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The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the fourth 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.

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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Annual University Student Internship Program:
June 3 - August 8, 2008

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 Student Summer Internship Program. The program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American leaders of tomorrow. Ambassador Edward Gnehm (Ret.) made it possible for this past summer's program to be administered in association with The George Washington University's Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. As in previous years, the 2008 Program provided fertile training ground and invaluable firsthand experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations. Following the most competitive application process in the history of the program, 25 students from U.S. universities and one from the American University in Cairo were selected and participated.

The program provides students a professional Arab-U.S. relations work experience that could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by their university studies on campus. The interns get to meet and be briefed and mentored by some of America's most renowned specialists in Arab affairs while assisting with the work of some of the country's most dynamic nongovernmental organizations devoted to strengthening and expanding America's overall relationship with the Arab world.

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.

Responsible for administering this year's program were National Council President Dr. Anthony as Chairman and Vice President for Programs Dr James Winship as Coordinator. In addition to the more than a dozen host organizations that participated with the Council in this program were professionals responsible for international commercial, refugee, development, and educational issues as well as bilateral ties between the United States and select Arab countries.
Congressional Briefing Series

At the National Council's public educational programs on Capitol Hill domestic and internationally renowned specialists analyze, discuss, and debate issues of importance to the relationship between the United States and the Arab world. Among other things, these events examine how best to strengthen and expand mutual Arab-U.S. trust, confidence, and benefits while examining both sides' issues, interests, and policies.

On March 19 the National Council organized a discussion in the U.S. House of Representatives on "Energy Interdependence versus Independence: Rhetoric & Reality." Featured speakers were The Honorable Karen Harbert, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century Energy, and former Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy; and Dr. Herman Franssen, President, International Energy Associates, Senior Associate, Center for Strategic & International Studies' Energy and National Security Program, and former chief economist of the International Energy Agency in Paris.


The National Council's June 5 program in the House of Representatives focused on "The Implications of Sovereign Wealth Funds for American Interests and U.S. Policies." Featured were Co-Chairs of the U.S. House of Representatives Sovereign Wealth Funds Task Force Congressmen Tom Davis (Republican, Virginia) and Jim Moran (Democrat, Virginia), and U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ford Fraker. The Task Force, a bipartisan Congressional study group, is examining the issues raised by growing Sovereign Wealth Funds investments in the United States, including their potential to affect geopolitics, the American economy, global finance, and national security.

The National Council's Congressional Briefings are open to the public. They meet the criteria of a "widely attended event" as defined by House of Representatives ethics rules. The Council neither lobbies nor employs or retains a lobbyist.
Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program
Study Visit to Yemen

This past 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 each of these two countries.

National Council President Dr. Anthony, the only American awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, led the Council's April Malone Fellows visit to Yemen. The visit featured days in Sana'a with excursions to sites of cultural and historical interest as well as briefings by an impressive assemblage of individuals renowned for being extraordinarily knowledgeable of the country's government, politics, society, and developmental dynamics. Included among the institutions and meetings with national leaders were the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Planning, the President and senior staff of the Yemen National Women’s association, the American Ambassador and embassy staff, the heads of all three of the country’s major political parties, and the country’s most prominent business leaders. In addition to exploring the many historical sectors of the Old City of Sana'a, Fellows also visited Wadi Dhar, Dar Al-Hamd, the National Museum of Sana'a, the mountain villages of Al-Hajjarah and Manakha in the northern region of the country, and the famed oasis settlements Seiyun, Tarim, and Shibam as well as the tomb of the Prophet Hud, in the Hadramawt in the eastern reaches of the country.

Old Sana'a is considered by many historians to be one of the oldest, continuously-inhabited cities in the world. Its layers of history date back more than 2,500 years, but for around the past 1,400 years it has been a Muslim city situated almost 7,000 feet above the sea.

Yemen's Wadi Hadramawt village of Shibam is home to the world's first skyscrapers. A cluster of 500 mudbrick, stone, and wood residences, some eight stories high, Shibam's tall structures pre-date the Industrial Age by many centuries, earning the moniker bestowed upon them by the famed traveler Freya Stark as the "The Manhattan of the Desert."

Yemenis are renowned for their extraordinary gifts of poetry, music, and dance, all of which are often celebrated at weddings, national celebrations, and the birth of children, as attested to by these three Yemenis. Arabia Felix - "Happy Arabia" - is a term that historians, scholars, and other writers have applied almost exclusively to Yemen since time immemorial.
An important stronghold during the Turkish occupation of the northernmost areas of Yemen, Kawkaban served to protect the town of Shibam — a different Shibam than the one noted above in the Hadramawt. It is built at the summit of a 350-meter cliff. The village is situated high in the mountains; indeed, the name Kawkaban means that it is close to the heavens.

