

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



2011 Annual Report

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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Model Arab League

Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2011 marked the 28th 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. The 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 work together for common goals and shared interests as well as learn firsthand what it is like to put themselves in the foreign policy 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 realities are in comparison to what they previously thought and assumed based on what they had read and "learned" or not read, "not learned" and therefore not known before. Grappling with the international challenges of representing the needs, concerns, interests, and foreign policy objectives of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious merit. In the process, students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. In addition, they develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate, thereby honing and refining leadership attributes that for many are often unavailable or are 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.



The Model Arab League delegation from Montana State University visits with Montana Senator Max Baucus while in Washington, DC for the National University Model.



Delegates vote in the Council on Economic Affairs during the National University Model at Georgetown University.

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

The Models enhance students' abilities to debate Arab national and regional defense, economic, political, social, and related issues of the Arab countries they elect to represent. Using parliamentary procedure, the students wrangle with one another over matters pertaining to the proper course of concerted action with regard to such weighty matters as Palestinian affairs, human rights, justice, and the environment. As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice but to learn how to advocate their positions with facts, command of language, clear 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 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 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 this in practicing and mastering what it takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,000 students that annually participate in the National Council's 14 Annual Model Arab Leagues held in 11 cities throughout the United States are unique in more than number and nature. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers, the students are eager to prove to themselves, their families, and their teachers that they are worth every penny of the investment in their education. To that end there is no way around their having to study hard and conduct serious research in advance of the Models.



Outstanding delegates at the National Council's University of Arkansas at Little Rock's High School Model Arab League with conference organizer Dr. Jacek Lubecki (center).



Delegates vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Economic Affairs at the National Council's High School Model at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Developing Arab-U.S. Bridges and Human Resource Leaders of Tomorrow

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, what typically happens at the end of some 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. It is that, with veteran Model Arab League student participants immediately rushing to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model the result is that there is little if any room for new universities that would like to participate. Indeed, 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 2,000 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 is student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of other 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 Program (SIP) in the nation's capital and, second, the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

In the past year, *a record 63* 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.

In the Council's most-recently concluded ten-week summer internship program that combined professional work experience in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf, 12 of the 32 interns were Model Alumni. In the Council's first all-women two-week study visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this year, all 12 of the participants were Model Arab League Alumnae. In addition, (1) an all-Model Arab League 12-person male delegation participated in a similar two-week cultural immersion program in the kingdom a few months earlier; (2) three Council 2011 Model Arab League participants have just completed an all-expenses paid six-week Arabic language fellowship, complete with home stays, in Oman; (3) two dozen female and male cadets and midshipmen from the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy participated in separate Council two-week cultural immersion programs in the UAE in partnership with the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research; and (4) preparations are presently underway to escort an additional two dozen Model Arab League participants to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates this fall.



A U.S. Military Academy delegation visiting the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs during a Council study visit.



The Council's Summer Internship Program offers students a unique opportunity to work and study in the nation's capital.

The National Council's Network for Model Preparation and Participation

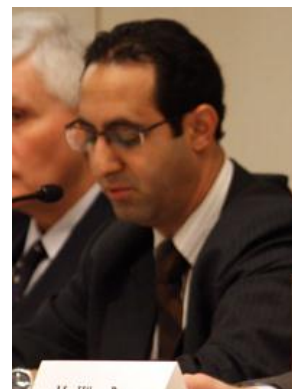
In preparation for participating in a Model, all the students are able to benefit from assistance provided by the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. For example, each of the participants is able to obtain additional assistance by accessing the Council's Model Arab League staff, all of whom are alumni of this program. Many also gain from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Model Arab League Program. 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 that that they have participated in the Council's educational and cultural immersion study abroad programs in one or more of the 12 Arab countries that have hosted the Fellows.



A delegate makes a speech before the Council on Palestinian Affairs at the National Council's Ohio Valley Model Arab League.



More than 300 students participate in the Closing Summit Session of the National Council's National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.



Speakers at the Opening Session of the 2011 National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University included (L to R) Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief for Al Jazeera, the Arab world's most widely viewed Arab satellite television station; Mr. Frank Anderson, President of the Middle East Policy Council and former CIA Director for Afghanistan; and Mr. Sameh Alfonse, Director of Congressional and Media Affairs at the Arab League Mission in Washington, DC.



The Council on Social Affairs votes on a resolution at the West Coast Model Arab League in La Verne, California.

Students gather for the Opening Session of the Ohio Valley Model Arab League at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



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.



Student delegates prepare to vote on a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs at the Ohio Valley Model Arab League.

Students work to draft an amendment to a resolution at the Ohio Valley Model Arab League.

From November 2010 through April 2011, the National Council sponsored and administered 14 Model Arab Leagues in 11 U.S. cities for over 2,000 students in over 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; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston; La Verne, California at the University of La Verne; and Missoula, Montana at the University of Montana. 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.



Dr. Linda Morrison (right, at podium), longtime Model Arab League faculty advisor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, was recognized with a Model Arab League Lifetime Achievement Award during the Closing Session of the National Council's 2011 National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC.



Students gather around computers to jointly draft a resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at the National Council's Model Arab League at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas.

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 practiced and acquired in the course of the Models are ones designed to serve the students well regardless of the career or profession they may elect to pursue. As MAL Program Coordinator Megan Geissler noted, "We're providing future diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and the coming generation's educators as well as humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers the experience of being in the shoes of and having to deal with someone they might not ever understand or be able to deal with effectively otherwise."



Speakers at the Closing Session of the 2011 National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University in Washington, DC included (L to R) HRH Abdalaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud; Ms. Elizabeth Wossen, Principal of Energy Links Group LLC and Member of the National Council's Board of Directors; and Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, President of Fahmy Hudome International and member of the National Council's Board of Directors.



Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with HRH Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud, Chairman of the Arab Open University, at the National Council's National University Model Arab League.



