

Council Chronicle

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



30 years of educating, training, and developing the present and emerging generation of U.S.-Arab relations leaders

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The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *twentieth* 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. 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, 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

In the following pages, one will find reports on the National Council's recent programs in Arab-U.S. relations education, training, and leadership development. Of special note are accounts of how, in close association with the Council and its staff, more than 2,200 university and secondary school participants expanded their knowledge, understanding, and ability to share with others what they learned about the Arab world, Arab culture, society, economics, governmental structures, political dynamics, and international relations. Of particular value and interest is that several dozen of these particular American youth won 36 Council one-of-a-kind scholarships. With these in hand, they were selected to participate in Council-organized and -led study visits to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, two of America's most important friends, allies, and strategic working partners. Both countries provided an array of firsthand empirical cultural and educational experiences. Of particular interest was the U.S.-Arab relationship, the Saudi Arabian-American and UAE-U.S. relationships, and other pressing American and Arab issues and ideas of the day. In this way, the Council's management, staff, and other supporters helped enable a growing number of America's and the Arab world's emerging leaders to acquire an unparalleled preparation for future careers in the Arab-U.S. diplomatic, military, academic, business, and public policy research communities – constituencies repeatedly tasked with



The National Council's Model Arab League Program helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders.

manifesting more effective leadership and management abilities for strengthening and sustaining the most mutually beneficial relations possible between the Arab and American peoples.

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



Picture:
March 2013

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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. It endeavors to do this through leadership development. In one effort alone, the Council’s Model Arab League Program, there are more than 30,000 alumni. The annual number of participants averages 2,200. The yearly venues in which the Models occur span thirteen cities spread across the United States. It speaks volumes that *every single Council employee is a graduate of this one program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the Arab-U.S. relationship.

Among three additional annual highlights are, one, the National Council’s Arab-U.S. Policymakers' Conference. The Conference brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists on the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past two years the Conference has drawn more than 1,200 participants. With coverage for five of the past six years by C-SPAN, the international satellite television network, additional millions are able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at ncusar.org.

The second highlight is an intensive student work-study internship program. The Council trained nearly three dozen interns this past year. In cooperation with The Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, the special ten-week summer internship program, administered for the seventh consecutive year in association with twenty-two sister organizations, provides a professional work experience together with a twenty-part seminar on “Arabia, the Gulf, the GCC, and the U.S.-Arab relationship.”

A third highlight is the National Council’s year-round determination to contribute positively to the national conversation about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions towards the Arab world and its peoples is its multiple series of seminars on Capitol Hill. In each instance, internationally renowned specialists are tasked with recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers in matters of common concern. The seminars, held in Congressional hearing rooms, are typically filled to capacity with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the media, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, and other foreign affairs practitioners.



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations website



Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC Blog



The National Council produces specialized publications, including an electronic newsletter four times a year and an annual review. An exciting new feature of the Council’s outreach and continuing efforts to provide cutting-edge analysis and perspective on matters pertaining to Arabia and the Gulf as well as the overall Arab-U.S. relationship is the Council’s blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*. The National Council also organizes and serves as a scholarly escort for delegations American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries. In addition, the Council facilitates the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences.

The National Council's *vision* for the U.S.-Arab relationship is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. The vision rests on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging leaders among Americans and Arabs alike.

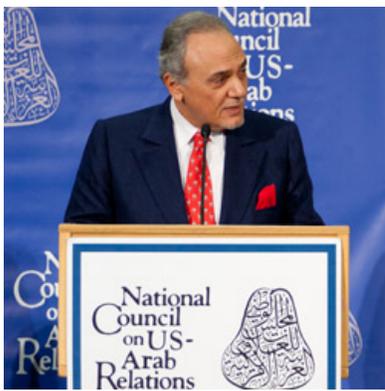
The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab peoples. It seeks in particular to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States has long obtained and continues to derive from its relations with the Arab world. A hallmark of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.



(Left to right) Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA), Dr. John Duke Anthony, and General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC (Ret.).



