

Council Chronicle



VOL. 10, NO. 1

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the 30th edition of the Council Chronicle, the Council's periodic newsletter. The Chronicle seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated, expanding the nature and extent of the Council's efforts in pursuit of its vision and mission. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports on the Council's programs, projects, events, and activities.

Numerous reports cover the ten annual programs that the Council has conceptualized, developed, and administered for decades. Some focus on new and ongoing projects such as the establishment of the first ever Arab Cultural Institute in the midst of the nation's capital. Additional reports cover such one-of-a-kind events as the world's only Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, convened yearly in Washington D.C.'s foremost venue for national and international gatherings of policy formulators, analysts, and practitioners from the Arab countries and the United States – events that, for more than a decade and counting, have set and surpassed and set and surpassed yet again records for the highest-attend Arab-U.S. policy-centric gatherings in history. Numerous other national and international-themed Arab-U.S. relations briefings are convened on Capitol Hill and elsewhere year-round. Still other events focusing on the ties between the American and Arab peoples are administered with a view to ensuring that the relations between two of the planet's most vital peoples and regions are continuously strengthened, expanded, and improved – not only for their mutual benefit but for the betterment of humankind.

For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, and for ongoing supporters keen to keep abreast of the Council's accomplishments, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please read on and visit the Council's website at ncusar.org.

In this issue:



Model Arab League Updates



Study Visits to Qatar



Study Visits to Oman

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following pages contain reports on the National Council’s ongoing and more recent new programs and activities in Arab-U.S. relations education, training, and leadership development. Of special note are accounts of approximately 2,500 university and secondary school participants, aspiring to be leaders, as well as those opting to engage with the Council for the first time. “To what end?” is a relevant question: To expand their knowledge, understanding, and ability to share with others what they have learned and continue to learn through and with the Council.

“Learn what?” one might ask. The answer: about the Arab world. About Arab culture. About Arab society. About Arab economics. About Arab governmental structures, political dynamics, and international relations. And, most importantly, about doing whatever is necessary to strengthen and empower the positive benefits of the U.S.-Arab relationship.

Through participation in the National Council’s programs, 27 of these American youth won Council scholarships. With these in hand, they were able to join Council-organized and -led separate study visits



The National Council’s Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders.

to Oman and Qatar, two of America’s most important friends, allies, and strategic partners. The visits provided the students an array of firsthand cultural and educational experiences that they could not obtain in any other way. Of special interest and value were the students’ exposure to the continuing dynamics of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. A particular gain was the students’ enhanced awareness and appreciation of the specific Omani-American and Qatari-American relationships, together with other pressing American and Arab issues and ideas of the day.

In these ways, the Council’s leadership, management, staff, and other supporters helped a growing number of America’s emerging leaders gain a degree of knowledge and understanding of the Arab world – and America’s relations with its peoples and cultures. In no other way could they achieve this in lectures, briefings, and published works. One among other results of these firsthand educational experiences is that what the

students learn will last them all their lives. They acquire an unparalleled preparation for careers in the Arab-U.S. diplomatic, military, academic, business, and public policy research communities, to which they will bring leadership and management abilities for strengthening and expanding the mutually beneficial relations between the Arab and American peoples.



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

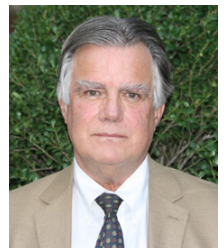


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ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS

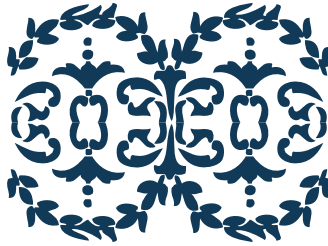
Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world one person at a time through TEN annual programs, events, and activities.

First, the National Council is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. From one Council leadership development effort alone, the Model Arab League Program, there are more than 45,000 alumni. The number of participants in **the Council’s 26 annual Models** – through 2016, held in 18 cities throughout the United States and in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia – is over 2,600. Illustrative of the increasing national and international recognition of the leadership skills that this one Council program provides its participants is the following: contributions from supporters enabled the Council to administer **two additional Models in 2016**. As evidence of the extraordinary value that comes through participation in the Models, all Council staff members are graduates of this program. Each has

exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship; for exercising discipline and organization; for analyzing clearly and effectively; for speaking lucidly and forcefully in addition to editing quickly and efficaciously; for managing time for optimum use in composing and fulfilling results-oriented agendas; for building coalitions in support of one’s views and new ideas as well as existing schools of thought; and for acquiring the attributes of tolerance and respect for the opinions of others that may differ from one’s own.

Of special note is that in the past year, 36 young American alumni of the Council’s Model Arab League Program received National Council Study Abroad Fellowships and Washington, DC Internships as a result of their participation in the Models.

Second, the National Council is the world’s only organization to have administered, for 26 years and counting, an annual Arab-U.S. **Policymakers Conference**. The Conference brings together many of the world’s foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States



National Council
Analyses & Assessments



Arabia, the Gulf,
& the GCC Blog



U.S.-GCC
CORPORATE
COOPERATION
COMMITTEE



Former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, a founding Member of the National Council’s Advisory Board and since 2014 its Co-Chairman, pictured here with Dr. John Duke Anthony in 1985, served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years, representing the 20th District of Illinois. In 2013, the Council presented Congressman Findley its first-ever Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award.