A student delegate delivers a speech before the Joint Defense Council at the National Council's Model Arab League at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas.



Student delegates from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, selected as 'Outstanding Delegates' at the National University Model Arab League, with HRH Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud.



Student delegates gather for the Closing Session at the National Council's Bilateral Model Arab League in Houston, Texas.



Student participants conduct a final vote on resolutions during the Closing Session of the National Council's Model Arab League at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas.



A student delegate votes on a resolution in the Council on Economic Affairs at the National Council's National University Model Arab League.



Student delegates speak in favor of an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Palestinian Affairs at the National Council's National University Model Arab League.

Fall 2011 Model Arab Leagues

Northeast Regional Model Arab League Boston, MA - November 4-6

The 2011 Northeastern University Regional Area Model (NERMAL), convened at Northeastern University in Boston November 4-6, succeeded on multiple levels. Student delegates debated and passed resolutions on numerous diverse topics reflecting the real-life domestic dynamics and policy challenges presently facing all 22 of the League's Arab member-states. Schools participating in the 2011 Northeastern Regional Model included: Simmons College, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Northeastern University, Colby College, University of Massachusetts Boston, Fitchburg State University, Converse College, University of Pittsburgh, Bard College, Emmanuel College, Endicott College, United States Military Academy at West Point, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Drake University, and Roger Williams University.



The Northeast Regional Model Secretary-General awards a certificate to student delegates from the United States Military Academy at West Point for outstanding representation of their country's policies and positions.



Student delegates in the Council on Palestinian Affairs collaborate in drafting a resolution.



Student delegates display their award for Outstanding Delegation at the Northeast Regional Model.



The Northeast Regional Model Secretary-General congratulates a Council Chair on her successful leadership of the Council of Arab Economic Ministers.



Student delegates vote on a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs.

Capital Area Regional Model Arab League Washington, DC - November 12-13

The National Council, in partnership with the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, hosted the Third Annual Capital Area Regional Model November 12-



Student delegates vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at Georgetown University's Capital Area Model.

13, 2011. The formation of the Capital Area Regional Model Arab League in association with Georgetown University is the result of a pair of complementary forces and factors. One is the continuing national need for greater knowledge and understanding of the Arab world in the United States. The other is the extraordinary popularity of the Council's National Model Arab League. The latter event has been convened annually each spring in Washington, DC for nearly three decades. That Model typically has more than 300 participants. Always filled to overflowing, the National Model Arab League has long been unable to accommodate the many additional numbers of students and universities eager to be allowed to participate. Hence, the establishment of an additional Model Arab League in the nation's capital.

Over 100 students from McDaniel College, Bloomsburg University, Université Laval, University of the District of Columbia, George Washington University, York College, College of William & Mary, Millersville University, and Christopher Newport University took part in these two days of debate on Arab world issues at one of America's leading institutions of higher education. Since its inception in 2009, the Capital Area Model has grown in size each year. The focus of the debates at this year's Model ranged from the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, to civil dynamics, economic and social development, and defense as well as environmental cooperation.

Highlights included opening session remarks by Stephen McInerney, Executive Director of the Project on Middle East Democracy, and closing session remarks by HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud as well as National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony.



Student delegates confer while drafting a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs at the Capital Area Model.



Student delegates with HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud display their certificates for Outstanding Representation of their assigned country's policies and positions.

The National Council's Model Arab League Women 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 female Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Saudi Arabia, December 30, 2010 to January 12, 2011. The visit provided the young American leaders a hands-on experience in the Arab world that few others their age have had.

In the 2010-2011 academic year, nearly 28,000 Saudi Arabian students, forty percent of them females, were enrolled in American universities across the United States. Accompanying them were more than 40,000 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 educational experience in Saudi Arabia.

In an effort to help narrow this "knowledge and understanding gap," the National Council has partnered with the SACM and the MOHE 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 the visit, the students met Saudi Arabian educators, business representatives, civil society leaders, and American diplomats in addition to visiting numerous sites of cultural and historical interest.

The study visit's participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of professionalism, research, debate, and leadership at one or more of the National Council's 14 Model Arab Leagues in 2010. Ten students were chosen from as many universities involved in the Models, producing a delegation of talented American emerging leaders from universities throughout the United States. The students have a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their degree, ensuring they would have a full year to share what they learned in and about Saudi Arabia with their classmates, professors, and members of their local civic, business, and professional associations.

The program began with a pre-departure orientation session at the National Council's Washington, DC office, designed to provide the students background and perspective on what they would experience. Upon arrival in-country, the delegation visited Riyadh in the Central Province, Dhahran and Al-Khobar in the Eastern Province, and Jeddah in the Western Province. The delegation met with, among others, H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Saeed, Dr. Salwah Al-Hazza, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Zamil, HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Ms. Muna Abusulayman, and Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz. They also had the opportunity to visit many different schools in Saudi Arabia, including Princess Noura University, King Saud University, Al Yamama University, King Abdul Aziz University, Effat University, the University of Dammam, Dar Al-Hekma College, and the Dhahran Ahliyya School.

The study visit enabled the students to meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life. Upon returning to the United States, student delegate Laurel McCormack from Mercer University, reflecting on the experience, remarked, "I gained a deep appreciation and respect for a religion, a people, and a country that in many ways is similar and in other ways different from my own; Saudi Arabia is no longer 'foreign' to me."



The delegation visited the offices of the Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation during their time in Riyadh and met with its internationally renowned Executive Director, Ms. Muna Abusulayman

Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program: May - August 2011

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program has been linked for many years to the Council's **Annual University Student Washington, DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern Program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm (Ret.) made it possible for the 2011 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2011 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



The National Council expresses its appreciation to The George Washington University and The Elliott School of International Affairs for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2011 Summer Internship Program in the nation's capital.

