

Council Chronicle



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The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *25th 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, 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

In the following pages are reports on the National Council's 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, approximately 2,000 university and secondary school participants expanded their knowledge, understanding, and ability to share with others what they have learned and continue to learn through and with the Council. "Learn what?" one might ask. The answer: about the Arab world, about Arab culture, about Arab society, about Arab economics, governmental structures, political dynamics, international relations, and most important, about doing whatever is necessary to strengthen and empower the innumerable positive benefits of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship.



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.

Through participation in the National Council's programs, some of these American youth won one-of-a-kind Council scholarships. With these in hand, they were able to join Council-organized and -led separate study visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, two of America's most important friends, allies, and strategic working partners. The visits provided the students an array of firsthand empirical cultural and educational experiences that they could not obtain in any other way. Of particular interest and value were the students' exposure to the continuing dynamics of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship and the Saudi Arabian-American and Qatar-American relationships together with other pressing American and Arab issues and ideas of the day.

In these ways, the Council's leadership, management, staff, and other supporters helped a growing number of America's emerging leaders gain a degree of knowledge and understanding of the Arab world – and America's relations with its peoples and cultures – that they could never hope to obtain in academic classes alone or in lectures, briefings, and published works. One among other results of these first-hand educational experiences is what the students learn that will last them a lifetime. They acquire an unparalleled preparation for future careers in the Arab-U.S. diplomatic, military, academic, business, and public policy research communities. No marginal groups of individuals these – they represent – constituencies tasked with manifesting 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



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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*



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.

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,



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.



leaders' 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.

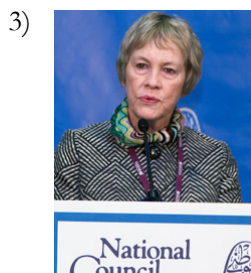
Specialists at National Council Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences have included, in clockwise order from the top left, a (1) Chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; (2) former Director General of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Directorate as well as Ambassador to Great Britain and the United States; (3) Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Council mandated Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and former Under Secretary General and Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; (4) current Commanding General of U.S. Central Command, the lead forward deployed U.S. armed forces command responsible for protecting U.S. national security-related interests in 20 nations, stretching from the Nile Valley, the Levant, the Fertile Crescent, Arabia, the Gulf, and South and Central Asia; (5) former multiple-times Deputy Assistant Secretary at four U.S. Cabinet-level posts; (6) the Department of Defense's immediate past lead analyst on Iraq; (7) Kuwait University Professor of International Relations and Chairman of its American Studies Unit; and (8) the United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Trade:



General Martin Dempsey



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal



Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd



General Lloyd Austin III



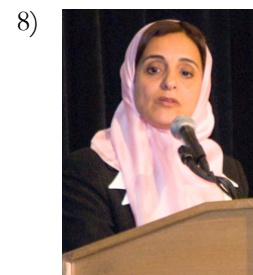
The Hon. Molly Williamson



Dr. Judith Yaphe



Dr. Abdullah Al-Shayji



H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi

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.

Model Arab League

Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2013-2014 marked the 31st 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 exclusively 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 the United States do the student participants have a comparable chance to work with their fellows for common goals and shared interests. Among the 18 sister

NGOs with which the National Council has a cooperative relationship, and among America's 2,800 colleges and universities as well, 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. Certainly they became immediately aware of how many of the realities bear little resemblance to what they previously thought and inaccurately assumed to be true based on what they had read and "learned," or not read, "not learned," and therefore did not know or understand before.

Given the contemporary state of world affairs, the fact that the National Council enables thousands of American, Arab, and other 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 also 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 their leadership attributes. For many

students such opportunities 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.

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

The Models enhance students' abilities to discuss and 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 a broad and diverse range of policy-centric challenges and opportunities. Examples include the proper course of concerted policy formulation and action with regard to Palestinian affairs and ongoing issues related to governance, security, stability, and development in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, and more, together with matters pertaining to human rights, justice, defense cooperation, and the environment.



