AUS celebrates Global Day festival

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the university kicked off its annual Global Day on March 24, 2016. One of the most anticipated events at AUS, Global Day was inaugurated by Sheikh Salem bin Abdul Rahman Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Office of the Ruler of Sharjah and also attended by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor; and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; along with other senior university officials.

This year the annual festival marks its 18th anniversary of showcasing the cultural heritage of the many nationalities represented at AUS.

Set up across the AUS Main Plaza was a mix of pavilions that depicted the traditions of 32 countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Palestine, Libya, India, Sudan and Egypt, among others, giving visitors a

AUS honors 600 students for extracurricular achievements

More than 600 students at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were honored for their extracurricular achievements during the Annual Student Appreciation Award ceremony held May 2 at Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Centre in Sharjah. Members of the AUS Student Council; students from the university's sports teams, student clubs and organizations; community services volunteers; and student leadership program participants were
Graduates of Spring 2016, I wish you all the best. We will always remember your contribution to student life at AUS. Do remain connected, we will be happy to hear from you.

A Certificate of Good Moral Character is issued by the Office of Student Affairs upon verifying the student’s conduct record. A character certificate is a requirement of every university and is used by employers as well as for any legal communication. It is, therefore, mandatory that the applicant maintains a clear conduct record during his/her student years at AUS.

The AUS Student Code of Conduct policies and processes are structured in a manner to encompass all student behavior-related issues. The code deals with student behavioral matters that occur on AUS premises and educates students to take responsibility for their actions. Your participation in all OSA initiated opportunities rests upon verification of your conduct. Student behavior in residential halls is also observed. A good conduct record is important for applying for scholarships, student clubs or organizations; joining athletic teams; becoming a volunteer; applying for student employment or joining a leadership program. I encourage all students to be vigilant about the Student Code of Conduct, read it and follow it. The modified code is available in print form in the Student Handbook 2016-17. Please collect your copy from my office in the Main Building, M217 or from the Judicial Affairs office located in the Student Center, 1st Floor, A255-256. You can access it from our webpage as well.

Conflicts are inevitable. However, as a student, knowing the different dynamics of conflict is an essential part of your learning and development. Following regulations may seem overbearing but in the long run it will benefit you. For an institution, a student’s character fortification is an important element that contributes towards student development. Good behavior speaks volumes in your favor. Always be aware of how your behavior is impacting the diverse community around you. We wish to see you as role models and exemplars of model behavior.

I wish you all a peaceful summer.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Dean of Students

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Organized by the Office of Student Affairs and more than 1,500 AUS students, this two-day event also included colorful indoor cultural performances in the Main Auditorium as well as on an outdoor stage, giving students a chance to share their talent through dance performances and skits. Visitors were also able to sample a wide variety of traditional foods in the outdoor food court.

“This year, we encouraged our students to work together to strengthen the unity between clubs and gain a taste of the truly multicultural nature of the AUS campus.
and to reflect the event’s theme of ‘Peace throughout the World.’ The Emirati, Saudi, Bahraini and Omani clubs comprise the GCC pavilion, while Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia make up the North African pavilion. This initiative forms part of our sustainability efforts as we move towards a sustainable approach in organizing events. In collaboration with our faculty members specialized in the field of sustainability, we are offering the Global Day 2016 Best Sustainable Pavilion Award this year to encourage our students to use recycled or recyclable materials, use energy-efficient lighting and to properly dispose of wastes for recycling,” Dr. Al Shehhi said.

“Another notable development this year is our students’ enthusiasm to showcase cultures of nations that are not represented in the student body. We support such initiatives that promote cross-cultural learning and awareness. The success of Global Day is a result of long-term planning, staff professionalism and the support from various AUS units. I thank the staff and faculty for supporting our students in yet another successful cultural event,” she added.

“The Global Day is a good opportunity for students to get to know and understand other cultures,” said Jafra Allan, an AUS alumna visiting the festival. “I am delighted to see how the event has grown over the years,” she added.

The first AUS Global Day was held in 1998 with eight student organizations and 400 students. Since then, the event has grown manifold with this year’s Global Day witnessing the participation of a lively and dynamic student body that comprises approximately 6,000 students from more than 90 nationalities.
AUS honors 600 students... continued from page 1

recognized for their hard work.

The Annual Student Appreciation Awards honor students’ activities outside the classrooms and promotes their success by recognizing their achievements and encouraging them to explore their interests.

“AUS has gained a well-earned reputation for its academic excellence,” said Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor. “But your contributions outside the classroom - on campus and beyond - as athletes, student volunteers, university leaders and ambassadors have played a significant role in enhancing the standing of our university” he said.

“As you know, the university has always stressed the importance of activities that help enrich and broaden the campus experience. It is experiences such as these which will stand you in good stead in the future,” Dr. Kjerfve added.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, expressed her pride in the students’ achievements and appreciated their participation in events and activities organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs. “We provided opportunities, resources and encouragement to fulfill your extracurricular goals throughout this academic year and are happy to see your dedication and willing participation. Your presence today speaks of your committed engagement and accomplishments,” said Dr. Al Shehhi, addressing the gathering.

Eight students received the Most Outstanding Active Student Award for their contributions in extracurricular activities in Academic Year 2015-2016. The awardees were:

**Student Athletics and Recreation**
- Adam Abouelghr
- Manal Machou
- Ahmed Mohammed Eladl

**Student Clubs and Organizations**
- Mohammed El Kalbani
- Hamdan Shahid
- Khalid Mohammed AbdulRahman

**Leadership Program**
- Hanan Arab

**Community Services**
- Karan Mohan

The following awards were presented for participation in AUS Global Day 2016:

**Best Corner Awards**
- 1st Place: Emirati Cultural Club
- 2nd Place: Egyptian Cultural Club
- 3rd Place: Lebanese Cultural Club
  - Best Corner Idea: Syrian Cultural Club
  - Best Teamwork (Corner): Northern Africa Clubs

**Performance Awards**
- 1st Place: Indian Cultural Club
- 2nd Place: Jordanian Cultural Club
- 3rd Place: Pakistani Cultural Club
  - Best Performance Idea: Chinese Cultural Club
  - Best Teamwork (performance): Bangladeshi Cultural Club

Club of the Year awards were given to the following:

Ethnic: Emirati Cultural Club
Interest-oriented: Photography Club
Best Sustainable Pavilion Award
Winner: Sri Lankan Cultural Club
Honorable Mention: Japanese Cultural Club

Also present at the awards ceremony were Professor Kevin Mitchell, Interim Provost; AUS deans and other senior university officials; faculty, staff and students.
Office of Student Affairs hosts New Student Orientation

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted a week-long orientation to welcome new students starting in Spring Semester 2016. The activities, which started on Friday, January 22, were designed to help new students transition into the AUS community, learn about the university’s extracurricular offerings and adapt to university life.

Among the orientation activities were information sessions, fun and intellectual games, educational and entertaining trips, and a dinner reception. The week’s events began with OSA staff welcoming new students and their parents. A group of returning active students formed the orientation team that worked alongside the OSA staff during the orientation period. Around 100 new students joined the city tours of Sharjah and the Dubai. More than 100 students attended the freshman dinner reception, which was also attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, and senior OSA officials.

Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi said, “I know that you are all tired and busy with the many orientation activities organized for you, but remember that all of these are vital for you to transition with ease to university life at AUS. I encourage you to learn from all information sessions prepared for you. We welcome you tonight and introduce you to the various extracurricular opportunities offered by AUS through the Office of Student Affairs. We are here to complement your academic learning for a complete university experience.”

AUS students win honors in India management fest

Six students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) won honors in the Conscendo Management Fest held at Manipal University in Karnataka, India on January 22 and 23. Students on the AUS team were George Marachli, Ranin Hamdoun, Raghd Gomaa, Hussein Hamdoun, Mariam Khater and Rana Hamdan. They competed against students from 11 universities from across India in six management categories including best business manager, finance, human resources, public relations, logistics and marketing. AUS management student Gomaa won second place in the human resources category; and Gomaa, Marachli and Hamdoun reached the finals.

Conscendo is an annual intercollegiate management fest that creates a platform to test the brightest minds through a variety of highly intellectual, entertaining and challenging tasks. The tasks focused on knowledge and understanding of theory and its application in each category, presentation skills, teamwork and strategies, quick decision making, creative solutions, handling pressure, and case studies followed by grilling interviews. Student’s conceptual skills, creativity and soft skills were developed through the competition’s exercises.

