



# Council Chronicle

## 2012: Vol. 6, No. 1 (Winter)

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *sixteenth* edition of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports related to the Council's year-round educational programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

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

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. It endeavors to do this through leadership development, people-to-people programs, academic seminars, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers' conference, specialized publications, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study abroad and Arabic language learning experiences as well as intensive year-round and summer university student internships combined with an academic seminar in the nation's capital.

The Council's *vision* for the U.S.-Arab relationship is one that rests on a solid, enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging leaders among Americans and Arabs alike.

The Council's *mission* is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits the United States has long derived and continues to obtain from its relations with the Arab world.

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

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## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:

### 21st Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

#### *Arab-U.S. Relations Amidst Transition within Constancy: Implications for American and Arab Interests and Policies*

October 25 – 26, 2012

Washington, DC

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' 21st Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, "Arab-U.S. Relations Amidst Transition within Constancy: Implications for American and Arab Interests and Policies," will be held October 25-26, 2012 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC. Information about featured speakers, times, registration, and sponsorship opportunities is available on the National Council's website: [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).



#### Keynote Addresses Include:



#### **HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud**

His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud served as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States from 2005 to 2007. From 1977 to 2001, he served as the Director General of the General Intelligence Directorate, the Kingdom's main foreign intelligence service. Prince Turki is one of the founders of the King Faisal Foundation and is the Chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh. Prince Turki serves as a member of the Boards of Trustees of the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies.



#### **Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr.**

Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman, Jr. is President Emeritus of the Middle East Policy Council. He served as United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (1993-94), earning the Department of Defense's highest public service awards for his roles in designing a NATO-centered post-Cold War European security system and in reestablishing defense and military relations with China. Ambassador Freeman is Chairman of the Board of Projects International, Inc., a Washington, DC-based business development firm.

**Register Now at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).**

# The National Council Organizes and Escorts a Delegation of United States Military Academy Cadets on a Study Visit to the UAE; Delegation Meets with U.S. Defense Secretary Panetta

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in coordination with the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a March 9 – 17, 2012 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the United States Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, New York. The Academy's delegation was comprised of nine Cadets and two faculty members. The visit provided the Cadets an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of UAE culture as well as the country's modernization and development.



*US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta greets a West Point Cadet in Abu Dhabi. Secretary Panetta met with the National Council delegation during his visit to the UAE to meet with His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council.*

Escorted by National Council Board Member Elizabeth Wossen, Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino, and staff member Colin Moore, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the UAE Joint Command and Staff College, Al Dhafra Air base, the Critical National Infrastructural Authority (CNIA), Zayed II Military Academy, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Media Council, Lockheed Martin, and other sites. They also participated in four academic workshops at ECSSR, met with officials from the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research, and were briefed by US Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin and embassy staff. In addition, the Cadets were introduced to a maritime variant of UAE traditional culture while navigating the vibrant waterfront commerce of the Emirate of Dubai on a *dhow*, a traditional Arab wooden sailing vessel, and

exploring the pre-oil era traditions of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in its heritage village exhibitions, together with the ECSSR seminar, publications, and other educational activities.



*The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Military Academy visits the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*



*The Council's West Point delegation visits the Zayed II Military College to see where UAE cadet officers study.*

# National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program Annual Cultural Immersion Visit to Oman

In February, a delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, Malone Fellows, and area studies specialists participated in the National Council's 16th Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman. The delegation was led by Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, Malone Fellow alumnus (Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco) and Instructor at Hood College and Frederick Community College, along with Council staff member Byron Lewis. Since its inception in 1996, this particular Council program has been and remains one of a kind. Many of the Council's programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development. The Council's programs in Oman for the past 16 years, however, are different. They are designed to provide hard to come by information and insight into not just these kinds of issues but also, and especially, cultural and anthropological themes.

Indeed, the program unfolds primarily in *half a dozen different regions outside the Sultanate's capital of Muscat*. It does so in order to allow delegation members to experience the dynamics of what is not only one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries. It does so also because of Oman's position adjacent to the Hormuz Strait, arguably the most strategically vital waterway on earth, through which one fifth of the world's globally traded oil transits daily. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of dynamics that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic priorities and foreign policy objectives.

