

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS



2009 ANNUAL REPORT



2009 Annual Report

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

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

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

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

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

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National Council Public Affairs Briefings

The National Council periodically sponsors public educational programs on Capitol Hill and around Washington, DC where an assemblage of domestic and internationally renowned specialists analyze, discuss, and debate issues of importance to the relationship between the U.S. and the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic World. These events examine how best to strengthen and expand mutual Arab-U.S. trust, confidence, and benefits while examining a range of complex issues, interests, and policies.

On December 2, 2008, in the Pavilion Room of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB & ITC), the Council, in collaboration with The International Gateway at the RRB & ITC and ExxonMobil Corporation, hosted "**A Conversation With His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud.**" Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for this 90-minute discussion on Arab-U.S. relations with the former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the U.S. and United Kingdom, HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud.

On December 16, 2008, in the Horizon Ballroom at the RRB & ITC, the Council, in collaboration with The International Gateway at the RRB & ITC and Chevron Corporation, hosted "**A Conversation with H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States.**" Dr. John Duke Anthony again served as moderator, and C-SPAN television network broadcast the event live with several repeat airings. C-SPAN has a DVD available for purchase and streaming video of the event available on its Web site www.cspan.org. A link to the streaming video from C-SPAN can be found on the Council's Web site www.ncusar.org.

On February 17, 2009, in the Rotunda Ballroom at the RRB & ITC, the Council, in collaboration with Qatar Airways, and with support from The International Gateway at the RRB & ITC and the Oxford Business Group, hosted a discussion on "**Islamic Finance and the Global Economic Crisis.**" Featured speakers were Dr. Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo, Chief Shariah Officer for Shariah Capital, and Mr. Michael McMillen, Attorney for Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for the discussion.



Mr. Michael McMillen



Dr. Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo



Model Arab League / Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program 2008 - 2009 Academic Year

2008-09 marked the 26th 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 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 is the world's only regional political organization that pre-dates the founding of the United Nations. The Models provide American, Arab, and other 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 and are able to develop and apply analytical, organizational, and public speaking talents that would not be possible through academic courses, lectures, films, videos, briefings, blogs, or the Internet.

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

The Models enable students to acquire and practice vital leadership skills that would be extraordinarily difficult to acquire by 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, a maximum of five minutes.

Practicing and Mastering the Arts of Defining Issues, Focused Debate, Consultation, Consensus, Cooperation, Compromise, Setting and Completing Agendas, Parliamentary Procedure, Mobilizing Coalitions, Time Management, Decision-Making, Resolution-Writing, and Leading Effectively

Few Americans have received comprehensive training or firsthand experience in practicing and mastering such public affairs leadership abilities. The students have 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 career they elect to pursue.



Dr. Anthony with an award-winning Model Arab League delegation from the United States Military Academy at West Point at the 2009 National University Model Arab League in the nation's capital



Student delegates cast their votes on a resolution during the Summit Session of the 2009 National Model



(L to R) Dr. Anthony; H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States; and award-winning Model Arab League student delegates from Converse College at the 2009 National Model



(L to R) National Council Malone Fellow and Model Arab League Faculty Adviser Linda Pappas Funsch, National Council Vice President for Programs Dr. James A. Winship, and a Hood College Model Arab League student delegate at the 2009 National Model at Georgetown University

From November 2008 through April 2009, the National Council sponsored and administered 12 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 Georgetown University; Houston, Texas at the University of St. Thomas; Denton, Texas at the University of North Texas; Berkeley, California at the University of California at Berkeley; and Missoula, Montana at the University of Montana. High School Models were held in Atlanta, Georgia at The Marist School, and in Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University.



A student raises a point of parliamentary procedure in the Social Affairs Council at the 2009 National High School Model Arab League



Georgetown University served as the host site for the 2009 National Model Arab League for university students March 26-28, and for high school students April 17-18



Student delegates introduce a draft resolution to the Political Affairs Council at the 2009 National High School Model



Delegates cast their votes on a draft resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at the National University Model



H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States, addresses student delegates at the 2009 National University Model



Student delegates discuss a draft resolution they intend to introduce to the Council on Economic Affairs at the 2009 National University Model

The National Council sponsored and administered the 2009 National University Model Arab League at the Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington, D.C. March 26-28. Keynote speakers for the Opening Session were H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States; HRH Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Council's Dr. Anthony. H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States, gave the Keynote Speech for the Closing Session. Receiving "Outstanding Delegation" awards were Mercer University (Macon, Georgia), representing Lebanon; Converse College (Spartanburg, South Carolina), representing Egypt; Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts), representing Iraq; the University California, Santa Barbara, representing the UAE; the United States Military Academy (at West Point, New York), representing Bahrain; and Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois), representing Jordan.



HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Keynote Speaker from the Opening Session of the 2009 National University Model, with Model Arab League student delegates from Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, Georgia)



Anthony Kutayli, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Consultant, speaks to students during the 2009 National High School Model Arab League at Georgetown University



**Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States
H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie
addresses the 2009 National Model Arab League**



**Student delegates deliberate in the Arab Court of Justice, a
simulated international court that adjudicates disputes
between Arab League member states, during the 2009
National University Model**



**Faculty advisors, many of whom are alumni of the National
Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies
Program, gather with Council Model Arab League
Coordinator Megan Geissler (center) for a group picture at the
2009 National University Model**



**Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Center for
Contemporary Arab Studies Academic Coordinator Jenna
Beveridge addresses student delegates at the 2009 National
High School Model Arab League at Georgetown University**



**ABOVE: Student delegates at the 2009 West Coast Model Arab
League at the University of California, Berkeley
pose for a group picture**

**LEFT: Cover of the latest issue of Converse College Professor,
National Council Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies
Alumnus, and Model Arab League Advisor Dr. Joe Dunn's
Carolinian Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations
NEWSLINES newsletter**

Fall 2009 Model Arab Leagues

Northeast Regional Model Arab League Boston, MA - November 6-8

The 2009 Northeastern University Regional Area Model (NERMAL), convened at Northeastern University in Boston November 6-8, succeeded on multiple levels. Evidence of the growing interest and popularity of this particular Model was reflected in the fact that four more universities participated than the year before. In addition, the number of participants this year reached a record high. Student delegates debated and passed resolutions on numerous diverse topics reflecting the real-life domestic dynamics and policy challenges presently facing all 22 of the League's Arab member-states. Since the Model's completion, many of the new universities have joined veteran ones to indicate their intent to participate again in the 2010 Northeast Regional Model.