“We opened an opportunity for our students to create an understanding of the knowledge and experience of the business world in a different region. I am glad our students emerged successful at our first participation in the management fest. I congratulate our students for their achievements and thank the Student Council for its initiative in participating in this event,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The students’ participation was organized by the Office of Student Affairs and the Student Council.
Partial scholarships awarded to active students

American University of Sharjah (AUS) honored nine outstanding students by presenting them with partial scholarships. The Active Student Partial Scholarship program recognizes undergraduate students who display excellence in extracurricular activities including community service projects, clubs and the Student Leadership Program. The scholarship consists of up to 50 percent tuition remission for one semester.

The recipients of the Active Student Partial Scholarship awards were: Mustafa Ezzeddine, Hamdan Shahid, Lujain Qutieshat and Haleema Khawas of Student Clubs and Organizations; Community Services volunteers Shruthi Srinivasan, Rahsi Shafana and Mehr Patni; and Merna El Medany and Nada Mourad from the Student Leadership Program.

Addressing the students, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students said, “We thank you all for your contributions to student life at AUS and to becoming role models that encourage more students to avail of the extracurricular opportunities offered by the university. It is a fact that students who complement their academic learning with out-of-class learning activities become more successful in their professional lives. Through this partial scholarship, we hope to inspire more students to become high achievers and excel in the extracurricular field. Congratulations to all winners.”

Eighteen outstanding student-athletes at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were awarded partial athletic scholarships for Spring 2016. The scholarship program aims to inspire, advance and develop sports at the university and consists of a 50 percent tuition remission. It also supports student-athletes who have limited financial resources and who demonstrate athletic excellence and outstanding sports qualities.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, applauded the students on their achievements. “The partial athletic scholarship at AUS is a great program that is absolutely necessary in order to acknowledge and reward AUS student-athletes who have shown excellence in sports,” she said. “It is very important that AUS continues to show support in this area because convincing research suggests good quality learning outside the classroom adds significant value to young people’s educational experience. It provides a context for accumulating integrated and subject-based knowledge and for developing key skills. Success is not only in the classroom, but also out on the field of competition,” Dr. Al Shehhi added. The winners were as follows:

- Men’s Soccer Team: Yousef Elbeltagi and Bashar Oudat
- Men’s Swimming Team: Talmir Ishmukhametov and Amr Mohamed
- Men’s Badminton Team: Owais Ahmed
- Men’s Powerlifting Team: Salem Herzallah
- Men’s Volleyball Team: Yousof Elshamashery and Mohammed Gusbi
- Men’s Cricket Team: Muhammad Saeed Anwar and Mohammed Umar Shaikh
- Men’s Table Tennis Team: Mihails Balonuskovs
- Men’s Basketball Team: Yousef Shatat
- Women’s Volleyball Team: Tala El-Kalache and Raghda Al Rashi
- Women’s Swimming Team: Cyndi Jamila Faber and Danya Khafaga
- Women’s Table Tennis: Shahdan Barakat
- Women’s Basketball Team: Adji Ndiaye
Students of American University of Sharjah (AUS) celebrated the diverse community of the university during its Spring 2016 Club Fair on February 15, 2016. The two-day event gives new students a chance to sign up for the many cultural and common interest clubs on the AUS campus. Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the Club Fair was inaugurated by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor, in the presence of Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; Kevin Mitchell, Interim Provost; and other senior officials. The fair featured 34 ethnic clubs, 36 interest-oriented clubs and 8 departments from the Office of Student Affairs participating this semester. The newly established clubs joining the Club Fair this semester are the Physics Club and the Graduate Student Association.

As the student Club Fair marks the university’s cultural and ethnic diversity among its students and staff, the club fair aims to introduce new students to the student-led organizations on campus and familiarize them with the many cultures on campus, as well as join the participating clubs. In addition, the aim of the Club Fair helps students pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build leadership skills.

“The colorful booths and displays are a reflection of our students’ enthusiasm and passion for out-of-class learning experiences and activities. Club Fair is a platform where our students hone their various skills in an atmosphere full of fun, friends and entertainment,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “We are proud to say that many students are engaged and satisfied with the extracurricular opportunities offered by the university. These activities complement our students’ academic learning and promote a vibrant campus life,” she added.

Merilyn Clare, Activities Coordinator of Chemistry Club said, “We are hoping to make chemistry more interesting for the new students since we have come to realize that more interest is needed in chemistry as a field of study and our goal in this club fair is to show others that chemistry is a big part of life and hope to encourage the freshmen to understand it more.”
American University of Sharjah (AUS) students convened at the university’s Student Center to take part in the student council elections for the academic year 2016-2017 on May 4, 2016. Candidates vied for 14 elected offices that represent the university’s diverse and multicultural student body.

The AUS Student Council serves as a voice for the student body and works directly with the university administration. It aims to initiate programs and projects that cater to the demands of the student body as well as promote leadership and teamwork.

This year, the candidates took a different approach by campaigning as two teams: the Red team and the Blue team. The voting followed week-long electoral activities in which candidates canvassed for votes.

The 14 students elected to the Student Council for 2016-2017 are:

**Executive Board**
- Abdallah Moufeed Alzeer, President
- Reem Salem AlNuaimi, Vice President
- George Victor Marachli, Vice President for Public Relations
- Haitham Alawawdeh, Executive Secretary and Office Director
- Qasim Ali, Treasurer

**Community Outreach Committee**
- Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, Events and Activities Coordinator
- Yousof Elshamashery, Athletics and Sports Coordinator
- Fatima Al Shamsi, Communication and Media Coordinator
- Aashna Tandon, Student Organizations and Campus Services Coordinator

**Representatives**
- Dima Kusaibati, College of Arts and Sciences Representative
- Yara Manla, College of Architecture, Art and Design Representative
- Rama Tolimat, School of Business Administration Representative
- Rami Alkhatib, College of Engineering Representative

Malek Malke, Achievement Academy Bridge Program Representative

“Our students are becoming increasingly more interested in being part of the Student Council to represent their fellow students,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “From nominations to campaigns, and from debates to today’s election, the activity level was high and we witnessed our students’ hard work to gain support from their peers. All candidates had good platforms and planned initiatives. Regardless of who won, I am proud to say that all candidates were winners as they all shared the common goal of becoming the voice of the student body at AUS. I wish the new Student Council of academic year 2016-2017 good luck and a productive year ahead,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

The Student Council election was organized by the Student Activities office of the AUS Office of Student Affairs.
Eight AUS students appointed in Sharjah Youth Council

Eight students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) were appointed on June 7, 2016, to serve as youth ambassadors in the Sharjah Youth Council. The students were nominated by the university’s Office of Student Affairs to the Sharjah Executive Council on the basis of their academic standing and their experiences in the extracurricular field.

A total of 15 students were appointed to form the Sharjah Youth Council. Eight students were from AUS and seven were from University of Sharjah.

The AUS student appointees are Sultan Alqasimi, junior, computer science; Harith Al Midfa, senior, mechanical engineering; Salim Alowais, graduate student, engineering systems management; Sultan Alshamsi, freshman, finance; Noora Alqasemi, graduate student, industrial engineering; Fatima Alshamsi, junior, visual communication; Fatima Binashour, senior, industrial engineering; and Rawda Alsuwaidi, junior, chemical engineering.

“I congratulate our students for being appointed in a very special role in the Sharjah Youth Council. With our students’ talents and experiences in performing lead roles in extracurricular activities, I am confident that they possess the requisite skills to deliver more than what is expected from them. I wish them good luck and I encourage them to perform their best to represent the youth of Sharjah and contribute to the development of the UAE as a whole,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The Sharjah Youth Council was set up by the Sharjah Executive Council as part of a national effort to activate and bolster the role of the youth and their contribution in the UAE’s development process. It is the aim of the UAE government to provide a conducive environment that promotes the capabilities of the youth, flourish their ideas, and boost their abilities and contributions towards achieving the country’s goals.

AUS students visit the elderly on Mothers’ Day

On the occasion of Mothers’ Day, the Student Council at American University of Sharjah (AUS) in collaboration with Community Services, organized a two-day event, March 20-21, to commemorate the special day in honor of mothers under the care of Old People’s Home in Sharjah.