Before their departure for Oman, the Malone Fellows participated in a two-day orientation program that featured National Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony; Professor Linda Pappas Funsch; Andrea McFeely from the U.S. Department of State; Dr. Herman Franssen, President of International Energy Associates, Senior Associate in the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Energy and National Security Program, and former Senior Advisor to Oman's Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals; Col. David Des Roches, Senior Military Fellow at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at National Defense University, former Director for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and National Council Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies in Syria; Kathleen Teitel from the Pentagon; Ambassador Frances Cook, member of the Board of Directors of the Ballard Group and former United States Ambassador to Oman; and Dr. Kenneth Katzman, Senior Analyst for the Congressional Research Service. The delegation also enjoyed lunch and a briefing with Her Excellency Hunaina Sultan Al-Mughairy, Omani Ambassador to the United States.



*U.S. Central Command officers and other participants in the National Council's Malone Fellows Program in Oman sailed on a traditional Arab dhow alongside the Hormuz Strait, the world's most strategically vital waterway.*



*One of Oman's many inland fortresses and traditional walled settlements, Bahla, presently under restoration, has been designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site.*



Upon arrival in Oman, the delegation members participated in meetings and briefings by officials at the U.S. Embassy and Omani government ministries. They experienced a "sundowner" – a late afternoon and early evening sail on a *dhow*, a traditional wooden Arab sailing vessel, from Muscat eastwards along the country's Indian Ocean coastline. They also visited two of Oman's world class cultural and historical museums in Muttrah, the commercial center of the capital territory. In addition, the Fellows spent time along the country's coasts, crisscrossing its numerous mountains and wadis, and camping out under a moonlit and star-strewn sky in a desert outpost deep in Oman's vast Sharqiyah Sands, where they were hosted by members of the prominent Al-Harthy tribe.

Further into the interior, the Fellows visited remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and little known farm sites tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. They sailed aboard a *dhow*, and swam and snorkeled offshore famed Telegraph Island and other inlets that line Oman's Musandam Peninsula and in hard-to-reach coves in Oman's Norwegian-like fjords amongst cliffs that drop straight down into the sea in areas adjacent to and all the way around the internationally vital Strait of Hormuz. In so doing, the participants were able to observe the country's fisher folk, boat builders, weavers, potters, the faithful at prayer, women, and school children at study and at play.

In addition, in Jabrin, Khasab, Nizwa, and Qabil, the Fellows made their way on foot through the architectural mazes and defense mechanisms of some of the country's more than 400 centuries-old forts. Through mountains, deserts, wadis, and sea, the experience unfolded along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places. All this transpired alongside an extraordinary Omani guide who personified Oman's long history of residence and interaction within Arabia and the Gulf as well as Central and East Africa.

*The National Council's Malone Fellows delegation explored half a dozen regions in the Sultanate's interior outside the capital of Muscat. In doing so, they experienced firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries.*

***Requests for Applications are now being received for individuals interested in participating in the National Council's February 2013 Program.***



*A view of the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, an historical center of scholarly learning and traditional education that has long been closely linked to Ibadhi Muslim communities in Algeria, Libya, East Africa, and elsewhere.*



*The Malone Fellows visited Khasab Castle in the Musandam Peninsula. Built in the sixteenth century and renovated in the seventeenth century, the castle was constructed on the site of a seventh century castle overlooking the Khasab harbor.*



*The Fellows visited Jabrin Castle, built in the 17th Century when Oman's capital moved there from Nizwa.*



