National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations





Council Chronicle

2011: Vol. 5, No. 3 (Summer - Fall)

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

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

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. 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 and continues to obtain 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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Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program: May - August 2011

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 Washington**, **DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern 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 the 2011 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2011 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.



The National Council expresses its appreciation to The George Washington University and The Elliot School of International Affairs for the use of its seminar facilities for the 2011 Summer Internship Program in the nation's capital.

The program, which lasted from May 31 - August 5, provided 32 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at 18 organizations involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. The experience is one that could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. In addition to their time assisting with the office routines of their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

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

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





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



National Council Internship Program participants visited and were briefed by diplomats at the U.S. Department of State.



National Council Internship Program participants met with and were briefed by Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington, DC bureau chief for Al-Jazeera, during a visit to Al-Jazeera's Washington offices and studio.

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

Accordingly, one of the program's objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners that are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures address issues related 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*.



The interns gather for a final meeting at the Summer Wrap-Up Session before returning to their home universities to continue their studies.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addresses interns on the topic of "Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn"

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

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the eighteen organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of this year's program are varied. Included among their missions and activities are educational development and 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 Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, congressional committees, and government agencies.



An intern program participant with Ms. Harriet Fulbright, President of the J. William & Harriet Fulbright Center and Founder of Harriet Fulbright College at the program's Summer Wrap Up session.



The interns meet with and were briefed by National Council Arab World Journalism Intern alumnus Mr. Afshin Molavi, Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation and author of The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom.

Administering the 2011 program were National Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony as Chairman and lead lecturer, Director of Student Programs Megan Geissler as Coordinator, and staff members Josh Hilbrand, Chelsey Boggs, and Colin Moore as Assistants. Included among the many lecturers were Dr. Hussein Ibish, Senior Research Fellow, The American Task Force on Palestine; Dr. Peter Bechtold, former longtime Chairman, Center for Near East and North Africa Country and Area Studies, George Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, U.S. Department of State; Bill Corcoran, President, American Near East Refugee Aid; Ambassador Joesph LeBaron, former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and Mauritania; Major General Mohammad Al-Keshky, Air, Army, Navy, and Marine Attaché, Embassy of Egypt; Afshin Molavi, Senior Research Fellow, American Strategy Program, New America Foundation, and Alumnus, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Morris Arab World Journalism Program; Dr. Ahmed Achrati, Academic Director, Arabic Language & Culture Institute, Georgetown University; Ambassador Ronald Neumann, President, American Academy of Diplomacy; John Moran, Distinguished Diplomat-in-Residence at the National Council and career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service; Ambassador Walt Cutler, President *Emeritus*, Meridian International Center; Wassane Zailachi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco; and Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat, Chief Representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Mission to United States.

Fall 2011 Model Arab Leagues

Northeast Regional Model Arab League Boston, MA - November 4-6

The 2011 Northeastern University Regional Area Model (NERMAL), convened at Northeastern University in Boston November 4-6, succeeded on multiple levels. 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. Schools participating in the 2011 Northeastern Regional Model included: Simmons College, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Northeastern University, Colby College, University of Massachusetts Boston, Fitchburg State University, Converse College, University of Pittsburgh, Bard



The Northeast Regional Model Secretary-General awards a certificate to student delegates from the United States Military Academy at West Point for outstanding representation of their country's policies and positions.

College, Emmanuel College, Endicott College, United States Military Academy at West Point, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Drake University, and Roger Williams University.



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



Student delegates display their award for Outstanding Delegation at the Northeast Regional Model.



The Northeast Regional Model Secretary-General congratulates a Council Chair on her successful leadership of the Council of Arab Economic Ministers.



Student delegates vote on a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs.

Capital Area Regional Model Arab League

Washington, DC - November 12-13

The National Council, in partnership with the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, hosted the Third Annual Capital Area Regional Model November 12-



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

13, 2011. 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, DC for nearly three decades. 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 100 students from McDaniel College, Bloomsburg University, Université Laval, University of the District of Columbia, George Washington University, York College, College of William & Mary, Millersville University, and Christopher Newport University took part in these two days of debate on Arab world issues at one of America's leading institutions of higher education. Since its inception in 2009, the Capital Area Model has grown in size each year. The focus of the debates at this year's Model ranged from the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, to civil dynamics, economic and social development, and defense as well as environmental cooperation.

