

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies

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February 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12, 2015

Dr. Jon B. Alterman

Topic: "A Conversation with Jon Alterman"

Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Cape Florida Ballroom, Student Union

March 12, 2015

Ambassador Chas Freeman

Topic: "Responding to Failure: reorganizing U.S. policies in the Middle East."

Location: Community Meetings

February 18, 2015

Middle East Lunch Series

Topic: "Talking Terrorism with Ted"

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Chemistry Building Suite 117

CSIS'S ALTERMAN TO VISIT UCF



Dr. Jon B. Alterman is a Senior Vice President, holds the Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and is Director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Prior to joining CSIS in 2002, he served as a member of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State and as a special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. He is a member of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel and served as an expert adviser to the Iraq Study Group (also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission). In addition to his policy work, he teaches Middle Eastern studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the George Washington University. Before entering government, he was a scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace and at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Alterman is the author or coauthor of four books on the Middle East and the editor of two more. In addition to his academic work, he is a frequent commentator in print, on radio, and on television. His opinion pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and other major publications. He is on the Board of Advisory Editors of the *Middle East Journal*, is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Arab Media and Society*, and is a former international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he is now a life member. He received his B.A. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.



NEW INTERVIEWS FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies (PMBF Program) is proud to announce the posting of three new videos for “The American Experience in Saudi Arabia” oral history initiative. New interviews feature Hugh Renfro, who worked and lived in the Kingdom for 6 decades beginning in 1952 and was the Executive Producer for the documentary film *Arabia*; Bob Morgan, former pilot for King Abdulaziz Al Sa’ud; and, Richard Krueger, who traveled throughout the Kingdom from 1978-2012. 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.



Hugh Renfro



Bob Morgan

PMBF NEWS AND UPDATES



Dr. Stephen Cook Visits Orlando

Dr. Stephen Cook, Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), visited Orlando on January 27, 2015. While at UCF, Cook gave a guest lecture to political science students, was a keynote speaker at a Kurdish Studies Conference and discussed the ever-changing situation in the Middle East at a luncheon with students and faculty.

Washington Event Focuses on Solutions for Water

The PMBF Program and the Hollings Center for International Dialogue co-sponsored a panel discussion on January 21, 2015, to further address the Middle East water crisis. PMBF Director David Dumke moderated the event and was joined by experts who participated in a May 2014 conference on Middle East water which was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The Washington event, “Breaking the Cycle: Solutions for Water Security in the Middle East,” focused on water resource use, scarcity, technological improvements and strategic decision-making. To view the video of this event please click here.



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 is hosting lunch discussions monthly that are open to students and faculty. **The next lunch will be held on February 18, 2015, and will feature UCF terrorism expert Dr. Ted Reynolds.**

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 or by phone at 407.823.2445.

PMBF AWARDS GRANT FOR WATER RESEARCH

The Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies and the Hollings Center (Washington, D.C. and Istanbul) have awarded a grant to Dr. Peter Jacques of the University of Central Florida and Dr. Hassan Arafat of the Masdar Institute of United Arab Emirates University. The grant will allow for an important exchange of ideas, education, and research between the Masdar Institute and UCF.

During Spring 2015, each researcher will travel to the other's university to speak to students and faculty about water security. While at UCF, Dr. Arafat will work with Ph.D. students in environmental security; Dr. Jacques will work with engineering students at the Masdar Institute. In addition, they will organize a student symposium at UCF. Scholars from several disciplines will speak and discuss problems and solutions to the increasingly important issue of changing water conditions. The goal of the event is to discuss, debate and illustrate the multidimensional implications of current processes, strategies and policies of arid Arab countries (particularly the Arabian Gulf region). The Jacques-Arafat grant is part of the ongoing PMBF Water Initiative which was launched last year.

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