The Northeast Regional Model Secretary-General awards a certificate to a student delegate for outstanding representation of her country's policies and positions.



Delegates from the Joint Defense Council pose for a picture during the 2009 Northeast Model Arab League at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.



Student delegates in the Council on Palestinian Affairs collaborate in drafting a resolution.



Student delegates from the Council on Political Affairs gather for a picture at the Northeast Regional Model Arab League at Northeastern University in Boston.



The Secretariat of the Northeast Regional Model Arab League presides over the Closing Plenary Session, where resolutions passed in councils come before the entire body for a final vote.

Capital Area Regional Model Arab League Washington, DC - November 6-8

November 6-8, 2009 was a special three-day period. It joined the National Council, the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, and an impressive



A student delegate makes a speech supporting a resolution in the Joint Defense Council at the Capital Area Model at Georgetown University

number of students from six universities in the mid-Atlantic region in a collaborative educational venture. The dates were those for the newest addition to the Council's now record 14 premier Arab-U.S. relations leadership development programs administered annually in cities and universities throughout the United States.

The formation of the Capital Area Regional Model Arab League in association with Georgetown University is the result of a pair of complementary forces and factors. One is the continuing national need for greater knowledge and understanding of the Arab world in the United States. The other is the extraordinary popularity of the Council's National Model Arab League. The latter event has been convened

annually each spring in Washington, D.C. for more than a quarter of a century. That Model typically has more than 300 participants. Always filled to overflowing, the National Model Arab League has long been unable to accommodate the many additional numbers of students and universities eager to be allowed to participate. Hence, the establishment of an additional Model Arab League in the nation's capital.

Over seventy students from American University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Bloomsburg University, McDaniel College, and the U.S. Naval Academy took part in this first-ever three days of debate on Arab world issues in the fall at one of America's leading institutions of higher education. The focus of the debates ranged from Arab insurgencies in Iraq and Palestine to civil dynamics, economic and social development, and defense as well as environmental cooperation.

Highlights included opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Maen Areikat, Chief Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization Mission to the United States, and an Arab dinner provided by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. Program Coordinator Megan Geissler said of the program, "The exercise focuses heavily on enabling students to develop the debate, speaking, writing, and presentational skills with which they can accurately role-play Arab diplomats in situations as reflective as possible of real-life Arab world crises in their policy-related contexts. In the process, students grapple with how contemporary Arab representatives and policymakers analyze not only a range of cutting edge issues affecting their respective countries' government and people. They also simultaneously have no choice but to come to grips with and learn how to forcefully debate the rationales for various Arab foreign policies, positions, and attitudes towards a wide range of regional challenges and opportunities."

National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony addressed the delegates in their final summit session. Afterwards he presented outstanding performance awards to individual delegations and students. In an interview, Dr. Anthony said, "The skills developed in the Model Arab League Program by students representing Arab diplomats and foreign affairs officials are at once numerous, multifaceted, and exceptionally valuable. Like no other educational activity I know of, one skill it instills and enhances through practice with one's peers and in front of adult faculty advisers and judges is empathetic awareness of the logic and legitimacy of other people's viewpoints and positions on important matters of public policy.

"This trait," Dr. Anthony said, "as is obvious to any serious student of the modern history of efforts by outsiders to bring a measure of peace, justice, and effective closure to some of the world's seemingly more

intractable interstate conflicts, has often been missing. Certainly, it has not always been conspicuous among the skills that many Western foreign affairs practitioners have brought to Arab-centric challenges of regional diplomacy, mediation, presentation, representation, and negotiation. In addition, participation in a Model ensures the achievement of something else. Students come away not only with much greater first-hand knowledge of the array of complex factors and forces that determine Arab decision-making. They also become better able to understand the important roles that Arabs play in regional and global affairs."

Students spent weeks preparing for the CARMAL by researching their assigned country's policies and learning parliamentary procedure. Bloomsbury University student delegate Michael Kennedy said, "I know that careers await people who understand Arabs and U.S. policy toward the Arab countries. Like nothing else, the Model Arab League is a great way to go beyond what I have learned about Arab affairs in the classroom. In my case, it enabled me to enter into the mindset of a diplomat from Jordan, the country I represented. One thing for sure, as a result of my participation in the Model, I'll never think of Jordan and the challenges it confronts in quite the same way again."



Student delegates vote on an amendment to a resolution in the Council on Environmental Affairs at Georgetown University's Capital Area Model.



Student delegates enjoy a traditional Arab meal, courtesy of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, on a break from the proceedings of the Capital Area Model in Washington, DC.

Ms. Nadia Selim chaired the Model's Council on Palestinian Affairs. A recent alumna of the University of Montana at Missoula, she said, "This is not the only time I've benefited from this program. My first experience was in the National Council's Northern Rockies Regional Model. Participating in the Models has helped me develop leadership skills and debate skills more than anything else I have done. In the process, I have gained a great deal. In particular, I've learned how to explain the importance of the Arab world for reasons over and beyond the public's often misleading stereotypes associated with the region's prodigious energy resources. To cite but one example, how is one supposed to find a solution in Palestine or do business in an Arab country without people understanding the complexity of Arab issues in depth?"

Asked to enumerate and contextualize the range of skills that the Models help provide the student participants, Dr. Anthony was quick to do so. "Within the confines of the students' time together, they learn effectively how to accomplish numerous things that, beforehand, many would have considered difficult or impossible. For example, they become familiar with what it takes to effectively define issues, compile a public policy agenda, and arrange an agenda's order of procedure in terms of priorities. They learn how to organize a committee meeting to process the business before its members, how to address each of the committee's issues, and how to end a meeting with all or as much as possible of its agenda having been adequately discussed, debated, and decided. They practice how to apply procedural and time management skills. They do so with a view to achieving consensus on drafts of resolutions the committee will submit to the final plenary summit session for a vote by the delegations of all the Arab countries represented.