The program, which lasted from May 31 - August 5, provided 32 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at 18 organizations involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. The experience is one that could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. In addition to their time assisting with the office routines of their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world: *Arabia and the Gulf*. The reason relates to three truisms with implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, objectives, and relations. First, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has

long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



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



National Council Internship Program participants visited and were briefed by diplomats at the U.S. Department of State.



National Council Internship Program participants met with and were briefed by Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington, DC bureau chief for Al-Jazeera, during a visit to Al-Jazeera's Washington offices and studio.

Second, Arabia and the Gulf are front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, large numbers of American and other foreign armed forces have been mobilized and deployed in the past quarter of a century. Third, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen -- is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states, or can legitimately claim to be well-informed about the external and internal political dynamics of these countries, remains exceptionally limited.

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



The interns gather for a final meeting at the Summer Wrap-Up Session before returning to their home universities to continue their studies.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addresses interns on the topic of "Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn"

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

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



An intern program participant with Ms. Harriet Fulbright, President of the J. William & Harriet Fulbright Center and Founder of Harriet Fulbright College at the program's Summer Wrap Up session.



The interns meet with and were briefed by National Council Arab World Journalism Intern alumnus Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation and author of The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom.

Administering the 2011 program were National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony as Chairman and lead lecturer, Director of Student Programs Megan Geissler as Coordinator, and staff members Josh Hilbrand, Chelsey Boggs, and Colin Moore as Assistants. Included among the many lecturers were Dr. Hussein Ibish, Senior Research Fellow, The American Task Force on Palestine; Dr. Peter Bechtold, former longtime Chairman, Center for Near East and North Africa Country and Area Studies, George Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, U.S. Department of State; Bill Corcoran, President, American Near East Refugee Aid; Ambassador Joseph LeBaron, former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and Mauritania; Major General Mohammad Al-Keshky, Air, Army, Navy, and Marine Attaché, Embassy of Egypt; Afshin Molavi, Senior Research Fellow, American Strategy Program, New America Foundation, and Alumnus, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Morris Arab World Journalism Program; Dr. Ahmed Achrati, Academic Director, Arabic Language & Culture Institute, Georgetown University; Ambassador Ronald Neumann, President, American Academy of Diplomacy; John Moran, Distinguished Diplomat-in-Residence at the National Council and career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service; Ambassador Walt Cutler, President *Emeritus*, Meridian International Center; Wassane Zailachi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco; and Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat, Chief Representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Mission to United States.

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

In March, a delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, Malone Fellows, and area studies specialists participated in the National Council's 15th Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman. The delegation was led by Council President Dr. Anthony and Executive Vice President Mr. Mancino. 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 15 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 Dr. Anthony; Oman Malone Fellow Alumna Linda Pappas Funsch of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland; Mr. Patrick Fischer, Desk officer for Oman and Qatar, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Dr. Herman Franssen, President, International Energy Associates and former Senior Advisor, Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, Sultanate of Oman; former U.S. Ambassador to Oman (1985-1989) George Cranwell Montgomery; Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center Executive Director and former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar (1998-2001) Elizabeth McKune; Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman Commercial Attaché Ms. Shireen Abdul-Qadir Yousif Said; and U.S. Department of Defense Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Office Director and National Council Malone Fellows Arab and Islamic Studies Program Alumnus Mr. David Des Roches.



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



Oman's inland fortress and traditional walled settlement of Bahla, presently under restoration, has been designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site.



The National Council's Malone Fellows delegation explored half a dozen regions of 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.

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 around 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 keeping with a much enjoyed tradition of previous National Council-organized and escorted study visits to Oman, the Fellows had afternoon tea with Americans Dr. Donald Bosch and Mrs. Eloise Bosch, legends in their own lifetime for having long served as one of the few Western doctors and elementary school teachers in the country prior to 1970. 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 for most of two days and a night aboard a *dhow*, on which they slept in the open under the stars and swam and snorkeled offshore famed Telegraph Island and other inlets that line Oman's Musandam Peninsula. They also anchored and went ashore 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, some of Oman's multi-ethnic and religious rituals, and all ages of local councilmen and women, 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.



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.



Chandelier in The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory that measures 14 meters tall.



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



A Malone Fellow swims in one of the many inlets adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz.



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



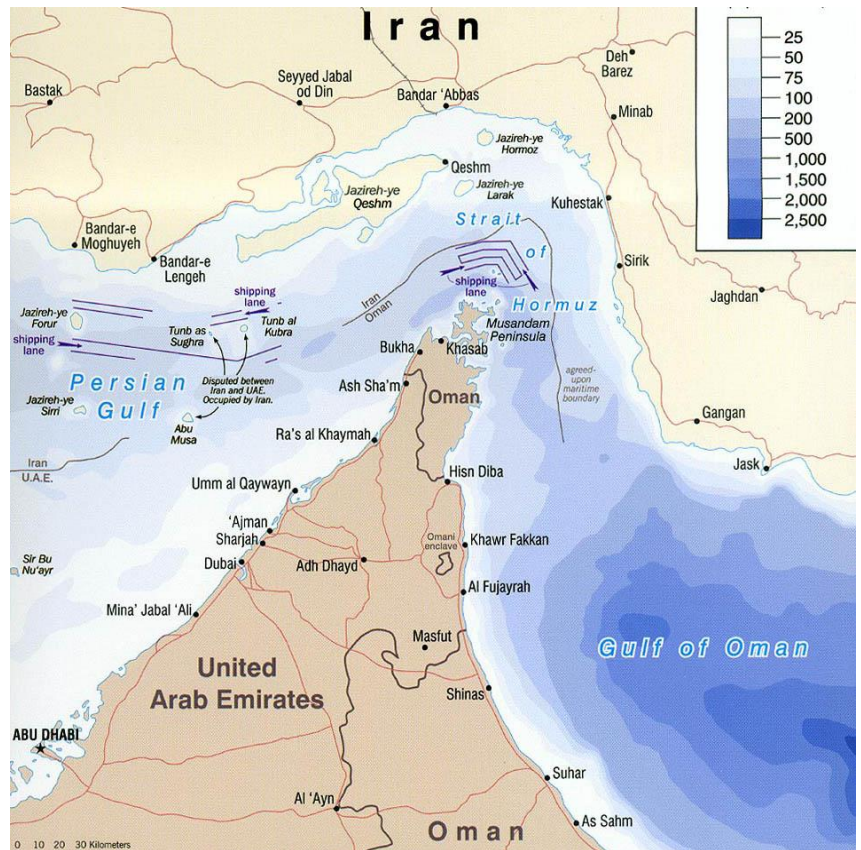
Malone Fellows explored the dunes of the Sharqiyyah Sands, an eastern extension of the Rub' Al-Khali (The Empty Quarter), the world's largest desert.



