



# Council Chronicle

## 2008: Vol. 2, No. 1 (Winter)

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the third edition of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's supporters informed and updated by presenting news and special reports on 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 means it utilizes to pursue both, a statement to this effect appears at the end of this issue as well as on the Council's Web site at [www.ncusar.org](http://www.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. 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 from its relations with 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. 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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# National Council Silver Anniversary 1983 - 2008



2008 marks the Silver Anniversary of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. Established in 1983 under the leadership of Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, this year marks a quarter century of the Council educating Americans about the Arab world. Through its educational programs, events, and activities, the Council has worked to place the relationship between the United States and its Arab friends on a solid foundation, one that is peaceful, enduring, and mutually beneficial.



*A delegation of the National Council's Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies, comprised of American university educators, business representatives, and U.S. CENTCOM officers, sails on a traditional Arab dhow through the Hormuz Strait, the world's most strategically vital waterway, during the Council's Annual Cultural Immersion Study Visit in Oman*



*Dr. John Duke Anthony with Malone Faculty Fellow Linda Pappas Funsch, of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and one of her Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development students.*

# Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program 2007-2008 Academic Year

2007-08 marked the 25th Anniversary 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 Model United Nations but focus instead on the League of Arab States, the world's oldest regional political organization, comprised of all 22 Arab states. Established in February 1945, the League pre-dates the founding of the United Nations. The Models provide American students opportunities to put themselves in the foreign policy shoes of real-life Arab diplomats and foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, they unavoidably and inevitably come to realize 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 and “not learned” before. Grappling with the international challenges of representing someone from a country other than their own, students learn about the Arab world and its peoples in ways that would not be possible through academic courses, lectures, films, videos, briefings, blogs, or the Internet.

The Models enable students to acquire and practice vital leadership skills that cannot be gained from reading a book, watching television, or listening to a specialist. Students debate Arab national and regional defense, economic, political, social, and related issues along with matters pertaining to Palestinian affairs, human rights, justice, and the environment. As in real life public affairs debate, participants have no choice but to learn how to advocate their positions 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 dynamic in play, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers), limit the respective debates to one minute, three minutes, and, at maximum, five minutes.

Few Americans have received comprehensive training or firsthand experience in practicing and mastering such public affairs leadership skills. One obviously has to study and conduct research to prepare for the Models. Numerous participants in the Models benefit from assistance provided by faculty advisers the National Council has taken to the Arab world or others within the Council's network of supporters and volunteers. The time limitations placed on speaking for or in opposition to a measure being considered mirror those employed in the debate of public policy issues anywhere. The skill sets practiced and acquired in the course of debate are ones that will serve the students well regardless of the eventual career they elect to pursue.



*Students vote on a resolution during the Summit Session of the 2008 National University Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Youth Leadership Development Program in Washington, D.C., one of 13 administered by the National Council for 2,000 students and 220 faculty advisers yearly in 11 cities throughout the United States*



*Students representing Libya prepare a resolution for consideration in the Environmental Council at the 2008 Atlanta, Georgia High School Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Leadership Development Program. This Model, long headed by National Council Malone Fellow Alumna Louisa Moffit, involves the participation of 22 secondary schools in the Greater Atlanta Metropolitan Area.*



From November 2007 through April 2008, the National Council sponsored and administered 13 Model Arab Leagues in 11 U.S. cities for 2,000 students in 200 high schools and universities. University Models were held in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Denver, Colorado at Metropolitan State College; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Washington, D.C. at the Hilton Washington Hotel; Houston, Texas at the University of St. Thomas; Fort Worth, Texas at Texas Wesleyan University; Claremont, California at Pomona College; and Missoula, Montana at the University of Montana. High School Models were held in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University; and Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University.



*During the National University Model in Washington, D.C. most students have the opportunity to visit and be briefed by diplomats at the embassy of the country they are representing. Pictured here are (L) students from Northeastern University at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt and (R) students from the University of Utah at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia.*

In April 2008, the National Council, in partnership with the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce ([www.bilateralchamber.org](http://www.bilateralchamber.org)), held the inaugural Bilateral Model Arab League in Houston, Texas at the University of St. Thomas. This was the first Model to be held in Houston. As a result of its success, the Council and the Bilateral Chamber will administer two Models in Houston in 2009. The additional Model will be for Houston's secondary school students.