"The students learn how to adopt and represent a position not only in terms of a particular Arab government's real-life preferences. They also learn how to distill, debate, and defend the essence of a government's policies in as short a time span as thirty seconds, one minute, three minutes, or five minutes -- the maximum allowed any speaker."

Dr. Anthony added that, "In the process, students cannot help but appreciate, and have a chance to practice, the art of public speaking and being able, often on very short notice, to write as well as articulate rapidly, clearly, and forcefully in support of a specific policy. Along the way, they also develop several other skills. Examples are how to incorporate ordinarily unusual but in the world of politics time-honored language and phrases into a carefully crafted resolution to be submitted to public debate in committee as well as plenary session."

"The students," Dr. Anthony said, "become adept at how to caucus – meet with their likely supporters at breaks off to the side -- with a view to determining the best tactic to advance the prospects for success of their respective countries' positions. And they get to practice all these techniques against all the other delegations' representatives who, like them, are also under pressure and trying to achieve positive outcomes for their countries' policies."

Dr. Anthony continued, "as the momentum of a Model builds towards closure in the final summit meeting, the delegates are emotionally on pins and needles. This is natural, for the delegates have no earlier way of knowing how well, in the eyes of the Models' judges, they performed in competition with the others. They wonder how their resolutions will fare when subjected to significantly broadened debate, discussion, and decision in the end. But what comes across in the process to all who participate is an appreciation not only for the arts and acts of personal and organizational discipline, compromise, deal-making, and losing as well as winning with grace and dignity. Every participant leaves the Model experience knowing from direct experience what it takes to forge a winning vote for a given country's policies.

"Two other values also result. One is an understanding of what goes into forming a successful coalition. Ordinarily, if there are no abstentions in a Model comprised of delegations representing all 22-country League Arab States, the goal of each delegation is to obtain the support of at least 11 other delegations than one's own in order for their resolutions to be accepted as policy. The other value underscores the truism that 'democracy is not a spectator sport – that to obtain the results one seeks, one has no choice but to participate.'"



A student delegate representing Libya casts a vote in the Council on Political Affairs at the Capital Area Model.



A delegation from Georgetown Washington University, with Model Arab League Coordinator Megan Geissler (center), displays its certificates for outstanding representation of their country at the Capital Area Model.

Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program

Annual Cultural Immersion Study Visit to Oman

A delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, academics, and business representatives participated this year in the National Council's Seventh Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman. The delegation was led by Council President Dr. Anthony and Council Board Member John Mulholland. Whereas many of the Council's programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development, the Council's programs in Oman for the past seven years have focused mainly on cultural and anthropological themes. As such, the program takes place primarily in half a dozen regions outside the capital of Muscat, where delegation members experience firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of dynamics that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic and foreign policy objectives.

Before departure for Oman the Malone Fellow delegation participated in a two-day orientation program that featured Dr. Anthony; Malone Fellow Alumna Linda Pappas Funsch of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland; Dr. Peter Bechtold, Chairman emeritus, Near East and North Africa Studies, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State; Dr. Hussein Ibish, Senior Fellow, American Task Force on Palestine; Dr. Kenneth Katzman, Senior Gulf Specialist, Near East Affairs, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mr. Andrew MacDonald, Desk Officer for Oman and Yemen, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Mr. Tyler Hoffman, International Trade Specialist and Country Officer for Oman, Office of the Middle East, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; The Hon. Frances D. Cook, U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, 1995-1999; and The Hon. Molly Williamson, Energy Consultant, Immediate Past Senior Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of Energy, and former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Defense, and State.



During their visit to the Sultanate, the Malone Fellows had afternoon tea with Dr. and Mrs. Donald and Eloise Bosch at their home near Muscat. The Bosches provided many years of service as medical doctor and teacher for thousands of Omanis.



Malone Fellows spend two days and a night sailing on a traditional Arab dhow to, through, and from the Hormuz Strait, the world's most strategically vital waterway.



The inland fortress and traditional walled settlement of Bahla, presently under restoration, has been designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site.



Upon arrival in Oman, the delegation members participated in meetings and briefings by officials at the U.S. embassy and Omani government ministries. They experienced a “sundowner” – a late afternoon and early evening sail from Muscat eastwards around the country’s Indian Ocean coast. They visited two of Oman’s world class cultural and historical museums in Muttrah, the commercial center of the capital territory. They had afternoon tea with Americans Dr. Donald Bosch and Mrs. Eloise Bosch, legends in their own lifetime for having long served as one of the few Western doctors and elementary school teachers in the country prior to 1970. In addition, the Fellows spent time along the country’s coasts, in its mountains, camped out under a moonlit sky in a desert outpost deep in the vast Sharqiyyah Sands, where they attended the weekly camel races among members of the Al-Harthy and other tribes from throughout eastern Arabia. Still further into the interior, they visited remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and little known farm sites tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. They sailed for most of two days and a night aboard a traditional wooden Arab dhow, where they slept in the open under the stars and swam and snorkeled offshore famed Telegraph Island. They also anchored and went ashore in hard-to-reach coves and inlets amongst Oman’s Norwegian-like fjords amongst cliffs 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 were able to 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, and some of Oman’s multi-ethnic and religious rituals in addition to learning from wizened sentries who, in Bahla, Jabrin, Nizwa, Qabil, and Sur, guided the participants through the architectural mazes and defense mechanisms integral to some of the country’s more than 400 centuries-old forts. Through mountains, deserts, wadis, and the sea, the experience unfolded along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places, all alongside an extraordinary Omani guide who personified Oman’s long history of residence and interaction within Arabia as well as Central and East Africa.