*An exterior view of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.*



*Fifteenth century Fort Mirani in Muscat.*



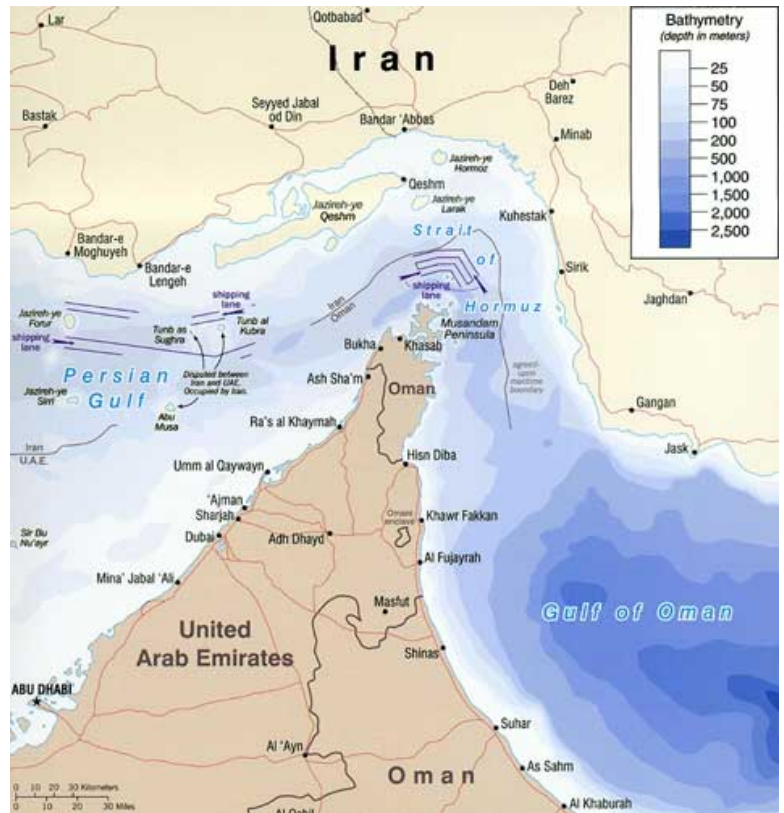
*Malone Fellows explored the dunes of the Sharqiyyah Sands, an eastern extension of the Rub' Al-Khali (The Empty Quarter), the world's largest desert.*



*The waterfront of Muscat, capital of Oman and one of Arabia's most historically fabled ports.*



*A traditional Arab dhow, hewn from wood and crafted by hand in the manner of Omani shipwrights and mariners of yesteryear, sails near a cove adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz.*



***STRAIT OF HORMUZ,  
OMAN'S MUSANDAM PENINSULA, AND  
THE WORLD'S MOST VITAL SEA LANES***



*The Malone Fellow delegation participates in a pre-departure orientation program that provides an introduction to the history, geography, and geology, as well as the economic, social, and political dynamics of Oman.*



***OMAN***



*Schoolboys break from their studies at a school in Nizwa.*

*Maps courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.*

# National Council Public Affairs Briefings

## *Afternoon Tea and A Conversation With Mrs. Cherie Blair*

January 24, 2012

On January 24, 2012, the National Council hosted “**Afternoon Tea and A Conversation with Mrs. Cherie Blair**” in The Rotunda Ballroom at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The event was co-sponsored by Mission Essential Personnel, Qatar Airways, Themis PLLC, and The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Mrs. Blair, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women as well as a noted barrister and Queen’s Counsel, was introduced by H.E. Ambassador Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, a member of the National Council’s Board of Directors.

The conversation with Mrs. Blair focused on women and human rights issues relating to the Middle East and Africa, discussing among other things the importance of women’s access to education and capital for starting businesses.

Pictures from the program are available on the National Council’s website: [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org), and on the Council’s Facebook page: [facebook.com/ncusar](https://www.facebook.com/ncusar).



*Ms. Cherie Blair, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, noted barrister, and Queen’s Counsel.*



*The program was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, a preeminent forum in the heart of the nation’s capital advancing international commerce and cross-cultural dialogue.*



*(Left to Right) Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, member of the National Council’s Board of Directors, and Ms. Cherie Blair.*



*(Left to Right) Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, Mr. Andrew Gelfuso, Director of the Office for Trade Promotion at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, Ms. Cherie Blair, and H.E. Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States.*



***Trade, Investment, Finance, and the Way Forward:  
A Conversation on U.S.-GCC Economic Relations with  
Specialists from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
April 18, 2012***

On April 18, 2012 the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted “**Trade, Investment, Finance, and the Way Forward: A Conversation on U.S.-GCC Economic Relations with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative**” in The Pavilion Room at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S.-Bahrain Business Council, the U.S.-Qatar Business Council, the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, the U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council, the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Arab Bankers Association of North America, and The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.



Representing the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative were Mr. L. Daniel Mullaney, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East, and Mr. Jason Buntin, Director for Europe and Middle East Affairs. Dr. John Duke Anthony moderated the discussion. Representatives from several co-sponsoring organizations also offered comments, including Mr. Edward Burton, President and Managing Director of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council; Ambassador Patrick Nickolas Theros, President and Executive Director of the U.S.-Qatar Business Council; Mr. George Jalinos, Founder and President of the Galen Group and member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bankers Association of North America; Mr. Curtis M. Silvers, Executive Vice President of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Raymond Jallow, Chairman of Jallow International, Ltd.

