

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



2012 Annual Report

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

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. It endeavors to do this through leadership development. To this end, among other things, it organizes and administers people-to-people exchanges and an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers' conference that brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists on the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past two years, the conference has drawn more than 1,200 participants. With coverage by C-SPAN, the international satellite television network, additional millions are able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at ncusar.org.

The National Council produces specialized publications, including an electronic newsletter. In addition, from its inception to the present, the Council facilitates 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 and work-study experience in the nation's capital.

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

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

In its efforts to strengthen and expand the positive dynamics of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship, and to promote the legitimate interests of Americans and Arabs alike, the National Council seeks to harm no one. It strives instead to do whatever is possible to restore what was once an extraordinarily positive reservoir of Arab goodwill and respect for U.S. policies throughout the Arab world. It endeavors to do so in light of the pervasive region-wide negative reaction among tens of millions of the Arab world's citizens and millions more among the world's 1.4 billion Muslims who in recent years have come to view many of America's policies towards Arabs and Muslims as unfair and unjust.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, 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.

Message from the President

In the National Council's 2012 *Annual Report* one will find a review and chronicling of the Council's most relevant news and views of the past year; coverage of all of the Council's numerous educational programs, activities, and events made possible by its generous contributors and supporters; a listing of the Council's leadership, management, and staff; a listing of the Council's contributors; and a statement of the Council's *vision* and *mission*. To this end, one will find in the *2012 Annual Report* that follows detailed reporting and illustrative material pertaining to the Council's:

- 1) Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, regarding which the most recent one that was held October 25-26, 2012 drew 1,250 participants and in addition to the proceedings featured receptions hosted by the Embassies of Bahrain and Jordan as well as a luncheon by the U.S.-UAE Business Council, coverage by six dozen broadcast and print media and the live filming and simultaneous broadcasting by C-SPAN, allowing the Conference's sessions to be viewed by millions worldwide;
- 2) 15 Model Arab League Programs throughout the United States and three in other countries in which over 2,200 American and other countries' university and secondary school youth participated in an Arab-U.S. relations leadership development exercise the likes of which one will not find elsewhere;
- 3) 16th Annual Oman Cultural Immersion Program for armed forces officers selected by the Commander of the U.S. Central Command;
- 4) Annual Year-Round University Student Internship Program in addition to, for the fourth year in succession, Summer University Student Internship Program in cooperation with the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University in the heart of the nation's capital, for which there was the highest number of applications to date, the placement of interns at 18 sister foreign affairs organizations where they obtained fulltime professional work experience, and the administration of a parallel academic seminar on "Arabia and the Gulf" chaired by the Council's President and CEO;
- 5) Continued facilitation of applications and the selection process for American and other students enrolled in Arabic language and cross-cultural study programs in Lebanon, Morocco, and Jordan;
- 6) Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony's service during the Fall Semester as Dean's Visiting Chair in International Studies and Political Science at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, where he taught the Institute's first-ever course on "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula";
- 7) Five U.S.-Arab Relations- and U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council-centric public affairs educational events on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in the nation's capital for Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the international diplomatic corps, the media, and representatives of public policy interest groups;



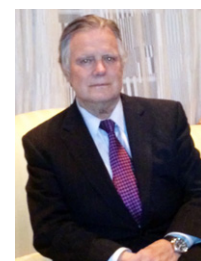
A student delegate from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts displays his certificate for outstanding representation of his country's policies and positions at a Model Arab League conference.

- 8) Ongoing annual cooperation with the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), inclusive of the Center's hosting for the third year in succession of Council-organized and escorted delegations comprised of representatives of America's strategic armed services officers of tomorrow from the United States Military Academy, Naval Academy, and Air Force Academy;
- 9) Continued annual cooperation with the Jeddah, Saudi Arabia-, Geneva, Switzerland-, and Cambridge University-based Gulf Research Center's Annual Gulf Research Meeting at Cambridge University;
- 10) Presentation of Distinguished Public Service Awards to three extraordinary individuals in recognition of their respective exemplary contributions to and unstinting efforts in support of the betterment of Arab-U.S.-Relations: H.E. Dr. Clovis Maksoud, former Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United Nations and founder of the Center for the Study of the Global South at American University in Washington, D.C.; The Hon. Andrew Killgore, Founding President of the American Educational Trust and former American Ambassador to the State of Qatar; and Mr. Richard Curtiss, Founding Executive Director and Editor of the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*;
- 11) Utilization of information technology for launching a new weblog ("blog") on *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC* by Dr. Anthony; and
- 12) Receipt, for the third consecutive year, of coveted awards from international charity evaluators in recognition for overall transparency and professional effectiveness in the course of continued exemplary adherence to the highest possible standards of fiscal accountancy and management.



John Duke Anthony

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



Picture: March 2013

Model Arab League

Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2011-2012 marked the 29th year of the **National Council's flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, the Model Arab League (MAL)**. The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations, with its 193 members. An important difference between the two is that the MAL focuses only on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

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



Student delegates from Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, VA, with faculty advisor Mr. Michael Rauer, display their award certificates after the National High School Model Arab League.

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 and of itself. 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, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate. In the process, they have an unparalleled opportunity to hone and refine leadership attributes that for many are often unavailable or otherwise difficult to acquire in the course of reading a book, viewing films, videos or television, listening to a specialist, participating in academic classes, attending briefings, or accessing blogs and the Internet.



Students vote on a resolution in the Political Affairs Council at the Atlanta High School Model.

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

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

As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice but to learn how to advocate their viewpoints with facts, command of language, clear oral and written expression, and the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, force of argument, and erudition they can muster in support of their position. What is more, the student participants have no option but to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements and processes, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order and depending on the issue

and procedural dynamics in play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are tasked with limiting the authorized debates to variants of thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or a maximum of five minutes.

There's no mistaking either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. Arguably few American students and other young adults receive or have received as comprehensive a level of training and firsthand experience as the Models provide in practicing and mastering what it takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,200 students that annually participate in the National Council's 15 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 and adult judges, the students are eager to prove to themselves, their families, and their teachers that they are worth every penny of the investment in this one-of-a-kind component of their education. To that end there is no way around their having to study hard and conduct serious research in advance of the Models.



*The delegates from Georgia State University display their Outstanding Delegation certificates after the National University Model in Washington, DC.
(Right, front row, is their faculty advisor Dr. S. Rashid Naim).*



(Left to right) HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud with Dr. John Duke Anthony.

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

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask whether it is the case that, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer is yes. The reason has to do with popular demand. That is, what typically happens at the end of numerous Models is that most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue. As powerful and welcome a validation of a given Models' value as this is, there is another side to the coin. That is, no sooner does a Model end than veteran Model Arab League student participants rush to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model. The result is that there is little if any room for new universities and students 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 2,200 per year and continues to increase.