The Malone Fellow delegation explored half a dozen regions outside the capital of Muscat, experiencing firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries.



The Indian Ocean port of Sur, home to craftsmen of Oman's famous traditional wooden sailing dhows and its merchant captains of the sea who sail to and from the Gulf, Africa, India, Pakistan, and lands further east



One of the National Council's U.S. Central Command Malone Fellows with the delegation's Omani guide during the delegation's stay in the Sharqiyyah Sands



National Council Malone Fellows share tea and dates with their Omani hosts at a settlement deep in the Sultanate's interior.



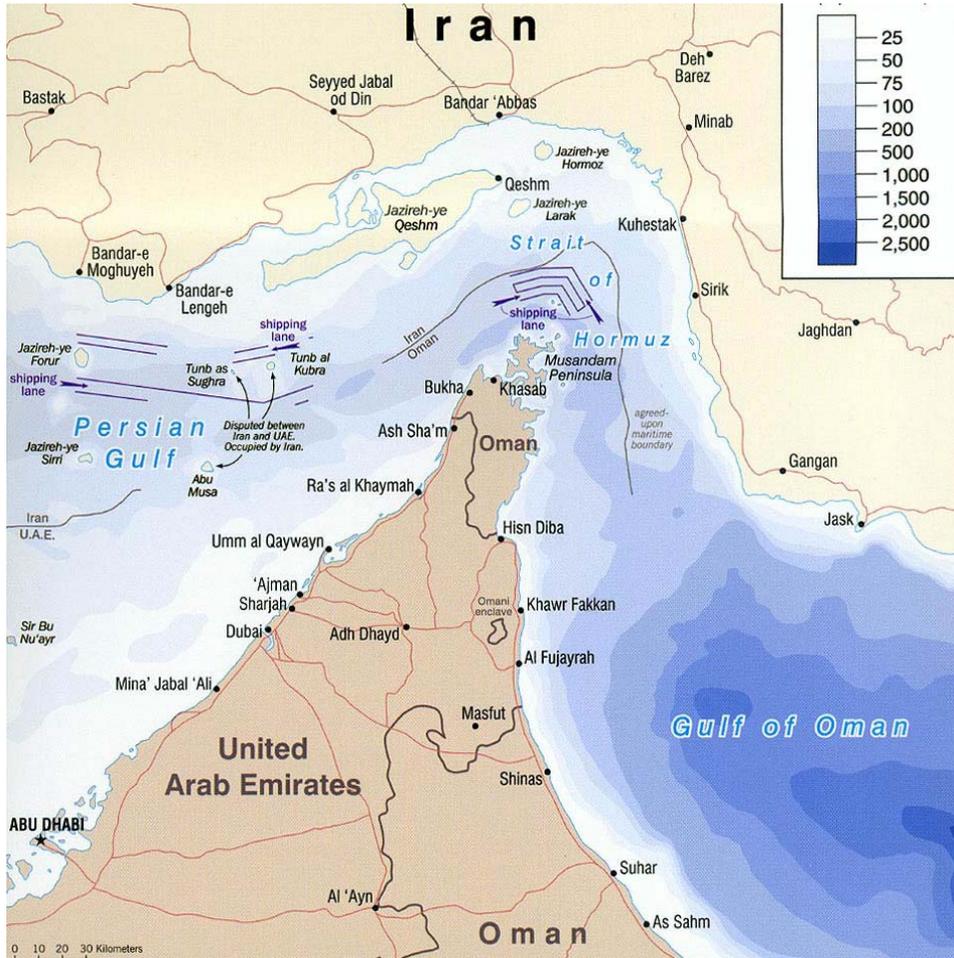
A view from atop the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, historical capital of the former Ibadhi Imamate of Oman in the Sultanate's interior. A center of scholarly learning and traditional education, Nizwa has long been closely linked historically to Ibadhi communities in Algeria, Libya, East Africa, and elsewhere.



Omani craftswomen at work producing some of the Sultanate's traditional wares at a site in the town of Bahla.



The waterfront of Muscat, capital of Oman and one of Arabia's most historically fabled ports.



STRAIT OF HORMUZ & THE MUSANDAM PENINSULA



Schoolboys take a break from their studies at a school in a remote cove among the mountain ranges of the Musandam Peninsula (map above), a promontory that juts eastward from Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the western reaches of the Hormuz Strait, through which 20 percent of the world's internationally traded oil transits daily.



OMAN

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

Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program

U.S. Energy Delegation Visit to Qatar and Saudi Arabia

The National Council, with sponsorship assistance from Qatar Airways and Saudi Aramco, escorted a delegation of Malone Fellow U.S. energy executives to Qatar and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia April 23-30. The program's pre-departure orientation program featured the Qatar and Saudi Arabia Desk Officers from the U.S. Department of State; the Political Counselor and Director of Congressional and Political Affairs at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; the President of the U.S.-Qatar Business Council; Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Deputy Minister for Industry, and Assistant Director General for Foreign Trade; Advisor and Group Chief Economist for The Saudi British Bank; a former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, and State, as well as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Department of Energy; and the President of International Energy Associates, Inc. who was previously U.S. representative to the International Energy Agency in Paris as well as Senior Adviser to a GCC country's Ministry of Petroleum.

In Qatar, the delegation visited ExxonMobil's Ras Laffan LNG Facility; Qatar's "Energy City;" the new American-Qatar Chamber of Commerce; Qatar Airways' facilities; Qatar Petroleum Company's new marketing agency for its gas, petroleum, and gas-to-liquids exports; Qatar's internationally renowned Islamic Museum; the U.S. Embassy; the offices of *Aljazeera*; and Khawr al-Udayd, the country's southeastern desert border area that intersects with the boundaries of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In Saudi Arabia, the delegation visited Saudi Aramco's headquarters and Heritage Gallery; the Company's Exploration & Petroleum Engineering Center, Oil Supply Planning & Scheduling Center, and its Ras Tanura Refinery and Terminal; and the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran. Throughout the visit, the delegation met with corporate representatives, technicians, managers, analysts, scientists, and diplomats in the forefront of the U.S.-Arab energy relationship.



