AUS celebrates UAE National Day

American University of Sharjah held celebrations for the UAE National Day. A Heritage Village was opened at the university’s Main Plaza by the Emirati Cultural Club by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS. Present were also senior university officials and crowds of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

The Emirati heritage village consisted of booths introducing Emirati culture and displaying UAE traditional items including perfumes, jewelry and popular UAE dishes. It also featured a display of the colorful UAE folkloric dances and songs.

As an annual activity, the UAE National Day is celebrated at AUS by students of the Emirati Cultural Club and the Office of Student Affairs. The AUS Plaza was decorated with Emirati flags and light beams representing the colors of the country.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, thanked students of the Emirati Cultural Club for organizing the two-day event on campus.

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AUS celebrates winning first place at Emirates Foundation Social Volunteering Competition

American University of Sharjah celebrated winning first place in the prestigious Emirates Foundation Social Volunteering Competition 2016 at the AUS Student Center. The award was presented to the AUS Community Services at a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi on November 8, 2016, by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Chairman of Emirates Foundation.

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Dean of Students’ Column

Extracurricular involvement a key tool in student personal development

“Students who are actively engaged in extracurricular activities are more likely to have higher educational ambitions than uninvolved students.” —Ernest T. Pascarella and Partick T. Terenzini, 1991

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) publicizes extracurricular offerings and support services campus wide during the New Student Orientation, Club Fair and a week-long awareness drive. New student survey results express specific extracurricular interest of the surveyed student. The social integration of the entrant is facilitated through Peer Leaders, orientation teams and with the collaboration of OSA staff and existing students through a week of organized social activities.

The nonacademic extracurricular opportunities at AUS are categorized under organized, structured and break period activities to accommodate the diverse needs of our students. While participation in extracurricular activities is voluntary and doesn’t give academic credit, it supports personal development, skills development and lifelong learning while achieving educational goals. When a student is involved in an activity, the activity has a purpose that associates with a learning outcome. A student gains knowledge of policies and procedures; experiences organizing the activity, solving problems and managing classes and activity time and tasks; learns about the wise use of resources; communicates and coordinates with the team, peers and OSA facilitators, supervisors and other units; publicizes the activity; and sees the activity to its fruition. After the event, the student evaluates the activity and discusses with the supervisor whether it activity contributed to his or her learning experience. All of this contributes to the student’s own development.

Extracurricular activities are associated with the Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy in layering the six levels of learning: remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating and creating. These meet activity objectives and promote high order thinking in our students. OSA is geared up to categorize extracurricular activities and divide tasks on the basis of intelligence types and Bloom’s levels of learning. I encourage all students to get involved with extracurricular activities and understand the mechanisms we practice that are result oriented. These will transform you into the well-rounded individuals you want to be. Make your student life meaningful by understanding the concepts, thinking critically, and contributing in developing and assessing learning outcomes to impact you and your peers at this institution and those you associate with beyond campus parameters. Consult with OSA staff to learn what we are doing and how we contribute to your personal development.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Dean of Students

AUS Students Enjoy Safari Trip

Two hundred students joined in the Desert Safari trip organized by the AUS Student Council at Alaweer Desert, Dubai on November 24, 2016. The excursion started with exciting dune bashing in 4WDs by professional drivers transporting students to the desert camps where they enjoyed camel riding, sand boarding, henna painting and other fun activities. Entertainment included traditional Tanura dance and a fire show. Students got a chance to showcase their talents on stage where they performed magic tricks, songs and dabke dances.

The trip ended after sunset with a delicious barbeque dinner.
Congratulating UAE leaders and people on this auspicious occasion, she said, “The event provided a platform for the AUS community to express their appreciation of the country, its people and leadership. This is an occasion to remember our great leaders and pride ourselves with their countless accomplishments, especially providing UAE citizens and residents with a safe environment,” she added.

Ahmad Khalid Al Nahyan, President of the Emirati Cultural Club at AUS said, “The purpose of this is to celebrate the 45th UAE National Day with love, loyalty and patriotism. The event is spread over two days this year in an effort to promote our national identity to the more than 99 nationalities present at AUS.”
AUS celebrates UAE Flag Day

American University of Sharjah held a special ceremony to commemorate UAE Flag Day on November 3, on campus as part of a countrywide celebration. The event, led by Dr. Leland Blank, Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer, celebrated national unity and Emirati culture.

Hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and the Emirati Cultural Club, the ceremony attracted a large crowd of students and senior university officials.

“The UAE flag is a symbol of our pride and patriotism. This is a historic and significant day as the UAE flag is raised simultaneously all across the country to commemorate the values it stands for: leadership, unity and tolerance,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “The UAE Flag Day offers an opportunity for Emiratis and residents to express their feelings for the flag through various activities organized nationwide to mark this special day. I thank our students from the Emirati Cultural Club for initiating activities for the campus community to express solidarity and show support to the leaders and people of this nation. I congratulate our great leaders and the people of the UAE and wish everyone a Happy UAE Flag Day,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

According to Ahmad Khalid Al Nahyan, President of the Emirati Cultural Club at AUS: “UAE Flag Day is a day where, all across the country, we unite to raise the UAE flag and represent our national spirit and pride. Being part of this tradition is a great celebration of our unity.”

AUS observes UAE Commemoration Day

American University of Sharjah paid respect to those who gave their lives in service to the nation in an observance of UAE Commemoration Day on November 30, 2016.

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the raising of the UAE flag at the AUS Main Roundabout.

Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS, attended the ceremony along with other senior officials, faculty, staff and students and said, “This day marks the sacrifices of our fallen heroes who are seen as a source of dignity and glory,” said the AUS Chancellor.

The event was organized by the Office of Student Affairs in cooperation with the Emirati Cultural Club. Ahmad Khalid Al Nahyan, President of the Emirati Cultural Club, spoke at the gathering and voiced the Emirati Cultural Club’s pride in the UAE soldiers who are the heroes of the nation. “This is the day we commemorate our martyrs who sacrificed their lives with courage and dedication to preserve our country,” said Al Nahyan.
Charity marathon celebrates UAE National Day

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the Community Service Office at AUS and the Emirati Cultural Club held a mini marathon as part of UAE's 45th National Day celebrations to promote the university's active participation towards a stronger multicultural community. The event, organized in association with the Sharjah Sports Council, was held under the theme “45th Unity Spirit,” on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

With over 60 AUS volunteers who helped in organizing the event, the charity run attracted more than 1,000 participants from over 40 registered schools across Sharjah and Ajman; members of the AUS community, government departments and institutions, charity organizations in Sharjah, as well as members of the general public.

Participants were categorized according to their age groups and ran the distance from three starting points, the longest of which was four kilometers starting from the University City gate and leading to the finish line at the main AUS roundabout.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the winners and expressed her satisfaction with the success of the event and said, “We hold the AUS Charity Mini-Marathon annually to promote charitable work and emphasize the importance of voluntary work among our students. For an even meaningful event, we organize the charity mini-marathon to coincide with the university’s celebration of the UAE National Day. The gathering also serves as a platform for participants, both Emiratis and residents, to express their love for the country and show solidarity with the people and leaders of this great nation on the occasion of UAE National Day.”

“I wish to thank our volunteers for their efforts and contributions towards the success of this event and my special thanks to the staff for putting things together for an orderly event. I also wish to acknowledge our event partners and contributors for their support,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

First place winners are as follows:

- Special needs category: Sameera bint Zayed from Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services and Adel Wadeaa from Al Thiqa Club
- Girls under the age of 12 category: Salma Ahmed from Al Marifa School
- Boys under the age of 12 category: Motaz Mohamad from Al Doha Private School
- Girls between the age of 12 and 17 category: Basma Shayf from Aldoha School
- Boys between the age of 12 and 17 category: Amr Youssef from Al Ahlya Al Khayryah
- Women between the age of 18 and 35 category: Subashini Sayiyaman
- Men between the age of 18 and 35 category: Zayed Abdullah Monser from Ajman Private School
- Women between the age of 36 and 45 category: Somayah Alnagad from Aldoha School
- Men between the age of 36 and 45 category: Nabeel Saleh from Dubai Police
- Men above the age of 45 category: Fadl Ali Muhammed from Dubai Police

Event partners and contributors to the charity marathon included Sharjah Sports Council, Al Bayt Mitwahid, Sharjah Grand Hotel, Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club, Dunkin Donuts and Break Point Restaurant.
Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the competition aims to foster a culture of volunteering across UAE in order to contribute to creating a positive and sustainable change in society.