(Left to right) Dr. John Duke Anthony, The Right Honourable Tony Blair and H.E. Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir.



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud



Ambassador Barbara Bodine

In its efforts to strengthen and expand the positive dynamics of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship, and to promote the legitimate interests of Americans and Arabs alike, the National Council is keenly aware of the national need for courageous leaders of conviction and commitment. It strives to do whatever it can to help restore what was once an extraordinarily vibrant and positive reservoir of Arab goodwill and respect for America throughout the Arab world. It endeavors to do so in light of the pervasive region-wide negative reaction among tens of millions of the Arab world's citizens, and millions more among the world's more than 1.6 billion Muslims, who in recent years have come to view many of America's policies towards Arabs and Muslims as unfair and unjust.

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

Model Arab League

Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2012-2013 marked the 30th year of the **National Council's flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, the Model Arab League (MAL)**. The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations, with its 193 members. An important difference between the two is that the MAL focuses only on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Models provide primarily American but also Arab and other international students opportunities to develop invaluable leadership skills. In few if any other ways elsewhere in America do the student participants have a comparable chance to work with their fellows for common goals and shared interests. Among all the dozen sister NGOs, with which the National Council has a cooperative relationship, we know of no other opportunity that allows emerging leaders to learn firsthand what it is like to put themselves in the shoes of real-life Arab diplomats and other foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, the students come to realize unavoidably and inevitably how different these international relations realities are in comparison to what they previously thought and wrongly assumed to be true based on what they had read and "learned," or not read, "not learned," and therefore not known before.



Student delegates display their awards for being an "Outstanding Delegate" at the National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

Given the state of world affairs today, the fact that the National Council enables thousands of American and Arab youth to grapple with the international challenges of representing the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious merit in and of itself. In the process, students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They have an extraordinary chance to develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate. In the process, they have an unparalleled opportunity to hone and refine leadership attributes that for many are often unavailable or otherwise difficult to acquire in the course of reading a book, viewing films, videos, or television, listening to a specialist, participating in academic classes, attending briefings, or accessing blogs and the Internet.



Students vote on a resolution during the Summit Session of the National High School Model in Washington, DC.

Educating, Training, and Developing Today Tomorrow's Arab-U.S. Relations Leaders

The Models enhance students' abilities to debate the national and regional defense, economic, political, social, and related issues and policies of the Arab countries they choose to represent. Using parliamentary procedure -- for those who have never had an opportunity to learn or practice it before, they soon acquire a mastery of the art -- the students wrangle with one another over matters pertaining to the proper course of concerted policy formulation and action with regard to such weighty matters as Palestinian affairs, human rights, justice, economic development, defense cooperation, and the environment.

As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice but to learn how to advocate their viewpoints with facts, command of language, clear oral and written expression, and

the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, force of argument, and erudition they can muster in support of their position. What is more, the student participants have no option but to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements and processes, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order and depending on the issue and procedural dynamics in play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are tasked with limiting the authorized debates, depending on the question or resolution under consideration, to variants of thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or a maximum of five minutes.

There's no mistaking either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. Arguably few American students and other young adults receive or have received as comprehensive a level of training and firsthand experience as the Models provide in practicing and mastering what it takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,200 students that annually participate in the National Council's 16 Annual Model Arab Leagues held in 13 cities throughout the United States are unique in more than nature and number. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers and adult judges, the students are eager to prove to themselves, their families, and their teachers that they are worth every penny of the investment made to enable them to participate in -- and reap the rewards from -- this one-of-a-kind component of their education. To that end there is no way around the students' having to study hard and conduct serious research in advance of the Models.



Students from Bishop Ireton High School display their award certificates earned at the National High School Model in Washington, DC.



(Center) HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud and Dr. John Duke Anthony with the Model Arab League delegation from the United States Military Academy.