The National Council Malone Fellows delegation of U.S. corporate energy representatives visiting Saudi Aramco facilities in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia



The corporate energy executives' pre-departure orientation program featured speakers from the government, business, and academic communities. Pictured here are officials of Saudi Arabia's Ministry for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry, and the Saudi British Bank.



The Malone Fellows energy delegation explored the Qatari capital's traditional market and the country's world famous Museum of Islamic Art (below)



Construction cranes fill the Doha sky amid Qatar's extensive economic development and infrastructure expansion



View from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar



Malone Fellow energy leaders take to the desert in four-wheel drive vehicles to visit the border region adjacent to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and to experience a traditional dinner in a tent.



QATAR



SAUDI ARABIA

Annual University Student Internship Program: June - August 2009

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 University Student Summer Internship Program**. The program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm (Ret.) made it possible for this past summer's program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he holds the Kuwait Chair in Gulf Studies. As in previous years, the 2009 Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



The National Council expresses its appreciation to The George Washington University and The Elliott School of International Affairs for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2009 Summer Internship Program in the nation's capital.

The program, which lasts from June 1-August 8, provides students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at 14 nongovernmental organizations involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. The experience is one that could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. In addition to their time assisting with the office routines of their host organizations, the interns meet and are briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world: *Arabia and the Gulf*. The reason relates to three truisms with implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, objectives and relations. First, this particular region, together with its maritime routes, has long been

regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.



As these maps illustrate, the academic focus of the internship program is on Arabia and the Gulf, which despite being of vital strategic and economic importance globally remains little understood by most Americans and many others.



Dr. Anthony (L) chairs a session in which he and the interns analyze and discuss issues relating to the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.



Mr. Essa Mohamed Al Mannai, First Secretary, hosted a luncheon and briefing for the interns at the Embassy of the State of Qatar. The interns learned of Qatar's rapid emergence as one of the world's most important producers of liquefied natural gas, its annual hosting of international conferences focusing on trade issues as well as multi-faith dialogue, and its role in mediating various regional disputes.

Second, Arabia and the Gulf are front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, large numbers of American and other foreign armed forces have been mobilized and deployed in the past quarter of a century. Third, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen -- is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states remains exceptionally limited.

Accordingly, one of the program's objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners that are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures address issues related to the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, as well as foreign affairs, on one hand, and, on the other, the relationships of the United States with this Arab sub-region and its neighbors -- and *vice versa*.



Escorted by Dr. Anthony (4th from left), the interns were hosted for a briefing at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by Mr. Nail Al Jubeir, the Embassy's First Secretary and Director of Information.



The interns pose for a group picture during a briefing at the National Council's office.

Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world, in U.S. government executive branch agencies as well as Congressional committees dealing with U.S.-Arab policy issues, major national and international print as well as broadcast media, leading American corporations engaged in U.S.-Arab trade, investment, technology cooperation, and the establishment of joint commercial ventures, and as teachers of Arabic and Arab area studies in American universities.

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the fourteen organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of this year's program are varied. Included are educational development and exchange, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, congressional committees, and executive branch agencies.



One of the highlights of the program was the opportunity for the interns to have a guided tour of the Department of State's formal diplomatic reception rooms after a briefing and discussion session with Ambassador Ronald L. Schlicher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State.



The interns pose with Bahraini Ambassador to the United States Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo (center), who hosted and briefed them at the Embassy of Bahrain.

Administering this year's program again were National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony as Chairman and lead lecturer, Vice President for Programs Dr. James A. Winship as Coordinator and lecturer, and Ms. Megan Geissler, Model Arab League Coordinator and Special Assistant. The National Council wishes to express its appreciation to the Olayan Group for its support for this program.

18th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

"Fresh Visions, Old Realities, New Possibilities: The Impact of Leadership Change on Arab-U.S. Relations"

Nine months into the new administration of American President Barack Obama, Arab-U.S. relations remain profoundly impacted by the multifaceted variants of the global economic recession and challenged by uncertainties bearing on the prospects for international and regional stability and security as well as prosperity. Acknowledging the critical importance of these issues yet also recognizing dramatic new opportunities for development and cooperation, an international audience of nearly 1,000 Arab and American diplomats, political, military, business, professional, media, and academic leaders convened at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the 18th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference October 15-16, organized by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. Chaired by the National Council's President and CEO, Dr. John Duke Anthony and the Chairman of its Board of Directors, Rear Admiral Harold J. Bernsen (USN, Ret.), the two-day conference focused on the theme, "Fresh Visions, Old Realities, New Possibilities: The Impact of Leadership Change on Arab-U.S. Relations."

This year's Policymakers Conference set records at every level - the largest registration and attendance ever and the largest media contingent in the Conferences' history, representing not only print and broadcast media but internet publications and the blogosphere as well, all supported by a record number of Conference Sponsors. Included among the latter were more than twenty Fortune 500 American Corporations, more than ten international business and trade organizations, and nine Arab embassies as well as the Washington, D.C. Office of the 22-member country League of Arab States -- the world's oldest regional organization (pre-dating the establishment of the United Nations) dedicated to the peaceful resolution of international disputes. Always intended to build bridges between the Arab countries, the Islamic world, and the United States, this year's Conference visibly also spanned generations of prominent American, Arab, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

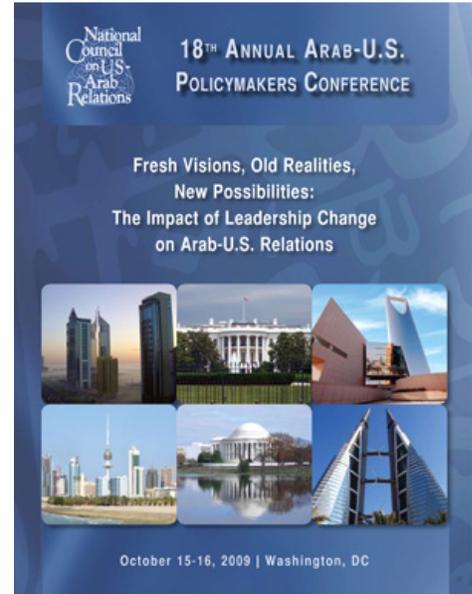


Ms. Helen Thomas, longtime dean of the White House Press Corps, was presented at the Conference a "Lifetime Achievement Award for Pioneering Excellence in Journalism"