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

In the past year, *a record* 73 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 2011 ten-week summer internship programs 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 two cultural immersion visits for university students to Saudi Arabia in 2011, *all* 22 of the participants were Model Arab League Alumni. In addition, *three* Council 2011 Model Arab League participants were awarded an all-expenses paid six-week Arabic language fellowship, complete with home stays, in Oman; and (2) *five dozen* cadets and midshipmen from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy participated in separate Council two-week cultural immersion programs in the UAE in partnership with the internationally renowned Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.



A U.S. Military Academy delegation visiting the UAE Zayed II Military College in Abu Dhabi during a Council study visit.



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

Scope and Focus of the 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 staff, the entirety of which is comprised of alumni of the Model Arab League Program*. Many also gain from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still others are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities where alumni of the Council's Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program are resident. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is 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.



Student delegates representing Saudi Arabia make a speech in favor of a motion during the National University Model.



Cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point display their Outstanding Delegation certificates from the National University Model.



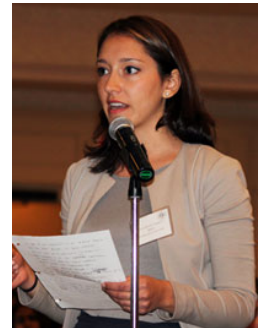
At the National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University, the National Council presented Ambassador Andrew Killgore and Mr. Richard Curtiss awards commemorating their lifetime commitment to Arab-U.S. understanding. Above (left), Ambassador Killgore accepts his award, and (right) Ms. Delinda Hanley accepts the award on behalf of Mr. Richard Curtiss.



The Council on Social Affairs votes on a resolution at the National University Model.



Student delegates from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville attend the Southwest Model Arab League. (Right, front row, is faculty advisor Dr. Najib Ghabdian).



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



A student delegate speaks in support of a motion in the Political Affairs Council at the National High School Model.



High school students from The Madeira School in Virginia accept Outstanding Delegate awards at the National Model.

From November 2011 through April 2012, the National Council sponsored and administered 15 Model Arab Leagues in 11 U.S. cities for 2,200 students in more than 100 American secondary schools and universities. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Washington, DC at Georgetown University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston; Oakland, California at Mills College; and Salt Lake City, Utah at the University of Utah. High School Models were conducted in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; Newport News, Virginia at Christopher Newport University; and Washington, DC at Georgetown University.



Students gather around computers to jointly draft a resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at the Ohio Valley Model in Oxford, Ohio.



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

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



Students vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council of Arab Environmental Affairs Ministers during the National University Model in Washington, DC.



Student delegates from Missouri Southern State University, led by veteran faculty adviser and National Council Malone Fellow Dr. Conrad Gubera, attend the Southwest Model Arab League at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



The National Council's Model Arab League annually includes the participation of more than 2,000 students throughout the United States.



(Left to right) Dr. John Duke Anthony and H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States, addressing the Opening Session of the National University Model in Washington, DC.



The student delegation from the University of Houston - Clear Lake participated in both the Bilateral Model in Houston, Texas and the National Model in Washington, DC. (Right, back row, is faculty advisor Dr. Jeff Lash).



Students display their Outstanding Delegate certificates at the Southwest Model Arab League, held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Ms. Catia Sharp from Northeastern University was chosen to serve as the Secretary General of the 2013 National University Model. Ms. Sharp was also one of ten outstanding Model Arab League students chosen to participate in a study visit to Saudi Arabia this past winter (see pgs. 10-11).



A student from the United States Air Force Academy, representing Palestine, raises his placard to vote on a resolution in the Social Affairs Council at the Ohio Valley Model in Oxford, Ohio.



A student delegate makes a speech in favor of a resolution during the Closing Session of the National University Model at Georgetown University.

Fall 2012 Model Arab Leagues

Northeast Regional Model Arab League Boston, MA - November 2-4

The 2012 Northeastern University Regional Area Model (NERMAL), convened at Northeastern University in Boston November 2-4, 2012, 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 member-states. Schools participating in the 2012 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, United States Military Academy at West Point, Roger Williams University, and Texas State University – San Marcos.



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



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



The Northeast Model's student secretariat meets to review the progress that various councils are making on their resolutions.



National Council staff member and alumna of the Model Arab League Program Ms. Maria Pantelis addresses the Opening Session of the Northeast Regional Model.



Student delegates debate an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Social Affairs.

Capital Area Regional Model Arab League Washington, DC - November 10-11

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



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

10-11, 2012. 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 120 students from McDaniel College, Bloomsburg University, Université Laval, University of the District of Columbia, George Washington University, Millersville University, Christopher Newport University, Mount St. Mary's University, Gettysburg College, Trinity Washington University, American University, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 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 developments in Syria, Egypt, and Libya, to civil dynamics, economic and social development, and defense as well as environmental cooperation.

Highlights included opening session remarks by H.E. Mohamed M. Tawfik, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, and closing session remarks by National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony.



Student delegates cast a final vote to pass a resolution during the Summit Session of the Capital Area Model.



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

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, December 27, 2011 to January 9, 2012. 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 university level 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. The goal: to provide an empirical educational introduction to the kingdom's culture and society for a select group of American students who have performed exceptionally well in the Council's Model Arab League student leadership development program. During the course of 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 delegation of Model Arab League students, led by National Council Board Member Dr. Mario A. Pascale (5th from left) met with H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Saeed (6th from left) during its study visit in Riyadh.

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 15 Model Arab Leagues in 2011. Led by veteran Council study visit escort and board member Dr. Mario A. Pascale, ten students were chosen from as many different universities involved in the Models, producing a delegation of talented American emerging leaders from institutions of higher education throughout the United States. The students have a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree, ensuring they will 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. The objective: 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 with a view to providing the students with otherwise hard to come by background and perspective on what they would experience and ways of sharing their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible upon their return to the United States. 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, Mr. Ahmed Al-Shugairy, and U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Smith. They also had the opportunity to visit numerous schools in Saudi Arabia, including King Saud University, Al Yamama University, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals, Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology, and the King Abdullah University for Science and Technology. The study visit enabled the students to meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.



The Model Arab League student delegation met with H.E. Dr. Hussein Al-Athel (center), Secretary General of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



The delegation visited the Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology in the Eastern Province.



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



Led by National Council Board Member and veteran escort Dr. Mario A. Pascale (center), the delegation visited the headquarters of Saudi Aramco, the world's largest energy company, in Dhahran in the kingdom's Eastern Province.



Student delegates viewed firsthand some of the numerous immense construction projects underway in Saudi Arabia, the one pictured here being the site of the Riyadh-based future HRH Princess Noura Bint Abdulrahman University, which, upon completion, will be the world's largest all-women's institution of higher education.



The Model Arab League delegation surveyed plans for King Abdullah Economic City before observing the actual progress on the ambitious project.