*Students tally votes on a motion at the 2008 Michigan Model Arab League at Grand Valley State University, near Grand Rapids, Michigan*



*A student casts his delegation's vote during the Summit Session of the National University Model in Washington, D.C.*



*An award-winning United States Military Academy Cadet with Dr. Anthony at the National University Model*

The National Council sponsored and administered the 2008 National University Model Arab League at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. March 28-30. The 308 student participants in this year's National Model surpassed the record of any other Model in the 25-year history of the program. Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief of *Al-Jazeera International*, delivered the Keynote Address, and *Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel*, the most widely viewed television channel in the Arab world, covered the proceedings. Receiving "Outstanding Delegation" awards were Kennesaw State University (Atlanta, Georgia), representing the United Arab Emirates; the University of California, Santa Barbara, representing Palestine; Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts), representing Kuwait; Converse College (Spartanburg, South Carolina), representing Syria; and the United States Military Academy (West Point, New York), representing Iraq.



*Al-Jazeera International* Washington Bureau Chief Dr. Abderrahim Foukara delivers the Keynote Address to the 2008 National University Model Arab League at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. The 2008 Model featured 308 student participants advised by 25 faculty members from 22 schools across the United States plus Egypt (The American University in Cairo). During the three-day summit the students convened in specialized councils to debate, discuss, and attempt to pass resolutions for action on issues of importance to the Arab world. One can read and download a copy of Dr. Foukara's remarks by accessing the Council's Web site [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).



*A student delegate delivers a speech in the Council on Palestinian Affairs at the Northeast University Model in Boston, Massachusetts*



*Delegates representing Bahrain discuss the merits of a resolution in the Council on Social Affairs at the Atlanta, Georgia High School Model Arab League at The Marist School*



*Delegates, including former Council intern Robert Lyons (middle R), draft a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs at the National Model in Washington, D.C.*





*Students cast their votes on resolutions during a Model Summit Session - the National Council sponsored and administered 13 Models during the 2007-08 school year in 11 U.S. cities*



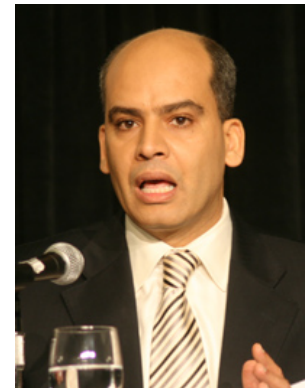
*During the National Model, 25 faculty advisers, many of whom are alumni of the Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program, gather for a group picture*



*Ms. Laila Al-Qatami, Communications Director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and member of the National Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), delivers the Keynote Address at the 2008 Michigan Model Arab League*



*Dr. James Winship, Vice President for Programs at the National Council, addresses the National University Model in Washington, D.C.*



*Dr. Abderrahim Foukara gave the Keynote Address at the 2008 National Model Arab League, the largest in the program's 25-year history*



*ABOVE: Students from Converse College, advised by National Council Malone Fellow Dr. Joe Dunn (not pictured), with Dr. Anthony after receiving "Outstanding Delegate" awards at the 2008 National Model Arab League*

*LEFT: Cover of the latest issue of Dr. Dunn's Carolinias Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations NEWSLINES newsletter featuring an article by Model Arab League participant Sarah Walters about her experience studying Arabic in Yemen*

# Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program

## Annual Cultural Immersion Study Visit to Oman

This past winter and spring the National Council organized and administered separate study visits to the Arab world, to Oman and Yemen as part of its Malone Fellowship Program. These raised to fifteen the number of study visits the Council has administered in these two countries.

A delegation comprised of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, academics, and business representatives took part in this year's Sixth Annual Cultural Immersion Study Visit to Oman. The delegation was led by National Council President Dr. Anthony and noted Oman travel writer and guide Peter J. Ochs. Whereas many of the Council's study visit programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development, the Council's study visits to Oman for the past six years have focused primarily on cultural and anthropological themes. As such, the program takes place in half a dozen regions outside the capital of Muscat, in the countryside where delegation members experience firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically and socially diverse countries. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of phenomena that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic and foreign policy objectives.

The Malone Fellows in Oman visit the country's coasts, mountains, an outdoors camp deep in the Sharqiyyah Sands' easternmost reach of the Rub' al-Khali desert, remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and seldom-visited farm sites tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. They sail for most of two days and a night aboard a traditional wooden Arab dhow, where they sleep in the open under the stars, scuba dive, and snorkel offshore famed Telegraph Island. They anchor and go ashore in hard-to-reach coves amongst Oman's Norwegian-like fjords 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 take the measure of the country's fisher folk, boat builders, weavers, potters, local councilmen and women, school children at study and play, the faithful at prayer, some of Oman's multi-ethnic and religious rituals, and wizened sentries who patiently guide one through the architectural mazes integral to some of the country's more than 400 centuries-old forts. They do this along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places.

