

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

Vol. 7, No. 3 (2013) – Special Internship Program Issue

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the 22nd edition of the *Council Chronicle*. The Council's periodic newsletter seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports on the Council's programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at ncusar.org.

Message from the President

Reduced to a phrase, the National Council's mission is as follows: "education, training, and leadership development." In response to the question, "For what?," the answer is:



The National Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program provides students with an energizing and demanding mix of professional involvement, intellectual challenge, and career and cultural exploration.

To strengthen and expand the Arab-U.S. relationship;

To increase Americans' knowledge and understanding of Arab culture, society, economics, political dynamics, and the growing strategic positions, roles, and importance of the Arab world in regional and global affairs;

To enhance American awareness of the extraordinary mutuality of benefit derived from the ever-growing interdependency between our two peoples and our respective legitimate needs, concerns, interests, aspirations, and key foreign policy objectives; and

To achieve such goals not through theories but practice.

Mindful of these aims, the following pages illustrate the progress the Council and its supporters believe we have been making toward accomplishing these goals.

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



Picture: March 2013

Table Of Contents

Message from the President1
Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program4
Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.....7
National Council Leadership & Staff.....8

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

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. It endeavors to do this through leadership development. In one effort alone, the Council’s Model Arab League Program, there are more than 30,000 alumni. The annual number of participants averages 2,200. The yearly venues in which the Models occur span thirteen cities spread across the United States. It speaks volumes that *every single Council employee is a graduate of this program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the Arab-U.S. relationship.

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

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

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



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations website



Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC Blog



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

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

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



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



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



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud



Ambassador Barbara Bodine

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

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

Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program: May - August 2013

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program, highlighted recently in *Council Chronicle* Vol. 7, No. 1, 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 2013 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 2013 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 GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

The George Washington University and The Elliott School of International Affairs allowed for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2013 Summer Internship Program.

The program, which lasted from June 3 – August 9, 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 The Islamic Center of Washington, a mosque and Islamic cultural center on Embassy Row.



Council Internship Program participants visited the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to meet with and be briefed by 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, on one hand, to the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, and their foreign relations, 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 America's most important government institutions.



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.



National Council Internship Program participants joined other students working and studying in Washington, DC over the summer in a one-day Summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.

Administering the 2013 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, Maria Pantelis, and Mariam Klait as Assistants. Included among the many lecturers and specialists were Dr. Tom Mattair, Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council; Mr. Kevin Gundersen, Senior Professional Staff Member at Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security; Mr. Joshua Yaphe, The Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR)/Office of Analysis for Near East and South Asia, Arabian Peninsula, U.S. Department of State; Mr. Bill Corcoran, President, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA); H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif, Chief Representative of the League of Arab States to the United States; Mr. Raed Jarrar, Communications Director at American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Dr. Nancy Okail, Director of Freedom House's Egypt Program; Ambassador Ron Neumann, President, American Academy of Diplomacy; Col. David Des Roches, Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University; Ms. Randa Fahmy-Hudome, Member of the National Council's Board of Directors and General Counsel for the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance; Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor on Global Geo-Political Risk, Oxford Analytica; Ms. Linda Pappas Funsch, Adjunct Professor, Hood College and Frederick Community College; and Ambassador Patrick Theros, President and Executive Director of the US-Qatar Business Council.

Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Please Make an Annual, Quarterly, Monthly, or One-Time Tax-Deductible Donation**

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

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

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Founding President & Chief Executive Officer

Dr. John Duke Anthony; see below.

National Council Management and Staff

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

Executive Vice President and Director of Development -- Mr. Patrick A. Mancino; also: former Assistant to the President and Director of Development, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and former Legislative Assistant, House of Representatives, United States Congress;

Director of Student Programs -- Ms. Megan Geissler; also: Alumna, Model Arab League Program;

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

Director of Communications -- Mr. Mark Morozink; also: Alumnus and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program; and

Deputy Director of Communications -- Ms. Laura Tucker; also: Alumna, Washington, DC Internship Program.

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Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; also: Knighted by Moroccan King Muhammad VI with the Order of *Quissam Alouite*, Morocco's highest award for excellence; Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment; Adjunct Associate Professor, U.S. Department of Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management (1974 – present); Dean's Visiting Chair in International Studies and Political Science, teaching "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia (2012); and former Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Edmund G. Walsh's Graduate School (2006-2011);

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Mr. Oliver Zandona; also: former Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, ExxonMobil Iraq and Manager, Middle East and North Africa, International Government Relations, ExxonMobil.

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