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

The National Council, in partnership with the Lebanon Renaissance Foundation, an independent, non-governmental, and non-sectarian educational organization, organized and escorted a delegation of ten Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Lebanon, June 21-July 3, 2012. Through the study visit the students gained direct personal exposure and experience in Lebanese culture, society, and economics, and came away with a more deeply informed knowledge of Lebanon's strategic aims and requirements as they pertain to Lebanese-U.S. relations and Lebanon's role in regional and world affairs.

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 15 Model Arab Leagues in 2012. Led by Council Malone Fellow and Model Arab League Advisor Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, ten students were chosen from as many different universities. Together they formed a delegation of talented American emerging leaders from institutions of higher education throughout the United States. A key factor in their selection is that the students had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their degrees. The stipulation of this requirement is strategic. It ensures the students will have a full year to share what they learned in and about Lebanon 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. The objective: to introduce the participants to some of America's and Lebanon's foremost scholars and specialists on

Lebanon and Lebanese-U.S. relations with a view to providing the students with otherwise hard to come by background and perspective on what they would experience and ways of sharing their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible upon their return to the United States.



The Model Arab League student delegation visited the remains of the fabled cedars of Lebanon, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

While in Lebanon the delegation was based in Beirut but was able to explore numerous different parts of the country. For example, the students visited Baalbek, a UNESCO World Heritage site; Mount Lebanon; the Qadisha valley and the remains of the famous forest of cedars of Lebanon, also a UNESCO World Heritage site; the majestic Bay of Jounieh; Byblos, another UNESCO World Heritage site; southern Lebanon and the ruins of the Beaufort Castle; and Beiteddine at the

time of its annual festival. The group also explored Beirut's many neighborhoods, and experienced its thriving art community at festivals and concerts. In addition, the delegation visited several schools in Lebanon, including the American University in Beirut and Lebanese American University.

The delegation met with and was briefed by government officials, business people, academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, and student peers. In every meeting the students were able to discuss a wide range of topics, including economics, government and politics, history, religion, media, youth and women's issues, foreign relations, and more. Through their meetings as well as the visits to sites of cultural and historical interest, the students were able not only to experience daily life in Lebanon but also to appreciate all its dynamic and often complex political, economic, social, religious, security, and diplomatic dimensions.



The Model Arab League student delegation met with Washington Bureau Chief for Al Arabiya Mr. Hisham Melham during their Pre-Departure Orientation Session in Washington, DC.



The student delegation visited the Temple of Jupiter in Baalbek, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The MAL student delegation visited Beiteddine and experienced its annual summer festival.



The MAL student delegation visited the American University in Beirut.



The MAL student delegation met with government officials, business people, academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, and their student peers while visiting Lebanon.



The MAL student delegation experienced Lebanese culture, society, and economics.

Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program: May - August 2012

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 and Arab leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Gnehm made it possible for the 2012 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 2012 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 2012 Summer Internship Program in the nation's capital.

The program, which lasted from May 29 - August 3, provided 25 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. Each one has implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, relations, and key foreign policy objectives. First, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



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



Council Internship Program participants visited the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to receive a briefing from Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Embassy's Information Office.

Second, Arabia and the Gulf remain front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, extraordinarily 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, and their foreign relations, 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 visited the U.S. Supreme Court during one of their weekly excursions that allowed them to explore some of the unique institutions in the nation's capital.



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

Internship Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world, 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 exchanges, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief services, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, congressional committees, and government agencies.



Intern program participants visited the Embassy of Bahrain to receive a briefing by H.E. Houda Ezra Ibrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the U.S.



The interns met with and were briefed by National Council Arab World Journalism Intern alumnus Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor for Oxford Analytica and author of, among other books, The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom.

Administering the 2012 program were National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony as Chairman and lead lecturer. Director of Student Programs Megan Geissler served as Coordinator, assisted by staff members Josh Hilbrand, Byron Lewis, Colin Moore, and Mariam Klait as Assistants. Included among the many lecturers were The Honorable Molly Williamson, former Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Secretary of Energy, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and State; Mr. Abed Ayoub, Legal Director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor for Oxford Analytica, Columnist for *The National*, and Alumnus of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Morris Arab World Journalism Program; H.E. Maen Rashid Areikat, Palestinian Ambassador to the U.S.; Mr. Bill Corcoran, President of American Near East Refugee Aid; Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir, Director of the Information Office at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Luyen Tran, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Office at the U.S. Department of the Treasury; Ms. Courtney C. Radsch, Senior Program Manager at Freedom House; H.E. Houda Ezra Ibrahim Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States of America; Mr. Laith Ulaby, Facilitator at Soliya; Mr. Aaron Snipe, Spokesperson and Deputy Director in the Bureau of Near East Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; Ambassador James Larocco, former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait and Current Director of the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the U.S.; Ms. Camille Elhassani, Senior Producer at Al Jazeera English; and Lieutenant Colonel Abbas Dahouk, Middle East Foreign Area Officer in the U.S. Army.

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

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



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



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

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

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



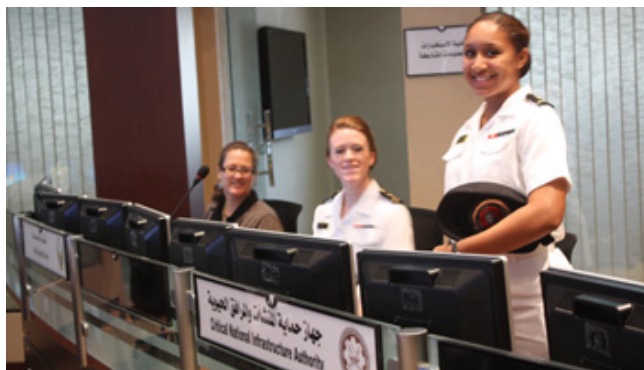
The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Military Academy at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.



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

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 May 11-20, 2012 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 members. 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.



Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy visit the UAE's Critical National Infrastructural Authority during a study visit sponsored by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.

Escorted by National Council Board Member Elizabeth Wossen and Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino, 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 UAE Naval Forces and Coast Guard Schools; the Abu Dhabi Media Company; the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC); Lockheed Martin; the Critical National Infrastructural Authority; Masdar (a pioneering "green" energy) City; Jebel Ali Port, the one shore facility frequented annually by U.S. Naval personnel more than any other outside the United States; the UAE National Crisis and Disasters Management Authority; and other sites and institutions. 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 U.S. Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin 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 and other educational activities.



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Naval Academy visited the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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

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 16-25, 2012 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the United States Air Force Academy (USNA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The

Academy's delegation was comprised of twelve Cadets and two faculty members. The visit provided the Cadets an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of UAE culture as well as the country's modernization and development.



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



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Air Force Academy visited the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Escorted by National Council Staff Members Josh Hilbrand and Maria Pantelis, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC); the UAE National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority; Masdar (a pioneering "green" energy) City; the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the National Media Council; and other sites and institutions. They also participated in academic workshops at ECSSR, met with officials from the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research, and were briefed by staff members at the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi. 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 and other educational activities.