Strengthening and Expanding Arab-U.S. People-to-People Ties for the Period Ahead

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask whether it is the case that, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer is yes. The reason has to do with popular demand. That is, owing to the immense popularity of this program and students' wanting to participate in it year after year for as long as they can in order to gain the guaranteed benefits, what typically happens at the end of numerous Models is that most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue. As powerful and welcome a validation of a given Models' value as this is, there is another side to the coin. Indeed, no sooner does a Model end than veteran Model Arab League student participants rush to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model. The result has been twofold. On one hand, there is little if any room for new universities and students that would like to participate -- and there are many in both categories. On the other, students newly aware of such opportunities and who want to participate would be unable to do so were new Models not established to accommodate the growing number of applicants. It is in this way that the early 1980s original number of slightly more than 100 participants has grown twenty-fold to more than 2,200 per year and continues to increase.

Beyond the proven leadership development achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience, an additional incentive in recent years has been student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of extraordinary additional benefits for which Model alumni become eligible. Indeed, participation in the Models has become a gateway for Model delegates winning National Council fellowships granting them entry into, first, the Council's Annual University and High School Student Summer Internship Programs in the nation's capital and, second, the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and Yemen. In addition, for the past two years, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have each sponsored study visits to their countries for outstanding MAL delegates.

In the past year, 76 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a direct result of their participation in the Models, coveted educational fellowships or grants of one kind or another. Acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of each of these awards has enabled the students to strengthen their Arab-U.S. leadership skills in preparation for careers in international affairs and service in their country's public and private sectors.

Of note is that in the Council's 2012 ten-week Washington, DC Summer Internship Program that combined professional work experiences in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf, *8 of the 25 interns were MAL alumni.* For the fourth year in succession, the academic portion of the program, chaired and directed by Dr. Anthony, who spoke six times, was held twice-weekly at The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. *In addition, in the Council's two cultural immersion visits for university students to Saudi Arabia in 2012, all 20 of the participants were MAL alumni.* Further, three 2012 MAL participants were awarded all-expenses paid six-week Arabic language fellowships, complete with home stays, in Oman; and 33 cadets and midshipmen from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy participated in separate Council two-week cultural immersion programs in the UAE in partnership with the internationally renowned Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.



A U.S. Air Force Academy delegation visiting the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abu Dhabi during a Council study visit.



The Council's Ten-Week Summer Internship Program, the academic component of which is chaired by Dr. Anthony (7th from left), provides students a unique opportunity to work and learn about Arabia, the Gulf, and the Gulf Cooperation Council in the nation's capital.

Scope and Focus of the Council's Network for Preparation and Participation

In preparation for participating in a Model, all the students are able to benefit from assistance provided by the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. For example, each of the participants is able to obtain additional assistance by accessing *the Council's staff, the entirety of which is comprised of alumni of the Model Arab League Program.* Many also gain from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still others are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities where alumni of the Council's Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program are resident. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is their empirical first-hand experience in Arab-U.S. relations -- that they have participated in the Council's educational study abroad cultural immersion programs in one or more of the 12 Arab countries that, in support of the Council's mission and what it seeks to accomplish, have hosted the Fellows.



Student delegates vote during the Summit Session of the MAL held at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.



A delegate speaks in favor of an amendment in the Political Affairs Council at a MAL in Houston, Texas.



H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Chief Representative of the League of Arab States to the United States, meets with students during the National University Model held at Georgetown University.



Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, a member of the National Council's Board of Directors, General Counsel for the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance, and former Associate Deputy Secretary of Energy, delivers remarks to students at the Opening Session of the National University Model.



Student delegates attending the Bilateral MAL, hosted in partnership with the Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Houston, gather for a group picture.



Student delegates work together to draft resolutions in the Palestinian Affairs Council at the Michigan Model.



Students who participate in the National Council's Model Arab League Program develop persuasive public speaking skills that are invaluable regardless of whatever career they pursue.



A student accepts an Outstanding Delegate award at the National University Model in Washington, DC.



Students accept Outstanding Delegate awards at the Bilateral Model in Houston, Texas.