After being shortlisted among the top three winning universities in the competition, the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services was declared the first place winner. Community Services earned the award for its active engagement in terms of the number of projects created, the number of volunteers that participated in its projects, volunteering hours completed, students who participated in the Takatof Volunteering Essentials Training as well as other related criteria which were evaluated by the judges.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said, “The portfolio of AUS social projects presented to Emirates Foundation was an array of on- and off-campus social initiatives implemented by the Office of Student Affairs and a year’s worth of active volunteering by our students. Among 12 universities competing for this award, AUS has gained the attention of judges for the quality of its social projects and the highly active student volunteers who have logged considerable hours of voluntary work.

“I commend our students for their hard work and dedication. This is a well-deserved award for our students as well as for the staff for providing all the support needed to achieve this prestigious award. We are all proud of this recognition,” added Dr. Al Shehhi. Zulfikar Shahpurwala, a business major and a participant from OSA’s Community Services also spoke on the occasion and said, “The entire experience has been really rewarding for us. We have worked on many projects that aim to serve society and being part of OSA Community Services has helped us to realize that it is good to give back to the community.”

The win was based on providing the foundation with volunteering activity reports conducted from Spring 2015 to October 2016. The projects listed in the reports included Fun Day at Al Thiqah Club for the handicapped, visits to the elderly home, Dar Al Amaan, Dubai Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled and projects with Manzil (Special Needs Center, Sharjah). Other campaigns included Food for the Needy, the Cleanco appreciation event, Community Services Farm Initiative, Sri Lanka Volunteering Trip (renovation project), Autism Fundraising Event (during AUSMUN) and many more.

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AUS secures honorable mention at BUMUN 2016

Four students from the AUS Student Leadership Program participated in the 12th Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN 2016) on November 26-27 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

BUMUN is a Model United Nations mainly for university students in the GCC. It is a simulation education activity which focuses on civics, communications, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. Students take on roles as foreign diplomats and participate in a simulated session of an intergovernmental organization (IGO). They research a particular country within a selected committee and topic, take on a role as a diplomat, investigate international issues, and eventually pass resolutions for current global conflicts.

Alreem Al Ammari, a senior student majoring in business management who secured an Honorable Mention at BUMUN said, “BUMUN helped me develop my communication skills. Working and negotiating in a committee of at least 80 other delegates from all around the world was not easy at all, but it did teach me a lot. It is definitely an experience that will enhance my career.”

“Let me take this opportunity to thank the UAE General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare for their generosity in sponsoring our students to attend BUMUN. It is the seventh time our Student Leadership Program students have attended BUMUN; certainly a great platform to learn diplomacy skills, art of speech and negation abilities. In addition, BUMUN is a great exercise in research, public speaking and teamwork skills that students need throughout their academic studies and future careers,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
More than 500 new students attended the Freshman Reception Dinner held on August 21 at the Main Building. The welcome dinner, hosted by the university’s Office of Student Affairs (OSA), is part of the weeklong Fall 2016 orientation activities to assist new students in their transition to university as well as to introduce them to the university’s many extracurricular opportunities.

The special event was attended by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; and officials from the OSA.

Addressing the students, Dr. Kjerfve said, “It is very exciting for me to see new faces here at AUS. I hope the next four years will be a great learning experience for you. When you select an area of study, be passionate about it and you will truly succeed in life. I look forward to seeing you around campus. It is a great pleasure for me to see you here and I wish you all the best of success.”

“At AUS we offer you a wide array of extracurricular programs and services to complement your academic learning,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “I encourage you to take advantage of these offerings for your personal and professional growth. I advise you all to be good students, help yourselves, help others and learn from each other. I wish you all the success in your academic life at AUS.”

The program included a dinner, games, a raffle and cultural performances by the Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian cultural clubs.

The orientation week commenced during the university’s Welcome Session for Parents and New Students. Orientation packets containing informative materials on the university’s services were distributed. Student Peer Leaders ‘adopted’ new students to mentor and guide in adjusting to university life.

The orientation activities continued throughout the week and include tours to Sharjah and Dubai, athletics orientation, awareness on Student Code of Conduct Policies and Procedures, welcoming parents and students in the dorms and fun activities in the Student Center multipurpose room such as movies, table tennis, baby foot and video games.