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Air Force Academy toured Masdar City, a pioneering development that relies solely on solar energy and other renewable energy sources.



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

2012's 21st Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

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

On October 25-26, 2012, more than 1,250 people gathered in Washington, DC for the 21st 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. The theme of the Conference was “Arab-U.S. Relations Amidst Transition within Constancy: Implications for American and Arab Interests and Policies.” The Conference featured more than fifty speakers who analyzed, discussed, and debated issues of over-arching importance to the American and Arab people’s legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives.

The proceedings were covered by the representatives of more than six dozen print, broadcast, and satellite television media, including C-SPAN, allowing additional millions to benefit. Taking place amidst a period of unprecedented regional 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.

Individual speakers included current and former ambassadors from the United States and various Arab countries, key U.S. government officials, leading military officers, and representatives of several non-government organizations. Among them were many distinguished speakers from the Arab world, including: Dr. Abdel Aziz Abu Hamad Aluwaisheg (the Gulf Cooperation Council’s Assistant Secretary General for Negotiations and Strategic Dialogue), Dr. Adbulkhaleq Abdulla (Professor of Political Science, United Arab Emirates University), Dr. Abdullah K. Shayji (Chairman, Department of Political Science, Kuwait University), Mr. Jamal Kashoggi (General Manager and Editor in Chief, Al Arab News), and Mr. Abdullah Alshammari (Advisor, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Culture and Information).



(left to right) Mr. Danny Sebright, President of the U.S.-UAE Business Council, which sponsored the Conference’s Day 2 lunch; Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO of the National Council; and The Hon. Jose Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, a keynote speaker at the Conference.

Ambassador Chas Freeman Jr. opened the Conference with a keynote address on “Change Without Progress in the Middle East.” He challenged the audience to focus on how U.S. policies in the Middle East have affected America’s position in the region. Also delivering a keynote address, former Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal examined the challenges facing the Kingdom as it seeks to reconcile the seemingly contradictory forces of reform and development with the traditional governmental and political status quo.

Discussing the unprecedented growth of the aviation sector in the Arab world, Mr. Akbar Al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways, remarked on the continuing unique and

unparalleled success of Qatar Airways. Delivering remarks on the U.S.-Arab economic relationship, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez explained how the U.S. Department of State is promoting trade and investment in the Middle East and North Africa. Opening the Conference's second morning, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Smith spoke about the extensive commercial, defense, education, and governmental cooperation between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

The Conference notably featured remarks by two Arab ambassadors who are relatively new to Washington, DC. H.E Mohamed M. Tawfik delivered a luncheon keynote speech, his first public address as the recently appointed Ambassador of Egypt to the United States representing President Mohamed Morsi's government. H.E Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Chief Representative of the League of Arab States to the U.S., also delivered remarks on U.S.-Arab relations from the perspective of the Arab League.

Supplementary to the Conference's substantive sessions were book sales by the American Educational Trust, publisher of the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, as well as a display of paintings by refugee Iraqi artist Ahmad Alkharkhi. There were also two evening receptions hosted by H.E. Ambassador Hoda Ezra Noonoo of Bahrain and H.E. Ambassador Alia Hatoug-Bouran of Jordan at their respective embassies. During the reception at the Bahrain embassy, the National Council honored former Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud by presenting him with the Council's "Arab-U.S. Relations Lifetime Achievement Award."

In keeping with their inception in 1991, this year's National Council Annual Policymakers Conference comprised speakers presenting challenging and controversial views. Through its two-days of shared ideas, intense discussions and debate, and extensive networking, the Conference furthered the Council's educational mission of enhancing American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab and Islamic worlds. The Conference's entire transcripts and audio-recorded proceedings are available via the Council's website at ncusar.org.

Read, Watch, or Listen to the 2012 Policymakers Conference Proceedings



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

<http://ncusar.org/pubs/category/policymakers-conference/> as well as
<http://ncusar.org/auspc/2012>



MP3 audio podcasts of the conference are available through iTunes:

<http://bit.ly/itunes-ncusar>



Video of most Conference sessions is 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**



Dr. Mody AlKhalaf



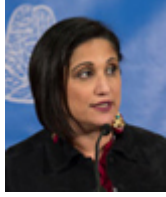
VADM Robert Harward



Dr. Judith Yaphe



**Dr. Abdel Aziz Abu
Hamad Aluwaisheg**



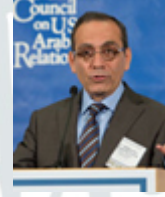
Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome



Mr. Jamal Khashoggi



Ms. Nadia Bilbassy



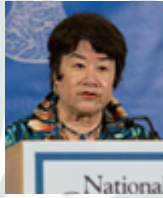
H.E. Mohamed M. Tawfik



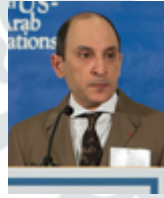
Dr. Tamara Sonn



Dr. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla



**The Hon.
Molly Williamson**



Mr. Akbar Al Baker



Ms. Mona Yacoubian



Ambassador James Smith



Ms. Barbara Ferguson



**H.E. Dr. Mohammed
Alhussaini Alsharif**



Ms. Hillary Mann Leverett



**The Hon.
Jose W. Fernandez**



Ms. Elizabeth Wossen



H.E. Ali Aujali



Ms. Alexis Arief



**H.E. Mohamed Bin Abdulla
Al-Rumaihi**



Dr. Sara Roy



Dr. Abdullah K. Al-Shayji



Mr. Danny Sebright



**Ambassador Clovis
Maksoud**



**H.E. Dr. Alia
Hatoug-Bouran**



H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo



**Ambassador (Ret.)
Chas Freeman**

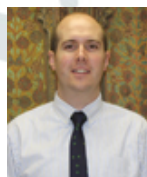
Policymakers Conference Secretariat:



**Dr. John Duke
Anthony**



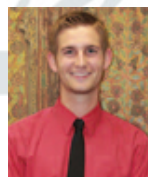
**Mr. Patrick
Mancino**



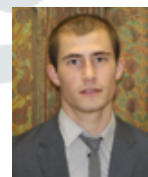
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**Ms. Megan
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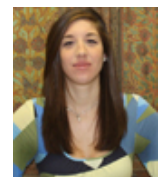
**Mr. Josh
Hilbrand**



**Mr. Byron
Lewis**



**Ms. Mariam
Klait**



**Ms. Maria
Pantelis**

2012 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Sponsors



National Council Honors Ambassador Clovis Maksoud with “Arab-U.S. Relations Lifetime Achievement Award”

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations periodically honors individuals whose achievements are phenomenal. In the Council's 29-year history, it has presented an award for excellence only half a dozen times. On the occasion of the 21st Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, the Council presented Ambassador Clovis Maksoud with an “Arab-U.S. Relations Lifetime Achievement Award.” Ambassador Maksoud was honored for his many contributions as an Ambassador, a journalist, an author, a visionary, a strategic thinker, and an educator. In all of these roles, Ambassador Maksoud personified what the Council has sought to achieve since its inception, namely enhancing American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Ambassador Maksoud is currently Professor of International Relations and Director of the Center for the Global South at American University in Washington, DC. He teaches classes on the Middle East, Global South issues, international organizations, and preventive diplomacy at both American University's School of International Service and Washington College of Law. Ambassador Maksoud is the author of several books on the Middle East and the Global South, including *The Meaning of Nonalignment*, *The Crisis of the Arab Left*, *Reflections on Afro-Asianism*, and *The Arab Image*.