The briefing provided an open discussion of U.S. trade and investment relations with the GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates), and the joint progress and efforts to finalize a “GCC-US Framework Agreement on Trade, Economic, Investment, and Technical Cooperation” in the coming months. Such an agreement would further strength U.S.-GCC economic ties and supplement U.S. free trade agreements with Bahrain and Oman and Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with other GCC states.

Pictures from the program are available on the National Council's website: [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org), and on the Council's Facebook page: [facebook.com/ncusar](https://www.facebook.com/ncusar).



*(Left to Right) Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO of the National Council; Mr. L. Daniel Mullaney, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East; and Mr. Jason Buntin, Director for Europe and Middle East Affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative.*



*The April 18, 2012 briefing on U.S.-GCC Economic Relations organized by the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee was co-sponsored by nine other organizations dedicated to promoting business relations between the U.S. and the Arab world.*

# National Council President's Educational Services and Publications

National Council Founding President and Chief Executive Officer **Dr. John Duke Anthony** continues to serve as: (1) member of the U.S. Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy as well as its Subcommittees on Sanctions and Trade and Investment; (2) Adjunct Professor at the U.S. Department of Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management; (3) Lead Facilitator and Moderator of the Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Relations Policymakers Conference; and (4) Chair of and lead lecturer in the Council's Annual University Student Summer Internship Program.

## **Dr. Anthony's recent publications include:**

- "Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Tragedy," available at [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).
- "Challenges Facing NATO in Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq," written for and published by the website of the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, available at [www.ecssr.ac.ae](http://www.ecssr.ac.ae) and [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).
- "Saudi Arabian Ambassadors to America in Context," available at [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).
- "The Future Significance of the Gulf Cooperation Council," in *Global Strategic Developments: A Futuristic Vision*, published by the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, available at [www.ecssr.ac.ae](http://www.ecssr.ac.ae) and [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).



*Dr. John Duke Anthony delivers remarks on "U.S.-Arab Relations" at American University in March 2012.*

## **Dr. Anthony addressed, provided a briefing, and/or chaired one or more plenary sessions at conferences convened for the public and the membership and supporters of the following organizations:**

- Missouri Southern State University's Gockel International Symposium on "Charting a New Course for Egypt," keynote addresses on "The Changing Nature of America's Interests in Egypt: Implications for U.S. Policies" and "Egypt in Regional and World Affairs: Dynamics of Convergence and Divergence," September 2011;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "What Lies Ahead for America in Arabia and the Gulf?: Analyses and Prognoses" at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC with Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder, Gulf Research Center; Dr. Christian Koch, Director, Gulf Research Center Foundation; and Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Research Program Director, Gulf Research Center, September 2011;
- National Council's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference "Dynamics of Recent Events in the Arab World: Framing the Arab and U.S. Responses" at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC, October 2011;
- National Council's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Oman Cultural Immersion Program Pre-Departure Orientation Program in Washington, DC, February 2012;

- Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania Middle East and North Africa Business Conference “After the Storm: Finding Opportunity in the Post-Revolution Arab World,” March 2012;
- American University’s Delta Phi Epsilon International Society of Business and Foreign Affairs and the Muslim Student Association on “U.S.-Arab Relations,” March 2012;
- National Council’s National University and High School Model Arab Leagues at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, April 2012;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "Trade, Investment, Finance, and the Way Forward: A Conversation on U.S.-GCC Economic Relations with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative " at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (see pg. 8), April 2012;
- National Intelligence University on "Constancy and Change in American's Mideast Interests: Challenges for American Policies," April 2012;
- National Council’s United States Military Academy at West Point and United States Naval Academy in Annapolis Pre-Departure Orientation Programs for cadet and midshipmen study visits to the UAE, March and May 2012;
- U.S. Department of State’s George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center Symposium on “Youth in the Arabian Peninsula,” May 2012;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "Crisis Yemen: Going Where?" at the City Club of Washington, DC with Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Mr. Gregory Johnsen, Dr. Charles Schmitz, and Mr. Robert Sharp, June 2012; and
- "America's Interests and Responses in Light of the Arab Spring" to the International Brotherhood of Masons at the Scottish Rite Center in Washington, DC, June 2012.