AUS wins Intercollegiate Bench Press Competition for the third consecutive time

Around 50 contestants from various universities participated in the third AUS Intercollegiate Bench Press Competition held at the Sports Complex on November 22. AUS lifters performed spectacularly well to claim the title for the third consecutive year with two gold, five silver and five bronze medals.

Competitions were conducted in eight categories and the participants fought for the title in a very competitive atmosphere. Emirates Aviation University, Skyline University College, University of Wollongong Dubai, Ajman University, University of Sharjah and American University in the Emirates took part in the competition along with AUS.

Mohammed Reza and Mohammed Khalil won gold while Saad Khalid, Bassel Derbieh, Lais Mahmoud Hecham, Zaid Hisham Al Beak and Salem Herzallan received silver medals. Elridge Fernandes, Ahmed Omer, Jamal Hani Hamadeh, Karim Alaaedin Elahwal and Naser Issa Odtallah were the bronze medal winners.

The closing ceremony took place in the Sports Complex and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of the Student Athletics and Recreation, presented the awards to the winners.
AUS celebrates Fall 2016 Club Fair

AUS celebrated its students’ cultural diversity during the Fall 2016 Club Fair at its newly renovated Student Center. The two-day event featured 62 ethnic and interest-oriented clubs and five new associations joining this fair: the Student Volunteers, Student Leaders, Student Mediators, Multicultural Students and the Leopards Associations.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the Club Fair showcases the extra-curricular activities of the student-led organizations on campus and provides an opportunity for students to pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build leadership skills.

In addition to highlighting the university’s diversity, the Club Fair also introduces new students to the ethnic and interest cultural clubs on campus. The main objectives is to familiarize them with the many cultures on campus, as well as to encourage them to join the participating clubs. Attending students were eager to witness the opening of the new Student Center, and also learn about many cultures on campus.

“With the university’s commitment to enhancing student life at AUS, we have opened today the newly renovated Student Center front of the house. With the new look and feel, the enhanced atmosphere promotes a vibrant campus life with spaces to accommodate our students’ extracurricular, social and recreational activities. Renovation continues in other parts of the center to offer our students with modern and up-to-date facilities,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

“I call upon our students especially those who just joined AUS this fall to seize the extracurricular opportunities available to them and experience the benefits of practical learning outside the classroom that aid in their overall learning at AUS. I invite our students to join us for more events, activities and programs that we have lined-up throughout the year,” she added.

“The AUS Club Fair is a great way to learn about the different cultures that create AUS student body as well as a great opportunity to meet new friends”, said Reem Mahmoud, a sophomore student majoring in mathematics at AUS.

The student leaders of the clubs also got the chance to promote their organizations and spread awareness about their ideas and activities.
Community Services at the AUS Office of Student Affairs launched a campaign on campus in support of Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation’s (SSEF) “Sidreh of Wishes,” an initiative to fulfill the Eid wishes of orphans.

The campaign was launched on the first day of classes with the Charity Used Book Sale to generate funds to support the initiative. Additional funds were raised from cash donations contributed by members of the community. The funds generated were used to fulfill a wish list from 23 orphans under the care of SSEF. The wish list included laptops, game consoles and tablets.

The gifts were presented to the representatives of SSEF in a special ceremony held on Tuesday, September 27 at the university’s Student Center. The handover ceremony was attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, and officials from the Office of Student Affairs.

“Our student volunteers felt very emotional in this campaign. They worked hard to raise funds to reach their goal of fulfilling the wishes of orphans and making them happy this Eid. I am very thankful to our students for their thoughtfulness and for keeping up with the spirit of giving and sharing. Giving can be in different ways, it’s not always the material things that count but the time and effort spent to care and support the less fortunate. I hope to see more of our students engaged in meaningful activities such as this one,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

Student volunteer Laila Hassan said, “If you wake up every day to make someone else’s day a better one, then you have accomplished what I call the goals of life.”

The joint campaign was organized by Office of Student Affairs and Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation with the support of more than 60 AUS student volunteers.
The Student Council in collaboration with the Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Afghani and Bangladeshi Cultural Clubs, and the Power Hit Radio, Drama and Photography Clubs organized Desi Night at AUS Main Plaza on November 9, 2016. The purpose of the event was to increase awareness about South Asia cultures among AUS students and the community in a fun-filled event.

