cutler**, former United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Iran (*Ambassador-designate*) and Congo/Zaire; **Mr. John Pratt**, External Vice President, American Business Association - Eastern Province, Member of the National Council's Board of Directors, and Immediate Past President, Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce; and **Dr. Trita Parsi**, President, National Iranian American Council.

Findley Fellowship Program

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations launched its **Findley Fellowship Program** in 2014. The Findley Fellowship, named in honor of Congressman (Ret.) Paul Findley, is annually awarded to participants in the Council's Annual University Student Summer Internship Program. Recipients who have excelled in manifesting exceptional leadership qualities over the course of the Council's yearly ten-week summer seminar on "Arabia and the Gulf." The seminar is administered at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, situated in the heart of the nation's capital and but a three-minute walk to the U.S. Department of State and the headquarters of the offices of Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired (DACOR).

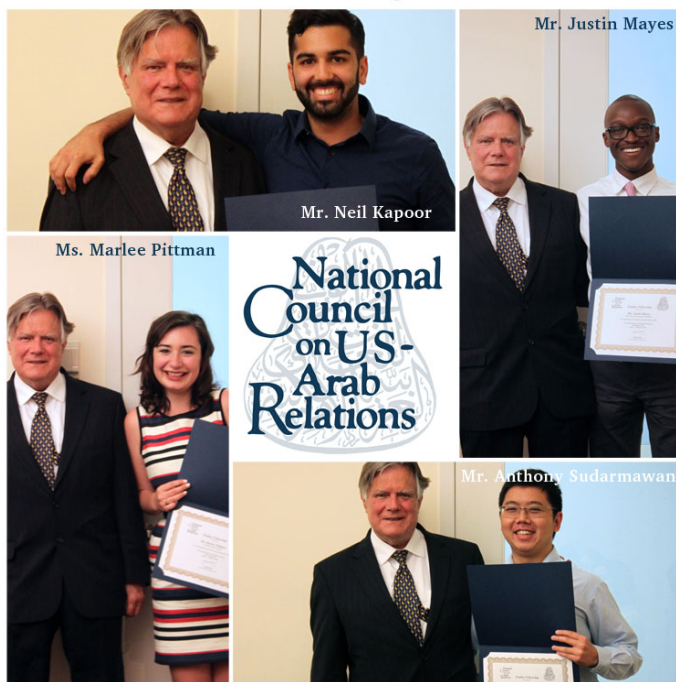
Recipients of the Award are deemed to have demonstrated extraordinary:

- Initiative, leadership, and judgment skills in the program's seminars;
- High-caliber critical thinking in the quality of their seminar exchanges;
- Information integration and analysis as well as oral and written communication skills;
- Original and incisive commentary in their analyses of topics assigned them for required reading and evaluation about the member-countries constituting "Arabia, The Gulf, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)";
- The nature and degree of excellence exhibited in the interns' preparation for meetings and interaction with the seminar's lecturers, resource specialists, and internationally renowned foreign affairs practitioners on a variety of cutting edge issues and challenges as well as opportunities pertaining to the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf countries. The seminar focuses on



*Congressman
(Ret.) Paul Findley
is a Founding
Member and
Current
Co-Chairman of the
Advisory Board of
the National
Council.*

2014 Findley Fellows



Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, as well as the United States, other Great Powers, the Gulf Cooperation Council, other international organizations and an additional array of forces, factors, and other phenomena related to the position and roles of these countries and their peoples in regional and global affairs. Among the topics included are: "Understanding the Arab World: Prism for Perspective, Lenses for Learning," "The Changing Nature of American Interests: Implications for U.S. Policies," "Social Stratification in Arabia and the Gulf," "Arabia and the Gulf: Regional Organizations in Context," "Saudi Arabia: External Convergences and Divergences," "Saudi Arabia: Elites, Interest Groups, and the National Decision Making Process," "Oman: Cultural and Historical Impact on Internal and External Dynamics," "Yemen: Cultural and Historical Impact on Internal and External Dynamics," "The United Arab Emirates: Cultural and Historical Impact on External and Domestic Dynamics," intra-Arabia and intra-Gulf elites, interest groups, and the national development processes; the intra-regional and international relations, as well as the cultural,

developmental, economic, governmental, historical, political, societal dynamics of Arabia and the Gulf's countries; and the foreign relations of these nine countries with one another as well as the United States, other Great Powers, and key international organizations.

In addition to the honor, the title bears and a lapel pin that identifies fellowship recipients, Findley Fellows are invited to speak at the National Council's Annual Policymakers Conference. They are also afforded priority consideration for inclusion in the Council's Arabic language and study-abroad opportunities that the Council co-administers in association with sister organizations in the United States and the Arab world.



