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

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

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

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

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

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

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Model Arab League
Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2010-2011 marked the 28th year of the National Council's flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, the Model Arab League (MAL). The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations. The difference between the two is that the MAL focuses only on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Models provide primarily American but also Arab and other international students' opportunities to work together for common goals and shared interests as well as learn firsthand what it is like to put themselves in the foreign policy shoes of real-life Arab diplomats and other foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, the students come to realize unavoidably and inevitably how different these realities are in comparison to what they previously thought and assumed based on what they had read and "learned" or not read, "not learned" and therefore not known before. Grappling with the international challenges of representing the needs, concerns, interests, and foreign policy objectives of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious merit. In the process, students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. In addition, they develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate, thereby honing and refining leadership attributes that for many are often unavailable or are difficult to acquire in the course of reading a book, viewing films, videos or television, listening to a specialist, participating in academic classes, attending briefings, or accessing blogs and the Internet.

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

The Models enhance students' abilities to debate Arab national and regional defense, economic, political, social, and related issues of the Arab countries they elect to represent. Using parliamentary procedure, the students wrangle with one another over matters pertaining to the proper course of concerted action with regard to such weighty matters as Palestinian affairs, human rights, justice, and the environment. As in real life public policy debates, participants have no choice but to learn how to advocate their positions with facts, command of language, clear expression, and the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, force of argument, and erudition they can muster in support of their position. What is more, the student participants have no option but to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements and processes, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order and depending on the issue and procedural dynamics in play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are tasked with limiting the authorized debates to variants of thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or a maximum of five minutes.
There's no mistaking either the rarity or the value of such an enterprise. Arguably few American students and other young adults receive or have received as comprehensive a level of training and firsthand experience as this in practicing and mastering what it takes to become proficient in public affairs leadership abilities. The more than 2,000 students that annually participate in the National Council's 14 Annual Model Arab Leagues held in 11 cities throughout the United States are unique in more than number and nature. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers, the students are eager to prove to themselves, their families, and their teachers that they are worth every penny of the investment in their education. To that end there is no way around their having to study hard and conduct serious research in advance of the Models.

![Outstanding delegates at the National Council's University of Arkansas at Little Rock's High School Model Arab League with conference organizer Dr. Jacek Lubecki (center).](image1)

![Delegates vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Economic Affairs at the National Council's High School Model at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.](image2)

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

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask whether it is the case that, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer is yes. The reason has to do with popular demand. That is, what typically happens at the end of some Models is that most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue. As powerful and welcome a validation of a given Models' value as this is, there is another side to the coin. It is that, with veteran Model Arab League student participants immediately rushing to reserve space for their participation in the following year's Model the result is that there is little if any room for new universities that would like to participate. Indeed, students newly aware of such opportunities and who want to participate would be unable to do so were new Models not established to accommodate the growing number of applicants. It is in this way that the early 1980s original number of slightly more than 100 participants has grown twenty-fold to more than 2,000 per year and continues to increase.

Beyond the proven leadership development achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience, an additional incentive in recent years is student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of other benefits for which Model alumni become eligible. Indeed, participation in the Models has become a gateway for Model delegates winning National Council fellowships granting them entry into, first, the Council's Annual University and High School Student Summer Internship Program (SIP) in the nation's capital and, second, the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

In the past year, a record 63 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a direct result of their participation in the Models, coveted educational fellowships or grants of one kind or another. Acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of each of these awards has enabled the students to strengthen their Arab-U.S. leadership skills in preparation for careers in international affairs and service in their country's public and private sectors.
In the Council's most-recently concluded ten-week summer internship program that combined professional work experience in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf, 12 of the 32 interns were Model Alumni. In the Council's first all-women two-week study visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this year, all 12 of the participants were Model Arab League Alumnae. In addition, (1) an all-Model Arab League 12-person male delegation participated in a similar two-week cultural immersion program in the kingdom a few months earlier; (2) three Council 2011 Model Arab League participants have just completed an all-expenses paid six-week Arabic language fellowship, complete with home stays, in Oman; (3) two dozen female and male cadets and midshipmen from the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy participated in separate Council two-week cultural immersion programs in the UAE in partnership with the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research; and (4) preparations are presently underway to escort an additional two dozen Model Arab League participants to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates this fall.

The National Council's Network for Model Preparation and Participation

In preparation for participating in a Model, all the students are able to benefit from assistance provided by the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. For example, each of the participants is able to obtain additional assistance by accessing the Council's Model Arab League staff, all of whom are alumni of this program. Many also gain from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Model Arab League Program. Still others are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities where alumni of the Council's Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program are resident. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is that 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.
Speakers at the Opening Session of the 2011 National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University included (L to R) Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief for Al Jazeera, the Arab world’s most widely viewed Arab satellite television station; Mr. Frank Anderson, President of the Middle East Policy Council and former CIA Director for Afghanistan; and Mr. Sameh Alfonse, Director of Congressional and Media Affairs at the Arab League Mission in Washington, DC.