More than 500 students attended, with students from different cultures dressed in traditional attire, enjoying an evening of cultural performances, traditional food, fun games and lots of activities. Each cultural club decorated its stall as per its own country’s traditions.

“Exposing our students to different cultures in a festive setting gives our students opportunities to understand and appreciate different cultures. During Desi Night, our students succeeded in bringing their creative ideas to express their cultures,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Nine students receive Active Student Partial Scholarship

American University of Sharjah honored nine outstanding students by awarding them the Active Student Partial Scholarship. The program recognizes undergraduate students who display excellence in extracurricular activities including community service projects, clubs and the Student Leadership Program.

The recipients of the Fall 2016 Active Student Partial Scholarship awards were Samaa Mustafa Abasher, Mehak Muhammad Ayaz and Haleema Khawas of Student Clubs and Organizations; Community Services volunteers Zulfikar Qaidzohar Shahpurwala, Karan Mohan and Mahmoud Tarek Rezk; and Hanan Emad Arab, Rahsi Shafana and Ahmed Ali Azari from the Student Leadership Program. The scholarship consists of up to 50 percent tuition remission for one semester.

Addressing the awardees at the presentation ceremony at the Student Center on September 26, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said, “Congratulations to all of you for your well-deserved award. We thank you for your contributions to student life at AUS and we hope that you will keep up with the good work that you do. This partial scholarship is a gesture of the university’s acknowledgement of your hard work and contributions. I do hope that you will continue to become role models to inspire more students to excel in the extracurricular field.”

AUS students attend Korean Food Festival

Twenty students from the Student Multicultural Learning Program and the Korean Cultural Club at AUS attended the Korean Food Festival held at The Address Dubai Marina Hotel on October 12, 2016. The food festival, aimed at introducing Korean food and culture to the UAE community, was organized by the Consulate General of Korea in Dubai. More than 15 famous Korean restaurants took part in the event, providing food samples to visitors, including signature Korean foods such as kimchi, bulgogi, bibimbap and many others.

The students participated in a cooking class conducted by Korean chefs and were introduced to the ingredients and spices that go into creating Korean food. The cooking class also demonstrated techniques unique to Korean cuisine. Students were able to make their own kimchi (spicy pickled cabbage) during the cooking class.

“We have a good number of students highly interested in Korean culture,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “We make sure to offer them cultural exchange opportunities on and off campus to satisfy their curiosity to learn more about the culture of their interest. Our students’ knowledge and ability to interact with various cultures enables them to become effective individuals in a global society,” she added.

The students’ participation was organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Student Multicultural Learning Program.
Students from American University of Sharjah’s Student Council, Photography Club, Community Services, Women Empowerment Club and Power Hit Radio Club jointly organized activities for the Breast Cancer Awareness Week hosted in the Student Center from October 9 to 13. Coinciding with global Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the weeklong campaign, in collaboration with the Pink Caravan and Emirates Red Crescent, was held under the theme “Fight Like a Girl.”

The campaign, which aimed to raise funds and awareness of breast cancer, included activities such as musical performances by students, a bake sale, a photo-booth, a nail polish and henna booth and a pink t-shirt stand. Representatives of the Pink Caravan distributed informational material to raise awareness of the disease, providing instructions on how to conduct self-tests as well as highlighting the importance of early detection. Pink Caravan also offered pink ribbons and bracelets on sale as part of the fund-raising efforts. A healthcare professional from Emirates Red Crescent held a demonstration in the women’s lounge on how to do a self-examination.

To conclude the event, students and members of the AUS community gathered in the Student Center to form a human ribbon and express their support to the campaign. “There are a lot of myths about breast cancer and during this campaign we wanted to present the facts to our students. It is important that our students know how to perform self-examinations and how to identify symptoms that will help in early detection. This campaign is part of the university’s efforts to promote the health and wellness of the AUS community,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The proceeds of the campaign were handed over to Pink Caravan and Emirates Red Crescent in aid of breast cancer research and for the treatment of breast cancer patients.
OSA holds forum for active students

More than 80 students actively engaged in extracurricular activities at AUS attended a forum held by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) on September 22. The students represented various on-campus student groups including the sports teams, interest-oriented and ethnic clubs, community service volunteers, leadership groups, peer mediation coordinators and members of the Student Council.