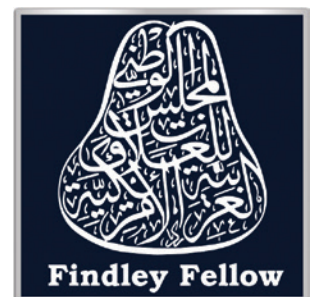
and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past four years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,200 registrants. Through coverage for four of the past six years by C-SPAN, annual attendance by other television satellite and radio broadcast networks plus dozens of print media outlets, and also through the Council’s website at ncusar.org, additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings.

A *third* National Council annual highlight, dating from its inception in 1986, is its ten-week intensive University Student Summer Internship Program in the nation’s capital. In the past year alone, the Council educated, trained, and

developed the leadership skills of **8 interns during the academic year and 25 interns in the summer**. In cooperation with the Olayan Foundation and The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the program was administered for the seventh consecutive year in association with 15 sister organizations in the District of Columbia. The internship provides a professional work experience and a series of site visits to, meetings with, and briefings by representatives of Arab embassies, Congress, the Supreme Court, the Department of State, and

other institutions. The internship also includes participation in the world’s only known 20-part seminar on “Arabia, the Gulf, the GCC, and the U.S.-Arab Relationship.” In the seminar the interns not only learn to read and write weekly crisp analyses and critiques of publications by some of the world’s most renowned authors. They also meet and are briefed by a dozen of the assigned topics’ most accomplished role models. Among them are scholars, former Ambassadors, career Foreign Service officers, and other specialists of

In 2014, the National Council instituted the Findley Fellowship Award. The purpose is to recognize outstanding participants in the Council’s University Student Summer Internship Program. Students honored as Findley Fellows are presented this lapel pin. In addition, their names are displayed prominently on a wall in the National Council’s entry foyer in recognition of their achievement.



both genders, many of whom agree to serve as the interns' informal mentors. No other known student internship program provides as rich and diversified an Arab-U.S. relations experience.

Among the exciting features of the National Council's University Student Summer Internship Program, in which 25 interns participate annually, are the *Findley Fellowships*, which were first instituted in 2014. The Fellowships are presented at the end of the program to the most outstanding interns. The awardees are selected for having met four multifaceted criteria. First, they must have demonstrated on a regular basis the trait of excellence in the program's academic component.

are expected to display an ability to role play as Arab diplomats in a simulated introduction to Arab challenges and opportunities. Fourth, they must have exhibited throughout the seminar the critical thinking and communications skills as well as the moral, leadership, educational, and, especially, extraordinary traits of courage and commitment associated with the life and works of Congressman Paul Findley. If the reader concludes that only an exceptional few individuals in the average 18 to 24 age range are likely to possess all four of the traits noted, it would be because of precisely that: Findley Fellowship awardees are indeed exceptional, which is exactly the kind of Arab-U.S. relations leader that is needed and that

the National Council seeks to recruit, educate, train, and help develop.

In retirement soon after leaving office, Congressman Findley wrote *They Dared to Speak Out*, an award-winning account of more than two dozen nationally prominent Americans from all walks of life. Each of the individuals profiled had the courage of their convictions. They did not shy away from the duty to speak publicly

and write for publication in an effort to set aright America's relations with its Arab friends, allies, and strategic partners. And like Congressman Findley himself, they were often subjected to



Nawaf Althari, Counter-Terrorism Adviser for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Permanent Mission to the United Nations, addresses a National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Capitol Hill public affairs briefing in June 2016.

Second, they are required to manifest the skills of organization, productivity, research, analysis, assessment, composition, writing, and editing within tightly prescribed deadlines. Third, they

The National Council is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab public and private sectors.

name calling, slander, defamation of character, and forced prematurely to withdraw from public life early for doing so.

A *fourth* National Council program is designed to contribute positively to national public and private sector conversations about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions toward the Arab world and its peoples. To this end, the Council administers year-round a series of seminars on Capitol Hill and in other venues. In each instance, one or more internationally recognized specialists is tasked with analyzing, assessing, and recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers. The

seminars, usually held in Congressional hearing rooms, are typically filled to capacity. In attendance are Members of Congress, Congressional staff, media representatives, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, members of the diplomatic corps, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

A *fifth* National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the past eight years, the Council has achieved this, in part, through the *Council Chronicle*, which appears four times



The number of participants in the National Council's Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program has increased twenty-fold since the early 1980s.



Model Arab League students and faculty advisers on a study visit to Qatar in April 2017.

a year, and through an *Annual Review*. Still another feature of the Council's publications outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to the overall Arab-U.S. relationship, and to Arabia and the Gulf in particular, is the Council's blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Dr. Imad Harb, and other specialists. Visit the blog at: ncusar.org/blog. In 2016, the National Council introduced an online publication series titled *National Council Analyses & Assessments* that regularly features articles on an aspect of U.S.-Arab relations or the Arab world. The series seeks to deliver unique insights and commentary on contemporary affairs and policies. It also seeks to provide a forum for pieces on broader issues such as the position, role, and rights of women, water, national security, climate change, economic reform, and Islamophobia. Read articles at: ncusar.org/aa.

A *sixth* National Council activity is organizing and providing scholarly escorts for delegations of American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries — in the past year, to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

A *seventh* National Council activity is a public service in the form of facilitating the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences in Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman.