The famous Bab Al-Yemen (Door of Yemen) is the gate to the Old City of Sana’a. Until about 30 years ago the entire city of Sana’a was enclosed within this wall. Then as now, the Old City has remained home to one of the largest and most robust as well as colorful suqs (markets) anywhere in the world.

There have been numerous follow-on developments from the National Council’s 15 study visits to Yemen. HE Dr. Abdalakarim Al-Iryani and other high-ranking Yemeni cabinet officials have addressed and the Embassy of Yemen has been one of the cosponsors of the Council’s Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences.

In the last three years, the National Council has recruited more than fifty American students to study Arabic and area studies fulltime at the Yemen Language Center (YLC) / Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies (YCMES). In addition, Dr. Anthony is the only American to have served as an official observer for all four of Yemen’s presidential and parliamentary elections since their inauguration in 1993. He was also one of two American private sector leaders selected to represent the United States at Yemen’s Emerging World Democracies Forum in 1999. Further, apart from the Council serving year-round as U.S. administrator for YLC/YCMES programs, two Council employees have had extended stints serving with Sabri Ahmad Saleem, Founding President of the YLC / YCMES, which has rapidly evolved as one of the region’s foremost centers for Arabic language instruction and Arab area studies.

(Left to right) Rashida Ali Al-Hamdani, Chairperson of the Republic of Yemen’s Women National Committee; National Council Vice President Dr. James Winship with Sabri Saleem, Founding President of the Yemen Language Center / Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies; and Malone Fellow Peter Kenyon, National Public Radio’s Middle East Correspondent, holding a falcon during the Council’s 2008 study visit to Yemen. Upon returning to the U.S., Mr. Kenyon broadcast four programs on Yemen.
Malone Fellow delegation on an April 2008 study visit to Yemen at one of the Hadramawt region’s cultural landmarks

Maps courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.
Dr. James Winship Joins National Council as Vice President, Programs

Malone Fellow Dr. James Winship has joined the National Council's fulltime staff as Vice President for Programs. Dr. Winship is Professor Emeritus at Augustana College in Illinois, having taught there for 33 years before retiring this past March. As a Malone Fellow, Dr. Winship participated in Council study visits to the UAE and Oman as well as Saudi Arabia. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore with a PhD in International Relations, Dr. Winship is also an ordained minister, having graduated from seminary. In addition to having taught for a generation at a liberal arts college, Dr. Winship specialized in international education with an emphasis on student cultural exchanges, and led groups to several Asian countries. Two of Dr. Winship's students, Mark Morozink and Robert Lyons, are outstanding alumni of the Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program. Morozink is also a past coordinator of this program. Lyons, a former summer intern at the Council, has been accepted into a graduate school in the nation's capital.

In April of this year, Dr. Winship and Dr. Anthony served as co-escorts in the Council's study visit to Yemen in association with the Yemen College for Middle East Studies (YCMES). The Council, in its role as YCMES' lead American partner, recruited more than forty American university students from the Council's Model Arab League/Youth Leadership Development Program and other educational programs for this past summer's Arabic and Arab area studies program in Yemen.

Together with Dr. Anthony, Dr. Winship coordinated the Council's 2008 Summer University Student Internship Program: “Myth and Reality: The Making of America's Policies towards the Arab World.”

National Organization Presents "Local Giant Leadership Award" to Dr. Anthony

On May 28, 2008, the Rotary Club of the Nation’s Capital honored the National Council's President and CEO. Rotary President James Earl Brookshire bestowed the club's first-ever “Local Giant Leadership Award.” Commenting on the significance of the occasion, Rotary Club spokesman Peter Ladd Gilsey stated that the award is “in recognition of someone who has devoted his life to making a qualitative difference in the diffusion of knowledge, in the education of the leaders of our government and many others, and in the caliber of the lives we live.” The citation read, “Presented to Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founder, President, and CEO of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, and Founder, Board Member, and Secretary, U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee.” It continued, “The poet Robert Browning’s lines, ‘A Man’s Reach Must Exceed His Grasp, Or What’s a Heaven For?’ aptly mirrors the life and career of Dr. John Duke Anthony, whose illustrious and notable attainments encompass many scholarly contributions in interpreting the past, current, and future role of Islam in the world for various governments, institutions, and public bodies, which include the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Department of State, and the Council on Foreign Relations. A repository of exceptional knowledge at the highest level of the Gulf countries, comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Anthony has been a founder and president of six educational institutions, professor at seven universities, and recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense's Distinguished Service award and the U.S. Department of State’s Distinguished Visiting Lecturer Award.”
Dr. Mario A. Pascale Elected to Board of Directors

Dr. Mario A. Pascale was elected to the National Council's Board of Directors on January 1, 2008. In his letter to Dr. Pascale to inform him of the Board's unanimous decision, Board Chairman Admiral Harold J. Bernsen (USN, Ret.) underscored Dr. Pascale's "impressive background, education and experience as well as the Board's personal knowledge of (him and his) past activities on behalf of the Council," adding that it "believed his knowledge, experience, perspective and judgment would be a great benefit to the organization."