The panel was headed by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, with her team of directors and managers from various OSA departments. Addressing the students, Dean Al Shehhi said, “The Office Student Affairs is here to enrich your university experience and complement your academic goals. It is our aim to fulfill your extracurricular endeavors whether in sports, cultural activities, leadership or community service. We conduct this forum every semester to maintain a healthy and productive communication with students. This is our platform to listen to your concerns so we can improve on our programs and services. Please do not hesitate to convey any issues or obstacles that you face. You are the new generation full of ideas; share your thoughts with us and rest assured of our full support for any valid concerns that you may have.” Dr. Al Shehhi thanked the staff for all the work that they do to facilitate the extracurricular needs of the students.

The students highlighted concerns regarding activities, events, trips, facilities and processes, which were all addressed and clarified by the OSA team. The students expressed their appreciation for the new university facilities such as the sports pavilion and the newly renovated Student Center. In addition, the students conveyed their satisfaction to the non-academic student support services provided by OSA.

OSA organizes student forums at the beginning of each semester to discuss issues affecting student life and to further extracurricular activities in the university.

More than 100 AUS students attend first aid training

More than 100 students from Community Services at American University of Sharjah attended a first aid training program held on campus on September 19 and 21. The First Aid Training sessions were delivered by representatives from Emirates Red Crescent. During the two sessions, the students learned the concept of first aid and the techniques in providing basic assistance to any person suffering from illness or injury. The students also learned how first aid can be useful in preserving life, preventing complications and in promoting recovery.

“In partnership with various charitable organizations, we want to impart as much knowledge as possible to our student volunteers so that they possess skills useful in voluntary work as well as in their own personal lives. Our students felt accomplished after the training as they were empowered with knowledge and skills on how to save a life in emergency situations. The training promoted our students’ sense of social responsibility, renewed their commitment to preserving life and their appreciation to health care,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“The first aid training provided to AUS students by the Emirates Red Crescent and AUS Community Services was extremely beneficial and informative. In life, we do encounter emergencies from time to time and the knowledge acquired in this training would be a great help to be able to assist an ill or injured person. This is a way of giving back to the community while boosting our confidence at the same time,” said Aljawhare Aljwaied, an international relations student.

The training session was organized by the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with Emirates Red Crescent.
Students from American University of Sharjah’s Student Council; Emirati, Saudi, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Egyptian, Syrian, Yemeni, Sudanese and Iraqi Cultural Clubs; and the Photography Club organized the annual Arabian Night in the AUS Main Plaza on November 21, 2016. This event celebrates the diversity of Arabian culture and heritage showcased through music, performances, poetry and traditional food, artifacts and clothes. It was attended by more than 500 students who thoroughly enjoyed the display of traditional exhibits within stalls constructed by each of the participating Arabian cultural clubs.

“It’s quite impressive to witness our students’ ability to portray their cultures in such a festive manner. I encourage all AUS students to be part of these culturally involving events and help in promoting cultural-diversity at AUS” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Rawan Abu Alrob a junior multimedia and design student, added, “The Arabian Night was very enjoyable! The multicultural atmosphere was filled with students involved in cultural activities and cultural costume shows.”
SLP students participate in Youth Connect 2016

Fifteen students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program at AUS took part in Youth Connect 2016 held on November 19, 2016 by Dubai Expo 2020. Youth Connect is the first wide-ranging series of highly interactive forums designed by youth for youth. It is a new initiative to support and empower young people to achieve their ambitions. Attendees were introduced to a host of hands-on participatory workshops, engaging exhibits and areas for in-depth discussions and “edutainment.”

“Youth Connect 2016 was an incredible experience. Nowhere have I seen the youth participating so directly towards the growth of a country. Being part of this conference, I saw the vision for Expo2020 and was inspired by it,” said Hussam Badi, a senior majoring in finance. “There were interesting workshops with companies like Accenture that helped us develop innovative ideas that might even be built for Expo2020. I’m definitely going next year,” he added.

According to Rahsi Shafana, a junior majoring in economics, “The Youth Connect conference was an amazing experience for young, like-minded people to network and share innovative ideas. The event was full of energy and enthusiasm, and we got a chance to brainstorm ideas that would benefit the Expo2020 venture in different ways, from creating cultural events to designing volunteer vests. It was insightful to hear from and meet a lot of inspiring people from different walks of life who engaged us in various workshops. It was a really memorable experience on the whole.”