On the first day of the event, a bake sale was held at the university’s Student Center to raise funds to buy gifts for the elderly. A visit followed the next day, with a group of students presenting gifts to the elderly and celebrating the special occasion with them.

Bassim Younis, a mechanical engineering student, said, “Engaging in making these mothers happy made me joyful as I see them smiling.”

“As a mother myself, I feel honored by our students’ thoughtfulness. Sharing and commemorating Mothers’ Day with the elderly shows how our students care for the senior members of our community. I thank our students for dedicating their time and effort in making this occasion a special one,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
AUS Awareness Day hosts 30 governmental and private organizations

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), AUS held its annual Awareness Day on February 29, 2016, to raise public awareness regarding issues of health, social, environmental and safety concerns. The event opening was attended by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS; along with other senior university officials.

Thirty governmental and private organizations participated in the event, which was organized by the Office of Student Affairs and attended by members of the AUS community, students from schools across the UAE, and the public.

“Awareness Day is an annual gathering of the various governmental and private organizations that we partner with all year through for our community service initiatives,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“Through this special occasion, we aim to address and get our messages across to the community about health, social, environmental and safety issues,” she added.

“Participating organizations brought in with them valuable information and eye-opening presentations and displays to effectively convey their messages and raise awareness of various matters affecting one's life and society as a whole. With a big youth population on campus, we hope that these awareness activities positively influence our students’ young minds for them to live healthy, safely and responsibly,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

With booths and banners set up at the university’s Student Center, the participating organizations educated attendees about issues ranging from health issues, such as the effects of smoking and driving safety, to volunteering opportunities for those interested in giving back to the community.

“The awareness campaign is a great way to introduce students to various issues we need to learn and understand better,” said Thoraya Jaber, a tenth grade student from Al Hekma International School.

The participating organizations included: Sharjah Police - Traffic and Petroleum Department, Sharjah Police - Public Relation, Sharjah Police - University City Police, Sharjah Police - Drug Enforcement Administration, Sharjah Police - Community Police, Sharjah Civil Defense, Sharjah Medical District, Supreme Council for Family Affairs – Sharjah, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, Sharjah Project for Oral and Dental Health, Red Crescent – Sharjah, Big Heart, Al Thiqah Club for the Handicapped, Consumer Protection Department, AUS Road Safety Awareness, AUS Community Services - Peer Health Educators, Dubai Police - General Department of Criminal Investigation, Dubai Police - General Department of Anti-Narcotics, Road and Transport Authority – Dubai, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Noor Dubai Foundation, Dubai Blood Donation Center, Emirates Strategic Planning Association, Emirates Volunteers Association, Emirates Foundation for Youth Development (SANID), Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Al Ihsan Charity Association, Silkor Laser Medical Center, American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, and Abbott Laboratories S.A.
The AUS Student Council, in collaboration with Community Services and the Indian and Pakistani cultural clubs, invited the university’s 175 Cleanco staff and 45 security guards to an annual lunch on April 14 to thank them for all they do on campus.

Forty-eight student volunteers prepared fun and engaging activities and served lunch to the Cleanco staff and security guards. Prior to the event, students held a fund-raising campaign for two weeks to generate funds to cover the event’s expenses.

Salma Abdel Fattah, environmental science student, said “I found the experience to be very delightful, and I enjoyed seeing them smiling and being recognized for their hard work.”

“Our thoughtful and loving students worked hard for this event that they are really proud of. They made an effort to ensure that the university’s heroes behind the scenes are acknowledged and appreciated. Through this special gathering, our students expressed their gratitude to the cleaning and security staff for making the university a safe and conducive place to live and study. I thank the Student Council, Community Service volunteers and members of the Indian and Pakistani cultural clubs for making this special gathering meaningful and full of fond memories to cherish,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

American University of Sharjah (AUS) won first place in men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s soccer and table tennis at the Third Skyline Inter-University Sports Festival. The five-day festival, held on February 20–25, 2016, saw various sports teams from universities across the country participating in football, basketball, table tennis, throw ball and cricket at Skyline University College campus.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the winners and said, “We are very happy at your great achievement during this competition. It is crucial for our athletes to meet with others across the UAE to gain more experience and enhance their talents.”
AUS students raise funds for Sharjah Autism Centre

Community Services at AUS raised funds for the Sharjah Autism Centre during the AUS Model United Nations conference held February 25-27, 2016. Attendees from various schools and universities as well as conference visitors made donations to the Sharjah Autism Centre at a booth run by Community Services.

Following the conference, 13 volunteers from Community Service visited the Sharjah Autism Centre on March 8 to learn more about the center. The students also presented a check with the amount raised during AUSMUN to Sharjah Autism Centre's management.

The visit gave the volunteers the chance to interact with the children who use the center’s services. At the end of the visit, the students offered to volunteer at the center.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said, “We are proud of our student volunteers for their continuous support and enthusiasm towards humanitarian initiatives. Our partner organizations are equally proud of our students’ work and achievements. Their recent fund raising efforts during the AUSMUN event yielded a good amount that benefitted children under the care of Sharjah Autism Centre. I encourage our students to take part in volunteering activities at Community Services so that they may experience and learn the value of helping those in needs and to giving back to society.”

AUS student volunteers organize activities at Al Thiqah Club for Handicapped

Students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in a Fun Day at Al Thiqah Club on May 3, 2016, organized by the university’s Community Services Division in collaboration with Al Thiqah Club for Handicapped.

AUS student volunteers organized a wide variety of activities at the men’s branch of Al Thiqah Club on April 20. These included sports events, computer software sessions, making flower gardens, face painting and much more. The next day, volunteers visited the women’s branch where they organized painting activities as well as a basketball contest, and a singing competition.

“This year we have witnessed an increase in student interest for off campus activities and volunteering opportunities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “At Student Affairs, we are committed to promoting out-of-class learning by fulfilling student demands for activities that benefit both our students and the community. The two-day visit and activities at Al Thiqah Club was very rewarding for our students as they appreciate the difficulties that physically challenged people face,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

Commenting on his experience, Bassim Younis, a mechanical engineering major, said: “After visiting the club, I believe that we all have a moral obligation and a responsibility towards our society and all its members regardless of their abilities.

The Community Services Division aims to promote student engagement in activities that help benefit various other sections of society.”
In trying to encourage American University of Sharjah (AUS) student volunteers to achieve their goals in preserving their environment, the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division launched one of its newest environmental initiatives, the Community Services Farm, on February 16, 2016.

The Community Services Farm is a student project giving volunteers the opportunity to plant a variety of seeds and plants next to the Languages Building, with the assistance of the gardeners who work at University City. Thirty-two student volunteers participated in planting flowers, vegetables and fruits.

Community Services chose this initiative to cultivate the students’ green thumbs and to enhance the cooperative spirit among the volunteers. The volunteers will later conduct a health day presenting their harvest to encourage the students to eat healthy food. Merna Elmedany, a student volunteer who took part in the initiative, said, “This new project gave us the opportunity to plant our favorite trees while building new friendships through our assigned teams.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students said “The Community Services Farm was initiated to create awareness among our students on environmental issues and how they can help keep the environment clean and green. With practical learning experiences, we aim to educate our students on how to protect and conserve the environment. Planting seedlings to become trees in the future is a good example for our students to understand that their environmental contributions today will have great impact tomorrow.”

AUS Community Services launches Share the Plate campaign

After the success of the Food for the Needy project, American University of Sharjah’s Community Services launched its new initiative, Share the Plate, to give student volunteers the opportunity to show their appreciation to the 90 gardeners who are providing students a healthy educational environment on campus.

On March 21, 33 student volunteers invited the gardeners that work at AUS to lunch near the gazebo area as a way to recognize the efforts the gardeners make to keep these areas beautiful. The lunch expenses were covered by funds raised at the volunteers’ Used Books Sale in January. Tanjuma Islam, an English language and literature student, said, “I loved the experience! The workers do a lot for us, and it was our time to pay back. Their smiling faces were the best part."

“We are fortunate to have caring and thoughtful students at AUS. They are well aware of the contributions and efforts of people around them and they are eager to acknowledge these contributions in their own way. The university gardeners deserve much appreciation from our students for keeping the AUS landscape conducive to learning and living. A humble lunch treat means a lot and promotes the spirit of sharing,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
A group of student volunteers from American University of Sharjah (AUS) spent their spring break helping the needy in Sri Lanka.