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



The Malone Fellow delegation's Omani guide visiting Nizwa, historical capital of the former Imamate of Oman and located deep in the Sultanate's interior.



Schoolboys break from their studies at a school in Nizwa.



OMAN

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

National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Model Arab League Faculty Visit to Morocco

The National Council organized and escorted a Malone Fellowship delegation comprised of faculty advisers from the Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program on a study visit to Morocco from June 24 - July 4, 2011. The delegation, led by the Council's MAL program coordinators Megan Geissler and Josh Hilbrand, was the first Malone Fellow delegation in several years specifically focused on individuals from the MAL program.

Before their departure for Morocco, the Malone Fellows participated in an orientation program in the Council's office that featured Dr. Anthony; Ms. Molly Hayes, Morocco Desk Officer at the United States Department of State; Mrs. Wassane Zailachi, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Washington, DC; Ambassador Ed Gabriel, United States Ambassador to Morocco from 1997-2001; and National Council Washington, DC Summer Internship Program student interns at The Maghreb Center, Ms. Agaila Abba Hemeida, from the University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh, and Ms. Jennifer Bubke, from the American University School of International Service, along with Mr. Néjib Ayachi, Founder and President of Washington-based The Maghreb Center.



Malone Fellows explored and spent a night at the dunes of Merzouga in the Sahara.

The delegation spent several days in Rabat, Fez, and Marrakesh, and also visited a variety of sites while exploring many different regions of the country. The Malone Fellows explored the ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis and the ninth century city of Fez, met with students and faculty at Al Akhawayne University in Ifrane and the University of Cadi Ayyad in Marrakesh, spent a night in the dunes of Merzouga, visited Tinghir, the Ourika Valley and Ouarzazate, and learned about the rich diversity in Moroccan society. The delegation's visit coincided with a July 1 vote in a national referendum on constitutional reforms, providing an interesting backdrop for the Fellows' discussions during their meetings with Moroccans from all walks of life.



Bab el-Khemis at the entrance of the city of Meknes in northern Morocco.



The Malone Fellow delegation visiting Morocco was comprised of faculty involved in the Council's Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program.



Roman ruins in Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Malone Fellows meeting with students and faculty at Al Akhawayne University in Ifrane.



National Council Malone Fellows explored Morocco's rich history and the diversity of its society while traveling to many different regions and meeting with a broad array of individuals from all walks of life.



The leather tannery in Fez is the oldest of its kind in the world.



Bab Boujloud, the monumental entrance of the old medina in Fez.



Menara Gardens in Marrakech.



Malone Fellows at the Royal Palace Gates in Fez.



The kasbah of Taourirt in Ouarzazate, located south of the High Atlas Mountains in southern-central Morocco.



Hassan Tower in Rabat.



The Mausoleum of Mohammed V in Rabat.



The Minaret of the Bou Inania Medersa in Fez.

The National Council Organizes and Escorts a Delegation of United States Naval Academy Midshipmen on a Study Visit to the UAE

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in coordination with the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a December 27 to January 6, 2010-11 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the United States Naval

Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Maryland. The Academy's delegation was comprised of twelve Midshipmen and two faculty. The visit provided the Midshipmen 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.



مركز الإمارات للدراسات والبحوث الاستراتيجية
The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Naval Academy visits the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Escorted by National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Executive Vice President Mr. Patrick Mancino, and Projects Coordinator Ms. Chelsey Boggs, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UAE Coast Guard, UAE Naval Headquarters, the US Embassy, and the Sheikh Zayed Mosque. 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 Richard Olson and embassy staff. In addition, the Midshipmen 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.



National Council President and CEO, Dr. John Duke Anthony (at podium) with the Midshipmen, delivers a lecture on "The Founding of the UAE: An Experiment in Arab Political Engineering" at the ECSSR.



The National Council's U.S. Naval Academy delegation visits the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' National Center for Documentation and Research in Abu Dhabi, one of the foremost centers of its kind in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

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

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in coordination with the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a November 18-28, 2011 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 ten 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.



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Air Force Academy visits the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Escorted by National Council Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino, Vice President Amy Greenlee, and staff member Byron Lewis, 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, the office of the Chief of Staff of the UAE Military, Al Dhafra Air base, the Critical National Infrastructural Authority (CNIA), Zayed II Military Academy, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi Media Company, Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, 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.



A U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet with an instructor from the Khalifa bin Zayed Air College.



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

National Council Public Affairs Briefings

What You Need to Know Now: The Arabian Dimension in Today's Mideast Turmoil March 2, 2011

On March 2, 2011, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations organized a special program on "What You Need to Know Now: The Arabian Dimension in Today's Mideast Turmoil" at the Washington, DC offices of Miller & Chevalier. **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO of the National Council, served as Moderator. The participating specialists were **Dr. Herman Franssen**, President of International Energy Associates and Senior Associate for the Energy and National Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; **Dr. David E. Long**, Consultant on Middle East affairs and international terrorism and author of, among numerous other works, *The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*; **Mr. Robert Lacey**, Historian and author of *The Kingdom* and *Inside the Kingdom*; and **Mr. Peter A. Iseman**, Historian and International Educator.