An *eighth* National Council activity is its ongoing participation in year-round heads of organizations meetings. These forums, which began under the Council's auspices in 1991 in the aftermath of the reversal of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, periodically gather the CEOs and other key representatives of like-minded organizations that are committed to strengthening and expanding the overall Arab-U.S. relationship. Beyond deepening

the bonds of trust, confidence, and a willingness to join forces in pursuit of common goals, the meetings in themselves demonstrate how vital donor support remains to these organizations' operations. Most important, they provide evidence to the respective organizations' "shareholders" that their financial, in-kind, and other investments in and contributions to what the organizations seek to accomplish have not been and are not in vain.

Inaugural Chairman, wrote, "We are proud of what our partnership and our North American Bridge Network Initiative have achieved in a wide range of activities. My contribution to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is a continuation of a lifelong effort to build bridges, foster cultural understanding, develop communities, empower women, enable youth, and to provide vital disaster relief. In all, I wish to promote a more tolerant and accepting world. It is a commitment without boundaries – a commitment to all of humanity."



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony (center), Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino (left), and Board Member Paige Peterson (2nd from left), with students from the Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program after Dr. Anthony received the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's 2014 Distinguished Service Award.
Photo: Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

A *tenth* National Council endeavor – the establishment of the first-ever Arab Cultural Institute in the nation's capital – is as yet more a project than a program, more a dream and a vision than as yet a reality, although in time it is designed to be that and far more. For the better part of the past 20 years Dr. Anthony,

A *ninth* National Council activity is its President and CEO's service as Chair of the *North American Bridge Network* (NABN). Established in April 2015 by HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal and comprised of six American non-profit educational and social activism organizations, the network endeavors to fulfill the programmatic activities supported by Alwaleed Philanthropies. In a letter to Dr. Anthony on March 16, 2016, HRH Prince Alwaleed, who appointed Dr. Anthony to serve as the NABN's

the proposed institute's visionary conceptualizer, has sought to obtain appropriate support for the idea and its implementation. To date, the project has received the informal and unofficial support of the Arab country cultural attachés and embassies' representatives of the League of Arab States' office in Washington. Representatives of appropriate agencies and officials of the U.S. government, in informal meetings and briefings, not only have acknowledged the national and

pressing need for such an institute. They have also noted its innumerable, multifaceted, and potentially beneficial attributes. These include, first and foremost, enhancement of the awareness, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the dynamic *cultural* dimensions of the longstanding Arab-U.S. relationship. A summary description of the project and the underlying rationale for the establishment of such an institution is available on pages 11-12.

* * * * *

Running through all of the National Council’s programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council’s vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council’s *vision* is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of cultural, strategic, economic, political, commercial, defense, and people-to-people cooperation, the vision encompasses the belief that the relationship is strengthened continuously by a range of richly rewarding efforts by people on both sides. Chief amongst these are the newly institutionalized and diverse strategic dialogues between the United States and numerous Arab countries, together with increased exchanges and the development of Arab-U.S. relations skills among current and emerging

American and Arab leaders. The envisioned Arab Cultural Institute will provide a cultural-centric forum for enhancing the Arab-U.S. relationship at many different levels.

* * * * *

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 public and private sectors. The Council seeks, in particular, to heighten and deepen American awareness and appreciation of the extraordinary range of benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council’s mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

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



An Arab Cultural Institute in the Heart of the Nation's Capital

Washington, D.C. is host to numerous museums and cultural institutions – none, however, feature the culture, development, economics, history, and societies of Arab countries. Neither is there a major center in the heart of the national capital that showcases the extraordinary range of Arab contributions to science and technology. Indeed, there is a paucity of anything highlighting what Arabs have contributed to the world's civilizations and to humankind in general.

An Arab Cultural Institute will do justice to these topics. As the first Institute of its kind in the nation's capital, it will do justice to the Arab world's richly diverse cultures and help to further strengthen America's relationship with this vitally important part of the world.

Fast Facts

- ❖ The Arab Cultural Institute will have permanent, temporary, and rotating exhibits. These will focus on Arab countries' culture and distinctive characteristics. They will also feature high-quality educational programs together with special events and activities.
- ❖ In addition to its regular, periodic, and special features, the Institute will provide a space for commemoration and gatherings for the national days of each of the 22 Arab countries. The center will house a conference hall, an auditorium, and a library with research facilities. A special section will be dedicated to the innumerable contributions of Arab Americans to American civic culture. There will also be meeting rooms for seminars, lectures, poetry readings, film screenings, book signings, and concerts.
- ❖ The Institute will offer visitors a bookstore/gift shop, a café and/or restaurant, a prayer room, and world-class museum items showcasing Arab historical monuments, archeological treasures, and literary masterpieces. It will also highlight examples of the innumerable, extraordinary, and myriad impacts that Arabs have had on humanity's endless quest for modernization and development. To ensure that everything is maintained in context, the Institute will also feature information and insight into the relations of Arabs with other world regions and cultures, and vice versa.
- ❖ The Institute will ideally be in a prime location in the center of Washington within walking distance of the National Mall and the White House. It will be easily accessible to the Washington Metro and other public transportation.
- ❖ A management team comprised of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in association with the League of Arab States' office in the United States and the Cultural Attachés and Ambassadors of the various Arab embassies, is working with American and Arab business and diplomatic leaders as well as the world's foremost museum designers, engineers, and architects to plan and administer the Institute.