Highlights included opening session remarks by Stephen McInerney, Executive Director of the Project on Middle East Democracy, and closing session remarks by HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud as well as National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony.



Student delegates confer while drafting a resolution in the Council on Political Affairs at the Capital Area Model.



Student delegates with HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud display their certificates for Outstanding Representation of their assigned country's policies and positions.

The National Council Organizes and Escorts a Delegation of United States Air Force Academy Cadets on a Study Visit to the UAE

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in coordination with the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), organized and led a November 18-28, 2011 study visit to the United Arab Emirates for the



United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Academy's delegation was comprised of ten Cadets and two faculty members. The visit provided the Cadets an opportunity to explore the dynamics of some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of UAE culture as well as the country's modernization and development.



The National Council's delegation from the U.S. Air Force Academy visits the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Escorted by National Council Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino, Vice President Amy Greenlee, and staff member Byron Lewis, the participants visited the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Delegation members met with and were briefed by officials at the UAE Joint Command and Staff College, the office of the Chief of Staff of the UAE Military, Al Dhafra Air base, the Critical National Infrastructural Authority (CNIA), Zayed II Military Academy, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi Media Company, Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, and other sites. They also participated in four academic workshops at ECSSR, met with officials from the UAE Ministry of

Presidential Affairs' Center for Documentation and Research, and were briefed by US Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin and embassy staff. In addition, the Cadets were introduced to a maritime variant of UAE traditional culture while navigating the vibrant waterfront commerce of the Emirate of Dubai on a *dhow*, a traditional Arab wooden sailing vessel, and exploring the pre-oil era traditions of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in its heritage village exhibitions, together with the ECSSR seminar, publications, and other educational activities.



A U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet with an instructor from the Khalifa bin Zayed Air College.



The Council's U.S. Air Force Academy delegation visits the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs' National Center for Documentation and Research in Abu Dhabi, one of the foremost centers of its kind in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

National Council Congressional & Public Affairs Briefings

Libya From the Front Lines August 9, 2011 and August 11, 2011

The National Council partnered with the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce to present "Libya From the Front Lines" with Mr. Richard Ayton, recent Stabilization Advisor to the British Special Representative to Libya. The program was presented in Houston, TX on August 9, 2011 and in Washington, DC on August 11, 2011, each time at the local office of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP. Mr. Ayton shared with the audiences his first-hand intelligence on the political and commercial situation in Libya and the likely outlook for business interests there. He was deployed in early April 2011 to Benghazi to support policy-makers with analysis and insight based on deep engagement at all levels of the National Transitional Council and revolutionary militias. Mr. Ayton is a Director at Aegis, a London-based specialist risk management and security firm.

Dynamics of Palestine in the Coming Arab & UN Seasons – Five Perspectives September 14, 2011

On September 14, 2011, the National Council and the International Council for Middle East Studies cosponsored a discussion on the "Dynamics of Palestine in the Coming Arab & UN Seasons – Five Perspectives" at the International Law Institute. Participating specialists were Dr. Philip Giraldi, Executive Director, Council on the National Interest and former CIA counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer who served in Turkey, Italy, Germany, and Spain; Dr. Fouzi El-Asmar, Distinguished Palestinian Writer, Poet, Academic, and Journalist; Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, President, International Council for Middle East Studies; Mr. Mark Perry, American author specializing in Military Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Analysis; and Mr. Jeffrey Steinberg, Senior Editor, Journalist, and Lecturer on Middle East and International Security Affairs. Professor Don Wallace, Jr., Chairman, International Law Institute and Chair, International Council for Middle East Studies, served as chair of the discussion. An audio recording of the briefing is available from the National Council on iTunes as well as the National Council's website (www.ncusar.org).



(left to right) Professor Don Wallace, Jr. and Dr. Fouzi El-Asmar.



(left to right) Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, Dr. Philip Giraldi, Mr. Jeffrey Steinberg, and Mr. Mark Perry.

What Lies Ahead for America in Arabia and the Gulf?: Analyses and Prognoses

September 15, 2011

On September 15, 2011, the National Council hosted "What Lies Ahead for America in Arabia and the Gulf?: Analyses and Prognoses" in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The program featured commentary and analysis from senior leaders at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), an independent think tank that supports the decision making on political, economical, social, and security issues related to the GCC area as well as Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. The GRC currently has offices in Geneva, Switzerland; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and Cambridge, UK.