Dr. Pascale brings to the National Council a string of superb personal and professional attributes. Before earning his doctorate from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in speech therapy and speech arts as well as speech therapy for elementary and secondary school level students. In his graduate studies at Columbia and his years as the U.S. Department of Education's primary specialist in education for children who were brain-damaged and neurologically impaired, Dr. Pascale became a nationally and internationally recognized and much sought after educational consultant and authority in his field.

Among Dr. Pascale's numerous leadership accomplishments are his service as a member, consultant to, and/or chairman of the advisory boards or board of directors of the Division for Learning Disabilities of the International Council for Exceptional Children; the California Association for Neurologically Handicapped Children; the Learning Disabilities Association of America; the National Center for Learning Disabilities; the Institute for Learning Differences; the National Dyslexia Research Foundation; and the President's Commission on Mental Health. In the last named role, President Carter's appointed him Adviser for Special Education and Learning Disabilities. During the Carter administration and before as well as afterwards, he also served for nine years as Director of the internationally acclaimed Marianne Frostig Center of Educational Therapy at which he was responsible for, among other things, the center's professional teacher training and educational research as well as active involvement in fund raising and preparation of grant proposals to foundations, private individuals, corporations, federal and state agencies, having raised several million dollars in endowment funds. Dr. Pascale has also been teacher and consultant on special education for the Unified Los Angeles School District and a pioneering founder and/or primary developer of schools for children with learning disabilities at the University of Chicago, St. Mary's College in Los Angeles, and Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and continues to serve as an adviser for numerous prominent American public and private schools specializing in the education of children of exceptional needs.

Dr. Pascale's international experience, particular in cross-cultural students exchanges and study abroad programs, much of it having to do with the Arab world, It is in this capacity that he came to be one of the National Council's strongest and most active supporters and fund-raisers since the Council's establishment in 1983 until the present. Not least among his accomplishments in this regard are his having pioneered, in association with World Learning, Inc., of Brattleboro, Vermont, to whose board of trustees he was subsequently elected as a member, in the establishment of a program for American high school students in Egypt, replete with home stays for the students with Egyptian families. This early effort led directly to the Council's Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars in Arab and Islamic Studies Program that, administered eventually in 36 American cities, started out in Egypt and spread over time to also include Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, and Tunisia. Some 353 American students have graduated from this National Council program, which early on received the formal endorsement of President Reagan, a tradition that was followed by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and that took the form of the president writing a letter of congratulations to the high school students who won this award. It is not by accident that, in Oman in particular, World Learning and Oman have built upon the seeds sown earlier by Dr. Pascale and manifested in the form of more than 100 American students having participated in this program in Oman in the last few years alone.
It is no exaggeration to state that what drew the National Council to Dr. Pascale was his extensive experience in cross-cultural education. Of particular importance in assessing his attributes, experience, and capabilities was his emphasis on how important and essential a solid pre-departure orientation program on the history, culture, social mores, and manners and customs of the Arab host country or countries to be visited by the student and/or academic participants. He was utterly persuasive in arguing how important such a programmatic activity required of the participants in the Council overseas programs in the Arab world would be to the prospects for a successful cross-cultural U.S.-Arab relations educational experience. He convinced the National Council's founders and board to emulate the example he recommended in this regard, one that the Council has followed ever since. But it was not just Dr. Pascale's multiple-year and multifaceted experience as an escort for American student groups traveling abroad and elsewhere. It was also the fact that he was able to draw upon a wealth of experience in escorting students and professors to other parts of the world, among them countries as diverse as Australia, India, Italy, and Japan.

It was a matter of sheer coincidence that Dr. Pascale, among other things, became a Malone Fellow when and how he did. It may sound incredible but Dr. Pascale just happened to be visiting Washington in the midst of the National Council administering pre-departure orientation programs for the Council's Malone Fellows set to participate in the Council's programs in Iraq, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. When he contacted his longtime friend Dr. Anthony, he learned of the programs then in process. Seeing there was no other way the two of them could meet then, even if only to have coffee, Dr. Pascale asked whether he might audit the briefings and lectures then in process. In so doing, he learned that, for the first and only time in the history of the Council's Malone Fellows Program, one Fellow among the 25 that had been accepted failed to show up, for reasons that were then and to this day unknown. Not one to see an opportunity of a lifetime go to waste when one existed, Dr. Pascale, upon learning that the professor in question, whose first name was Leroy, had failed to show, asked, "Can I be 'Leroy'?" For reasons Dr. Pascale said he could not explain then or subsequently, he added that he happened to have brought with him to Washington, D.C. his passport, as he had misplaced his driver's license and thought he might need some form of official documentation in the event, for whatever reason, he were to be asked for an official document authenticating his identification.