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



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony with student award winners at the National High School Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice if their goal is to be successful but to be as well prepared, organized, disciplined, and focused as possible. In addition, they must be able 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, strength of argument, and erudition they can muster in support of their position. What is more, participants have no option but to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements, limitations, and procedures, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order and depending on the issue and procedural dynamics in



A student addresses the Plenary Session at the National Model in Washington, DC.

play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) have no easy tasks. They are responsible for ensuring compliance with strict limitation on authorized debates – depending on the question or resolution under consideration – to variants of 45 seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or a maximum of five minutes.

For the students involved, there's no mistaking either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. Arguably few Americans and other young adults receive or have received as comprehensive a level of training and firsthand experience. In the field of Arab-U.S. relations, only the Models provide the coming generation of tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to practice and master what it

takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,200 students who annually participate in the National Council's 16 Annual Model Arab Leagues held in 13 cities throughout the United States – with three more being added for 2014-2015 – 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 teachers, and their families 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, conduct serious research, and prepare as effectively as they can in advance of the Models.

Strengthening and Expanding Arab-U.S. People-to-People Ties

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, students want to be able to participate in it year after year for as long as they can. They want to do so in order to gain and continuously strengthen 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 Model's value as this is, there is another side to the coin. Indeed, no sooner does a particular Model end than veteran participants rush to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model.

The result has been twofold. On one hand, in such instances 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 continuously 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 2,000 per year and annually continues to increase.

Beyond the proven leadership development skills and achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience, a further 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 study abroad scholarships. Such scholarships grant the recipients entry into, first, the Council's Annual University and High School Student Summer Internship Programs in the nation's capital; second, the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman; and, third, inclusion in study visits to Qatar and Saudi Arabia.



MAL helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders.

In the past year, 54 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a direct result of their participation in the Models, coveted study abroad fellowships and internships. Acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of each of these awards have 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.

The Council's 2014 ten-week Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program combined professional work experiences in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf; *eight of the 25 interns were MAL alumni.* For the seventh year in succession, the academic portion of the program – chaired and directed by Dr. Anthony, who addressed the interns eight times – was held at The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. A special first-time feature of the 2014 Internship Program was the holding of a summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.

In addition, in the Council's two cultural immersion visits for university students to Saudi Arabia in 2013, all 20 of the participants were MAL alumni, and all 15 participants in the Council's 2014 study visit to Qatar were also MAL student and faculty alumni (see pages 9-10).

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 the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. Each of the participants is also able to obtain additional assistance by accessing *the Council's staff, the entirety of which is comprised of Model Arab League Program alumni.* Many gain further from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still other participants 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 derived from their having participated in the Council's educational cultural immersion programs in one or more of the Arab countries that, in support of the Council's mission and what it seeks to accomplish, have hosted the Fellows.



Participants in the National Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program (pictured here visiting H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Head of the League of Arab States Information Office in Washington, DC in July 2014) are provided professional work experiences combined with twice-weekly evening seminars that bring academic specialists and experienced foreign policy practitioners to brief and meet with the interns in candid off-the-record discussions.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Youth Leadership Development Programs Director Josh Hilbrand, and Public Relations Specialist Nabil Sharaf escorted 10 outstanding Model Arab League students and 5 outstanding faculty advisors, pictured here, on a study visit to Qatar in November 2014.



Model Arab League faculty advisors, many of them alumni of the Council's Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program, at the 2014 National Model Arab League in Washington, DC.



Students work to draft a resolution for the Council on Environmental Affairs at the National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC.

From November 2013 through April 2014, 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. Eleven 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 California at Santa Barbara; and Salt Lake City, Utah at the University of Utah. In addition, five 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; New York, New York at Columbia University; and Washington, DC at Georgetown University.



Through participation in the Model Arab League students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They are also able to develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, parliamentary procedure, 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.