The participating specialists were Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder of the Gulf Research Center; Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation; and Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center. National Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for the discussion. The specialists offered insight and comments on the state of the U.S.-Arab relationship, prospects for Iran's nuclear program, and the effects changes in the Arab world on the Gulf region along with analysis of other Gulf region developments.

Audio, video, and pictures from the program are available on the National Council's website: ncusar.org, and on the Council's Facebook page: facebook.com/ncusar.



The National Council hosted a briefing event featuring leaders from the Gulf Research Center at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder of the Gulf Research Center.



Dr. Mustafa Alani, Senior Advisor and Research Program
Director at the Gulf Research Center.



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation.

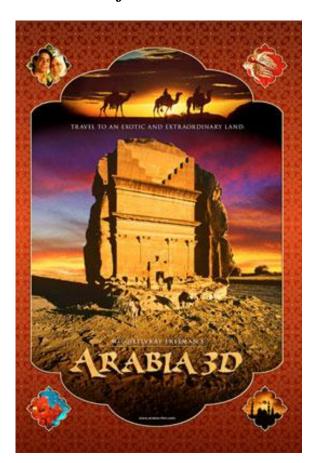
National Council News and Notes

Model Arab League & Summer Intern Program Alumnus Joins Staff

In September the National Council welcomed **Byron Lewis** to its staff as a Special Programs Assistant. Byron is an alumnus of the Council's Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program and its Model Arab League student leadership development program. He assists the Council in the planning, development, and execution of programs by providing research and logistical support as well as liaising with partner individuals and institutions. Mr. Lewis graduated from Miami University, Ohio with a focus on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. During his time at Miami he served as treasurer for the school's Model Arab League delegation. Mr. Lewis is pursuing native fluency in Modern Standard Arabic and the Levantine dialect.



IMAX film "Arabia 3D" Now Playing in Theaters Across the World



The Academy Award-nominated producers of *Everest* and *Grand Canyon Adventure* have a new IMAX 3D Theatre experience -- *Arabia 3D* -- about the extraordinary culture, history, and religion of Arabia.

A combination of historical recreations and contemporary scenes of everyday life, *Arabia 3D* follows the story of 22-year-old Saudi Arabian filmmaking student Hamzah Jamjoom as he returns home from Chicago's De Paul University to make a film about his country's culture. As he discovers the roots of his people's ancient traditions, audiences learn how Arabian society developed through history into what it is today and discover a visually striking world of fascinating heritage.

In the film, audiences discover the lost city of Madain Saleh, explore its ancient tombs, travel with a camel caravan along the early frankincense trade route, survive a desert sandstorm, dive the coral reefs and shipwrecks of the Red Sea, experience the warmth of the world-famous Bedouin hospitality, and join in the annual *hajj* pilgrimage, where 2-3 million Muslims travel to Makkah in the single largest gathering of people on Earth. Audiences are also exposed to modern day Arabia and explore its mix of continuity and change.

Arabia 3D is now playing in IMAX, IMAX Dome and IMAX 3D theatres around the world. To learn more about the film and find out where it is playing, visit www.arabia-film.com.

Thank You to the Individual Supporters of the National Council in 2011

Given the ongoing uncertain international economic situation, the National Council is especially appreciative of the generosity reflected in the ongoing contributions in support of what the Council seeks to accomplish. We proudly and gratefully list their names as follows:

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

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

National Council Board of Directors

Founding President and Chief Executive Officer -- Dr. John Duke Anthony; also: Member, International Economic Policy Advisory Committee and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment, 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 Edmund Walsh Graduate School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

Dr. Mario A. Pascale; also: former member, Board of Trustees, World Learning, Inc.; founding Director, National Council California Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations; and Delegation Leader for National Council professorial and student delegates to Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen;

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Vice President -- Ms. Amy K. Greenlee; also: former Director, U.S.-Qatar Business Council;

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

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

Special Programs Assistant -- Mr. Byron Lewis; also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program and Washington, DC Summer Internship Program;

Special Projects Assistant -- Mr. Colin Moore; also: former staff member, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee;

Publications Coordinator -- Mr. Mark Morozink; also: Alumnus, Model Arab League Program, and former Coordinator, Model Arab League Program (2006-2008).

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