

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies

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THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA

The Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies (PMBF Program) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) is proud to announce the first installment of the oral history project entitled “The American Experience in Saudi Arabia.”

This exciting new initiative features a series of in-depth interviews, primarily with individuals now residing in Florida who previously worked for Saudi Aramco. These individuals lived and worked in the Kingdom during times of profound social, economic and political change. The PMBF Program intends for this to be an ongoing project, and will maintain a website database of these historically significant interviews.

The first posted video features Martin and Rosemary Levine, who lived and worked in Saudi Arabia from 1981 to 1992, a time period in which the Kingdom underwent many significant changes. This interview, conducted by PMBF Director David Dumke, documents their memories of the Kingdom and gives a fresh perspective on life in the region during the reign of King Fahd.

To view their video please click [here](#).



2014 INTERFAITH FORUM

Promoting Understanding on the International, National, and Local Level

The PMBF Program hosted the 2014 UCF Interfaith Forum on October 16, 2014. Guest speakers representing the Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Sikh faiths discussed interfaith understanding and dialogue. U.N. High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, was the luncheon keynote speaker, while U.S. Deputy Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Arsalan Suleman was the breakfast keynote speaker. A distinguished panel featuring local religious leaders including Imam Muhammad Musri, The Reverend Bryan G. Fulwider, Abhinav Dwivedi and Nav Khalsa also participated in the forum. Interfaith understanding is a key component of the PMBF Program. It is notable that King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al Saud has been a global leader in encouraging interfaith dialog and understanding.



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PMBF NEWS AND UPDATES

PMBF Program Takes Part in ARAMCO Annuitants Event

Director of the PMBF Program and Middle East expert, David Dumke, participated in the Aramco Annuitants Reunion in Asheville, North Carolina, from September 5 to 7, 2014. While at the conference, Dumke gave a speech about the program, its partners and the importance of U.S.-Saudi cooperation on education and culture. He also interviewed many retired Aramcons, including the first pilot for King Abdulaziz and Hugh Renfro (pictured right), who lived in the Kingdom for decades and more recently was Creative Director for the acclaimed documentary film *Arabia*.



Georgia Tech's Rubin Visits Orlando

Dr. Lawrence Rubin, Assistant Professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a faculty affiliate of the Center for International Strategy, Technology and Policy, visited UCF on September 18, 2014. Rubin is an expert on Islam and politics, Arab foreign policies and nuclear proliferation. He has conducted extensive research in the Gulf, North Africa and the Levant. While in Orlando, Rubin had a luncheon with faculty and students, gave guest lectures at both UCF and Rollins College, and was featured on WUCF TV's Global Perspectives. He also spoke about his most recent book, Islam in the Balance: Ideational Threats in Arab Politics (Stanford University



Press, 2014), discussing the gravity of ideological challenges and threats in the Middle East region, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

FUE's President Visits UCF

The President of Future University Egypt (FUE), Dr. Ebada Sarhan, visited UCF in late September to further relationships between the two universities. Sarhan met with faculty, staff and community leaders. His visit included a tour of the UCF College of Medicine and a meeting with its dean, Dr. Deborah German. Sarhan was accompanied by Dr. Alia Abdel Fattah, who is spearheading efforts to create a FUE medical school.



MIDDLE EAST LUNCH SERIES

In partnership with the UCF Middle Eastern Studies Program (MESP), the PMBF Program is sponsoring the Middle East Lunch Series. As student involvement is one of the cornerstones of the PMBF Program, the Middle East Lunch Series, is one way for students to discuss ideas and news, learn more about the Middle East region and engage with experts on important and timely topics. The PMBF Program is hosting lunch discussions monthly that are open to students and faculty.

The Middle Eastern Studies Program at the University of Central Florida (UCF) is designed to foster teaching, research and scholarship of the Middle East and Muslim world in particular. The program has a strong focus on the religious, political, historical and social forces shaping the region. The program offers an interdisciplinary minor that provides students an overview of Middle Eastern civilization and a detailed study of its most important features.

We will resume these meetings in the Spring Semester of 2015. Look out for our next event!

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Our Partner: Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) is a private co-ed university in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, with a student body of about 5,550 men and women. The university currently offers degree courses in a range of fields through its Colleges of Engineering, Information Technology, Business Administration and Arts and Sciences. PMU has an executive MBA program, and is planning on creating a college of medicine. Most of the school's courses are taught in English. For more information, please visit the PMU website at: <http://www.pmu.edu.sa/>



Director of the Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program, David Dumke, on a recent visit to PMU in Saudi Arabia.

For more information on our past events and speakers, please visit www.ucf.edu/pmbfprogram