Ambassador Clovis Maksoud (center) accepts his “Arab-U.S. Relations Lifetime Achievement Award” from Dr. John Duke Anthony (right) at a reception hosted by H.E. Ambassador Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo (left).

A Lebanese national, Ambassador Maksoud was the Chief Representative of the League of Arab States in India from 1961-1966. From 1967-1979, he served as Senior Editor of the daily *Al-Ahram* in Cairo, Egypt, and Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Nahar*, an Arabic-language weekly published in Beirut, Lebanon. Ambassador Maksoud was appointed the League of Arab States' Chief Representative to the United States and the United Nations on September 1, 1979. On August 15, 1990, he submitted his resignation from the League in the aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Ambassador Maksoud has contributed to the understanding of world affairs as a member of the United Nations Development Program Advisory Board on Arab Human Development Reports. These reports identified the five most glaring deficits the world had to -- and still has to -- overcome: creating opportunities for future generations (2002); building a knowledge society (2003); working towards freedom (2004); promoting the rise of women (2005); and addressing challenges to human security (2009).

Ambassador Maksoud played a seminal role in conceptualizing the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, known often by its acronym of CCAS. From that educational establishment literally hundreds of diplomats, national security specialists, and numerous other foreign affairs practitioners have graduated and gone on to serve their countries' interests in ways that involve the Arab world.

Ambassador Maksoud, together with Howard University's Dr. Michael Nwanze, was also a co-founder of the National Council's Model Arab League program. This program, now in its fourth decade, has graduated more than 35,000 young Americans, Arabs, and students of other nationalities. It is the Council's foremost leadership development program for the generation of American and Arab leaders of tomorrow.

A more extensive appreciation of Ambassador Clovis Maksoud by Dr. John Duke Anthony is available on the National Council's website: ncusar.org

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

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

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

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



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



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



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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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



Fifteenth century Fort Mirani in Muscat.



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



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

Intensive Arabic Language Study Abroad Programs

The National Council offers students study abroad opportunities, including intensive Arabic language programs, through partner institutions. During the Summer of 2012 the Council placed students in the following programs:

Eleven students studied at the **Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco (AALIM)** in historic Meknes. Students at AALIM take formal Modern Standard Arabic classes, complete out-of-the-classroom assignments, and may choose to take additional Moroccan *darija* dialect classes. Students gain direct personal experience in Moroccan culture, history, and society through a variety of day excursions, local outings, workshops, and demonstrations. Meknes is an ideal setting for students to focus on learning Arabic while exploring ancient and modern Morocco. The main AALIM center is located inside the traditional walled old city, called the Medina, and is just a short walk from the bustling town center in the New City.



Two students studied at the **AFKAR Academy at Yarmouk University** in the historic city of Irbid, Jordan. The AFKAR Academy program is especially designed for students seeking to further their proficiency in Arabic language and exposure to Arab culture. The program features in-class instruction along with extensive time spent with language partners in small groups. Irbid, which recent excavations reveal dates back to 2500 B.C., is rapidly growing into a modern city. The city is surrounded by numerous smaller towns and villages, creating a mosaic of different communities with a mix of urban and rural life-styles. In addition to language instruction, students visit historical sites, including Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba.



One student studied at the **Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC) at Lebanese American University** in Beirut. The SINARC program is situated in the heart of the Lebanese capital and provides students a unique perspective on Lebanese culture and daily life. Students take courses in the Arabic language at various levels of proficiency, with the formal language instruction enriched by immersion in an authentic cultural context. Cultural activities include weekly lectures on topics related to Arab and Lebanese politics, history, society, and culture as well as excursions to historical, cultural and tourist sites throughout Lebanon.



Students studying at the Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco visit the Roman ruins of Volubilis.



Students studying at the Arab-American Language Institute in Morocco in front of the Royal Palace Gates in Fez.

National Council Public Affairs Briefings

Afternoon Tea and A Conversation With Mrs. Cherie Blair

January 24, 2012

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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



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

The Gulf Cooperation Council at 31: Implications of Trends and Indications for GCC and US Interests

May 24, 2012

On May 24, 2012, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted **“The Gulf Cooperation Council at 31: Implications of Trends and Indications for GCC and US Interests”** at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, served as primary facilitator and moderator. Participating specialists were Dr. Odeh Aburdene, participant in international economic, business, and investment forums in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia; Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, former U.S. Department of Energy Associate Deputy Secretary; Mr.

Andrew Rabens, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Near East Affairs; Mr. Robert Sharp, U.S. Department of Defense’s Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; Ms. Molly Williamson, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Defense, former Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State, and former Senior Foreign Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy; and Mr. Joshua Yaphe, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

A transcript as well as audio and video recordings of the program are available on the National Council’s website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](#) and [YouTube](#).



The National Council’s “GCC at 31” briefing examined how the GCC has become the most successful Arab sub-regional inter-state organization in history and the members’ likely positions, roles, capacities, and key foreign policy objectives in the period ahead .



(Left to Right) Arabian and Gulf specialists Dr. Odeh Aburdene, Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, and Mr. Joshua Yaphe, Director, Arabian Peninsula Affairs, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State.



Ms. Molly Williamson, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and Middle East Institute Scholar in Residence, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Defense, Energy, and State.



(Left to Right) Mr. Andrew Rabens, U.S. Department of State, and Mr. Robert Sharp, National Defense University’s Near East South Asian Center for Strategic Studies.

Crisis Yemen: Going Where?

June 26, 2012

On June 26, 2012 the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted “**Crisis Yemen: Going Where?**” at the City Club of Washington, DC. The event was co-sponsored by the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of Defense/National Defense University. Participating specialists were Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Lecturer and Director, Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative,



“Crisis Yemen: Going Where?” briefing.

Princeton University, and former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen; Mr. Gregory Johnsen, Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University, author, *Waq al-waq* blog and *The Last Refuge: Yemen, al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia*, and former Fulbright and American Institute for Yemeni Studies Fellow in Yemen; Dr. Charles Schmitz, Associate Professor of Geography, Towson University, President, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, and former Fulbright and American Institute for Yemen Studies Fellow in Yemen; and Mr. Robert Sharp, Associate Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of Defense/National Defense University. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President & CEO, National Council

on U.S.-Arab Relations, former Fulbright Fellow in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and official observer for four of Yemen's presidential and parliamentary elections, served as primary facilitator and moderator.