Benefits to Americans and Arabs

- ❖ The Arab Cultural Institute will do much to correct the many false images of Arabs among key groups in the United States. The Institute will utilize the appropriate means to address the widespread myths and innumerable stereotypes surrounding Arab peoples.
- ❖ The Institute will likely be visited by most Members of Congress, their principal staff, and large numbers of senior and mid-level representatives of the U.S. Executive Branch.
- ❖ The Institute will serve as a forum for representatives from the media, think tanks, lobbies, professional associations, and other institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It will provide cultural and educational services for universities and history, geography, and social studies teachers as well as their students not only in the District of Columbia area, but also for the thousands of collegiate youth that visit the nation's capital year-round, in addition to significant numbers among many of the city's annual 20 million tourists.
- ❖ The Institute will heighten the interest of Americans and other visitors with an awareness and appreciation of Arab culture, Arab civilization, and the Arabic language. It will thereby provide current and future leaders a more educated and accurate portrayal of Arabs. It will heighten hard-to-come by knowledge and understanding of the position and role of Arab countries and their peoples in regional and world affairs. (and, not the least, how Arabs enabled the Age of Enlightenment, the precursor to the Industrial Revolution, and improvement in the well-being of humanity, world-wide).
- ❖ The opportunities for the Arab Cultural Institute to aid pan-Arab cooperation and American-Arab engagement will be limited only by the imagination.

Broader Significance

The appeal of an Arab Cultural Institute in the nation's capital to large numbers of Americans and visitors to Washington from every country is obvious. Also obvious is that the Institute's contents and programming will enhance American knowledge and understanding of Arab and Islamic culture and the world's indebtedness to the manifold contributions to the betterment of humanity that countless numbers of Arabs have made.

Of monumental significance is that the Arab Cultural Institute's contributions will occur in the center of the world's most technologically advanced, economically wealthiest, financially influential, and militarily powerful country.

The Institute will foster international education cooperation, tolerance, and respect for other peoples and their cultures. It will demonstrate the belief in and commitment to increasing and ever-strengthening American-Arab ties across a broad range of mutual endeavors.

With the launching of the Institute, the United States and the Arab peoples will be celebrating the onset of a new chapter in their relations.

Why Should Anyone Listen to You, Read What You Write, or Care About What You Advocate? What About Your Life is Worth Noting?

In answering the quiz below and reading the pages that follow, consider doing one of two things.

One, imagine being someone who has yet to participate in a National Council Model Arab League Program and perhaps doesn't even know what it is. Then, once you have an idea of what it is and what it involves, ask yourself, *"If I were to participate in this program, how might it help me? What difference will it make to what I am doing now to prepare more effectively to be a recognized leader? How might it help me to live a life of accomplishment and selfless service to my fellow human beings? How might I achieve this by supporting noble causes? Is it really possible to leave the world a better place than I found it? If so, how?"*

Two, if you are no longer enrolled in a secondary school or university, ask yourself, *"How, if at all, might my life have evolved differently if I had but participated in this program when I was a student?"*



ARE YOU A LEADER?

Everyone knows that being a leader is a good thing. But what does that really mean? Take the quiz below. Score it by giving yourself a point for each question checked. Then discover what your leadership skills are.

Can you:

- Articulate an argument successfully in 45 seconds?
- Speak in front of your peers under an exceptionally tight deadline?
- Write quickly, clearly, and forcefully within a short time limit?
- Edit rapidly and effectively?
- Display policymaking talents?
- Utilize parliamentary language and procedure?
- Master resolution language and processes?
- Exhibit and implement intra-committee consensus-making attributes?
- Form coalitions of a majority or plurality in support of your positions?
- Provide evidence of productive decision-making?

Scoring Guide: Add 1 point for each question checked.

0 – 3: You have a few leadership skills; however, to develop more, you could use some help.

4 – 6: Your leadership skills are about half of what one needs to be an effective leader. You have a good foundation, but you need further work on developing these skills.

7 – 9: You're amassing the skills that will help to make you a good leader, but you still have a few lessons to learn.

10: Congratulations! You must be participating in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program!

MODEL ARAB LEAGUE: ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The close of the 2016-17 academic calendar marked the 33rd completed year of the **National Council's** flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, the *Model Arab League (MAL)*. The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations, with its 193 members. However, the MAL focuses exclusively on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Models provide primarily American but also Arab and other international students opportunities to develop invaluable leadership skills. In few if any other ways elsewhere in the United States do students have a comparable chance to work with their fellows for common goals and shared interests. Among the 20 sister NGOs with which the National Council has a cooperative relationship, and among America's 2,968 colleges and universities, participation in the Models, like nothing else, provides students an opportunity to develop, learn, and practice their leadership skills with regard to Arab world issues and challenges – skills that serve one well in any walk of life. No other known opportunity allows emerging leaders – to anywhere near the same extent – to learn



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony with award-winning secondary school students from Lebanon who traveled to participate in the 2017 National High School Model Arab League at Georgetown University.



A student delegation argues in favor of a committee motion at the Rocky Mountain Model Arab League in Denver, Colorado.

firsthand what it is like to be and perform in the shoes of Arab diplomats and other foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, the students come to realize how different these international relations realities are from what they previously thought and, often inaccurately, assumed to be true.

Given the contemporary state of world affairs, the fact that the National Council enables thousands of American, Arab, and other youths to grapple with the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key international goals of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious and enduring merit. Students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They also develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage

in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate, while honing and refining their leadership attributes and effectiveness. For many students, such opportunities are often unavailable or exceptionally 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 the Internet.