The 16 students from the AUS Student Council and Community Services program worked with programs that help the elderly and children in Sri Lanka April 1–8, 2016. The volunteers went to the Ahangama Community Project, where they visited with the elderly, as well as whitewashed and painted their rooms.

On the following day, the students visited Satranghana School, which has 68 students under the age of 13. AUS volunteers shared pizza and distributed treats to the kids at the school, after which they painted the classroom walls and made sure that the water pumps that were purchased by the volunteers as a donation for the school were operating well. The children thanked the volunteers with a special performance.

At Aluthwatte Village in Digana, the students learned about local ways of life. They visited the Home of Hope, a safe-center for orphans and children in distressed situations, where they learned how to create batik, an ancient art form of dyed textiles. Students distributed toys made in the Toy Stories workshop at AUS to the children at the Home of Hope.

“The trip was a really nice and eye-opening experience. I did things I never thought I would be able to do in my life. It feels great being able to help people and put a smile on their faces. I would definitely do this again,” said Amal Kamber, a finance senior who was part of the volunteer team.

In addition to the volunteer efforts, the students learned more about the local culture. They visited the Tamarind Gardens and a local factory that employs women to make incense sticks as an alternative to mining, the main occupation in the village. Local fishermen took them on a trip by catamaran to see Victoria Dam, the largest irrigation and hydroelectric power production station in the country. They also learned about how tea leaves are processed to make black, green and white tea during a visit to a tea plantation in Colombo. The visit was followed by an outing to the Millennium Elephant Foundation, where students spent time with elephants and learned about their importance in Sri Lankan culture. Other activities included zip-lining at the Kenali River, and a nature walk in the Makandawa forest reserve, one the oldest rainforest reserves in the country.

“The trip to Sri Lanka was designed to include educational, volunteering and cultural activities for the students. I am glad they are very satisfied with their experiences that will help them get accustomed to other cultures, improve their social skills and augment their perception about contributing to different communities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Leopards runners up at AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament 2016

Universities from across the UAE participated in the eighth edition of the AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament held at the AUS cricket ground from March 17-23, 2016. The tournament, which was conducted by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department on a knock-out basis, saw some key competition between eight prominent universities who fought well for the championship.

AUS played their first match against City University College Ajman on March 19 and won it by a margin of 62 runs. In the semi-finals, the Leopards knocked out Abu Dhabi University by 120 runs and entered the finals to play against BITS-Pilani, Dubai. AUS scored 132 runs in their allotted 20 overs in the exciting final match but BITS-Pilani chased the target in the last over and emerged as the winners.

Skyline University Sharjah, Canadian University Dubai, BITS-Pilani Dubai, City University College Ajman, Abu Dhabi University, Manipal University Dubai and Middlesex University took part in the tournament along with the host AUS.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the prize winners and promised more opportunities for the cricket players in the university arena.

AUS batsman Mohammed Umar Shaikh received the “Batsman of the Tournament” award while Mohammed Fouad Azfar Khan of AUS was selected as the “Best Bowler of the Tournament” for his key performance throughout the tournament.

In the post-match presentation ceremony Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, awarded the trophies and medals to the winner and runner up teams.

AUS students to undergo Takatof Volunteering Essentials Certificate training

In continuing its mission to deliver the importance of volunteer work to its student volunteers, Community Services launched a series of trainings with the collaboration of Takatof, one of the principal initiatives of the Emirates Foundation, a social program to foster a culture of volunteering throughout the United Arab Emirates. The initiative is under the guidance of Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi; and the direction of his brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

On March 22, a representative team from Takatof presented to 84 AUS student volunteers an introductory session about the organization, its beliefs and practices across the UAE. Commenting on her aspiration, Reem Mustafa, a finance major said, “I am so excited after attending the introductory session as Takatof are tackling the volunteering work from a different perspective which gives me an insight into how any initiative is set before we, the volunteers, go and help.”

“This year we are aiming to expand our Community Service programs and projects by partnering with major humanitarian and charitable organizations tasked with initiatives at a larger, nationwide scale. I am sure that our students’ volunteering skills will be developed further as they acquire knowledge and skills from professionals in the field through these training sessions. We are glad to see that many AUS students are willing to offer their time and effort in volunteering for various causes,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani inspires AUS students during lecture

Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani spoke to AUS students on April 26 about understanding their purpose in life and setting a plan for achieving their goals through an inspirational lecture entitled “Follow your Dreams.” Organized by the Student Leadership Program (SLP), the lecture featured the AUS alumnus sharing his experience of climbing the highest point in the world, Mount Everest. He showed videos of his preparations and spoke about the struggles he faced.

“My goal was to climb Mount Everest, and you don’t get this served on a silver platter. It requires preparation,” he said. “Having a big goal is scary but you have to prepare for it. Climbing Everest was not an overnight process. I had to put thousands and thousands of hours of hard work into training. I had to climb many other mountains before to practice. And this applies to your life goals, you cannot do anything without being prepared.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students said, “Students enjoyed listening to His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani’s journey of success and recognized that if there is a will, there is a way. His Excellency shared an effective method of mapping ones goals and breaking them down into steps for attainable results. We thank His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani for his inspirational lecture and commitment to AUS.”

On May 22, 2013, Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani became the first Qatari man to summit Mount Everest. During the climb, he was part of a four-member group called Arabs with Altitude, which included the first Palestinian man, the first Saudi woman and the first Iranian to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

As part of his lecture, he provided the students with activity sheets to allow them to think of where they would be in one, five and twenty years, in order to begin preparing to pursue their dreams and make them a reality.

Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani received his BA in Business (Accounting and Marketing) as well as his MBA from AUS.

Student volunteers initiate “Taalam Arabic” sessions

As part of its role in serving the community and harmonizing student volunteers’ academic and social environment at the university, Community Services launched a new student initiative entitled “Taalam Arabic.” The initiative was proposed by student volunteers in March, 2016, as a platform that teaches non-Arabic speaking students the basic means of communication in Arabic which will help them better communicate and understand their peers in the university and outside.

The Taalam Arabic sessions are organized on a weekly basis as student volunteers gather in the Community Services office and teach one another in an informal class setting. The initiative has met with huge popularity and success which can be evidenced from the increasing rate of participation since the launch of the initiative.

Expressing his enthusiasm after attending the sessions, Karan Mohan Gurnani, a finance major said, “Learning Arabic words and getting to understand some of my peers is like exploring another aspect of the culture through its expressions."

“This is an ideal method of sharing the Arabic language with non-Arab students, especially when it is conducted by students. The sessions also serve as a platform for students from different nationalities to socialize and network with their peers and learn language and culture from one another. I encourage our students to take advantage of this opportunity to learn basic Arabic language which will be useful while they study and live in an Arabic speaking country such as the UAE,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
AUS holds Intercollegiate Racket Tournament

AUS concluded its Eleventh Men’s and Women’s Intercollegiate Racket Tournament at the university Sports Complex on March 21. The two-day tournament featured some of the best student-athletes representing universities from across the UAE.

The players competed in men’s and women’s badminton, men’s and women’s table tennis and men’s squash. The AUS participants bagged first place in men’s table tennis and squash, and also claimed second place in both men’s and women’s badminton.

The participating universities included University of Wollongong in Dubai, University of Sharjah (Men), University of Sharjah (Women), Emirates Aviation University, Manipal University Dubai, Middlesex University, Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Dubai, Canadian University of Dubai, Murdoch University Dubai, Birla Institute of Technology-Ras Al Khaimah, Ras Al-Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University and AUS.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the athletes for their achievements, stressing the importance of such tournaments in building strong partnerships with other educational institutions and for serving as a platform for students to network with their peers from other universities. “In spite of being heavily engaged in many competitions across the UAE during this peak season, our athletes manage to maintain their performance levels to succeed in tournaments and represent AUS in the best possible manner. I am very appreciative of their efforts,” Dr. Al Shehhi said.

Organized by Student Athletics and Recreation in the Office of Student Affairs, the event concluded with Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of AUS Student Athletics and Recreation, congratulating the winners for their remarkable performance and handing out prizes and trophies to the winners.