Audio and video recordings from the program are available on the National Council's website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](#) and [YouTube](#).

Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa

September 6, 2012

On June 26, 2012 the National Council hosted “**Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa**” at the City Club of Washington, DC. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and Sidar Global Advisors.

Participating specialists were Mr. Carl Kress, Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Europe Region, U.S. Trade and Development Agency; Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, President, Fahmy Hudome International; Ms. Laura Lombard, Director, Business Development, Sidar Global Advisors; Mr. Steven Mayo, Business Development Officer, Project and Structured Finance, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Ms. Deborah McCarthy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Finance and Development, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Mr. Curtis Silvers, Executive Vice President, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President & CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; and Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its subcommittees on Sanctions and Trade and Investment, served as moderator.



“Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa” briefing.

Audio and video recordings from the program are available on the National Council's website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](#).

National Council President's Educational Services and Publications

National Council Founding President and Chief Executive Officer **Dr. John Duke Anthony** continues to serve as: (1) member of the U.S. Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy as well as its Subcommittee on Sanctions; (2) Lead Facilitator and Moderator of the Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Relations Policymakers Conference; (3) Chair of and lead lecturer in the Council's Annual University Student Summer Internship Program; (4) Dean's Chair in International Studies and Political Science at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, where he teaches the Institute's first-ever course on "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" to First (Senior) and Second (Junior) classmen.

Dr. Anthony's recent publications include:

- "The Future Significance of the Gulf Cooperation Council," in *Global Strategic Developments: A Futuristic Vision*, published by the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, available at www.ecssr.ac.ae and www.ncusar.org.
- "Saudi Arabian-U.S. Relations on the Kingdom's National Day: A Personal Perspective," published on the National Council's *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC* blog, available at www.ncusar.org.
- Entries on "Oman" and "Qatar" for Encyclopaedia Britannica's "Book of the Year 2013."



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

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

- National Council's 16th Annual Oman Cultural Immersion Program Pre-Departure Orientation Program in Washington, DC, February 2012;
- Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania Middle East and North Africa Business Conference "After the Storm: Finding Opportunity in the Post-Revolution Arab World," March 2012;
- American University's Delta Phi Epsilon International Society of Business and Foreign Affairs and the Muslim Student Association on "U.S.-Arab Relations," March 2012;
- National Council's National University and High School Model Arab Leagues at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, April 2012;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "Trade, Investment, Finance, and the Way Forward: A Conversation on U.S.-GCC Economic Relations with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative " at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (see pg. 8), April 2012;
- National Intelligence University on "Constancy and Change in American's Mideast Interests: Challenges for American Policies," April 2012;
- National Council's United States Military Academy at West Point and United States Naval Academy in Annapolis Pre-Departure Orientation Programs for cadet and midshipmen study visits to the UAE, March

and May 2012;

- U.S. Department of State's George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center Symposium on "Youth in the Arabian Peninsula," May 2012;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "Crisis Yemen: Going Where?" at the City Club of Washington, DC with Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Mr. Gregory Johnsen, Dr. Charles Schmitz, and Mr. Robert Sharp, June 2012;
- "America's Interests and Responses in Light of the Arab Spring" to the International Brotherhood of Masons at the Scottish Rite Center in Washington, DC, June 2012;
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing on "Infrastructure and Business Opportunities in North Africa" at the City Club of Washington, DC with Mr. Carl Kress, Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome, Ms. Laura Lombard, Director, Mr. Steven Mayo, Ms. Deborah McCarthy, and Mr. Curtis Silvers, September 2012; and
- Manama Human Rights Center Workshop Dialogue in Washington, DC, December 2012.

Dr. Anthony's additional educational activities included:

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

National Council Recognized Again For Exceptional Accountability and Fiscal Management

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



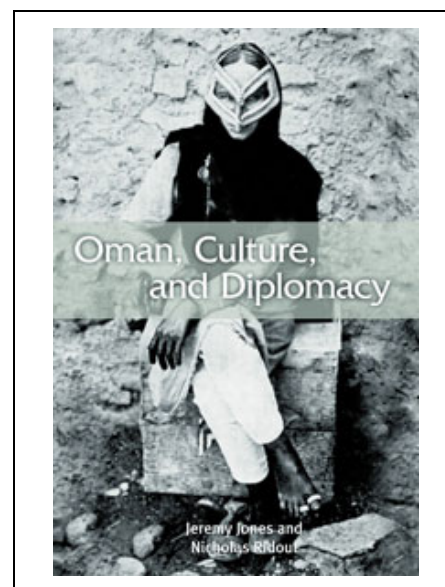
The National Council is also a member of the **BBB Wise Giving Alliance**, demonstrating that the Council meets all 20 of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB's organizational evaluation involves rigorous scrutiny of governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations, and informational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



Oman, Culture, and Diplomacy

By National Council Senior International Affairs Fellow Jeremy Jones

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



My Relationship with the Arab World

By John Mulholland

By whatever genetic twist that has been in play, I have always been interested in other people's cultures, countries, languages, and histories. At age ten a teacher remarked, "that's as far away as Yemen." I flattered myself that I knew every country on the globe but this was one I had obviously missed. I ran to the Atlas to fill the void. Although I found Yemen and its nearby countries of interest, I could hardly have imagined that, thirteen years later, I would dedicate most of my adult life to the Arab world and various aspects of the Arab-U.S. relationship.

At the age of seventeen, I was fortunate to spend over a year traveling around Mexico and Central America. The experience inspired me, for the first time, to learn a language and assimilate a culture. I joined the Army at eighteen years of age and was stationed in Livorno, Italy. At the time, I was a fanatical bicycle rider trying hard to be the first Lance Armstrong. After my Army stint I remained in Italy to race but finally realized, sadly, that I was not built to be a first rate professional rider. Even so, I gained another language and knowledge of another culture.

By chance, the headquarters for Middle East operations of the US Army Corps of Engineers was located at the Army base where I had served in Italy. They offered me a position in their Jeddah office running their high frequency communications. By then I had read everything I could find by the great mid-twentieth century traveler and explorer in the Arab world, Wilfred Thesiger, who stoked my romantic interest. I also read everything else I could find on the region. I already knew the general geography, a little history of Saudi Arabia and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but none of this prepared me for Beirut, where I landed in October, 1968 during what in retrospect was viewed by many as the city's golden age in the modern era. Nothing could have prepared me for the kaleidoscope of cultures, cuisines, and languages I found there, all picture postcard framed by the Mediterranean Sea in front and the terraced mountains behind. I said to myself, "If this is the Middle East, I'll take it."

