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Palestinian American Research Center

PARC Newsletter

PARC Formalizes Organizational Status

Nearly two years after the first meeting of its steering committee took place, the Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) has become a reality thanks to the hard work of the committee and the enthusiastic support of its members.

PARC emerged out of the conviction shared by several scholars that although the Palestinians have been the focus of world attention and a considerable amount of scholarly writing for decades, no American center or organization existed that promoted Palestinian studies. In this spirit, the steering committee first met in the spring of 1997 to lay the groundwork for such a center – PARC.

The committee moved to draft a mission statement and articles of incorporation. After much hard work by the committee and co-presidents Dr. Philip Mattar and Dr. Ann Lesch, PARC carried out its initial fundraising campaign and was established as a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia by the fall of 1998. This past October, the committee hired a part-time director for the Center's U.S. office, Dr. Michael Fischbach.

PARC has also taken steps toward hiring a director for the Jerusalem office it hopes to open by the fall of 1999.

PARC intends to apply for membership in the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, a federation of similar scholarly organizations.

PARC is "off and running," and looking forward to the future!



The building housing PARC's new U.S. office at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia south of Washington

PARC Opens U.S. Office Near D.C.

In January of this year, PARC moved beyond the planning stages, beyond its legal existence on paper, to a new level when it opened its new U.S. office in Virginia just south of Washington, D.C. Thanks to the generosity of Randolph-Macon College, PARC Director Dr. Michael Fischbach opened the doors of PARC's stateside administrative office and commenced operations. PARC's office is now located on the beautiful campus of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, 90 miles south of Washington and 12 miles north of Richmond just off Interstate 95. (cont.)

