PMBF NEWS AND UPDATES

PMBF Director speaks at House of Lords

PMBF Director David Dumke spoke at the Parliament of the United Kingdom's House of Lords on July 9th, 2018, highlighting the importance of diplomacy as well as protocol in the Islamic world. As a guest of Lord Ahmed of Rotheram, the first Muslim to be appointed to the House of Lords and moderator of the event, Dumke gave his piece at a special symposium titled “Diplomacy and Protocol in Islam,” alongside many other experts. The event itself corresponds with a similarly titled book published by Saudi Prince Faisal bin Mishal bin Saud Al Saud, who has written many titles concerning Islam and Saudi governance.

Middle East Institute Hosts PMBF’s Al Maeena

On August 15 the Middle East institute in Washington D.C. hosted Veteran Saudi journalist and foreign policy analyst Khaled Al Maeena. The PMBF Program and NAAM Association co-sponsored the event, which highlighted the implementation of the Saudi 2030 program as well as the Kingdom’s foreign policy. Towards the latter theme, Al Maeena answered difficult questions regarding the ongoing war in Yemen, the blockade of Qatar, the recent diplomatic spat with Canada, as well as questions on Iran, Iraq, and Syria. He noted that Riyadh has had to adopt a new, assertive leadership role in the evolving region to meet a growing number of threats. Ultimately, the Kingdom hopes to work with Washington to foment regional stability and order.

The event garnered many regional experts, including Washington-based foreign policy analysts as well as established scholars of the field. In January, another similar event will occur in Orlando, Florida, hosted by UCF and the PMBF program. This event will entail many of the topics discussed by Al Maeena, providing an update and expanding on recent developments in US-Saudi relations.
Dr. Hakan Özoglu participates with PMBF program

Dr. Özoglu, Professor of History and the Director of the Middle Eastern Studies Minor here at UCF, was the guest speaker at the PMBF program’s Lunch Discussion series. After spending a year in Turkey conducting research in relation with his Fulbright Core Fellowship, Dr. Özoglu returned to UCF to discuss the heightened tensions between Ankara and Washington, highlighting significant drivers behind the stand-off. According to Özoglu, tensions between the nations have been cyclical throughout history. In addition, he provided insight on the current AKP regime’s governance in relation to Islamism and the current Lira crisis. Damaging factors to the economy include a brain drain out of Turkey as well as an over-reliance on Western investments into their industrial sector, a hindrance on any progress towards modernizing the economy.

With roughly two decades of research experience and over 21 academic papers as well as 7 books to his name, Dr. Özoglu stands as an expert in the field, earning his PhD from Ohio State University. He also is the recipient of the 2017-2018 Fulbright Core Fellowship. Currently, his latest book project centers around US Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol’s tenure in Turkey.

An Interview with Dr. Özoglu

In addition to Dr. Özoglu’s lunch discussion, the PMBF program also facilitated a podcast interview between Özoglu and PMPF Graduate Fellow Salah Benhammou, an M.A. student here at UCF. The questions focused on Turkey’s standing on the international stage and its involvement in the Syrian conflict. In addition, AKP governance was discussed at length, both from a contemporary perspective and in a historical context. The podcast concluded with Özoglu detailing his current research and book project, which centers on US Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol’s tenure in Turkey and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The podcast can be accessed on the PMBF website, as well as on YouTube and iTunes.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala visit to UCF

UCF is proud to announce Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala’s visit on October 4, 2018. The princess will be received by Dr. Whittaker, and attend a luncheon at UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center. Dr. Whittaker will also welcome other members of the Moroccan delegation, including Minister of Tourism Mohammed Sajid and Dr. Driss Ouauouicha, President of Al Akhawayn University. Mayor Buddy Dyer will be joining the Princess later in the day to officially open the Moroccan Village exhibition at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United States of America. Her Highness is heavily involved in diversifying and strengthening Morocco-US ties on the political, economic, cultural, and security fronts through various methods. She led her country’s delegation to the UN session on HIV/AIDS in 2001, founded the Moroccan-British Society (MBS) in 2003, and was ambassador to the United Kingdom from 2009 to 2016, until she was appointed to Washington.

UCF, PMU & GCC to Sponsor Conference on Saudi Arabia

The Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program and University of Central Florida will be hosting “The Impact of Social and Economic Reforms on Saudi Youth” January 22-24, 2019, in Orlando. The focus of the conference will be the Saudi Vision 2030 plan, providing a unique platform to discuss the current changes in the Kingdom, and their impact on Saudi youth.

The conference will feature a series of panels, Saudi and American speakers, including UCF and PMU faculty from a variety of academic and business fields. Details and a tentative agenda will be released shortly.

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

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