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 Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony 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,"*** MAL Program Coordinator Josh Hilbrand adds, ***"are America and the world's coming generation of diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and educators. They're also humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers."***



Student participants review amendments to a resolution in the Council on Social Affairs at the National University Model in Washington, DC.



A cadet from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York displays her Outstanding Delegate certificate for her representation of Somalia in the Council on Political Affairs.

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, 2013 to January 7, 2014. 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.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, over 92,000 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 twenty 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 American knowledge, understanding, and empirical experience gap deficit, the National Council has partnered with SACM and MOHE. The goal: to provide a firsthand educational introduction to the kingdom's culture and society. For whom? 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 the 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 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 2013. The students were led by veteran Council staff members Megan Geissler and Model Arab League Faculty Advisor Dr.

Timothy K. Welliver from Bellarmine University, himself an alumnus of the Council's Malone Fellows Program in Arab and Islamic Studies in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Ten students were chosen from as many different universities involved in the Models, producing a delegation of talented emerging American 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.

As with all National Council study abroad programs, the experience began with a pre-departure orientation session at the Council's Washington, DC office. The objective was threefold. 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 the experience that lay ahead of them. Third, it was to provide examples of how the students could most effectively share their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible following 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 – one 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 pre-eminent commercial center, in the Western Province. The delegation also visited the King Abdulaziz Historical Center, the Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, the Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology, the Khadija Bint Khuwalid Center, Old Jeddah, and the Nafisa Shams Academy for Arts & Crafts. They also had the extraordinary opportunity to visit practically all of the Kingdom's most prominent institutions of higher education. Included were: King Saud University, Yamamah University, King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Queen Effat University, and King Abdulaziz University. The study visit throughout enabled the students to meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.



The National Council's Model Arab League student delegation visits the Royal Commission for Jubail.

The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Qatar

The National Council, in partnership with the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, DC, organized and escorted a delegation of ten American students and five university faculty members, all selected from the Council's Model Arab League program, on a study visit to Qatar from November 28 to December 5, 2014. The visit provided the students and faculty an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Qatar's culture as well as numerous features pertaining to the country's rapid and diverse modernization and development.

The delegation was escorted by Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, author for the past 12 years of the annual essay on Qatar for *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and Council staff members Josh Hilbrand and Nabil Sharaf. As with the Council's study visit to Saudi Arabia (see page 9), the students all have 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 Qatar** not only with their classmates, professors, but, most especially, members of their respective communities' civic, business, and professional associations.

The delegation visited Qatar's Aljazeera Media Network, Aspire Zone (also known as Doha Sports City), Mada (Qatar Assistive Technology Center), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, National Human Rights Committee, Qatar Foundation, Qatar International Academy for Security Studies, Ras Laffan Industrial City, and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy. They also explored the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Wagif, Katara Cultural Village, and attended a Qatar National Night celebration hosted by Northwestern University–Qatar. At the latter event, female and male students and faculty alike learned how to hold falcons, regarding which Arabs for centuries have had no peers in their skills at training these birds of prey for hunting in the desert. In addition, the female participants opted to be *hennaed*. As women at marriage and other festivals are often wont to do, they had their hands, wrists, and forearms painted in varied Arabesque designs with a nonpermanent orange-brown vegetable dye.



The Model Arab League delegation learns about Education City, an initiative of the Qatar Foundation that hosts branch campuses of some of America's and other countries' leading universities as well as other educational and research centers.



The 15 study visit participants –10 students and 5 faculty members – were selected on the basis of their outstanding performance in the National Council's University Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program.



National Council President and Delegation Scholar-Escort Dr. John Duke Anthony (left) poses a question during a delegation briefing at the Al-Jazeera Network, one of the world's largest media companies.



The delegation attended a National Night celebration hosted by Northwestern University - Qatar, whose branch campus in Education City offers degree programs in journalism and communication.



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.

For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:

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 Email: pat@ncusar.org

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
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