

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies

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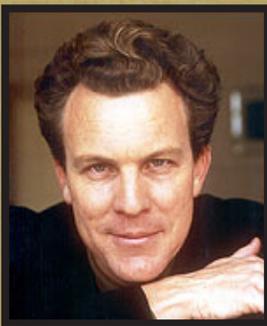
Upcoming Events

Max Rodenbeck

Middle East Correspondent for the *Economist*
Topic: The Middle East in Transition
Date: TBD

High and Dry: Addressing the Middle East Water Challenge

Co-sponsor: Holling Center for International Dialogue
Location: Istanbul, Turkey
Date: May 7-11, 2014



Upcoming Visitor

Max Rodenbeck

A writer for the *Economist* since 1989, and currently its Chief Middle East Correspondent, Rodenbeck covers the Middle East region from Morocco to Iran. He has reported on a wide range of topics- business, politics, pop culture, and terrorism. Additionally, Rodenbeck is a frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, and the author of *Cairo: The City Victorious*, which has been published in eight languages.



Water Initiative



The PMBF Program will be co-sponsoring a unique seminar with the Hollings Center for International Dialogue. "High and Dry: Addressing the Middle East Water Challenge" will be held May 7-11, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey. This seminar will bring together 35 experts on Middle East water issues, with significant focus on Saudi Arabia and the GCC- looking at the challenge itself, as well as possible solutions. Participants will include experts from the public and private sector, business and academia, political analysts and those with scientific backgrounds. The seminar will feature in-depth discussions of specific regional areas of interest, as well as detailed exploration of possible solutions based on the type of challenge, available resources, economic development plans, and diplomatic approaches. Following the Seminar, UCF and the Hollings Center will host a press conference in Istanbul with a select number of experts, and follow up events in Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

PMBF Research

Paul Sullivan: International Water Security

The PMBF program is proud to announce the publication of The Water-Energy-Food Nexus in MENA by Dr. Paul Sullivan. Sullivan, of the National Defense University, is an internationally renowned expert on water, energy development, security and economic markets, as well as, international economic development, and political and military issues. Sullivan has published several books on the economy, security issues, resource development, water and energy security, and US-Arab relations. Dr. Sullivan is also a member of the Global Expert list.



PMBF News & Updates

Khaled Al Meena: A well-known expert on Saudi Arabia, GCC, Middle East, and South Asia, Al Meena visited UCF on October 24, 2013 to discuss Saudi and South Asian relations. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Saudi Gazette*, one of the largest and widely-read newspapers in the Middle East, and is a co-founder and Vice Chairman of NAAM, an NGO dedicated to cross-cultural communications. While visiting UCF, Al Meena spoke to a South East Asia class on the importance of Middle East-Asian relations, and participated in a Rollins College forum dedicated to the Crisis and Transformation of the Middle East.



Samar Fatany: A writer and columnist for the *Saudi Gazette*, *Khaleej Times* and *Asia Week*, and Senior Announcer at Radio Jeddah, Fatany gave presentations to two classes in the Women's Studies Department. She discussed the role of women in Saudi Arabia and how the Kingdom is adapting to change. Fatany stated that women are taking an increasingly active role, on a grassroots level, in addressing issues of concern today, including expanding employment opportunities, preventing domestic violence, and challenging some outdated social norms that have no basis in law or religion.



Dr. Tamara Wittes: Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., Dr. Wittes participated in the annual Global Issues Conference at UCF on November 7, 2013. Wittes spoke about the future of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, addressing the practicality and incentives for further U.S. involvement in the region. She stated that sectarian tensions, along with the lack of credible civil institutions, are key sources of regional instability. Furthermore, Wittes discussed the importance of foreign policy to the American public at large, and the public's role in shaping policy.



Negin Farsad: Producer, director, and comedian, Negin Farsad joined us on November 13 to present a special screening of **The Muslims Are Coming!** The film follows a group of Muslim-American comedians as they visit big cities, small towns and rural villages to combat misconceptions about Islam. Farsad was named one of the 50 Funniest Women by the *Huffington Post*, won the first ever YouTube Visionary Award, and is a Ted Fellow. The film has also been shortlisted for an Academy Award.



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