Current and former policymakers offered a range of lessons learned from mistakes made and successes achieved based on their respective experiences and insights; renowned scholars exchanged their analyses with Arab and American diplomats and corporate leaders; Arab media representatives shared their assessments of President Obama's outreach efforts to the millions of Arab Christians and Muslims and the broader Islamic world comprised of 57 nations, together with their prognoses for near term progress as well as the implications of a continued inability to achieve definitive peaceful resolutions to some of the region's more difficult, dangerous, and challenging conflicts.

From beginning to end, one American and Arab specialist after another provided an extraordinary array of context and analysis meriting serious and favorable consideration by the policymaking establishments on both sides. Throughout, American and Arab presenters alike contributed perspectives and recommendations

warranting immediate attention by incumbent policymakers and their constituencies in the Arab world and the United States, while educating and inspiring many among the current generation of students on the threshold of



becoming the emerging Arab-U.S. relations leaders of tomorrow.

Traditionally focused on promoting dialogue among policymakers, this year's Conference also included recognition of the role that the arts and humanities play in enhancing cultural encounter, underscoring the human element in decision making, and giving vent to some of the heartfelt emotions shared by millions the world over. For example, the Conference opened with long time Dean of the White House Correspondents, Ms. Helen Thomas, being presented a "Lifetime Achievement Award for Pioneering Excellence in Journalism." The award citation read, "For excellence in political reporting, for courage in posing perceptive and challenging questions, for demanding accountability from those in power, for persistence in the pursuit of truth, and for bringing great distinction to her Arab American heritage."

In addition, the World Children's Choir, from northern Virginia and directed by Ms. Sondra Harnes, performed at the Thursday conference luncheon singing a selection of worldwide songs, one of which had been translated into Arabic. Throughout the conference there was also a showing of the paintings of Iraqi artist Ahmad Al Karkhi, now living in the Washington, D.C. area with refugee status.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Near East Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ambassador Ronald Schlicher opened the conference by discussing the Obama administration's emphasis on "principled and sustained engagement based on the principles of mutual interest and mutual respect." Applied to the real world of diplomacy, the idealism embedded in these conceptual formulations, in his view, has served to "diminish the notion that the United States is innately hostile to certain peoples, to certain states, and to certain leaders. In a very real sense," he suggested, "we can remove a lot of the excuses that countries have used to evade the substance and the sincerity of the grievances and concerns expressed by the United States." He then proceeded to provide a status report on key issues in U.S.-Arab relations covering Iran, Palestinian-Israeli peace prospects, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and continuing concerns about the Hizbollah as well as Hamas movements in Lebanon and the Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories, respectively.

A Conference highlight was a spirited exchange in the Ambassadors' Roundtable featuring Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, and Ambassador James B. Smith, newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, that was moderated by Mr. Peter Robertson, Co-Chairman of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council. Adding perspective to the discussion were four former United States Ambassadors to Saudi Arabia – Walter Cutler, Charles W. Freeman, Jr., James Oberwetter, and Robert Jordan. Ambassador Al-Jubeir observed that, "When you look at the challenges we face involving piracy or terrorism, financial crisis, energy situations, and trade and investment, I believe that the interests of our two countries at this moment are aligned as they have never been before."

Ambassador Smith reinforced these ideas, "This is a much more nuanced, complicated and I would argue more important relationship than it has ever been in the past." He continued, "I see my biggest challenge over the next two years is figuring out how to develop friendships without fences, relationships without barriers. Even if you can't change the physical dynamic [of security concerns] we have got to get out and represent the American people to the people of Saudi Arabia."

More than a month and a half later at a National Council-organized and sponsored Capitol Hill seminar on Yemen for Congressional staff, representatives of the international diplomatic corps, the media, public policy research institutes, and many other organizations, one of the lead speakers, former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait James Larocco, repeated Amb. Smith's call for developing "friendships without fences, relationships without barriers." In so doing, he underscored what Amb. Smith had emphasized as the principle theme of his appeal -- that the United States government needed urgently to reach out to Yemen and its people in the country's hour of massive need for



H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir – Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States, and The Hon. James B. Smith (Brigadier General, USAF, Ret.) – Ambassador of the United States to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

economic, employment, and related assistance from its international partners, friends, and allies.

Congressman Keith Ellison (Representative of the Fifth District of Minnesota and Member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party), the first Muslim elected to the United States Congress and the first African-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota, offered a viewpoint from the Congress, where he serves on the Middle East and South Asia Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and on the House Committee on Finance. Building on these committee assignments and acknowledging that Americans and Arabs have “to build our body of knowledge about each other on the micro-level and the global-



For the fourth consecutive year, the National Council's Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in the heart of Washington, DC

level in order to understand each other better,” Representative Ellison noted that, “business is an excellent way to do that. You and I both know that politics can be combustible, but business is something you can come to a meeting of the minds on. When you do a business deal what you’re saying is this ... helps me, and it helps you, and we wouldn’t do a deal unless those two things were true. And, so, there is a point of agreement, a point of coming together, that we should start with but absolutely not end with.”

Conference panel discussions included a wide range of specialist views designed to illuminate areas of disagreement as well as large areas of shared interest and common concern, allowing the audience to pose questions that touched on some of the most sensitive and controversial areas of Arab-U.S. relations. Individual sessions dealt with such policy-related geopolitical challenges as “Iran and Regional Security,” “Israel and Palestine,” and “Iraq’s Return to Sovereignty” as well as policy issues pertaining to “Syria and Lebanon.” Additional sessions addressed policy considerations associated with such topical issues as: “Energy Dynamics for Producers and Consumers,” “Defense Cooperation and Enhancing Regional Security,” “Development and Education,” and “The Obama Administration: Reactions from the Arab Media.”