From November 2012 through April 2013, the National Council sponsored and administered 16 Model Arab Leagues in 13 U.S. cities for 2,200 students in more than 100 American secondary schools and universities. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Washington, DC at Georgetown University; Commerce, Texas at Texas A&M University-Commerce; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston; Santa Rosa, California at Santa Rosa Junior College; Santa Barbara, California at the University of Santa Barbara; and Salt Lake City, Utah at the University of Utah. High School Models were conducted in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; and Washington, DC at Georgetown University.



The National University Model in Washington, DC brings together more than 300 students from schools across the United States.



Students celebrate receiving an Outstanding Delegate award at the Ohio Valley Model held at Miami University of Ohio.

The National Council's Model Arab League Program helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs activists. The skill sets acquired and practiced in the course of the Models are designed to serve the participants well regardless of the career or profession they elect to pursue. As MAL Program Coordinator Megan Geissler has noted, "We're providing future leaders the experience of being in the shoes of -- and having to deal with -- someone they might never understand or be able to deal with effectively otherwise. *The beneficiaries are America and the world's coming generation of diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and educators as well as humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers.*"



Students display their Outstanding Advocate certificates for participation in the Arab Court of Justice at the National University Model in Washington, DC.



The student Secretary General of the Michigan Model chairs the Summit Session, where resolutions approved by committees come for a final vote before passage.

The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Saudi Arabia

The National Council, in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), organized and escorted a delegation of ten Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Saudi Arabia from December 27, 2012 to January 7, 2013. The visit provided the young American leaders a hands-on experience in a leading Arab and Islamic country that few others their age have had or, absent their participation in the Models, they are likely to obtain.

Of note is that, in the 2011-2012 academic year, over 71,000 Saudi Arabian students were enrolled in American universities across the United States. Accompanying them were additional tens of thousands of spouses and dependents. In marked contrast, fewer than fifty American students in U.S. institutions of higher education were among those privileged over the same period of time in having a firsthand university-level educational experience in Saudi Arabia.

In an effort to help narrow this "knowledge and understanding gap," the National Council has partnered with SACM and MOHE. The goal: to provide an empirical educational introduction to the kingdom's culture and society for a select group of American students who have performed exceptionally well in the Council's Model Arab League student leadership development program. During the course of their visit, the students met Saudi Arabian educators, business representatives, civil society leaders, and American diplomats in addition to visiting numerous sites of cultural, developmental, and historical interest.



The delegation of Model Arab League students visits Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The study visit's student participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of professionalism, research, debate, and leadership at one or more of the National Council's 16 Model Arab Leagues in 2012. Led by veteran Council staff members Megan Geissler and Josh Hilbrand, ten students were chosen from as many different universities involved in the Models, producing a delegation of talented American emerging leaders from institutions of higher education throughout the United States. An additional unique feature of the program is that the students all had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree. This ensured that they would have *a full year to share what they learned in and about Saudi Arabia* with their classmates, professors, and members of their community's civic, business, and professional associations.

The program began with a pre-departure orientation session at the National Council's Washington, DC office. The objective was twofold. First, it was to introduce the participants to some of America's and Saudi Arabia's foremost scholars and specialists on Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia-U.S. relations who the students could use as resource references from that point going forward. Second, it was to provide the students otherwise hard to come by background, context, and perspective regarding what they would experience in addition to ways of sharing their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible upon their return to the United States.

Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, the delegation visited Riyadh, the capital, in the Central Province; Dhahran, Saudi Aramco, and Jubail Industrial City -- three of the world's most vital energy industry-centric cities, located in the Eastern Province; and Jeddah, long referred to as "Bride of the Red Sea" and the country's peerless pre-eminent commercial center in the Western Province. The delegation visited Masmak Palace, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Old Jeddah, the Nafisa Shams Academy for Arts & Crafts, and the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce. They also had the opportunity to visit numerous schools in Saudi Arabia, including Al-Faisal University, Prince Sultan University, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals, Prince Mohammed bin Fahd University, Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology, King Abdulaziz University, and Dar Al-Hekma College. The study visit throughout enabled the students to meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.