What will your legacy be?

Accomplishing the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' educational, training, and leadership development mission cannot be achieved by accident or coincidence. It can be realized only through a steady stream of resources from individuals and families that have benefited from the Council's educational programs, projects, events, and activities, and benefactors who believe in what the Council seeks to accomplish.

Investment in the National Council – at any level and at any point in one's life – will make a difference for generations to come.

Contributing to the National Council is a powerful and meaningful way for one to strengthen the Council's philanthropic legacy. Inclusion of the Council in one's will is a guaranteed means of bequeathing resources to ensure a lasting impact on the Arab-U.S. relationship for far into the future.



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC
Telephone: (202) 293-6466
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For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:

Mr. Pat Mancino, Executive Vice President
Telephone: 202-293-6466
Email: pat@ncusar.org

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Suggested Bequest Language:

I bequeath _____ percent of my residuary estate (or \$ _____) to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, a not-for-profit organization, with its office at 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036, for its ongoing educational programs (or name a specific National Council program, e.g., the Model Arab League, Malone Fellowship, Summer Internship Program, or Findley Fellowship). Tax ID # 52-1296502.

National Council Leadership, Management, & Staff

National Council Founding President & Chief Executive Officer

Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below.

National Council Leadership, Management, and Staff

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below;

Executive Vice President and Director of Development -- Mr. Patrick A. Mancino; also: former Assistant to the President and Director of Development, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and former Legislative Assistant, House of Representatives, United States Congress;

Director of Student Programs -- Mr. Josh Hilbrand; also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program and Washington, DC Summer Internship Program;

Director of Communications -- Mr. Mark Morozink; also: Alumnus and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program;

Deputy Director of Communications -- Ms. Laura Tucker; also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program and Washington, DC Internship Program;

Program Associate -- Ms. Kaylee Boalt; also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program; and

Public Relations Specialist -- Mr. Nabil Sharaf; also: Alumnus, Washington, DC Internship Program.

National Council Board of Directors

Chairman -- Mr. David Bosch; also: former Director, Washington Office, Aramco Services Company; former Vice Chairman, American Business Council of the Gulf Countries; former President, American Business Council in the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia; and former Board Member of the Middle East Institute, the World Affairs Council of Washington, DC, the Textile Museum of Washington, and Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; also: Knighted by Moroccan King Muhammad VI with the Order of *Quissam Alouite*, Morocco's highest award for excellence; Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment; Adjunct Associate Professor, U.S. Department of Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management (1974 - present); Dean's Visiting Chair in International Studies and Political Science, teaching "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia (2012); former Adjunct Professor, teaching "Politics of Arabia and The Gulf," Georgetown University Edmund G. Walsh's Graduate School (2006-2011); former Advanced Arabian Studies Seminar Chairman, and Near East and North Africa Program Chairman, U.S. Department of State; former Saudi Arabia Studies Program Chairman, U.S. Department of Treasury; and former Adjunct Professor, teaching "Strategic Issues of Middle East Petroleum," Joint Defense Intelligence College, U.S. Department of Defense;

Treasurer -- Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome; also: President, Fahmy Hudome International; General Counsel for the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance; former Associate Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; and former Congressional staff member responsible for dealing with matters of policy pertaining to foreign affairs and international energy issues;

Vice Treasurer -- Ms. Elizabeth Wossen; also: Principal, Energy Links Group, LLC; Senior Advisor, Global Business Forum; and former Coordinator, Congressional and Government Relations, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, USA;

Dr. Mario A. Pascale; also: former member, Board of Trustees, World Learning, Inc.; founding Director, National Council California Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations; Delegation Leader for National Council professorial and student delegates to Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen; and recipient of the National Council's first *Distinguished Achievement Award* and the Council's *Distinguished Public Service Award*;

Ms. Paige Peterson; also: Senior Vice President, Huntsman Cancer Foundation;

Mr. John Pratt; also: former long-time executive, Saudi Aramco; former Vice President, American Business Association of the Eastern Province; and former Chairman, Middle East Council of the American Chambers of Commerce; and

Mr. Oliver Zandona; also: former Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, ExxonMobil Iraq and Manager, Middle East and North Africa, International Government Relations, ExxonMobil.

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The National Council's internationally recognized reputation and achievements regarding its financial transparency, fiscal accountability, integrity and overall professionalism – in its relations with institutional and individual donors, its audit agencies, and charitable contributions rating associations – is second to none.