As on numerous previous occasions, the 18th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference concluded with an overall assessment of U.S.-Arab relations offered by Ambassador Charles W. (“Chas”) Freeman, Chairman of the Board of Projects International, Inc. and a former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Security Affairs, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Immediate Past President of the Middle East Policy Council. Though President Obama “clearly signaled that he recognizes the imperative of solving the Israel-Palestine conflict and repairing American relations with Arabs and Muslims, if the United States is to enjoy peace and tranquility at home,” Freeman observed, “his administration has made only minimal changes to longstanding American policies that are conspicuous failures.” “Time,” Freeman said, “is running out on the prospects for peaceful engagement between Israel, the Palestinians, other Arabs, and non-Arab Muslims. No peace is conceivable without the full use of American moral and economic leverage to bring Israel to the negotiating table,” he added. “Peace with the Palestinians,” he concluded, “would enable Israel for the first time to be accepted as a legitimate part of the Middle East. It would end the conflict in the Holy Land. It is the key to de-radicalization of the Arab and Muslim worlds and to ending their violent backlash against the West. It is the prerequisite for the restoration of peace within the realm of Islam.”

Ambassador Freeman's incisive and well-timed remarks were once again accorded the widespread acclaim to which the National Council's yearly Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference participants and attendees have become accustomed. The text of his address, together with the full two-day program and list of conference speakers as well as transcripts, video, and audio recordings of the proceedings are available on the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations website www.ncusar.org.



Photo: Janel Norton



Photo: Janel Norton

The 2009 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference featured an exhibition of the work of Iraqi artist **Ahmad Al Karkhi**, who lives in the Washington, D.C. area with refugee status.

Learn more about Ahmad Al Karkhi here:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122214886>



Photo: Janel Norton



Photo: Walid Jawad



Photo: Walid Jawad



Photo: Walid Jawad



Ms. Barbara Slavin



Dr. Abdulrahman H. Al-Saeed



Adm. William J. Fallon (USN, Ret.)



The Hon. Charles W. ('Chas') Freeman, Jr.



Ms. Harriet Fulbright



Ms. Helen Thomas



Dr. John Duke Anthony



RAdm. Harold J. Bernsen, (USN, Ret.)



Dr. Joseph C. Moynihan



H.E. Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo



The Hon. Molly Williamson



H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir



The Hon. James B. Smith (Brig. Gen, USAF, Ret.)



Dr. Rochelle Davis



Congressman Keith Ellison



The Hon. Robert Jordan



Ms. Hillary Mann Leverett



H.E. Samir Sumaida'i



The Hon. Walter L. Cutler



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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, where he teaches a course on "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula." This is the first such semester-long course of its kind known to be offered at any of America's 3,800 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, Ireland, and the United States.

Dr. Anthony's recent publications and media appearances include:

- "An American Ambassador's Farewell to Saudi Arabia," a report appearing in *Saudi-U.S. Relations Information Service* (www.saudi-us-relations.org), January 15, 2009
- "On the Eve of the GCC Summit," on the occasion of the 2008 Annual GCC Ministerial and Heads of State Summit in Muscat, Oman, in *Saudi-U.S. Relations Information Service*, (www.saudi-us-relations.org), December 28, 2008
- "Arab Identity, Culture, and Values," for *This is America with Dennis Wholey* (<http://www.thisisamerica.net/>), U.S. Public Broadcasting, April, 2009
- Three separate "Interviews on Prospects for Arab-U.S. Relations in the Obama Administration;" "Prospects for Arab-Israeli Peace," and "Prospects for Saudi Arabia-U.S. Relations" for *KSATV* in the winter and early spring 2009
- Essay on "Gulf-U.S. Relations 2008" for the *2008-2009 Gulf Yearbook* of the Dubai, UAE-based Gulf Research Center
- "War With Iran: Regional Reactions and Requirements," *Middle East Policy*, Volume XV, Number 3 (Fall 2008)
- Biographical essays on (1) United Arab Emirates (UAE) President and Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed; (2) UAE Vice-President and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai HH Shaikh Rashid bin Muhammad Al-Maktoum; (3) UAE Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces and Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi HH Shaikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan; (4) Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States HE Adel A. Al-Jubair; and (5) Kingdom Holding Chairman HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdalaziz Al Sa'ud, in Michael R. Fischbach, editor, *Biographical Encyclopedia on the Modern Middle East* (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Thomson Gale, 2008)
- Essays on "Boom in the Gulf," "Oman," and "Qatar" in *Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook* (Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008)

Dr. Anthony also recently addressed the membership and supporters of the following organizations:

- The Gulf Research Center and the Saudi Arabian Institute for Diplomatic Studies' 2009 Gulf Forum, on "U.S. Gulf Policies in the Obama Administration," Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- The U.S. National War College's Classes of 2008 and 2009, separate lectures on "Saudi Arabia" and "Qatar"
- The Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management, U.S. Department of Defense, on "The Arabian Peninsula in Regional and World Affairs"
- The 2009 National University & National High School Model Arab Leagues in Washington, DC, on "Educating and Training Tomorrow's Arab-U.S. Relations Leaders Today: Contexts and Challenges"
- The Center for Naval Analyses, U.S. Department of Defense, on "Challenges for the Obama Administration in Arabia and the Gulf"
- The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on "New Directions and Old Dilemmas for the Obama Administration: The Changing Nature of U.S. Interests in the Arab World and the Stubborn Realities of American Politics"
- The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research (CDR) in Abu Dhabi, on "The UAE as An Example in Political Engineering"
- The Washington, DC premier of the documentary *HOME-The Aramco Brats' Story*
- Reception Honoring Ms. Judith Morrison in Commemoration of the Lives of the Late Joseph J. Malone and Lois F. Malone, on "Joe and Lois Malone: In Memoriam"

Dr. Anthony on U.S. Public Television's *"This is America" with Dennis Wholey*

National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony appeared in two episodes of Public Television's *This is America with Dennis Wholey* that aired across the U.S. in April. Dr. Anthony was featured in a session that included HM Queen Noor, former First Lady of Jordan and widow of the late Jordanian King Hussein; Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, President, Middle East Institute; George Washington University Islamic Scholar Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr; *Al-Arabiya Television* Chief Washington Correspondent Hisham Melham; and Laila Al-Qatami, former Communications Director, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee now with the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research and lecturer at the UAE National University.