The specialists focused their remarks on the Arabian Peninsula and its place amid wider turmoil across the Arab world. They addressed energy issues, internal structures and systems of governance, societal attitudes and aspirations, and regional geopolitics. Through their extended remarks and in the course of a question-and-answer session, the specialists detailed a range of the challenges that the region faces and possible paths forward.

A video of the seminar is available on the National Council's Web site: ncusar.org.



*Mr. Robert Lacey - Historian and author of
The Kingdom and Inside the Kingdom.*



*Dr. David E. Long - Consultant on Middle East affairs
and international terrorism, and
author of, inter alia, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*



Mr. Peter A. Iseman - Historian and International Educator.



*Dr. Herman Franssen - President of International Energy
Associates and Senior Associate for the Energy and
National Security Program at the
Center for Strategic and International Studies.*

***National Council Organizes and Hosts a Seminar with a
Delegation Representing the Majlis Ash-Shura (Consultative Council)
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia***

April 8, 2011

The National Council hosted a conversation with a delegation from the Majlis Ash-Shura (Consultative Council) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on April 8, 2011 in Washington, DC. The delegation's six men and two women included **H.E. Osama Bin Mohammed Al-Kurdi**, **H.E. Dr. Abdallah Bin Yahya Bukhari**, **H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmed Rashid Al-Dosari**, **H.E. Mohammed Bin Abdallah Al-Quaihis**, **H.E. Dr. Saud H. R. Al-Subaie**, **H.E. Dr. Mazen Bin Foad Bin Mahmood AlKhayyat**, **H.E. Dr. Mai bint Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim AlEssa** (Advisor), and **H.E. Dr. Mahasen Hasan Abu-Mansour Flamban** (Advisor). The Majlis Ash-Shura was established in 1992. Initially comprised of 60 members, its ranks have grown several times to the current total of 150 representatives. The Council's committees advise the King on numerous and diverse issues, including foreign relations, trade, investment, economic development, education, health care, environment, family and child development.

***National Council Luncheon in Honor of Ambassador Joseph LeBaron,
United States Ambassador to the State of Qatar***

April 15, 2011

On April 15, 2011, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations hosted a luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC to honor **Dr. Joseph LeBaron, United States Ambassador to the State of Qatar**. The program was sponsored by Chevron, Boeing, Qatar Airways, and the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. National Council Executive Vice President Mr. Pat Mancino and Council Vice President Ms. Amy K. Greenlee moderated the program. Ambassador LeBaron spoke about the status of U.S.-Qatar relations, including the areas of policy, the impact of social media, the economy, and trade.



Ambassador Joseph LeBaron.



Ambassador Joseph LeBaron.



(L to R) Amy K. Greenlee, Vice President of the National Council; Joseph LeBaron, U.S. Ambassador to Qatar; and Pat Mancino, National Council Executive Vice President and Director of Development.

A Conversation about Energy with former Shell Oil Company President John Hofmeister

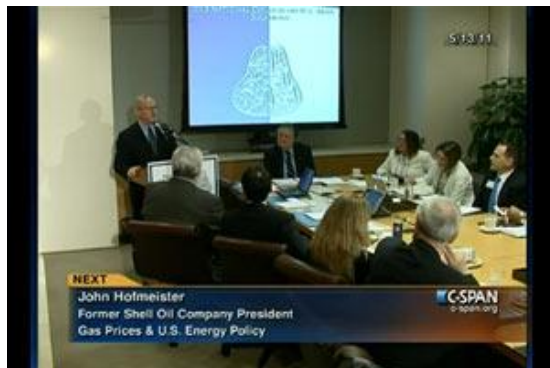
May 13, 2011



Mr. John Hofmeister - Founder and Chief Executive, Citizens for Affordable Energy, and former President, Shell Oil Company

On May 13, 2011, the National Council hosted "**A Conversation with John Hofmeister**" at the Law Offices of Willkie Farr and Gallagher LLP in Washington, DC. Mr. Hofmeister retired as President of Shell Oil Company in 2008 and now heads the not-for-profit (501(c)(3)), nation-wide membership association, Citizens for Affordable Energy. He is also the author of *Why We Hate the Oil Companies: Straight Talk from an Energy Insider*. In his remarks and answers to questions posed by Dr. John Duke Anthony, who served as Moderator for the program, Hofmeister discussed the rising prices of gasoline, the linkage to ongoing tension and turmoil in parts of the Middle East, and how these and other factors impact America's and other countries' economic and energy challenges. C-SPAN television network, with its millions of viewers, broadcast the program in its entirety. A link to watch the

video online can be found on the National Council's website: www.ncusar.org.



Mr. Russell L. Smith - Special Counsel, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP



Dr. John Duke Anthony - Founder and Chief Executive, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Symposium on U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya Sanctions

May 26, 2011

On May 26, 2011, in partnership with Miller & Chevalier, the National Council hosted a "**Symposium on U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya Sanctions**" with **Mr. Larry Christensen**, a Member of Miller & Chevalier. Mr. Christensen served in the U.S. Department of Commerce for eleven years in the Office of Chief Counsel of Export Administration and as Director of the Regulatory Policy Division. He is an expert in sanctions regimes and export controls. The program, held at Miller & Chevalier's Washington, DC office, was designed to benefit a broad range of people engaged in business and policy, including international business managers, chief compliance and risk officers, financial managers, sovereign wealth fund managers and advisers, country managers doing business in the Middle East, and mergers and acquisition counselors and advisers. Mr. Christensen offered a practical, in-depth look at U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya sanctions, discussing the enforcement landscape, the impact on non-U.S. corporations, and pitfalls for U.S. employees and directors of non-U.S. firms as well as the banking pitfalls posed by the latest of these sanctions regimes.

A Conversation with The Right Honourable Tony Blair

June 29, 2011

On June 29, 2011, the National Council hosted "**A Conversation with The Right Honourable Tony Blair**" in The Rotunda Ballroom at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Blair, former British Prime Minister and ongoing Quartet (European Union, Russia, United Nations, and United States) Representative to the Middle East, was introduced and joined for questions by His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States and Advisor at the Royal Court. Dr. Anthony served as host and moderator.