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*The National Council is grateful to Qatar Airways for its generosity and assistance in providing a tour of its new facility in Doha for the Malone Fellow Delegation.*



*National Council Malone Fellows encounter Oman's leaders of tomorrow in the Sultanate's countryside during this year's study visit.*





*The Indian Ocean port of Sur, home to many craftsmen of Oman's traditional wooden sailing dhows and its merchant captains of the sea who still sail to and from the Gulf, Africa, and lands east.*



*Omani village pitweavers work their magic in producing one of the multi-colored headdresses worn by Omanis.*

Her Excellency Hunaina Al-Mughairy, Omani Ambassador to the United States and the first Arab woman Ambassador to the United States, hosted a reception for this year's National Council Malone Fellow delegation to Oman prior to its departure. Numerous benefits have been and continue to be associated with this particular program. For example, in the wake of previous Council Malone Fellow study visits to Oman, five Fellows have returned to Oman as visiting faculty to teach at Sultan Qaboos University.

In addition, in October 1998, American, Georgetown, and Harvard Universities, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the United States Air Force Academy, and twenty-nine other American national non-profit organizations accepted the Council's invitation to join it in presenting its first of its kind award ever bestowed upon an Arab head of state -- the International Peace Award -- to HM Qaboos bin Sa'id Al Bu Sa'id, the Sultan of Oman. Former American President Jimmy Carter presented the award, which was accepted on behalf of His Majesty by longtime Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousef Abdallah Alawi.

Further, several Omani officials have participated in the Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers conferences; and Council President Dr. Anthony is the author of *Girding and Guarding the Gulf: The Sultanate of Oman in Regional and World Affairs*; an annual essay on Oman for *Encyclopedia Britannica, Historical and Cultural Dictionary of the Sultanate of Oman and the Emirates of Eastern Arabia* (together with J.E. Peterson), in addition to reports on the annual GCC Ministerial and Heads of States Summits that have been hosted by Oman. Yet another Council program related to Oman was its 2007 Summer Internship Program administered in association with the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center.



*Gold inlaid Quranic calligraphy adorns the inner walls of the Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.*



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





*Malone Fellow delegation on the Sixth Annual Cultural Immersion Visit to the Sultanate of Oman in March*



**OMAN**

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

# President's Educational Services and Publications

National Council President Dr. Anthony continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, teaching "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula." This is the first such semester-long course of its kind known to be offered at any among America's 4,200 universities. During the Fall 2008 semester, he co-taught the course with HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud, Chairman of the Center for Islamic Studies and Research at the King Faisal Foundation in Riyadh and former longstanding Director-General of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Directorate as well as Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the United States.

In November, Dr. Anthony and Council Vice-President Patrick Mancino were the only two American nongovernmental organization leaders among more than a thousand from other countries invited to participate in an international conference on "Communications and International National Security Issues" in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Last December, Dr. Anthony was the only American invited to observe the 26th Annual Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial and Heads of State Summits in Doha, Qatar (Dec. 3-4, 2007), where he was interviewed live for *Al-Jazeera* and *Al-Hura* television broadcast satellite stations. In February, he served as the 2008 Distinguished Visiting Professor at the American University in Cairo's HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin 'Abdalaziz Al-Sa'ud Center for American Studies.

In March he served as the principle escort and guide on separate Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies visits to Oman and Yemen. On May 29, the National Capital Rotary Club presented honored him with its *Local Giant Leadership Award*. The award was the first of its kind ever presented by the organization.



*HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud*

## **Dr. Anthony's publications over the last 10 months include:**

- Articles on "Oman," "Qatar," and "The Boom in the Gulf" for the 2007 edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*;
- Transcript of *NPR* radio interview, "Arms for Diplomacy in the Middle East;"
- Article on "An American in Qatar: Observations on the 2007 GCC Summit," published in *Saudi-U.S. Relations Information Service (SUSRIS)* on December 11, 2007;
- Essay on "Gulf-U.S. Relations" published in *Gulf Yearbook, 2007* for the Gulf Research Center in the Emirate of Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- A revised version under the title of "Gulf-U.S. Relations: Going Where?" in *Saudi-U.S. Relations Information Service (SUSRIS)* on April 8, 2008;
- Essay for the *Middle East Journal* on "Change amidst Constants, and Constants amidst Change: Arabs, Energy, Iraq, and Geopolitics," featuring commentary and analysis of the following works: *Arabs*, by Mark Allen; *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*, by Rick Fawn and Raymond Hinnebusch; and *Divide and Perish: The Geopolitics of the Middle East*, by Curtis F. Jones; and
- Essay on the life of the late Ambassador Lucius Durham Battle, 1918-2008 (see page 18), longtime National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations National Advisory Board Chairman.

## **Dr. Anthony also addressed the membership and supporters of the following organizations over the past 10 months:**

- U.S.-Arab Economic Forum in Washington, D.C.;
- Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies 2008 Annual Symposium: "Industrialization in the Gulf: A Socioeconomic Revolution;"
- 2008 National Model Arab League, Washington, D.C.;
- Washington, D.C. Rotary Club;
- Diplomatic and defense members of the Class of 2008 at the Department of Defense's National War College;
- Diplomatic and defense personnel of the Class of 2008 at the U.S. Department of State's George C. Shultz National Center for Foreign Affairs Training;
- Defense and security assistance personnel assigned to the Arab world at the U.S. Department of Defense' Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management; and
- Select senior executives of American Fortune 100 corporations.



## New Special Projects and Model Arab League Coordinator

Ms. Megan Geissler has joined the National Council as Coordinator for Special Projects. Ms. Geissler participated in the Model Arab League program as a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin where she completed her M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies in 2005. Ms. Geissler came to work at the Council first, at her suggestion, as an unpaid volunteer. In so doing, she proved the adage that one often surefire way to employment in a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization is to provide dramatic illustration of one's willingness without regard to material compensation. Like others among this rare breed of young adults, she demonstrated sincerity in identifying with the cause the Council seeks to serve, rather than focusing instead on her immediate employment needs. In her case, as in others, the approach worked - certainly to the Council's benefit.

Since becoming a fulltime employee, Ms. Geissler has represented the Council effectively at several regional Model Arab Leagues. Being an experienced alumna of these programs, and near the age of the present 2,000 plus student participants, she serves as a clearinghouse for student delegate participants' queries. She is not only the Council's foremost specialist on call to help students prepare and perform at the Models. She also oversees the work of judges tasked with determining which of the participants merit overall outstanding delegate, committee, or other leadership awards. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Ms. Geissler holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Smith College and has studied in Jordan, Morocco, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Israel.



*(L to R) National Council Model Arab League Coordinator Mark Morozink, Atlanta High School Model Secretary General Faith McKinley, National Council Model Coordinator Megan Geissler, and Bilateral Arab-U.S. Chamber of Commerce Education Coordinator Tina Halcomb gather during the 2008 Atlanta High School Model at The Marist School.*

## Former Model Arab League Coordinator Appointed Publications Coordinator

Mark Morozink, the National Council's Model Arab League Coordinator for the past three years, has been appointed Publications Coordinator at the Council. Mr. Morozink has assisted with the graphics and layout for this and previous issues of the *Council Chronicle* along with other Council publications. In addition, he has served year-round as the Council's webmaster. In so doing, he has helped the Council's President introduce and distribute hard-to-come by analyses of interest and value as they pertain to a range of issues, trends, and indications bearing on U.S.-Arab relations that have eluded the mainstream media.

A graduate of Augustana College, where he was a student and protégé of National Council Vice President for Programs Dr. James Winship, Mr. Morozink participated in the Council's Model Arab League Program for four consecutive years as a student, both as a delegate and in a leadership role organizing and running the court simulation at the 2005 National Model. As the Council's coordinator for the Model Program from 2006-2008, Mr. Morozink helped maintain the high level of national student participation in these one-of-a-kind Arab-U.S. relations leadership development programs. He served as the National Council's principal liaison with 2,000 students, 200 faculty advisers, and local coordinators of Models in 12 cities. Together with Megan Geissler, he has also been at the center of the Council's success working with the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce to introduce a new university Model this past year and additional high school Model next year in Houston.

# 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](http://www.ncusar.org), or you can mail a check to the National Council at:

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations  
1730 M St. NW, Suite 503  
Washington, DC 20036

*Your support is needed now more than ever.*

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