Only a few days later I landed in Riyadh. If Beirut was filled with Western influences that I was familiar with, Riyadh was different. I was hardly put off, I was ecstatic. Now, after Latin America and Italy, I felt prepared to tackle another culture and language. I quickly found a superb classical Arabic teacher who within a month had taught me to write, basic grammar, and the beginnings of Gulf dialect. In those days, Riyadh was still a city constructed mainly of mud brick dwellings, with a road into the desert to the airport lined by Egyptian-built ministerial offices. On weekends and holidays, I used every spare minute to explore Riyadh, the central province of Najd, and also the Eastern Province, center of the country's massive energy reserves.

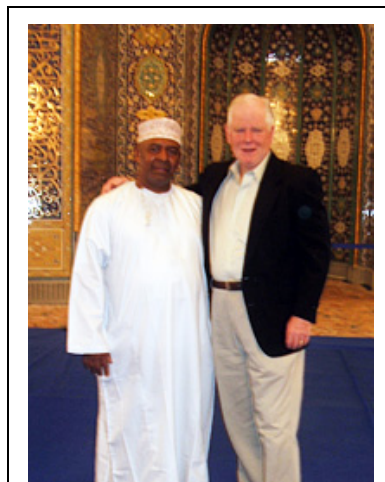
All too soon, I was moved to my permanent assignment in Jeddah. Even though Riyadh was the capital of the kingdom, all the embassies and most of the foreign companies were in Jeddah. (The Corps of Engineers was the first foreign concern allowed to be established in Riyadh). In Jeddah I was fortunate to find an office of only five people and was able to avoid having to live in a corporate compound. If Americans or any other foreigners wanted a social life, they had to go out and make it. I soon found that Jeddah offered incredible opportunities. Many of our government's best diplomats and Arabists served in the US Embassy in Jeddah in the 1960s and 70s. People like Hermann Eilts, Ray Close, Charles Cecil, Bill Stoltzfus, and, to my mind and many others, the most remarkable of them all, Hume Horan, who would become a lifelong friend and mentor, were stationed there.



*Mr. John Mulholland,
Chairman of the Board of
Directors, National Council on
U.S.-Arab Relations*

My neighbor was Sultan Ghalib al-Qa'iti, the then recently exiled Sultan of Qa'iti State, one of the numerous former British-administered protectorates of the Hadramaut, that eastern region of what until November 1967 was long known as the Eastern Aden Protectorate that, upon the transfer from colonial sovereignty to national independence, would become part of the People's Republic of South Yemen (1967-1969) and its successor, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (1969-1990). (His remarkable wife, Sultana (her real name), is a sister of the renowned Pakistani journalist, Ahmed Rashid). Through Sultan Ghalib, I got to know members of most of the rest of the exiled ruling families from South Arabia and was introduced to their remarkable and fascinating sub-culture. Through Sudani friends I was introduced to groups from various parts of the Sudan and, in particular, citizens of the northern city and area called Dongola.

In short order, I became a squash player. Anyone who knows the game will not be surprised that this sport afforded me a unique window into Pakistani society and culture. My friends and I also had an organized



John Mulholland (right) with the Council's Annual Oman Cultural Immersion study visit guide (left) at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat.

running group (to which we invited the Saudi national track team). Through this group I developed a wider range of friendships from Indonesia to Tanzania, all connected by a common Hadrami heritage. The point is that Jeddah, having been both the entrance to the Hajj for fourteen centuries and home to most of the country's foreigners, offered an incredibly rich cultural environment. Where else in the Arab world could one become familiar with half a dozen Arabic dialects in one location?

If that weren't enough, what about Jeddah being host to some of the best diving in the world in the Red Sea? Or what of the unique opportunity to participate in an economic and commercial gold rush of a magnitude that the region had never seen before? At one time there were 200 ships backed up in the Port of Jeddah to unload and some were unloaded by helicopter.

When I left Italy I had left my Italian girlfriend behind. For the next two years I used up every spare penny I had commuting to Italy. Finally we decided there was only one option besides bankruptcy: get married. Marriage for a foreigner in Italy is the Mt. Everest of all bureaucracies. It would have taken at least a couple of years to fulfill all the requirements. I discovered that since there was only one law in the Kingdom, Islamic religious law (Shariah), that

it therefore applies to all, Muslim and non-Muslim alike. Yes, we could get married in Saudi Arabia. Mercifully the documentation requirement was minimal. We had a civil wedding which consisted of an interview through an interpreter by a local Islamic judge (qadi). The process went smoothly enough until the very end when the judge advised the bride not to kiss the groom in respect of the local culture. Gabriella politely obeyed. However we had about eight, all male, friends with us. She hugged and kissed them all. I tried to intervene but her response was, "the judge told me I couldn't kiss you but said nothing about the others." I think the old fellow (a very nice and kind gentleman) is still shaking his head. The moral of the story is obviously that you can take the Italian out of Italy but you can't take Italy out of an Italian.

During her two decades of residency in the Kingdom Gabriella carved out her own unique life. In, fact, for my years, in certain circles, I was often introduced, simply, as Gabriella's husband. She opened her own boutique representing a famous Italian dress designer. With seven models she traveled Saudi Arabia putting on fashion programs for mainly Saudi ladies. These were done with a runway, flashing lights, synchronized music, and as many as 500 people in attendance. Who says life for ladies in the Kingdom has to be terribly restricted?

While living in Riyadh the Italian Embassy (then in Jeddah with no presence in Riyadh) asked Gabriella to follow up an Italian engineer who was being held in jail to force his Italian employer to return to the country to make good on the bills he owed. She worked closely with the Italian authorities, the Saudi authorities, and

Rafik Hariri (yes, the same man who would later become the Prime Minister of Lebanon and be tragically assassinated on Beirut's Corniche) to finally resolve this situation. In the process she assisted many others being held without judgment as to their individual cases. The upshot of her efforts was to be recognized by the Italian government with the title of "Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana," Italy's equivalent of knighthood and its highest civilian award. I couldn't be prouder.

I returned to the United States during 1978-9 to obtain a long-missing Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. In 1979 I returned to the Kingdom to start my own firm with a Saudi Arabian partner. Because I spoke halfway decent Arabic and had lived in the Kingdom for eight years, I thought I knew Saudi Arabia. Big mistake. Few people really know the kingdom unless they have been an entrepreneur, especially a small one. It is one thing to work for a firm filling some specific role. It's quite another to have to get to know the government entities for company registration, postal service, port clearance, commercial adjudication, and other requirements for operating a business in the country. Sales are always tough, but collections are a chapter unto themselves.

My company was small but we had customers in eleven cities throughout the kingdom. This gave me the opportunity to know the country in a way that few can. Saudi Arabia, on first impact, can appear to be a dry and sterile place. However, my travels introduced me to a variety of life that one can hardly imagine. When I asked a date farmer in Hofuf how many hectares (roughly two and a half acres) were covered by his date farm, his answer was, "I don't know but I have between 2-3 million trees." Many know of the famous Nabatean archaeological treasure in Jordan, Petra (overcarved by the Roman motifs of Trajan's armies) and those in Syria, but how many know of the incredible Nabatean ruins at Mada'in Saleh? We think of the kingdom as one vast desert, and most of it is, but it is hard to believe that when visiting the terraced mountains of the Asir in the country's southwest. Hail, a six-hour drive north of Riyadh, is called the "Pearl of the North," and when you visit it you will know why.