That's how Dr. Pascale became a Malone Fellow. It's also how, as a direct result, he also became the founding director of the Council's California Kerr High School Scholars Nominating Committee. It's how he became the founding director of the Council's California Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations. It's how he became the single most active alumnus in Council fund-raising activities. It's how he became the founding escort of the Council's Passage to Morocco Program at the Arabic Language Institute (ALIF) in Fez, Morocco. It's how he became the sole Council program to date in Lebanon. It's how he became the scholar escort or co-escort for more Council high school student and academic study abroad programs – to Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen – in addition to escorting all 12 of the Council's grassroots committee directors to Kuwait and Syria, than anyone in the Council's history.

Contacted for comment before this issue of the Council Chronicle went to press and asked for comment, Dr. Pascale went out of his way to note that not only the National Council's president but also Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars President and long-serving former Congressman and Chairman of the House of Representatives Near East Subcommittee Lee Hamilton (Democrat-Indiana) assistant Dr. Michael Van Dusen, as well as former American University in Cairo Vice President James Pelowski were all members of the first delegation that he took to the Arab world. Asked to comment on the long term impact of that kind of international educational experience involving the introduction on American youth to the Arab world, Dr. Pascale said, "Dr. Anthony was a member of my group to Egypt, and it was this experience there and then that led him to pursue graduate work in Middle East Studies and, eventually, from there to become the founding president and CEO of the National Council on US-Arab Relations."

Dr. Pascale's wife Catherine, a professional fund raising consultant and development officer for educational and charitable causes in the Greater Los Angeles area for twenty years, is also a Malone Fellow alumna to Yemen and Syria as well as a former leader of cross cultural study programs for World Learning, Inc.
Longtime National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' National Advisory Board Chairman Ambassador Lucius Durham Battle died on May 13, 2008. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for quite some time.

Lucius Durham Battle was born in Dawson, Georgia on June 1, 1918. He received both an undergraduate and law degree at the University of Florida, and entered the U.S. Foreign Service after serving in the Navy during World War II. Battle served in the American Embassy in Denmark from 1953-1955. From there he went from 1955-1956 to NATO in Paris, where he served as secretary to NATO Secretary General Lord Hastings Lionel Ismay. Battle resigned from the Foreign Service in 1956 and aided in the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia as Vice-President of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., from 1956 to 1961.

In 1962, President Kennedy nominated Battle as Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Culture, a position he held until 1964. His most remarkable and lasting achievement in that post was his pivotal role in leading the campaign to save the ancient Egyptian monuments at Abu Simbel that would otherwise have been flooded forever by the rising waters of the Nile.

Ambassador Battle's work in helping to save the Egyptian monuments at Abu Simbel made for a natural bridge to his appointment by President Lyndon Baines Johnson as American Ambassador to Egypt. During his tenure as Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Cairo, Battle was the principal United States point of contact with Egyptian President Gamal Abd al-Nasser and Vice-President Anwar Sadat, who was simultaneously also President of Egypt's National Assembly. Diplomatic relations between the American and Egyptian governments during that period were polite but often strained. The relationship between the two countries often became tense as the Egyptian government sought to navigate a non-aligned course through the treacherous shoals of Cold War competition, pursue pan-Arab ambitions, and assert leadership in the continuing regional conflict with Israel.

At the conclusion of Ambassador Battle's service in Egypt, he was appointed by President Johnson in 1967 to the highest post in the U.S. government dealing with America’s relations with the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world: Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asia Affairs. In assuming the post, he became one of only two Americans ever to have twice held the post of Assistant Secretary of State.

Few Americans in their post-diplomatic career can claim to have accomplished as many exceptional and varied feats as Ambassador Battle did. In addition to being one of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' founding advisory board members and subsequently succeeding Senators J. William Fulbright and Charles Percy as its Chairman until his death, he served as: President of the Middle East Institute; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Middle East Peace; Chairman of American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc.; Chairman of the SAIS Advisory Council; Chairman of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Foreign Policy Institute; Founding Chairman of the SAIS Advisory Council; Member of the Board of Advisers of Harvard's Middle East Center; Founding Chairman of the National Commission to Commemorate the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam; and Founding Chairman of the American Institute for Islamic Studies. Among the numerous honors bestowed upon him, he was the Recipient of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired, Inc. Award for Outstanding Public Service and Achievement.

A fuller account of Ambassador Battle's life of public service to the United States and the furtherance of U.S.-Arab relations, written by Dr. Anthony, may be found on the National Council's Web site at www.ncusar.org in addition to eulogies published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Washington Times as well as newspapers in Bradenton and Sarasota, Florida.
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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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Your support is needed now more than ever.

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