Mr. Blair dispensed with prepared remarks in favor of immediately engaging the audience, answering 25 questions in the limited time available. In exchanging views with the capacity-audience comprised of members of the international diplomatic corps, select multinational corporate leaders, and representatives of the U.S. Congressional and Executive branches, he was characteristically straightforward and candid. Lest anyone believe that a mutually acceptable and enduring peace among the parties is near to hand, Mr. Blair was keen to emphasize, in no set order, the ongoing disagreements over Israel's settlement building on Palestinian land, borders, the future status of Jerusalem, water rights, and the Palestinian refugees' right of return.

Pictures from the program are available on the National Council's website: ncusar.org, and on the Council's Facebook page: facebook.com/ncusar.



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



*The Right Honourable Tony Blair,
former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and
Quartet Representative to the Middle East.*



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



*H.E. Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir,
Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States and
Advisor at the Royal Court.*

Libya From the Front Lines

August 9, 2011 and August 11, 2011

The National Council partnered with the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce to present “**Libya From the Front Lines**” with Mr. Richard Ayton, recent Stabilization Advisor to the British Special Representative to Libya. The program was presented in Houston, TX on August 9, 2011 and in Washington, DC on August 11, 2011, each time at the local office of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP. Mr. Ayton shared with the audiences his first-hand intelligence on the political and commercial situation in Libya and the likely outlook for business interests there. He was deployed in early April 2011 to Benghazi to support policy-makers with analysis and insight based on deep engagement at all levels of the National Transitional Council and revolutionary militias. Mr. Ayton is a Director at Aegis, a London-based specialist risk management and security firm.

Dynamics of Palestine in the Coming Arab & UN Seasons – Five Perspectives

September 14, 2011

On September 14, 2011, the National Council and the International Council for Middle East Studies co-sponsored a discussion on the “**Dynamics of Palestine in the Coming Arab & UN Seasons – Five Perspectives**” at the International Law Institute. Participating specialists were Dr. Philip Giraldi, Executive Director, Council on the National Interest and former CIA counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer who served in Turkey, Italy, Germany, and Spain; Dr. Fouzi El-Asmar, Distinguished Palestinian Writer, Poet, Academic, and Journalist; Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, President, International Council for Middle East Studies; Mr. Mark Perry, American author specializing in Military Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Analysis; and Mr. Jeffrey Steinberg, Senior Editor, Journalist, and Lecturer on Middle East and International Security Affairs. Professor Don Wallace, Jr., Chairman, International Law Institute and Chair, International Council for Middle East Studies, served as chair of the discussion. An audio recording of the briefing is available from the National Council on iTunes as well as the National Council’s website (www.ncusar.org).



(left to right) Professor Don Wallace, Jr. and Dr. Fouzi El-Asmar.



(left to right) Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, Dr. Philip Giraldi, Mr. Jeffrey Steinberg, and Mr. Mark Perry.

What Lies Ahead for America in Arabia and the Gulf?: Analyses and Prognoses

September 15, 2011

On September 15, 2011, the National Council hosted “**What Lies Ahead for America in Arabia and the Gulf?: Analyses and Prognoses**” in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The program featured commentary and analysis from senior leaders at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), an independent think tank that supports the decision making on political, economical, social, and security issues related to the GCC area as well as Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. The GRC currently has offices in Geneva, Switzerland; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and Cambridge, UK.

The participating specialists were Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder of the Gulf Research Center; Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation; and Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center. National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for the discussion. The specialists offered insight and comments on the state of the U.S.-Arab relationship, prospects for Iran’s nuclear program, and the effects changes in the Arab world on the Gulf region along with analysis of other Gulf region developments.

Audio, video, and pictures from the program are available on the National Council's website: ncusar.org, and on the Council's Facebook page: facebook.com/ncusar.



The National Council hosted a briefing event featuring leaders from the Gulf Research Center at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder of the Gulf Research Center.



Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center.



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation.

2011's 20th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

"Dynamics of Recent Events in the Arab World: Framing the Arab and U.S. Responses "

On October 27-28, 2011, more than 1,250 people gathered in Washington, DC for the 20th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference convened by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and chaired by Council President and CEO, Dr. John Duke Anthony. More than fifty speakers contributed to the spirited proceedings over two days of shared ideas, intense discussions and debate, and extensive networking. Taking place amidst a period of unprecedented change and upheaval along with continuity, much of it with implications for Americans, Arabs, and others the world over, the substance of the Conference could hardly have been more compelling, the atmosphere more receptive, nor the timing more propitious.

The 2011 Policymakers Conference set records at every level -- the largest registration and attendance ever and the largest media contingent in the Conferences' history, representing not only print and broadcast media but internet publications and the blogosphere as well, all supported by a record number of Conference Sponsors. Included among the latter were more than twenty Fortune 500 American Corporations, more than ten international business and trade organizations, and nine Arab embassies as well as the Washington, DC Office of the 22-member country League of Arab States -- the world's oldest regional organization (pre-dating the establishment of the United Nations) dedicated to the peaceful resolution of international disputes. Always intended to build bridges between the Arab countries, the Islamic world, and the United States, the Conference visibly also spanned generations of prominent American, Arab, and other foreign affairs practitioners.



Individual speakers included current and former ambassadors from the United States and various Arab countries, key U.S. government officials, leading military officers, representatives of several non-governmental organizations active in the Arab countries and the broader Middle East, as well as major business and financial interests engaged in trade between the United States and the Arab world. Plenary session discussions dealt with the changing situation in Iraq, Iran's position and role in regional affairs, issues of U.S.-Arab defense cooperation, the Palestinian future, developments in North Africa, Yemen, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the dynamics of energy demand and supply.