Students show sportsmanship at Interdormitory Sports Tournament

Student Athletics and Recreation in collaboration with Student Residential Life of the Office of Student Affairs at American University of Sharjah (AUS) held the Men’s and Women’s Interdormitory Sports Tournament March 6–16, 2016. The enthusiastic athletes participated in various competitions including men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, badminton, swimming, squash, table tennis, chess, table football, billiards, PS4, Wii, snooker, and men’s soccer and cricket.

The closing ceremony and prize distribution were held on March 16, and trophies and medals were awarded to the eager champions.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the winners and thanked all the students who took part in the tournament. “I encourage our students to take advantage of our state-of-the-art sports facilities and take part in sports events and programs that will keep them fit and to enjoy the many benefits of physical activities,” Dr. Al Shehhi added.
SIX AUS STUDENTS ATTENDED THE AL MAKTOUNM COLLEGE ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAM AT AL MAKTOUNM COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN DUNDEE, SCOTLAND, FEBRUARY 9-MARCH 7, 2016. THE PROGRAM, FOR FEMALE EMIRATI STUDENTS, AIDS TO CHALLENGE AND EXPAND ALL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS’ INTELLECTUAL SKILLS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED FOR ACTIVE LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

“MY EXPERIENCE AT AL-MAKTOUNM COLLEGE WAS PHENOMENAL. AS A STUDENT WHO HAS AN EDUCATION IN THE SCIENCE FIELD, THIS PROGRAM HAS EXPANDED MY KNOWLEDGE IN RELIGIONS, MULTICULTURALISM AND LEADERSHIP. MOREOVER, THIS EXPERIENCE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT CULTURES FROM STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. FROM LEARNING ABOUT WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO HOW GLOBALIZATION SHAPES OUR WORLD, THE LESSONS WE HAVE GAINED ARE ENDLESS, AND I ABSOLUTELY RECOMMEND THIS PROGRAM FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO GROW MORE,” SAID AMNA BANIALNAJJAR, A CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE.

“We are delighted that our students had a fruitful experience at Al Maktoum College Academic Training Program. Students got an opportunity to better understand multiculturalism and leadership and the importance of globalization. The experience gained is unforgettable, and we look forward to future collaboration with Al Maktoum College Training Program,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

THE AUS LEOPARDS TOOK THE TOP PRIZE IN SEVEN CATEGORIES AT THE GULF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY (GMU) SPORTS FESTIVAL 2016 HELD MARCH 5-13 IN AJMAN.

AUS WON FIRST PLACE IN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND TENNIS, MEN’S SQUASH, MEN’S BADMINTON AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL. TWENTY-SEVEN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES FROM ACROSS THE UAE PARTICIPATED IN THIS TOURNAMENT.

DR. MOZA AL SHEHHI, AUS DEAN OF STUDENTS, CONGRATULATED THE WINNERS.

“We are very happy for your great achievement during this competition. Tournaments such as this are important in order to facilitate student interactions as well as to provide them a platform to exhibit their sports talent,” she said.
AUS retains title in Sixth Men’s Intercollegiate Swimming Competition

The Sixth AUS Men’s Intercollegiate Swimming Competition on March 1, 2016 witnessed some keen competition between eight prominent universities in the UAE. Host university AUS won the championship with a convincing lead, followed by University of Sharjah and American University in Dubai, respectively.

AUS swimmers headed the medal tally with seven gold, three silver and one bronze medal. Talmir Ishmukhametov secured first place in the 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter butterfly stroke, while Taher Arafah won gold in the 50-meter freestyle and bronze in the 50-meter backstroke race.

Ahmed Eladl won silver medals in the 50-meter freestyle and butterfly stroke, and Amr Mohamed secured second place in the 50-meter breaststroke.

In the 4x50 meter medley relay, AUS swimmers kept their archrivals University of Sharjah well behind and achieved first place. AUS swimmers retained the trophy with 56 points, followed by University of Sharjah with 29 points and American University in Dubai in third place with 28 points. Other participating universities were City University College of Ajman, American University of Ras Al Khaimah, Canadian University in Dubai, BITS-Pilani Dubai Campus, and Skyline University College Sharjah.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated all winners and thanked Student Athletics and Recreation for organizing this yearly competition, which provides ample opportunities for the swimmers from the UAE’s universities.

AUS on top in the Second AUS Intercollegiate Bench Press Competition

The Second AUS Intercollegiate Bench Press Competition was held in the Sports Complex on February 29, 2016. AUS lifters became the winners for the second consecutive time with 98 points. University of Sharjah and American University of Ras Al Khaimah secured second and third place, respectively. More than 50 contestants from various universities participated.

Powerlifting competitions in 66 kg, 74 kg, 83 kg, 93 kg, 105 kg and 120 kg were conducted. AUS athletes Salem Herzallan (120 kg), Mohammad Khalil (105 kg), Yasin Steiert (93 kg), Mohamed Adel Diab (83 kg), Mohammad Reza Jafareian (74 kg) and Mohamed Al Nimer (66 kg) won gold medals. Zaid Hisham Albeak and Ahmed Omer achieved silver in the 93 and 74 kg categories. Mohammad Adil Shams took bronze in the 66 kg category.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the winners and assured them that more attention will be given to organize such events due to the enthusiastic participation this year from various universities.
The Student Council at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted the second edition of the AUS Olympics April 12–13, 2016. Students from the cultural clubs competed in soccer, basketball, volleyball, cricket and a 100-meter sprint. Approximately 600 students from 20 cultural clubs and the Student Council participated, with the Egyptian Cultural Club taking home the overall prize.

In addition to the sports competitions, there were free fitness activities, stage performances and a food court. Stage performances included DJ music by the Power Hit Radio Club, a fire show, African drum entertainment and cultural performances by the Indian, Pakistani and Jordanian clubs.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said, “Since this is an event by students for students, we have witnessed how the students worked together to create an event that is of their liking and interest. It is good to see our students unwind in a healthy manner. Our students really enjoyed their time in the various sports competitions and entertainment during this two-day event.”

Three AUS students participated in the Eighth Alleem Project Management Congress held on May 10, 2016, at Radisson Blu Hotel in Sharjah.

Organized by Alleem Knowledge Center, the congress discussed the effects of globalization and increased competition in today’s markets. It also explored how organizations needed to adopt the nine knowledge areas of project management to enable them to do different things at the right times to produce the desired results. Presentations by various experts and professionals from the field covered many topics, including the problem solving cycle, project budgeting, monitoring and controlling projects, the framework of project management, project finance and the project life cycle.

The student participants were Ahmed Mahmoud Abouelyousr and Mohamed Al-Khanchi, majoring in civil engineering, and Anas Qawasmeh, majoring in finance. They were nominated by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program.

“Attending Alleem Project Management Congress was very informative and had speakers addressing various aspects of project management, which broadened my knowledge in this field,” said Abouelyousr.

“It is beneficial for students to take part in various conferences to better understand the market from a professionals’ point of view. Such conferences help students network with experts in the field that share their real-life experience and ideal solutions to various business situations. Considering that the economy around us is changing rapidly, we encourage more students to seek such opportunities in preparation for their career paths,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
AUS cricketers emerge victorious in Sri Lanka Cricket Tournament

Under the captaincy of Mohammed Umar Shaikh, a 16-member American University of Sharjah (AUS) cricket team participated in the Sri Lanka Cricket Tournament for universities held in Negombo, Sri Lanka, April 1-4, 2016. The AUS team won the series 3-0.

AUS batsmen Hussam Badi Uz Zaman, Mohammed Umar Shaikh and Muhammad Saeed Anwar excelled with the bat while the bowlers Furqan Ashiq, Faizan Aqeel, Fouad Azfar Khan, Bilal Khan and Pubudu Tharanga prevented the run flow of the opponents by claiming their wickets at the right occasions. AUS played three matches in the series, the first with Hemamali College, Negombo, and the other two with players from different universities and clubs. The AUS Leopards won the first match against Hemamali College by seven wickets and defeated the players in the second match by a margin of 56 runs. Hussam Badi Uz Zaman and Furqan Ashiq from AUS were declared the Man of the Match in the first and second matches, respectively.