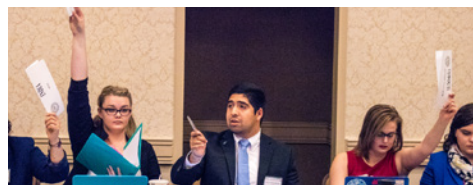
EDUCATING, TRAINING, AND DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS LEADERS

The Models enhance students' abilities to discuss and debate the national and regional cultural,

defense, economic, political, social, and related issues and policies of the Arab countries they choose to represent. They do so using parliamentary procedure. In the process the students wrangle with one another over a broad and diverse range of policy-centric challenges and opportunities. An example is the proper course of policy formulation and action with regard to Palestinian affairs. Other examples include issues related to governance, security, stability, and development

in such countries as Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and the six GCC countries. Still others focus on Syria, Yemen, and matters pertaining to human rights, justice, defense cooperation, and the environment.

As in real-life public policy debates, the prospects for the participants' success turn on several factors. Each is a key component of effective leadership. One is the extent to which the participants have

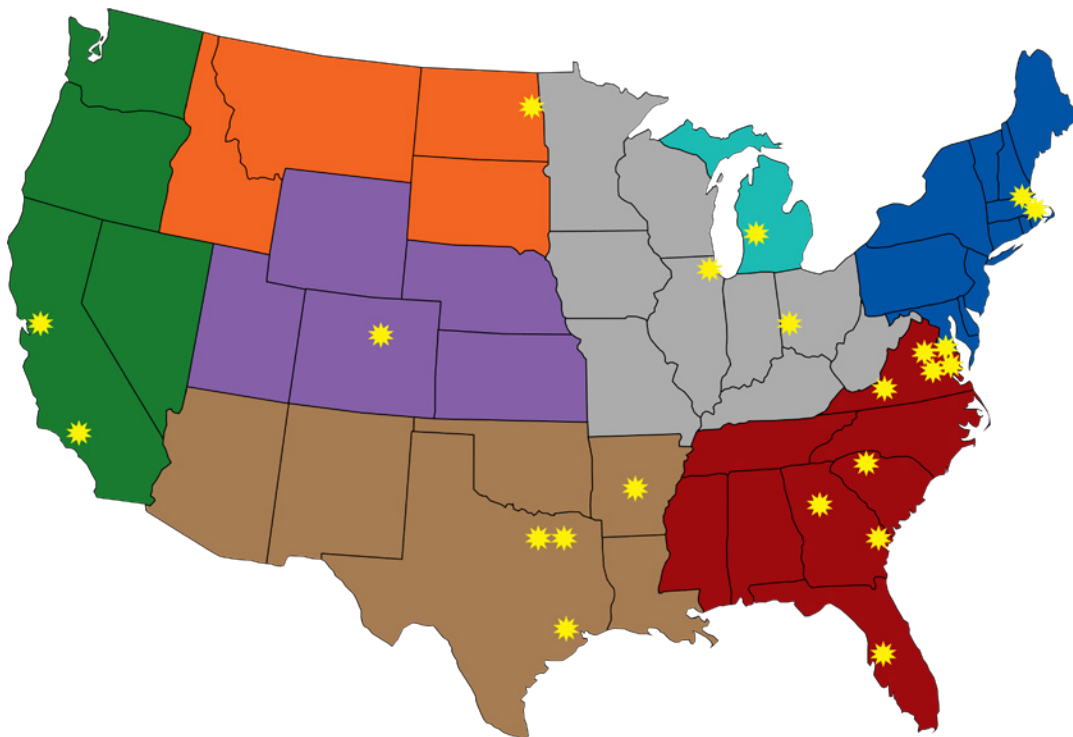


The most recent National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., drew 430 students – a record high number – and more than 25 university faculty advisers. They hailed from across the United States and several other countries, including Canada and Egypt.

prepared. Another is the degree to which they are – and can remain – as organized, disciplined, and focused as possible. They must also be able to advocate their viewpoints with facts, clear oral and written expression, and the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, strength of argument, and erudition they can muster. What is more, participants have to try to be as effective

parallel opportunities to sharpen their reporting and writing skills. To that end, they participate in mock press conferences and the drafting of communiqués for publication during the Model’s proceedings.

For the students involved, there is no denying either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. In the field of Arab-U.S. relations, only the Models provide the coming generation of tomorrow’s leaders the opportunity to practice and master what it takes to become proficient in public affairs abilities. Participants are unique in more than nature and number. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers and adult judges, they are eager to prove to themselves, their teachers, and their



In 2016, the National Council held Model Arab League conferences in eighteen cities across the United States.

as they can within prescribed requirements and procedures, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order, the Models’ Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are responsible for ensuring that debates keep to time variants of 45 seconds, one minute, three minutes, and/or, at the Secretary General’s discretion, a maximum of five minutes. In addition, for student participants interested in the possibility of a career in journalism or other media fields, there are

families that they are worth the investment made to enable them to participate in – and reap the rewards from – this one-of-a-kind component of their education and leadership development. To that end there is no way around the students’ having to study hard, conduct serious research, and prepare as effectively as they can in advance of the Models. Doing so, like nothing else, will enhance the prospects of their winning awards for their performance.



Model Arab League students not only learn about the history and politics of the Arab world but also develop negotiation and public speaking as well as organization, writing, editing, parliamentary procedure, and coalition-building skills.

STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING ARAB-U.S. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask why, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer has to do with the immense popularity of this program. Students want to participate in it year after year for as long as they can. A result is that at the end of numerous Models most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue, leaving little if any room for new universities and students to participate. Students newly aware of such opportunities and who want to participate would therefore be unable to do so if not for new Models being continuously established. In this way, the early 1980s original number of slightly more than 100 participants in a single city has grown more than twenty-fold – to more than 2,500 per year in 18 cities – and continues to increase.

Beyond the proven education, training, and leadership development skills and achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience,

a further incentive in recent years has been student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of additional benefits for which Model alumni and their faculty advisers become eligible. Indeed, participation in the Models has become a gateway for Model delegates and advisers to win National Council study abroad scholarships and fellowships. Such awards grant the recipients entry into the Council's Annual University and High School Student Summer Internship Programs in the nation's capital; the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman; and the Council's study visits to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, 41 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a result of their participation in the Models, internships in the nation's capital and all-expenses-paid study abroad fellowships in Qatar and Oman. For the students, acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of these awards enabled them 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.



Students who participate in the Model Arab League receive priority consideration for enrollment in (left) the National Council’s Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program. Additionally, students and faculty advisers from the Model Arab League Program are eligible to join (right) select Council educational study visits to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

In addition, 19 Model Arab League faculty advisers received all-expenses-paid fellowships that allowed them, too, to participate in Council study visits to Oman and Qatar. The faculty advisers’ participation in such experiences has enabled them not only to strengthen and diversify their teaching, writing, research, and public speaking expertise. It has also enriched the global component of their universities’ campus atmosphere and overall curricula.

The National Council’s 2017 ten-week Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program combined professional work experiences in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf; *fourteen of the 25 interns were MAL alumni*. For the ninth year in succession, the academic portion of the program – chaired and directed by Dr. Anthony, who addressed the interns seven times – was held at The George Washington University’s Elliot School of International Affairs. **A special feature of the 2017 Internship Program was the holding of a summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.**

In the National Council’s cultural immersion visits to Oman and Qatar in 2016 and 2017,

nearly all of the participants in each delegation were MAL Student and Faculty Alumni.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL’S NETWORK FOR PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

In preparation for participating in a Model, students benefit from the National Council’s national network of supporters and volunteers. Each of the participants can also obtain assistance from the Council’s staff comprised of Model Arab League Program alumni. Many gain further from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still other participants are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities with alumni of the Council’s Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is their firsthand experience in Arab-U.S. relations derived from participation in the Council’s cultural immersion programs in one or more of the Arab

countries that, in support of the Council’s mission, have hosted the Fellows.

In 2016, the National Council administered 22 Model Arab Leagues, of which 15 were university Models and 7 were high school Models. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted in: Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Belmont, California at Notre Dame de Namur University; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Commerce, Texas at Texas A&M University-Commerce; Denver, Colorado at Metropolitan State University of Denver; Grand Forks, North Dakota at the University of North Dakota; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston Honors College; La Verne, California at the University of La Verne; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Roanoke, Virginia at Hollins University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Tampa, Florida at the University of South Florida; and Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University. High School Model Arab Leagues were conducted in:

Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School; Evanston, Illinois at Northwestern University; Denton, Texas at the University of North Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Statesboro, Georgia at Georgia Southern University; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; and Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University.

As Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony has noted, *“We are providing future leaders the experience of being in the shoes of and having to understand someone they might never be able to deal with effectively otherwise.”* *“The beneficiaries,”* MAL Program Coordinator Emily Bless added, *“are not only America and the world’s coming generation of diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and educators, but also humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers.”*



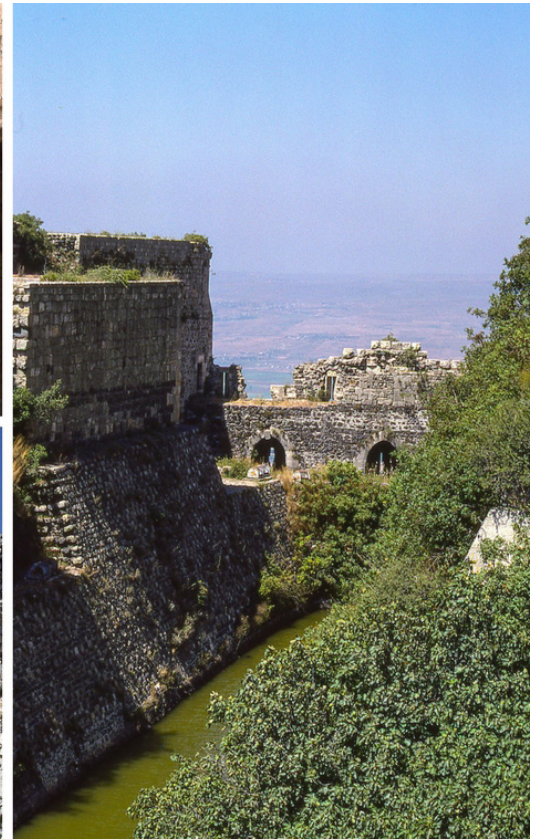
The National Council’s Model Arab League Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program is helping to train the next generation of civic and public affairs specialists.

The Krak des Chevaliers in Syria was built by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem from 1142 to 1271, with further construction by the Mamluks in the late 13th century.

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006, it ranks among the best-preserved examples of fortified architecture relating to the Crusader period.

The hilltop castle has suffered damage in the ongoing Syrian conflict.

Photos by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 1993.



A lion at the entrance to the Qasr Al Nil Bridge in Cairo, Egypt. The bridge connects downtown Cairo with Gezira Island. This lion is one of four that stand guard at the entrances to the bridge.