The two half-hour programs focused on "Arab Identity, Culture and Values." The speakers discussed public diplomacy between America and the Arab world in a historical context, the changing face of U.S.-Arab relations, and cultural issues that continue to challenge mutual knowledge, understanding, and respect. Streaming video of the programs is available through the *This is America with Dennis Wholey* Web site and the National Council's Web site: www.ncusar.org.

Dr. Anthony Keynotes University of Montana Conference



Dr. John Duke Anthony delivered the keynote address to an international conference on "New Avenues for U.S. Middle East Policy," March 4-5 at The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana. The two-day symposium brought together leading scholars and foreign affairs practitioners from the Middle East and the United States to discuss U.S. policies. In addition to his keynote address on "America's Changing Interests in the Middle East: Implications for U.S. Policy," Dr. Anthony also addressed a session on "U.S.-Iran Relations and Their Implications for GCC Countries." Other conference speakers included Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) Director Dr. Michael C. Hudson and CCAS Professors Drs. Rochelle A. Davis, Samer Shehata, and Nouredin Jebnoun; prominent University of Montana Professor Dr. Mehrdad Khia; Retired Ambassador and Montana World Affairs Council President Mark Johnson; Brigadier General Russell Howard (USA, Ret.); University of Texas at Austin Professor Clement M. Henry; Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum from the Middle East Institute; Mr. Hekmat Karzai (brother of Afghanistan President Hamid Kharzai) from the Center for Conflict and Peace Studies in Kabul, Afghanistan; Fordham University Professor John P. Entelis; and University of New England Professor Dr. Ali Ahmida.

Recent and Upcoming Publications

Dr. Anthony's essay, "Strategic Dynamics of Iran-GCC Relations," will be featured together with essays by other scholars in a book edited by Dr. Jean-François Seznec and Mimi Kirk of Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS). The soon-to-appear work will be published by Routledge and is titled *Industrialization in the Gulf: A Socioeconomic Revolution*. The book's chapters are derived from the presentations by the speakers at CCAS' annual 2008 symposium of the same title. The



volume chronicles and analyzes the Gulf's increasing movement towards industrialization not only in light of its comparative economic advantages rooted in its massive and relatively inexpensive-to-produce energy resources. It also assesses the record to date of the member-countries' strategic objective of diversifying their economies beyond their present major reliance on oil and gas. Throughout, the essays examine the implications of how this transformative process is starting to impact not only the region's economies and social make-up, but also the overall course of modernization and development, the position and role of foreign labor, growing trends in women's education, and the increasing frequency and extent of women working outside the home.



Dr. James Winship, Vice President, Programs for the National Council, published an article about the Council's February 17, 2009 Public Affairs Briefing on the topic "Islamic Finance and the Global Economic Crisis" in *Diplomatic Connections Business Quarterly*. The program featured two of the world's leading experts on Shari'ah (Islamic law) compliant financial instruments, Dr. Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo, Chief Shariah Officer for Shariah Capital, and Mr. Michael McMillen, Attorney for Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, discussing the emerging and rapidly growing role of Islamic finance in the international financial community. The article can be accessed online through the National Council's Web site www.ncusar.org.

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National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Brings Together Experts to Discuss **ISLAMIC FINANCE AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS**

By JAMES A. WINSHIP, Ph.D. Vice President, Programs National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

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National Council Achieves Top (Four Star) Charity Rating

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations was recently awarded a Four Star Rating by Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator. Charity Navigator helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health of America's largest charities. In earning Charity Navigator's highest four star rating, the Council was deemed to have demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in the management and growth of its finances in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.



National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony presents legendary White House Press Correspondent Helen Thomas the Council's Lifetime Achievement Award



Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States Adel Al-Jubeir joins U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Smith on the Policymakers Conference' Ambassadors Roundtable



Admiral William J. Fallon (USN, Ret.), former Commander, U.S. Central Command addresses a luncheon session



Renowned Specialists Barbara Slavin, Hillary Mann Leverett, Christopher Koch, and Jeffrey Lewis address the session on Iran And Regional Security

18th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

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Financial Information

Data is for the most recent year available - Fiscal Year Ending 08 / 31 / 2008

Revenue

Primary Revenue	\$2,076,741
Other Revenue	\$14,408
Total Revenue	\$2,091,149

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$1,158,921
Model Arab League - \$193,115	
Malone Oman Delegation - \$37,788	
Malone Yemen Delegation - \$1,276	
Arabic Language Study Abroad - \$200,240	
Media - \$593,452	
Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference - \$97,025	
Summer Intern Program - \$34,860	
Congressional Briefings - \$1,165	
Administrative Expenses	\$114,435
Fundraising Expenses	\$96,296
Total Functional Expenses	\$1,369,652
Excess for the fiscal year	\$721,497
End of Fiscal Year Net Assets	\$1,369,514

National Council Board of Directors

Chairman - Rear Admiral Harold J. Bernsen, (USN, Ret.): also President, Board of Trustees of Physicians for Peace; Director, American-Bahraini Friendship Society; former Commander, U.S. Middle East Force; and Director Emeritus, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce;

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer - Dr. John Duke Anthony: also Member, International Economic Policy Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of State; Vice President, International Foreign Policy Center; Adjunct Associate Professor, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, U.S. Department of Defense; and Adjunct Associate Professor of "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

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Member - Mr. John Mulholland: also former President, American Business Association, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia;

Member - Dr. Joseph C. Moynihan: also Vice-President, Northrop Grumman; former Assistant to the Executive Director, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research; and

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

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