Under hot and humid conditions, the AUS team fought well in their third match and achieved their final victory of the tournament by a margin of 57 runs. It was a spectacular display of cricketing skills from the Leopards. AUS batsman Saeed Anwar remained not out with a score of 86 and was later declared Man of the Match. In the prize distribution ceremony held at Kaderana Cricket Club ground in Negombo, C P Hettiarachi, Principal of Galahitiya Hemamali College, presented the awards. AUS Cricketer Hussam Badi Uz Zaman received the Player of the Tournament award along with the Best Batsman of the Tournament title while Furqan Ashiq of AUS became the Bowler of the Tournament.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the cricket team on their great achievement in Sri Lanka. “Such international appearances are definitely helpful in improving your skills in the varied conditions, but it also provides ample opportunities to interact with peers from different walks of life and cultures,” Dr. Al Shehhi said.

SLP students take part in the Global Aerospace Summit 2016

Four students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the Future Leaders Program strategy session during the third Global Aerospace Summit organized by Mubadala Development Company held March 7–8, 2016 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

The sessions focused on career-oriented topics in an attempt to prepare promising and dedicated young students to be the future leaders within the industries of aerospace and defense, aviation and space. In addition, students had the opportunity to interact with leading industry professionals and leaders across all sectors of the aerospace and aviation realms during an informal dialogue.

“From what I saw and experienced in the Global Aerospace Summit, I really realized that the ‘sky has no limit’ especially when I look at today’s advanced technology,” said Amira Al Suwaidi, senior student majoring in finance.

“SLP encourages students to participate in local opportunities to allow them to network and learn from professionals in the field of leadership. Students had a fruitful experience at the summit and got to appreciate how technology transformed our world,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Seven delegates from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were awarded the Outstanding Delegation Award at the National Model United Nations (NMUN 2016), held March 27-31 in New York City, United States. The Outstanding Delegation Award is the highest and most prestigious recognition in this conference. AUS students represented Vietnam in seven different committees. The AUS delegation consisted of Hanan Arab, Hend Mitkis, Reem Al Nuaimi, Mehak Ayaz, Nasser Anwahi, Omar Khattab and Ahmad Azari. The award was announced in the concluding ceremony of the event on March 31 at the General Assembly Hall in The United Nations Headquarters. More than 2,500 delegates from 230 universities around the world participated this year.

“National Model United Nations was a life-changing experience. The feeling of working with the best delegates from all around the world and debating on topics that matter globally was like no other. The seven of us bonded well as a team, and for the first time in the history of AUS we brought home the Outstanding Delegation Award. The whole UN General Assembly applauding on our win will always be my best memory. The trip has inspired me and made me believe that if we set a goal and work patiently towards it then there is nothing that can hold us back from achieving it,” said Mehak Ayaz, a junior student majoring in civil engineering.

“Congratulations to the AUS delegation on their outstanding achievement at the NMUN2016. It was a great honor and pride for AUS to be announced as a winner in the United Nations. Our students worked hard to achieve this goal as they began preparations as soon as they were selected in October 2015. We are confident that they will contribute and extend their experience and knowledge to other students to help them prepare for various Model United Nations opportunities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Leopard ladies retain swimming title

The AUS women’s swimming team retained its title at the Sixth AUS Women’s Intercollegiate Swimming Competition held recently, with a total of 75 points, while University of Sharjah and United Arab Emirates University came in second and third with 60 points and 36 points, respectively. Six universities participated in the competition.

Danya Khafaga won first place in the 50 meter butterfly, while Beesan Hussein came in second. In the 50 meter backstroke, Nour Attia came in second. Rawan Salah came in second in the 50 meter breaststroke. Razan Khamis came in second in the 50 meter freestyle while Cyndi Faber came in third and also second in the 200 meter individual medley. In the 4x50 m medley relay, AUS swimmers kept University of Sharjah well behind and earned first place. University of Sharjah claimed second place while United Arab Emirates University secured third place.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the AUS swimmers for winning the championship once again. She also praised the team for its consistent performances and for maintaining such a high standard, both in and out of the pool. “I am very proud of our women’s swimming team and all they have accomplished this semester not only in the pool, but also in the classroom and for maintaining a successful balance between academics and athletics,” said Dr. Shehhi.

TEDxAUS teaches students to “Think Glocal”

Think Glocal was the theme of TEDxAUS hosted by American University of Sharjah (AUS) on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program, in collaboration with Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa), the event encouraged the audience to think globally but act locally.

The welcoming remarks at TEDxAUS were given by Najla Al Midfa, General Manager, Sheraa, while other speakers at the event included Her Excellency Sara Al Madani, Director, Fashion Designer and Founder, Sara Al Madani Fashion Design; Aida Al Busaidy, Senior Events and Festivals Communications Manager, Dubai Tourism; Sara Falaknaz, Vice President for Innovation, DP World; Dr. Jameela Haq, Dentist and Founder, Pakistan Youth Forum; and Hassan Dennaoui, Radio Host, to name a few.

The TEDx Program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.
Peer Leaders help new students adjust to university life

Making the transition from high school to university can be challenging for many students. Fortunately for new students at American University Sharjah, a team of knowledgeable student Peer Leaders is available to help them adjust more quickly.

A part of the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program, the Peer Leaders took an active role during the Welcome Session for New Students and Parents held on January 22, 2016. Peer Leaders “adopted” new freshmen and will continue to orient them throughout the semester. Peer Leaders play an integral role in helping new students adjust to university life. The students who participated in the Peer Leaders Program have leadership skills and a passion for assisting others.

“My experience was incredible; interacting with such motivated and passionate newcomers was extremely exciting and inspiring. I was motivated by the memory of how lost I was as a freshman and how helpful I found the Peer Leaders then. It benefited me to interact with people from various cultural backgrounds. I loved the experience overall and would definitely do it again,” said Hanan Arab, a junior student majoring in international studies.

“The Peer Leaders Program is quite fun and informative. I have made a lot of new friends and I have had the pleasure of passing down any knowledge I have about AUS and made use of my experience here by helping the new students,” said Rima Chalha, a sophomore student majoring in interior design.

“We are pleased to see Peer Leaders and new students build a strong relationship at an early stage, as this helps freshmen better understand the AUS community. The Peer Leaders have done an excellent job in providing our new students with support, advice and encouragement,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

SLP students take part in the First Water and Energy Congress

Students from the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP) attended the first annual Water and Energy Congress (WE WEEK) held by Alleem Knowledge Center on February 16, 2016 in Sharjah.

The event addressed the key global goals on sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy. The forum identified state-of-the-art water solutions and built a sustainable pathway.

“My experience at the Water and Energy Congress was enlightening. I met some well-respected researchers and listened to their ideas on how to become more sustainable,” said Nada Mourad, a senior majoring in finance.

“The congress motivated me to come up with different ways to use water and energy more efficiently. Also, I was very inspired by Dr. Rashid Alleem, who has contributed to our society in many great ways. During the congress he informed us about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. He encouraged us to start working on at least five of the 17 goals in order to make a difference in this world and leave behind a legacy that we would be remembered for.”

According to Rania Almadi, a freshman majoring in chemical engineering, “Attending an event like WE WEEK and hearing professionals speak of such a major issue as that of climate change inspired me to want to volunteer and work in order to make a difference. I learned that the issue of climate change is in fact a very urgent one, and it must be handled immediately. In order to be able to resolve this problem, everyone must pitch in; it requires a combined effort from humanity as a whole in order to be able to restore our planet to its former state.”

“The congress focused on the importance of finding sustainable solutions to water conservation, which is a global dilemma. Students were exposed to ideas and solutions that will aid in maintaining a safe future for generations to come. We are pleased that our students found the congress beneficial, and we encourage more students to take advantage of the opportunities provided by SLP,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
SLP teams take part in the Global Management Challenge 2016

Thirty-two students from the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP) are competing in the Global Management Challenge – UAE Edition 2016, which was launched on January 25, 2016 in Dubai under the patronage of Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The Global Management Challenge is the world’s largest strategy and management competition for university students, drawing around 30,000 participants from more than 30 countries each year. It is a management simulation where teams of three to five members run a virtual company with an objective of achieving the highest investment performance for its shareholders. The virtual company is based in Europe and manufactures three different models of a certain product. Eight teams from AUS are competing in the challenge.

“The launch of the Global Management Challenge was an enriching experience. Being able to socialize with CEOs and hear their goals and experiences made me have a wider view of the business world and how things work in real life. After seeing the previous winning projects, I was motivated to perform at my best in order to win. Such a competition is very helpful for me as a business student because it helps me link the concepts I learned in class and interpret them into reality,” said Ghadeer Alrjoub, a sophomore majoring in finance.