H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States, (left) and John Mulholland (right) at the Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.

Now that I was a businessman, I joined the American Business Association in Jeddah (ABJ). I quickly headed up the Issues Committee, which was an education in U.S.-Saudi Arabian relations. I developed a specialty in trade, tax, and arms sales issues, and was soon leading delegations to Washington, initially under the wing of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to represent our issues to members of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the U.S. government. These visits to Washington were called "Doorknocks" and eventually involved all the U.S. business associations throughout the Gulf region. In time, we learned which Members of Congress and congressional staff to visit on which issues.

In this process it was inevitable that we would become involved in policy-related issues related to America's relations with the Arab world. In 1987-88 I was elected President of the ABJ. We were assisted by several groups but none more than the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. In turn, we were only too happy to reciprocate the Council's support in Washington by offering the same assistance and hospitality for its visiting delegations of American leaders to the kingdom. How many people know that the Council, assisted by the various groups of American business representatives in the Kingdom, played a key role in influencing the views of prominent members of Congress together with innumerable Chiefs of Staff, state governors, and many more. We also became involved in visits for American professors to the kingdom's universities.

These activities allowed me to enter into diplomatic and commercial circles that I would never have been able

to access otherwise. Here I refer to diplomatic briefings at the ambassador level, introduction to the highest levels of the kingdom's commercial associations and major companies, meetings with key members of the ruling Al Sa'ud family, and an introduction to Saudi Arabia's intellectual society. It was an extraordinary experience and education.

Thinking I should formally acquire additional education on the region, I was accepted in 1999 into Georgetown's MAAS (Master of Arts in Arab Studies program) from which I graduated with a Master's Degree in Arab History in 2001.

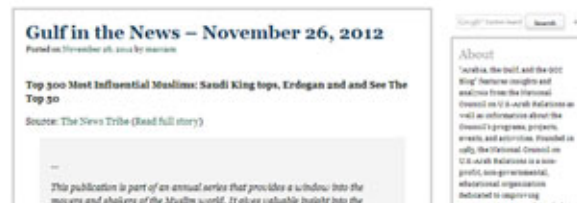
I have always maintained close ties to the National Council over the years and couldn't have been more honored than when I was invited to join its Board of Directors in 2009. Since then I have assisted with the Council's Atlanta High School Model Arab League, co-escorted representatives of the U.S. Central Command (selected by Commanding General David H. Petraeus) to participate in a cultural immersion course in Oman, and supported the Council in any way possible.

My commitment to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is influenced by the high esteem I hold for its Founding President and CEO, Dr. John Duke Anthony, and other key members of the organization. The overarching reason, however, is that, after all my years in the Arab region, I remain appalled by the abyss of understanding between our two worlds and committed to do whatever I can to help close this vital gap. In spite of the long road still in front of us, I know of no group that comes within miles of educating America on the Arab world as much as the Council and I couldn't be prouder of my association with it.

Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC Blog ncusar.org/blog

In May 2012, the National Council launched the *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC* weblog ("blog") at <http://ncusar.org/blog>. The blog features insights and analysis from the Council as well as information about the Council's programs, projects, events, and activities. Some widely-read articles from the past year include:

- ["A Window onto the Gulf Cooperation Council, Together With a View Regarding Its Involvement Of Late With Yemen"](#) – Remarks by H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary General of the GCC, to the Gulf Research Center's Third Annual Gulf Research Meeting, with introduction by Dr. John Duke Anthony.
- ["Saudi Arabia's Energy Crisis"](#) – By National Council Senior International Affairs Fellow Robert Lebling.
- [John Duke Anthony on "U.S.-Arab Relations"](#) – Remarks by Dr. Anthony to American University's Delta Phi Epsilon International Society of Business and Foreign Affairs, and Muslim Student Association.
- [Dr. Odeh Aburdene on "GCC Economic Issues"](#) – Transcribed, Edited, and Revised Remarks by Dr. Aburdene made at the National Council's Capital Briefing on "The GCC at 31."
- [GCC Trade Facts & Figures Infograph](#)
- ['HOW' Questions for the 2012 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference](#) – from Dr. John Duke Anthony.
- [Gulf in the News feature](#) – Thrice-weekly roundup of news stories involving the Gulf.



Thank You to the Individual Supporters of the National Council in 2012

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:

Odeh Aburdene	Mary Arnold <i>In Honor of Mario Pascale</i>	Radi Barkett
Denise Schmandt Besserat	David Boersema	David & Leslie Bosch
Manal Bougazzoul	Mary Elizabeth Bridegam	J. Vincent Buck
Bruce Byers	Charles Coate	Frances D. Cook
Judith Copenhaver - <i>In memory of Constance Smith, Nancy Smith Ennis</i>	Lois Critchfield	Jacob & Carole Dorn
Robert Dry	Ned Farman	Joseph Frazier
Linda Pappas Funsch	Janice Gams	Safar Ghazal
Raymond Jallow	Les Janka <i>In Honor of Peter Gubser</i>	Robert Jenkins
Mark Johnson	Raclare Kanal	Charles Kennedy <i>In Honor of Muhammad Abdul Rauf</i>
J.R. Leguey-Feilleux	Robert Lilac	Gregory Mahler
Margaret Mahoney	Ernest McCarus	T.A. Mac McKernan
Robert Mertz	John & Gabriella Mulholland	John C. Murphy
Mario Pascale	Susan Peters	Greta Polo
Bouchaib Rabbani	Albert Randall	Mysoon Rizk <i>In memory of Samir Habib Rizk</i>
Nancy Rocker	Julie Kyllonen Rose	Kevin Rosser
Victoria M. Sheffield <i>In Honor of Cynthia Anthony</i>	John Spadafora <i>In Honor of John Duke Anthony</i>	Joseph Stanik
Ron Stockton	William Strong	Paul Sullivan
Mahmud Thamer	Gerald B Thompson	John B. Thompson
Robert Troxler	Boyd Wilson	Thomas Wolf
Abe Zeitoun		

Financial Information

Data is for the most recent year available - Fiscal Year Ending 08 / 31 / 2011

Revenue

Primary Revenue	\$1,306,764
Other Revenue	\$82,912
Total Revenue	\$1,389,676

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$1,027,023
Model Arab League - \$362,817	
Malone Fellowship Program - \$194,236	
Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference - \$169,686	
Summer Intern Program - \$226,484	
Congressional Briefings - \$73,800	
Administrative Expenses	\$123,274
Fundraising Expenses	\$34,806
Total Functional Expenses	\$1,185,103
Excess for the fiscal year	\$204,573
End of Fiscal Year Net Assets	\$2,383,866

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

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

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National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

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

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

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