### **Dr. Anthony's additional educational activities included:**

- Served as the sole American invited to observe the annual GCC Ministerial and Heads of State Summit, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, December 2011;
- Interviewed by KSA2 (Saudi Arabian English Channel) on “Saudi Arabia National Day 2011,” September 2011, and “The 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council,” June 2012;
- Delivered eight lectures on different aspects of the dynamics of Arabia and the Gulf at the National Council's Annual Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program at the George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs, June-July, 2012;
- Contributed eight interventions to the proceedings of the Third Annual Gulf Research Meeting dealing with issues related to Arabia and the Gulf at Cambridge University, July 2012; and
- Contributed five interventions to the proceedings of The Gulf Studies Conference at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, July 2012.

# National Council Recognized Again For Exceptional Accountability and Fiscal Management

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations has again been awarded a **Four Star Rating by Charity Navigator**, America's premier independent charity evaluator. Charity Navigator helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health of America's largest charities. In earning Charity Navigator's highest four star rating, the Council was deemed to have demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in the management and growth of its finances in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.



The National Council is also a member of the **BBB Wise Giving Alliance**, demonstrating that the Council meets all 20 of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB's organizational evaluation involves rigorous scrutiny of governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations, and informational materials. The overarching principle of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability is full disclosure to donors and potential donors at the time of solicitation and thereafter.

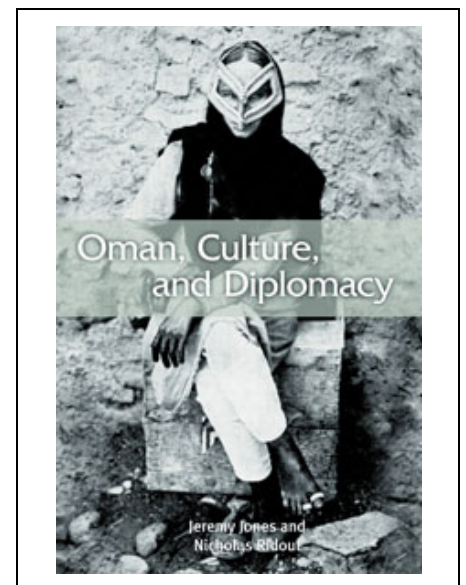


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## *Oman, Culture, and Diplomacy*

By National Council Senior International Affairs Fellow Jeremy Jones

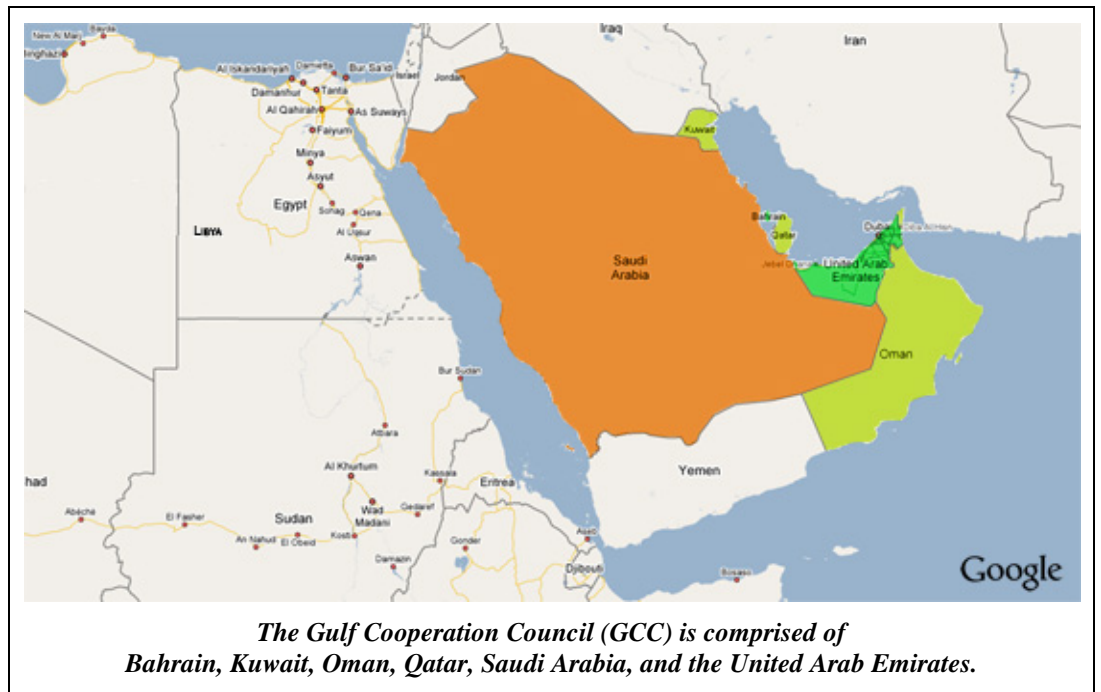
National Council Senior International Affairs Fellow and previous speaker at the Council's annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers' Conferences **Jeremy Jones** has authored a new book, *Oman, Culture, and Diplomacy*, published by Edinburgh University Press. The book provides a portrait of Oman through its diplomacy. For Oman, the idea of diplomacy refers not only to the country's interactions in the global community, but also to the way in which Omani life itself is shaped by principles and practices of social and political engagement that are essentially diplomatic, grounded in ideals of tact and tolerance that have developed over a long historical period. The book draws upon key research into Omani religious and social traditions and ethnographic studies of language and social customs, conducted expressly for the project, and argues that this culture is not only where Oman's contemporary foreign policy has been nurtured, but also where, within this culture, a specific conception and practice of diplomacy has been developed.