“We encourage our students to take part in prestigious international competitions such as the Global Management Challenge that provide students with the opportunity to ‘learn by doing.’ The challenge enables students to be involved in decision making and to experience real-business constraints and conflicts. This is a multifaceted opportunity that promotes growth in leadership, communication, teamwork and time management,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS students create art through exhibition at Sharjah Art Foundation

The Student Multicultural Learning Program in collaboration with the AUS Saudi Cultural Club organized a trip to the exhibition Do It at the Sharjah Art Foundation on March 20, 2016. Through this interactive exhibition, the students created their own artwork based on instructions from over 60 artists from the region.

The students started with a tour around the exhibition, giving them a chance to utilize the artists’ instructions, from drawing maps with chalk to painting on wood. They then participated in a workshop in which they built their own wooden structures and experimented with designs and colors, helping them unlock their creative abilities.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students said, “Students’ engagement in such artistic opportunities develops a chance for them to be able to relate their artwork to their culture and explore different methods of enhancing creativity.”

Abdullah AlFarraj, President of the AUS Saudi Cultural Club and a sophomore in industrial engineering, said, “The trip was different because you’re having fun and learning at the same time. We applied some simple steps in order to complete unfinished art works by different artists. The participants were very engaged in the activities and curious to know about each work of art.”
SLP students take part in World Business Dialogue 2016

Three students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the 19th World Business Dialogue 2016 held in Cologne, Germany from March 16-19, 2016.

The World Business Dialogue is considered one of the most important discussion platforms in Europe. It is the place to discuss, act and interact with companies, speakers, and students from all over the world. The World Business Dialogue aims to form intelligent, self-sufficient world citizens, equipping them with long-term connections all over the world and giving them room to be creative and truly innovative. This year’s topic was “Globalization: Disrupted?” The convention discussed globalization changes in the forthcoming years and which challenges need to be solved by economic operators.

The participating students were Nasser Anwahi, majoring in international studies; Mohamed Chazi, majoring in industrial engineering; and Abdalla Lootah, majoring in finance. “The World Business Dialogue was such an inspirational experience for me. The open discussions helped me understand how the world perceives the Middle East and the Arab region. This trip was an amazing experience and I hope to continue to participate in other SLP events,” said Abdalla Lootah.

“The World Business Dialogue was a very interesting and insightful event. The speakers were knowledgeable and proved to be experts in their fields. Also, the atmosphere was extremely positive. It was indeed a fantastic experience that I will not forget,” said Mohamed Chazi.

“Another fruitful experience for our students at the World Business Dialogue 2016. The convention exposed students to excellent panel discussions and wonderful speakers. It also allowed them to exchange ideas on the topic ‘Globalization: Disrupted?’ and put forth the challenges ahead to solve major world issues. A job well done to our students who did exceptionally well at the conference,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Student attends traditional Japanese tea ceremony

Fifteen students representing the Student Multicultural Learning Program and AUS Japanese Cultural Club recently attended a Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony at Zayed University, Dubai, organized by the Consulate General of Japan.

The event involved the ceremonial preparation and demonstration of Japanese Green Matcha Tea. A presentation was conducted demonstrating the right way to prepare the Japanese tea, the etiquette exercised, how it should be served to guests and the divine meaning behind it.

Students were amazed by how much respect and precision was exercised during a tea gathering and were able to understand the meaning behind the Japanese customs and distinguish the different rituals in their culture.

“Exposing our students to different cultures in an interactive setting is providing our students with practical knowledge, skills and experiences that augment their understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The Japanese Tea Ceremony reminded our students that discipline mirrors even in the simplest practices in life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Abdel Rahman Alaqqaq, a member of the Japanese Cultural Club and a senior in civil engineering, said, “The event was a unique experience for us as a club. It gave us insight on how this ceremony is conducted, and how important it is in the Japanese culture.”
Student Council Members visit Al Noor Island

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) organized an excursion for its Student Council members to Al Noor Island on March 3, 2016. The purpose of this trip was to allow the members to express their concerns on student life while engaging in the beauty of nature through a contemporary and creative approach.

The Student Council members toured the island and enjoyed explanations by the tour guide on pavilions, landscapes, unique plants, artwork and lighting system which added to the beauty of the island. The students enjoyed the butterfly house which had over 500 exotic butterflies, while an expert on the metamorphosis explained the butterfly life cycle and then students had a chance to observe the different species closely.

Mohamad AlHashimi, a mechanical engineering senior and Student Council President said, “The trip made the Student Council members communicate more efficiently with OSA staff within the informal atmosphere of the excursion. It was a delight to share this experience in a beautiful place with lovely company.”

“It’s quite impressive to witness how much Sharjah is developing. There is great synchronization of nature, art and technology put into Al Noor Island. Students enjoyed all these aspects, which are truly educational and memorable. I am glad our Student Council members are very satisfied with their experiences and engagement in student life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS students volunteer in Food for the Needy campaign

Forty-two student volunteers participated in the AUS Community Services division’s annual Food for the Needy campaign on February 23. The student volunteers went to Al-Ihsan Charity Association in Ajman to distribute food parcels consisting of rice, sugar, oil, condensed milk and vegetables to less-fortunate families that usually visit the association for help.

“Our student volunteers’ efforts during the used book sale on campus yielded positive results in terms of raising funds for another charity initiative. The Food for the Needy campaign was also funded through this sale. I thank our volunteers for their enthusiasm and efforts for supporting our charity initiatives at AUS. Special thanks to the AUS community for donating their used books and to those who supported the Food for the Needy campaign by helping us fill and distribute the food parcels,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“I truly enjoyed working with the volunteers today and I can’t wait to join the next activities,” said student volunteer and electrical engineering sophomore Yara Kassam, commenting on the experience.

The event was organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division in collaboration with Al-Ihsan Charity Association, Ajman.
A group of AUS students learned more about the UAE’s rich culture by attending Sharjah Heritage Days on April 20. The trip was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Multicultural Learning Program and the AUS Emirati Cultural Club.

Sharjah Heritage Days, which is organized by the Sharjah Institute for Heritage and held in the Heart of Sharjah area, featured a variety of traditional events that reflected the social and cultural developments of life in Sharjah. A tour guide gave the students a detailed explanation about traditional Emirati ways of life. Students enjoyed exploring the handicraft displays and viewing exhibitions on coastal, agricultural and Bedouin environments. The annual event also included traditional markets and a mixture of multicultural entertainment areas.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, expressed the importance of arranging similar cultural and local field trips.

“The aim of this program is to educate our youth about the rich culture of the UAE, and I encourage all students, especially those coming from different cultural backgrounds, to discover the local heritage and traditions in the UAE,” she stated.

“I can’t express enough my pride at Sharjah Heritage Days! It is one of the few places where I believe was able to experience the real culture in a very authentic way,” said Mariam Aldhaheri, a junior design student.
Student Residential Life events in Spring 2016

A great variety of activities were undertaken by students living in the residential halls since the end of Fall 2015 up till the end of Spring 2016.

The department arranged orientation sessions during both semesters for new resident students to convey the important issues related to the living environment. In addition to rules and regulations, residents were informed about activities and recreational opportunities offered during the year. Other OSA units were invited to share useful information with the new residents during these sessions, which were conducted in two locations on January 31 and February 1.

Further, an awareness campaign on safety issues was conducted in all residential halls. This semester fire drills were conducted in the men’s and women’s dorms from February 8 to 10, covering all 13 residential halls. These mandatory drills were intended to familiarize students with fire safety rules and to test the effectiveness of emergency evacuation procedures.

On February 21, the first Similar Interest Group (SIG) function on environmental awareness and sustainability was held in EF Women’s Dorm. Also, GH Women’s Dorm held an International Day on March 8 while AB Women’s Dorm held a Japanese Cultural Night on March 6.

In honor of students who have resided in the dorms for more than four years, the department staged Graduating Student Farewell functions with the first taking place in the men’s dorms on April 19 and the second in the women’s dorms on May 9.

AUS inter-dormitory sporting activities in collaboration with the Athletics Division continued to attract a large following. At the launch on February 21, 1,200 registrations were received to participate during the Spring semester edition of the tournament, whilst 835 registrations were recorded during Fall 2015.