The lions are the work of Henri Alfred Jacquemart, one of France's most popular sculptors. Egyptian Chafika Soliman Hamamsy writes in her book "Zamalek: The Changing Life of a Cairo Elite," that the first role these guards played was in 1898 when the lions served as toll stations, where farmers and merchants paid a tax to cross the river to reach the grand market to exchange and trade goods.

Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 1995.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S MODEL ARAB LEAGUE STUDENT & FACULTY LEADERS VISIT OMAN

The National Council organized and escorted a delegation of four Model Arab League students and twelve Model Arab League faculty advisers on a cultural immersion study visit to Oman from August 26 – September 5, 2016.

In an effort to help reduce the American deficit in knowledge, understanding, empirical experience, and, in particular, empathy with regard to the Arab world, the National Council has taken the initiative to provide firsthand educational introductions to the Arab Gulf countries. The beneficiaries are a select group of American students and faculty advisers. During the course

of one particular fall 2016 study visit, the students met with and were briefed by Omani educators, business representatives, and civil society leaders. In addition, they visited numerous sites of cultural, developmental, and historical interest.

The study visit's American participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of research, debate, and leadership in one or more of the National Council's 20 Model Arab Leagues during the 2015-2016 academic year. The students were led by Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony and Council staff members Zachary Hrynowski and Megan Madison. The



The National Council's Model Arab League delegation visited the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.



The National Council’s Model Arab League met with and received a briefing from H.E. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas, Adviser to H.M. the Sultan for Cultural Affairs.

16 students and faculty advisers were chosen from a like number of U.S. universities involved in the Models. An additional unique feature of the program was that each of the students had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree. This ensured their having *a full year to share what they learned in and about Oman* with members of their community’s civil, business, religious, and professional associations, as well as the media, in addition to, as a given, their classmates and professors.

As with all National Council Study Abroad Programs, the experience begins with a pre-departure orientation at the Council’s Washington, DC office. The objective is threefold: first, to introduce the participants to some of America’s and the Sultanate’s foremost specialists on Oman and the Omani-U.S. relationship, with whom the students can follow up and use as a resource; second, to provide the students with what would be hard-to-come-by background, context, and perspective regarding the experience that lies ahead of them; and third, to provide examples of

how the students can most effectively share their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible following their return to the United States.

During their time in Oman, the delegation visited Muscat, Salalah, and Nizwa. They had the privilege of meeting with and receiving briefings from H.E. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas, Adviser to H.M. the Sultan for Cultural Affairs; H.E. Dr. Adnan Al-Ansari, former GCC Ambassador to the United Nations; H.E. Ambassador Sheikh Salim Bin Suhail Al Mashani, Former Ambassador of Oman to Kuwait; and other officials from Oman’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Salalah Free Zone, the U.S. Embassy in Oman, and the Center for International Learning. Along the way the delegation visited the Al Muttrah Souq, the Grand Mosque and the National Museum in Muscat, the Sumharm archaeological site and the Frankincense Museum, Qara Mountain and Springs, Prophet Job’s Memorial, Wadi Darbat, the Ras al-Jinz Turtle Reserve, the Wahibah Sands, the Falaj irrigation system in Lizq, the fort and souq in Nizwa, and Jabel Akhdar.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S MODEL ARAB LEAGUE STUDENT & FACULTY LEADERS VISIT QATAR

The National Council, in partnership with the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, D.C., organized and escorted a delegation of ten American students and three university faculty members, all selected from the Council's Model Arab League Program, on a study visit to Qatar from April 21-28, 2017. The visit provided the students and faculty an opportunity to explore some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Qatar's culture as well as features pertaining to the country's rapid and diverse modernization and development.

National Council Board Member Elizabeth Wossen, Senior International Affairs Fellow Professor David Des Roches, and Council staff member Zachary Hrynowski escorted the delegation. As with the Council's study visit to Oman (see page 22-23), the students all had a minimum



National Council Student Programs Associate Zachary Hrynowski greets Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Founding Director of Qatar University's Gulf Studies Program, the GCC region's first accredited university program for Gulf studies to offer Master's and Ph.D. degrees.



The National Council's Model Arab League delegation scans the landscape of Education City, an initiative of the Qatar Foundation that has brought together numerous educational facilities and branch campuses of some of the world's leading universities.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation visited the Msheireb Museums, located in the oldest part of Doha. The museums explore different aspects of Qatar’s cultural and social development through four heritage houses: Bin Jelmoor House (the first museum to focus on slavery in the Arab world), Company House (examining the pioneering workers of the petroleum industry in Qatar), Mohammed Bin Jassim House (highlighting at the development of Doha over time), and Radwani House (presenting the daily life of a traditional Qatari family).

of two semesters remaining before completing their undergraduate degree. This ensured their having *full year to share what they learned in and about Qatar* not only with their classmates and professors, but, most especially, members of their respective communities’ civic, business, and professional associations.

The delegation visited Qatar’s Al Jazeera Media Network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Foundation, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (overseeing stadiums and infrastructure for the 2022 FIFA World Cup), and the Aspire Academy. They explored the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, the Katara Cultural Village, and the Msheireb Museums, four historic heritage houses in the heart of the oldest part of the capital that reveal unique aspects of Qatar’s cultural and social development.