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

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

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

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

Students work to draft an amendment to a resolution at the Ohio Valley Model Arab League.
From November 2010 through April 2011, the National Council sponsored and administered 14 Model Arab Leagues in 11 U.S. cities for over 2,000 students in over 100 American secondary schools and universities. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Washington, DC at Georgetown University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston; La Verne, California at the University of La Verne; and Missoula, Montana at the University of Montana. High School Models were conducted in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas, and Washington, DC at Georgetown University.

The National Council's Model Arab League Program helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs activists. The skill sets practiced and acquired in the course of the Models are ones designed to serve the students well regardless of the career or profession they may elect to pursue. As MAL Program Coordinator Megan Geissler noted, "We're providing future diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and the coming generation's educators as well as humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers the experience of being in the shoes of and having to deal with someone they might not ever understand or be able to deal with effectively otherwise."
Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with HRH Abdalaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa’ud, Chairman of the Arab Open University, at the National Council's National University Model Arab League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Council, in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), organized and escorted a delegation of ten female Model Arab League students on a cultural immersion study visit to Saudi Arabia, December 30, 2010 to January 12, 2011. The visit provided the young American leaders a hands-on experience in the Arab world that few others their age have had.

In the 2010-2011 academic year, nearly 28,000 Saudi Arabian students, forty percent of them females, were enrolled in American universities across the United States. Accompanying them were more than 40,000 spouses and dependents. In marked contrast, fewer than fifty American students in U.S. institutions of higher education were among those privileged over the same period of time in having a firsthand educational experience in Saudi Arabia.

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

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

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

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

A Conversation about Energy with
former Shell Oil Company President John Hofmeister
May 13, 2011

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

Symposium on U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya Sanctions
May 26, 2011

On May 26, 2011, in partnership with Miller & Chevalier, the National Council hosted a "Symposium on U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya Sanctions" with Mr. Larry Christensen, a Member of Miller & Chevalier. Mr. Christensen served in the U.S. Department of Commerce for eleven years in the Office of Chief Counsel of Export Administration and as Director of the Regulatory Policy Division. He is an expert in sanctions regimes and export controls. The program, held at Miller & Chevalier's Washington, DC office, was designed to benefit a broad range of people engaged in business and policy, including international business managers, chief compliance and risk officers, financial managers, sovereign wealth fund managers and advisers, country managers doing business in the Middle East, and mergers and acquisition counselors and advisers. Mr. Christensen offered a practical, in-depth look at U.S.-Iran and U.S.-Libya sanctions, discussing the enforcement landscape, the impact on non-U.S. corporations, and pitfalls for U.S. employees and directors of non-U.S. firms as well as the banking pitfalls posed by the latest of these sanctions regimes.
On June 29, 2011, the National Council hosted "A Conversation with The Right Honourable Tony Blair" in The Rotunda Ballroom at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Blair, former British Prime Minister and ongoing Quartet (European Union, Russia, United Nations, and United States) Representative to the Middle East, was introduced and joined for questions by His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States and Advisor at the Royal Court. Dr. Anthony served as host and moderator.

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

Pictures from the program are available on the National Council's website: ncusar.org, and on the Council's Facebook page: facebook.com/ncusar.
National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Model Arab League Faculty Visit to Morocco

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

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

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

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

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

Malone Fellows at the Royal Palace Gates in Fez.

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

Hassan Tower in Rabat.

The Mausoleum of Mohammed V in Rabat.

The Minaret of the Bou Inania Medersa in Fez.
National Council President's Educational Services and Publications

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

June 2011 publication:


Dr. Anthony also addressed or provided a briefing for the membership and supporters of the following organizations in June and July 2011:

- National Council's Annual Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program, eight lectures with an academic focus on "Arabia and the Gulf," at the George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs;
- Washington, DC World Affairs Council's Annual Summer Teacher Training Institute on "The Arab Spring' and The Dynamics of American Interests: Implications for U.S. Policies;"
- National Council's Public Affairs Briefing "A Conversation with The Right Honourable Tony Blair" at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC with Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir and The Right Honourable Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister and presently Special Envoy for the Middle East of the Quartet -- The European Union, Russia, the United Nations, and the United States; and
- Participated in the "Workshop on Yemen" at the Second Annual Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge (UK), organized by the Gulf Research Center.

Gulf Times Features National Council's Expanding Programs

Gulf Times spotlighted the National Council's programs on the front page of its July 3, 2011 issue. Council Vice President Amy Greenlee was featured in an interview with the Times, Qatar’s leading English daily newspaper, about the Council’s efforts to expand its educational opportunities, including the Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program and the Council's Annual University Summer Student Internship Program.
Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Please Make an Annual, Quarterly, Monthly or One-Time Tax-Deductible Donation*

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

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

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Mr. John Moore; also: Director, Aramco Services Company, Washington, DC, and member of the boards of directors of the Middle East Institute and the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

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Assistant, Model Arab League Program -- Mr. Josh Hilbrand; also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program;

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