# Gulf Cooperation Council Trade Facts & Figures

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), established in 1981, is comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

- Population – 43.2 million
- Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – estimated \$1.3 trillion in 2011
- GDP Purchasing Power Parity – estimated \$1.38 trillion in 2011
- GDP per capita – \$31,382
- Real GDP growth – 6.7% in 2011



- Real GDP growth forecasted to increase by 4.3% on an annualized rate over the next 5 years
- U.S. exports to the GCC countries in 2011, excluding military sales, totaled \$37.9 billion.
  - The top export categories in 2011, excluding military sales, were: vehicles (\$8.4 billion), machinery (\$7.0 billion), aircraft (\$5.8 billion), electrical machinery (\$2.9 billion), and optical and medical instruments (\$1.5 billion).
- U.S. goods imports from the GCC countries in 2011 totaled \$61.7 billion.
  - The top import categories in 2011 were: fuel (oil) (\$56.8 billion or 92% of total goods imports), aluminum (\$970 million), fertilizers (\$892 million), and organic chemicals (\$576 million).
- In 2011, the GCC region's aggregated trade balance was the largest in the world, primarily a consequence of hydrocarbon exports, and *the surplus is estimated to have reached a record \$520 billion.*
  - *This is twice the size of the country with the next largest surplus, China, and is also about two-thirds the size of the U.S. trade deficit.*
  - Saudi Arabia was responsible for almost half of the total surplus (\$245 billion) followed by the UAE (\$94 billion) and Qatar (\$79 billion).

Sources: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, QNB Group

# Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Please Make an Annual, Quarterly, Monthly or One-Time Tax-Deductible Donation\*

The National Council depends on its supporter's contributions to continue its educational mission to strengthen and expand U.S.-Arab relations. We invite you to contribute to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Annual Fund. \*The Council is recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity and contributions are federally tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under law. Tax-deductible gifts to the Annual Fund provide vital unrestricted revenues that help support the Council's full range of programming. You can make your gift payable to the National Council on U.S.- Arab Relations through a safe and secure online credit card donation by visiting the National Council's website, [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org), or you can mail a check to the National Council at:

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations  
1730 M St. NW, Suite 503  
Washington, DC 20036

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## National Council Board of Directors

**Chairman -- Mr. John Mulholland;** also: former President, American Businessmen of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia;

**Treasurer -- 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 and Service Award*;

**Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony;** also: Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment; Vice President, J.W. and Harriet Fulbright Center on Capitol Hill; and Adjunct Associate Professor, U.S. Department of Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management;

**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; and

**Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome;** also: President, Fahmy Hudome International; 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.

## National Council Management and Staff

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

**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 -- Ms. Megan Geissler;** also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program;

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

**Director of Special Projects -- Mr. Mark Morozink;** also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program, and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program (2006-2008);

**Special Programs Assistant -- Mr. Byron Lewis;** also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program and Washington, DC Summer Internship Program;

**Special Projects Assistant -- Mr. Colin Moore;** also: former staff member, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and

**Publications Coordinator/ Special Programs Assistant -- Ms. Mariam Klait.**

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