C-Span Television Network aired the keynote speeches by HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal Al Sa'ud, Chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) and former Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Kingdom as well as the United States of America, and H.E. Ambassador Ali Aujali, National Transitional Council of Libya Ambassador to the United States, allowing their remarks to be viewed by millions throughout the world. In continued pursuit of its mission to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world, the National Council has made available on its website, www.ncusar.org, transcripts and audio recordings of the entire conference.

The 2011 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference featured books for sale from middleeastbooks.com, which included several works authored by conference speakers.

The Conference also featured *Faces of the Middle East*, a photography exhibit, on display at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center and at the evening reception at The Andrew Mellon Auditorium. The exhibit included a collection of images by Australian TV Broadcaster and Producer Hermoine Macura. The exhibition was made possible with assistance from Bridges of Understanding.

FACES OF THE MIDDLE EAST



Faces of the Middle East featured photography from Australian TV Broadcaster and Producer Hermoine Macura.



Photographer Hermoine Macura shares information about one of the pictures in her exhibit with HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Read, Watch, or Listen to the 2011 Policymakers Conference Proceedings



Transcripts, MP3 audio, and links to C-Span video recordings are available on the National Council's website, www.ncusar.org, at:

<http://ncusar.org/pubs/category/policymakers-conference/> as well as

http://ncusar.org/programs/2011auspc_program.html



MP3 audio podcasts of the conference are available through iTunes:

<http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/national-council-on-u.s.-arab/id337504626>



Video of keynote addresses by HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal Al Sa'ud and H.E. Ambassador Ali Aujali are available through C-Span's Video Library, along with video from previous years' Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences and other Council programs:

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/organization.php?id=24031>



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



Ms. Shameem Rassam



Dr. Juan Cole



Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome



**H.E. Ambassador
Dr. Hussein Hassouna**



Mr. Lionel C. Johnson



Ms. Harriet Fulbright



**H.E. Ambassador
Sameh Shoukry**



Dr. Janne Nolan



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



**The Honorable Molly
Williamson**



Dr. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla



Dr. Ghada Karmi



H.E. Ambassador Ali Aujali



Ms. Michelle Steinberg



Ambassador Ford Fraker



Dr. Tamara Wittes



Dr. Néjib Ayachi



Ms. Jennifer Salan



Mr. Robert Lacey



Mr. Jeremy Jones



Mr. Yousef Munayyer



Ms. Barbara G. B. Ferguson



Dr. Abdulla Al-Shayji



**Ambassador
Joseph LeBaron**



Dr. Kenneth B. Katzman



**General Joseph Hoar
(USMC, Ret.)**



Dr. Esam Omeish



Dr. Paul Sullivan



Mr. Danny E. Sebright

Policymakers Conference Secretariat:



**Dr. John Duke
Anthony**



Mr. Pat Mancino



Ms. Amy Greenlee



**Ms. Megan
Geissler**



Mr. Josh Hilbrand



Mr. Byron Lewis



Mr. Colin Moore

2011 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Sponsors



National Council President's Educational Services and Publications

National Council Founding President and Chief Executive Officer **Dr. John Duke Anthony** served: (1) as an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies; (2) as an Adjunct Professor at the U.S. Department of Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management; (3) as a member of the U.S. Department of State's International Economic Policy Advisory Committee as well as its Subcommittees on Sanctions and Trade and Investment; (4) as Lead Facilitator and Moderator of the Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Relations Policymakers Conference; and (5) Chair of the Council's Annual University Student Summer Internship Program.

Publications included:

- "20 Years Ago Today," a retrospective on the 20th anniversary of the reversal of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait from August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991, available at www.ncusar.org.
- "Navigating the Regional Turmoil: Mileposts and Guidelines," available at www.ncusar.org.
- "The Intervention in Bahrain through the Lenses of its Supporters," written for and published by the website of the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), available at www.ecssr.ac.ae and www.ncusar.org.
- "Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Tragedy," available at 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 (ECSSR), available at www.ecssr.ac.ae and www.ncusar.org.
- "Saudi Arabian Ambassadors to America in Context," available at www.ncusar.org.

Principle Scholar Escort of American Leadership Delegations to Arab Countries:

- U.S. Central Command Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies delegation to Oman, March 2-15, 2011
- United States Naval Academy Midshipmen and Faculty delegation to the United Arab Emirates, December 27 - January 6, 2010-11

Dr. Anthony also addressed or provided a briefing for the membership and supporters of the following organizations:

- American Armed Forces Officers, Security Assistance Personnel, Defense Attaches, and US CENTCOM representatives on "The Arabian Peninsula in Regional and World Affairs" and "Iran in Its National and Regional Settings: Dynamics of Convergence and Divergence" at the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, October 2010, and February, April, and May 2011



Dr. John Duke Anthony (above) addressing a capacity crowd at the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs and (below) speaking at The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research's 16th Annual Conference entitled "Global Strategic Developments: A Futuristic Outlook."