Dr. Anthony also helped arrange for the delegation to meet and have briefings with the founding director and head of Qatar University’s Gulf Studies

Program (GSP), for which Dr. Anthony serves as the only American member of the advisory board. Established and led by Dr. Abdullah Baabood, the GSP aims to become the world’s foremost center for Gulf studies. It is also the GCC region’s first accredited university program for Gulf studies to offer Master’s and Ph.D. degrees.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation visited the world-renowned Museum of Islamic Art on the corniche in Doha. Its iconic building, designed by I. M. Pei, includes Islamic art from three continents spanning over 1,400 years.



Men sit outside the Al-Kadhimayn Mosque in Baghdad, Iraq.

Located in a northern Baghdad neighborhood, west of the Tigris River, the mosque, constructed in the early sixteenth century, is part of a shrine that dates to 799.

Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 1986.



Bab al-Yaman is the main southern gate of the wall around the ancient, fortified Old City of Sana'a, Yemen.

Sana'a has been inhabited for more than 2,500 years. The Old City of Sana'a was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1986. Sana'a's historic section has 103 mosques, 14 hammams (public bath houses), and over 6,000 traditional residences in which Yemenis still live with their families.

Photo by Dr. John Duke Anthony, 1970.



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL INTRODUCES MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS & FACULTY TO QATAR

The National Council, in partnership with the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, D.C. and Qatar’s Ministry of Defense, organized and escorted a delegation of thirteen U.S. military service academy cadets and midshipmen along with four of their faculty advisors on a study visit to Qatar from May 19-25, 2017. National Council Founding Presidents & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, a U.S. Army veteran who completed a Bachelor’s Degree in History at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, served as escort and resource specialist for the delegation. The visit provided the U.S. military service academy students and faculty an opportunity to gain a heightened understanding of Qatar, its history, its vital strategic significance

and role in global affairs, and the importance of the U.S.-Qatar relationship.

After a pre-departure orientation program at the National Council’s office in Washington, the delegation – comprised of students and faculty members from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York; and The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina – spent a week in Qatar exploring sites of strategic interest as well as learning about some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Qatar’s culture.



The National Council partnered with the Qatar Military Office in Washington, D.C., to bring a delegation of cadets/midshipmen from U.S. military academies to visit and explore Qatar, learn about its strategic significance and role in global affairs, and witness firsthand the nature and extent of Qatar-U.S. defense cooperation. The delegation also had the opportunity to learn about Qatar’s history, culture, and scientific achievements and advances.



What will your legacy be?

Accomplishing the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' educational, training, and leadership development mission cannot be achieved by accident or coincidence. It can be realized only through a steady stream of resources from individuals and families that have benefited from the Council's educational programs, projects, events, and activities, and benefactors who believe in what the Council seeks to accomplish.

Investment in the National Council – at any level and at any point in one's life – will make a difference for generations to come.

Contributing to the National Council is a powerful and meaningful way for one to strengthen the Council's philanthropic legacy. Inclusion of the Council in one's will is a guaranteed means of bequeathing resources to ensure a lasting impact on the Arab-U.S. relationship for far into the future.

For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:

Mr. Pat Mancino, Executive Vice President & Director of Development
Telephone: 202-293-6466
Email: pat@ncusar.org

Suggested Bequest Language:

I bequeath _____ percent of my residuary estate (or \$ _____) to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, a not-for-profit organization, with its office at 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036, for its ongoing educational programs (or name a specific National Council program, e.g., the Model Arab League, Malone Fellowship, Summer Internship Program, or Findley Fellowship).
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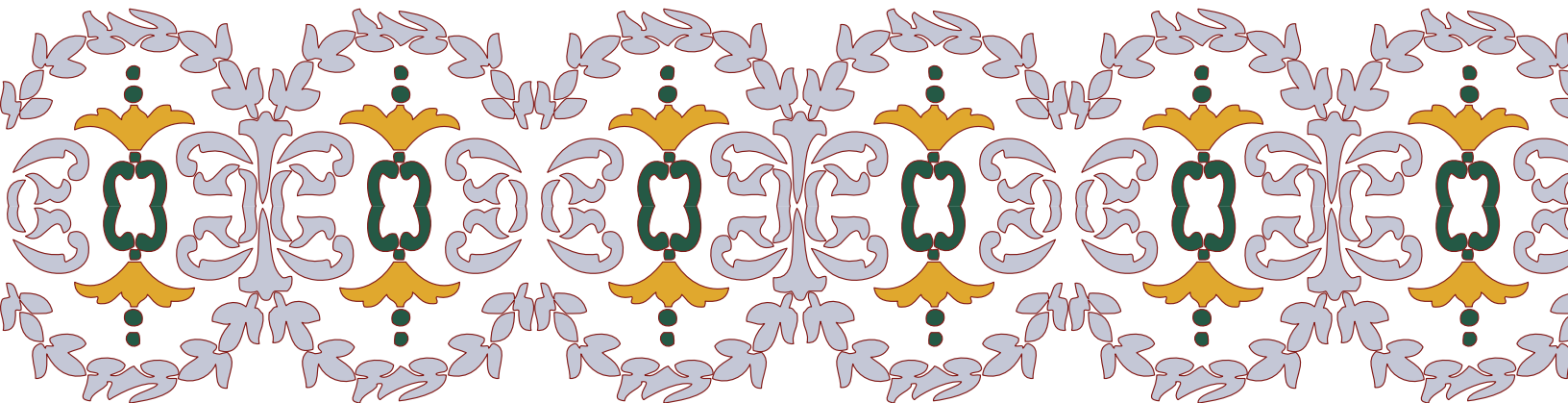
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