Dorm competitions stretched across a whole range of disciplines including billiards, table tennis, PS4 video games, baby foot, chess and 7-Aside Football.

On March 2, 30 male residents attended an interesting motivational learning program while AB Men’s Dorm held its introductory SIG function and gaming night. The Resident Student Sports Day was held March 8 and featured competitions and award presentations across the various disciplines from the usual ball games, billiards, swimming, badminton, cricket to chess and video games such as PS4 and Wii.

Eighty five students took part with many receiving both teams and individual awards for excelling in their respective disciplines.

On March 18 EF Women’s Dorm had a follow up to its SIG program with students gathering according to their majors. AB Men’s Dorm held its SIG introduction presentation on SIG-by-colleges followed by discussions, a stress management video as well as an animation movie night in the new I Women’s Dorm.

Residents were also given an opportunity to display their drawing and painting skills in the Women’s Welcome Center as part of the SIG program. To publicize the Art and Drawing Competition, posters were sent to all dorms on March 20 for the collection of students’ art work. Students’ submitted work was on exhibit in the Women Welcome Center from March 31 to April 14 with an award ceremony held at the same venue on April 17.

On April 12, EF Men hosted a successful Quality Time event involving 55 residents, which featured a wide variety of activities. Many students presented a rich mix of cultural shows and folklore items including songs and dances, with the Palestinian and Syrian students staging exciting shows of the popular Debbika dance. African students also staged very exciting cultural dances. Additional events lined up for the event included puzzles and a tug-of-war competition, amongst others.

The event and activities calendar for the semesters was packed and student residents remained fully engaged in a wide range of activities outside of academic pursuits. These undoubtedly enrich and create balance in the lives of students and make for a more fulfilling university experience. The Student Residential Life Department is indebted to all who helped the department to facilitate the wide variety of activities.
Echoes

Echoes reflects student opinions about the services offered by the Office of Student Affairs. The section provides an opportunity for students to express their views and experiences with student extracurricular activities at AUS.

Owais Ahmed, Junior, Finance
Hard work and consistency, the two factors that my team and I have considered through vigorous training. This year we accomplished a great deal in the field of badminton when we managed to compete with excellent results in the GMU Sports Festival 2016 Inter-University Tournament and successfully beat all the universities starting from BITS Pilani Dubai and ending with Manipal university. An experience that will never be forgotten!

Mishails Balonuskovs, Freshman, Management Information Systems
I am very happy that we were able to win the 11th AUS Men's and Women's Intercollegiate Racket Tournament 2016 tournament. Each team member contributed towards achieving this victory. Personally, I always feel proud representing AUS at the tournaments. Thanks to my team, my coach and supporters I felt confident during the matches. I will continue trying my best to win future trophies for AUS.

Talmir Ishmukhametov, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
Provision of partial athletic scholarship by AUS to the deserving athletes are a big assistance in their college life and it helps the financially weak students to continue studies along with their sports career. As a recipient of the athletic scholarship in this semester I am glad that I was able to contribute my talents in the water towards the success of AUS swimming team in the HESF and other major intercollegiate competitions.

Rayan Khaiwi, Senior, Chemical Engineering
Another great successful year for the AUS men's tennis team as we achieve the first place in the GMU Sports Festival-2016. Thanks to the hard work of the AUS tennis players, the tennis team was able to demonstrate their skills as they faced challenging opponents from other national universities and prove once again their position among the best in the region.

Farah Ghaith, Senior, Design Management
Being a member of the female basketball team gives me the great opportunity to represent AUS athletically across the UAE. The first time I ever played as a Leopard was in GMU back in 2013, and it is incredible to end my four year journey with winning 1st place in the 15th Annual GMU Sports Festival-2016. Being a Leopard is about hard work and dedication, and it all pays off when we win first place.

Khaled Maatouk, Junior, Civil Engineering
First of all, I would love to express my sincere appreciation and pride for being offered such a chance to represent my University in the 11th AUS Men's and Women's Intercollegiate Racket Tournament 2016. Based on our preparation, our team managed to earn the first place in the tournament for the second time; and I should admit how great a feeling it is keeping such a title for the second year in a row.

Rawan Salah, Junior, Chemical Engineering
The Sixth AUS Women's Intercollegiate Swimming Competition was held on March 14. Six universities from across UAE participated in this event including AUS. The competition included all four styles of swimming, freestyle, butterfly, back, and breast stroke. In addition to an individual 200m medley (IM) and a team medley. AUS won first by achieving the highest points in this competition.
Mohammed Umar Shaikh, Senior, Marketing
The Sri-Lanka Cricket Tournament in Negombo from April 1-4 was a great experience for the AUS cricket team, which helped the team to understand its strengths and weaknesses while competing with strong opponents in completely new conditions. The Leopards adapted to the diverse environment and playing conditions quickly, enabling them to win the series 3-0.

Mohammad Reza Jafareian, Sophomore, Civil Engineering
The Second AUS Intercollegiate Bench Press competition had a great importance for us, the powerlifting team, as we were going to defend our last year’s first place title at our own university (AUS) and also because our rival team, University of Sharjah, was coming to compete for nothing less than first place.

Hanan Arab, Junior, International Studies
National Model United Nations in New York (NMUN 2016) this year was an insightful experience that I would not trade for anything in the world. The group I got to work with was a blessing and our achievements were one of the first we brought home. I truly felt blessed and grateful for all our hard work that paid off.

Omar Khattab, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
National Model United Nations (NMUN 2016) is not only about the MUN experience, it’s about life lessons, cultural communication and friendship initiation. NMUN is a lifetime experience, a forever lasting memory, that one hopes, might repeat every year. NMUN is a small world that prepares us for a much bigger one!

Nasser Ali, Sophomore, International Studies
The World Business Dialogues was an enriching experience, having to listen to some of the world’s most renowned experts in politics and economics, discuss issues of global concern, enlightened and invigorated us. We would definitely set out to participate once more in this experience.

Victoria Doheny, Exchange Student
During this semester I resided in Women’s EF Dorms and have felt nothing but at home. Even though I came from such a different cultural background, the supervisors helped me adjust to my surroundings and to the university. This helped me gain confidence, make friends and get good grades. Every day the supervisors greeted me, asked me how I was doing and always told me that I could come to them in times of need. They encouraged me to meet new people and to always get involved in different activities. Curfew and other rules could feel like restrictions which are difficult to adjust to. However, I never felt that way living in Women’s EF Dorms. The supervisors told me why things are the way they are and I never felt opposed to the rules set in place because I had an understanding of them. In Women’s EF Dorms, my room was always clean and whenever I needed a nurse to come, help with ordering food, a taxi, or anything that could have involved a language barrier, the supervisors always helped me. I wish that my home university had a housing system like this on campus. My time at AUS was very enjoyable and this would not have been possible without all the staff in EF Dorms. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have this experience. I will certainly miss living on campus here at AUS.
Twenty six students from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Multicultural Learning Program and Emirati Cultural Club visited the Qasr Al Hosn Festival on February 10, 2016 in Abu Dhabi. The purpose of the visit was to boost student knowledge of the UAE’s rich cultural heritage as part of the program’s Local Cultural Trip Series.

Students were led by a tour guide who explained each aspect of the festival, which was divided into five zones: Abu Dhabi Island, oasis, desert, marine and Qasr Al Hosn. Each of the zones had its own special theme displaying landscapes, miniature museums, cultural exhibits, live performances and traditional pieces. The exhibits and detailed portrayal of UAE life in the past fascinated the students, from the nature of the homes and living conditions to the exercise of certain professions, art, rituals and traditions. Students saw artifacts, films and documentaries that showcase the rich political, economic and social history of the country.

“It’s quite impressive to witness how much our students are interested in learning about the UAE’s rich heritage and from where all the development began. Through the Local Cultural Trip Series, our students are gaining first-hand knowledge of the UAE’s valuable culture and heritage,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Gabriela Hernandez, a freshman exchange student said, “I really enjoyed learning about the Emirati culture in an interactive setting. It was my first time in Abu Dhabi, and it was interesting to see a representation of the old city within the new. I also got to connect with some of my Emirati classmates at AUS.”

Noora Alsaeed, a mathematics junior said, “We don’t get to fully experience our culture every day, so it’s nice to be able to immerse ourselves in our roots every once in a while. It really puts things into perspective, seeing how life was around the time my grandparents were my age.”