- The Near East and North Africa Program, and Advanced Arabian Peninsula Studies Seminar on "The United Arab Emirates" and "Oman," George Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, U.S. Department of State, February and May 2011
- Annual North American Invitational National High School Model United Nations, February 2011
- The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) on "The Founding of the United Arab Emirates: Background, Context, Perspective," January 2011, and "Unipolarism and the Future of Superpower Politics" as well as "Likely Trends and Developments in The GCC Region in the Coming Ten to Twenty Years" at ECSSR's 16th Annual Conference on "Global Strategic Developments: A Futuristic Outlook," Abu Dhabi, UAE, March 2011
- Virginia Military Institute Center for Leadership and Excellence on "Political Change in Tunisia, Egypt and Beyond: Implications for American Interests and Policies" for the "(The Muslim) East Meets (The Christian) West Conference" (via video link from Abu Dhabi), Lexington, Virginia, March 2011
- Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs on "Analyzing Transformational Change in the Arab World," April 2011
- National Council's National University and High School Model Arab Leagues at Georgetown University, April 2011
- The Brookings Institution's "Inside the Middle East" Seminar on "Saudi Arabia: Prospects for Change, Stability, or Stagnation?," April 2011
- The Iraq Survey Group on "Iraq and Its Arab Neighbors: Dynamics of Convergence and Divergence," Rand Corporation, Alexandria, Virginia
- The Institute for Defense Analyses on "Saudi Arabia's Strategic Defense Goals in Perspective," Washington, D.C., May 2011
- The University of Singapore Middle East Institute on "The Gulf Cooperation Council: Future Prospects" to the international conference on "Whither the GCC?" May, 2011
- The U.S. National Defense University Near East and South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, US CENTCOM, and US AFRICOM on "Dynamics and Implications of Regional Arab Political Transformations" to the Horn of Africa Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, May 2011
- National Council's Annual Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program, eight lectures with an academic focus on "Arabia and the Gulf," at the George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs
- Washington, DC World Affairs Council's Annual Summer Teacher Training Institute on "'The Arab Spring' and The Dynamics of American Interests: Implications for U.S. Policies"
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing "A Conversation with The Right Honourable Tony Blair" at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC with Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir and The Right Honourable Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister and presently Special Envoy for the Middle East of the Quartet -- The European Union, Russia, the United Nations, and the United States
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing "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
- National Council's 20th 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

Dr. Anthony's additional educational activities included:

- Taught a course on "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Georgetown University Edmund Walsh Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies from January-May, 2011. The course included separate lectures on "Prisms for Perspectives on The Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf States;" "The Changing Nature of American Interests in Arabia and the Gulf: Implications for U.S. and Arab Policies;" "The Gulf Cooperation Council in Focus;" seven lectures on "Domestic and Foreign Relations Dynamics" of Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Yemen, Iran, and Iraq, with guest lectures on "The Energy Dynamics of the Arabian Peninsula," by former U.S. Department of Energy Senior International Affairs Adviser and National Council Board Member Randa Fahmy Hudome, and lectures on "Bahrain" and "Kuwait" by National Council Distinguished Diplomat in Residence John Moran and National Council Board Member and former Kuwait Petroleum Company Representative Ms. Elizabeth Wossen.
- Participated in the "Workshop on Yemen" at the Second Annual Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge (UK), organized by the Gulf Research Center.

National Council Recognized 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 has also recently joined 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.

Organizations that comply with these accountability standards have provided documentation that they meet basic standards in how they govern their organization; in the ways they spend their money; in the truthfulness of their representations; and in their willingness to disclose basic information to the public. 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. Indeed, the standards recommend ethical practices beyond the act of disclosure in order to ensure public confidence and encourage giving. As voluntary standards, they also go beyond the requirements of local, state and federal laws and regulations.



National Council Welcomes New Members to Staff

Ms. Amy K. Greenlee

Amy K. Greenlee joined the National Council in February as Vice President to develop programs and deepen the educational and cultural relationship with Qatar and the GCC. Ms. Greenlee brings to the tasks enumerated an array of skills, experience, and reputation as well as credibility which will add to the continued mission and vision of the Council. Ms. Greenlee was formerly the Director of the US-Qatar Business Council where she managed the operations of the organization, developed and implemented programs, performed outreach with corporations, and was instrumental in the launch of Qatar Foundation International, a vision of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah. Prior to her involvement with Qatar, Ms. Greenlee worked with a Presidential Appointee and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan. Ms. Greenlee received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Physics from Indiana State University.



(L to R) Ms. Amy K. Greenlee and U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph LeBaron.

Mr. Byron Lewis

In September the National Council welcomed Byron Lewis to its staff as a Special Programs Assistant. Byron is an alumnus of the Council's Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program and its Model Arab League student leadership development program. He assists the Council in the planning, development, and execution of programs by providing research and logistical support as well as liaising with partner individuals and institutions. Mr. Lewis graduated from Miami University, Ohio with a focus on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. During his time at Miami he served as treasurer for the school's Model Arab League delegation. Mr. Lewis is pursuing native fluency in Modern Standard Arabic and the Levantine dialect.



Gulf Times Features National Council's Expanding Programs

Gulf Times spotlighted the National Council's programs on the front page of its July 3, 2011 issue. Council Vice President Amy Greenlee was featured in an interview with the *Times*, Qatar's leading English daily newspaper, about the Council's efforts to expand its educational opportunities, including the Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program and the Council's Annual University Summer Student Internship Program.



Thank You to the Individual Supporters of the National Council in 2011

Given the ongoing uncertain international economic situation, the National Council is especially appreciative of the generosity reflected in the ongoing contributions in support of what the Council seeks to accomplish.

We proudly and gratefully list their names as follows:

John Duke & Cynthia Anthony

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Financial Information

Data is for the most recent year available - Fiscal Year Ending 08 / 31 / 2010

Revenue

Primary Revenue	\$1,377,168
Other Revenue	\$71,272
Total Revenue	\$1,448,440

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$837,784
Model Arab League - \$302,742	
Malone Fellowship Program - \$190,430	
Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference - \$106,504	
Summer Intern Program - \$185,191	
Congressional Briefings - \$52,917	
Administrative Expenses	\$173,412
Fundraising Expenses	\$42,623
Total Functional Expenses	\$1,053,819
Excess for the fiscal year	\$394,621
End of Fiscal Year Net Assets	\$2,178,990

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, 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 Board of Directors

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; also: Member, International Economic Policy Advisory Committee and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment, U.S. Department of State; Vice President, International Foreign Policy Center; Adjunct Associate Professor, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, U.S. Department of Defense; and Adjunct Associate Professor of "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Georgetown University Edmund Walsh Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

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

Mr. John Mulholland; also: former President, American Business Association, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia;

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

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;

Vice President -- Ms. Amy K. Greenlee; also: former Director, U.S.-Qatar Business Council;

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;;

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

Publications Coordinator -- Mr. Mark Morozink; also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program, and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program (2006-2008); and

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

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