

# Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies

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## PMBF NEWS AND UPDATES



### Jim Davis Visits Orlando

Former U.S. Congressman Jim Davis visited UCF on April 9, 2015. Davis spoke at multiple events, including a lunch with faculty and students and a guest lecture for the Burnett Honors College. Davis discussed current events including recent developments in the Middle East. He also explained the congressional role in foreign policy and national security. Additionally, Davis was featured on WUCF TV's "Global Perspectives" show.

### U.S. Ambassador Chas Freeman

The PMBF Program was proud to host Ambassador Chas Freeman on March 12, 2015. During his visit, Freeman attended a lunch with faculty and staff, and spoke at a dinner organized by the Orlando Area Committee on Foreign Relations. The Ambassador spoke about the shortcomings of American policy in the Middle East, and suggested how to solve some of today's most pressing issues. Freeman was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs 1993- 1994, earning the highest public service awards of the Department of Defense for his roles in designing a NATO-centered post-Cold War European security system and in reestablishing defense and military relations with China. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In addition, Freeman, a noted linguist, was the principal American interpreter during the late President Nixon's path-breaking visit to China in 1972.



Chas Freeman (Pictured middle) with the PMBF Staff



## NEW INTERVIEW FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies (PMBF Program) is proud to announce the posting of the most recent video for “The American Experience in Saudi Arabia” oral history initiative. This month’s interview features Rick Patterson, who was the Senior Adviser to the National Commercial Bank in Saudi Arabia from 1976 to 1979.

This project 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. Please visit our website to watch our latest videos by clicking here.



Rick Patterson

## MIDDLE EAST LUNCH SERIES

In partnership with the UCF Middle Eastern Studies Program (MESP), the PMBF Program is co-sponsoring a 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 current events, learn more about the Middle East region, and engage with experts on relevant topics. The PMBF Program will continue hosting monthly lunch discussions that are open to students and faculty beginning in the Fall 2015 Semester. During the 2014-2015 academic year, MESP-PMBF hosted 6 lunches.

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.

For more information contact Andrea de la Camara at [Andrea.delacamara@ucf.edu](mailto:Andrea.delacamara@ucf.edu) or by phone at 407.823.2445. For more information on MESP click here.



Students and Faculty at our most recent Middle East Lunch Series

# PMBF AWARDS RESEARCH GRANT

The Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies and the Hollings Center (Washington, D.C. and Istanbul) co-sponsored a symposium organized by Dr. Peter Jacques of the University of Central Florida and Dr. Hassan Arafat of the Masdar Institute of United Arab Emirates University on March 31, 2015. The symposium, entitled “Water Security in the Middle East: A Multi-Disciplinary Dialogue,” brought together scholars and technocrats to discuss the increasingly important issue of changing water conditions in the Middle East region. The symposium illustrated the multi-dimensional implications of current processes, strategies and policies towards water of arid Arab countries- particularly in the Arabian Gulf region. The symposium was made possible through a grant awarded to Dr. Jacques and Dr. Arafat as part of the ongoing PMBF Water Initiative, which was launched last year.

## WATER SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A Multi-Disciplinary Dialogue

Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Garden Key Room 221, Student Union

*Featuring Opening Keynote*

Michael Carroll, Hollings Center for International Dialogue

*Luncheon Keynote*

Hassan Arafate, Masdar Institute

For more information on our past events and speakers, please visit [www.ucf.edu/pmbfprogram](http://www.ucf.edu/pmbfprogram)