The Model Arab League student delegation visited the Nafisa Shams Academy in Jeddah, a jobs training program for Saudi Arabian women.



The delegation had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Smith (far right).



The National Council's university student study visit to Saudi Arabia provided the young American leaders -- each one an alumnus of the Council's Model Arab League Program -- a hands-on experience in the Arab world that many may have dreamed of but few others their age have had.



The Model Arab League student delegation visited the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh, long a highlight for all of the National Council's leadership delegations to the Kingdom.



The Model Arab League delegation visited Jubail Industrial City, the world's largest civil engineering project.



The Model Arab League student delegates met with their counterparts at Dar Al-Hekma College, a women's university in Jeddah.

The National Council Organizes and Escorts a Delegation of United States Air Force Academy Cadets For a Study Visit to the UAE

The National Council, in coordination with the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a November 16-25, 2012 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Academy's delegation was comprised of twelve 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.



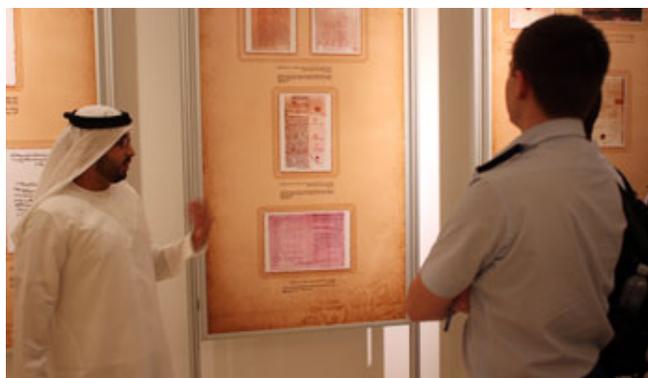
Cadets from the United States Air Force Academy visit the UAE National Media Council during a study visit sponsored by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.

Escorted by National Council staff members Josh Hilbrand and Maria Pantelis, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the UAE National Media Council; the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC); Masdar (a pioneering "green" energy) City; Jebel Ali Port, the one shore facility frequented annually by U.S. Naval personnel more than any other outside the United States; the UAE National Crisis and Disasters Management Authority; the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other sites and institutions. They also participated in academic workshops at ECSSR, met with officials from the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research, and were briefed by U.S.

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 an ECSSR seminar and other educational activities.



The National Council's delegation visited Masdar City, a sustainable mixed-use development outside the city of Abu Dhabi that is completely powered by renewable energy sources.



The Council's U.S. Air Force Academy delegation visited the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' National Center for Documentation and Research in Abu Dhabi, long recognized internationally as one of the foremost centers of its kind in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

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 supporters' contributions to continue its educational mission to strengthen and expand U.S.-Arab relations. **It is 30 years ago this year since the Council was established.** It came into being to address numerous unmet U.S.-Arab relations needs. With its supporters' assistance it quickly gained an international, national, state, and local following. Soon enough, it gained something else: *a reputation for a range of U.S.-Arab relations programs, events, and activities never previously administered by any American non-governmental organization.* If one wanted evidence of whether the Council's establishment was necessary and long-overdue, one need only ponder and peruse the numerous quality results chronicled herein. Virtually every one documents how **the Council continues to make a defining difference in the education, training, and preparation of the next generation of U.S.-Arab relations leaders and specialists.**

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, 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**



National Council Leadership & Staff

Founding President & Chief Executive Officer

Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below.

National Council Management and Staff

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

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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 and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program;

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

Publications Coordinator/ Special Programs Assistant -- Ms. Mariam Klait; also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program, and Washington, DC Internship Program; and

Special Projects Assistant -- Ms. Maria Pantelis; also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program and Washington, DC Internship Program.

National Council Board of Directors

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

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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*;

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;

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.

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National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

1730 M St, NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 293-6466 | Fax: (202) 293-7770

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