“The forum gave our students the chance to meet with other professionals who succeeded by self-belief and hard work. We believe that Youth Connect is not only one of the most enjoyable and interactive forums but that it also has a genuinely important purpose for SLP students. Students became aware of how to prepare for their professional lives to ensure that they are in the best possible shape to meet the challenges that lie ahead,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS emerges runners-up at T20 cricket tournament

The ninth edition of the AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament was held at the AUS cricket ground November 24–30, 2016. The tournament was organized by Student Athletics and Recreation.

Skyline University Sharjah, SZABIST University Dubai, Bits Pilani Dubai, Bolton University RAK, Abu Dhabi University, University of Wollongong Dubai and Middlesex University took part in the tournament, along with hosts AUS.

AUS played their first match against Abu Dhabi University on November 26 and won it by 81 runs. In the semi-finals, the Leopards knocked out Middlesex University by 17 runs and made it into the finals. In the final encounter of the tournament AUS cricketers experienced a batting collapse and succumbed to SZABIST University Dubai, who emerged as the new champions.

AUS bowler Muhammad Saeed Anwar received the “Bowler of the Tournament” award while Farhan Ali of Skyline University College was selected as the “Batsman of the Tournament.” In the post-match presentation ceremony, Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation, presented the trophies and medals to the winner and runners-up.
AUS students Hussam Badi Uz Zaman and Nada Mourad from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program took part in the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry at Iacocca Institute in Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, US, held June 25–July 30, 2016.

The Global Village is an intensive five-week program that introduces AUS students to a global network of more than 119 countries. The program includes company visits, seminars, as well as a visit to New York and Washington, DC. The program offered a diverse learning experience that included interactive courses, networking, meetings and discussions with business leaders, participation in local business trips, consulting projects and an amazing cultural experience.

Hussam Badi Uz Zaman, a senior majoring in finance said, “Attending Global Village 2016 was a revelation of sorts. The program drew out the best of me and also helped me reflect on my weaknesses. Through skill-based classes, company visits and interviews with government and UN officials, I realized what I bring to the table. It helped me break the barrier of self-doubt. And there is no lack of motivation anymore. I extended my chosen family to 45 countries. I have grown immensely, and I can’t be thankful enough for this opportunity!”

“It was an honor to represent the UAE and AUS at the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry. I can truly say that it was a life changing experience,” said Nada Mourad, finance graduate. “During the five week program, I made lifelong friends from all over the world, attended workshops and lectures by very inspiring and successful people and worked on a real consulting project with a US based company. I would recommend each student to take the opportunity that AUS offers and apply for this program because I guarantee you it will be a decision that you will never regret.”

“This program is life changing and provides students with an inner development experience that helps in today’s competitive world environment. It provides a framework for improvement and allows students to work one-on-one with experienced individuals that coach and mentor them in the areas of leadership and management. We are pleased with the excellent feedback received from students who took part in the Global Village Program and encourage more students to apply for such opportunities through SLP,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
SLP students participate in the One Young World Summit

Two delegates from the AUS Student Leadership Program took part in the Eighth Annual One Young World Summit (OYW 2016) held September 28–October 1, 2016 in Ottawa, Canada. One Young World brings together the brightest young leaders from global and national companies, NGOs, universities and other progressive organizations. The aim of the summit is to debate, formulate and share innovative solutions for the issues the world is facing. This year’s summit was attended by 1,300 young leaders from over 190 countries.

“Participating in the One Young World Summit taught me few lessons. The first being that even if numerous obstacles lie in your path, you must face each one with the mindset that you will overcome it,” said Afra Alnauimi, junior student majoring in business administration at AUS. “What the summit also drilled into me is that you are never too young to accomplish something positive and give back to your community, that unity and solidarity will help you skyrocket through whatever goals you want to achieve, and that only you set the limits to what is possible. I am grateful and ready to better my community as an OYW ambassador through starting up my own projects and initiatives.”

“One Young World was an eye-opening experience that I will always be grateful for. It gave me the drive to be productive in life. It was truly and completely inspirational,” added participant Reem Alnauimi, a senior student majoring in electrical engineering at AUS.

“OYW allows students to see the world from a different perspective. With a strong emphasis on civic leadership at the summit, our students come back every year from OYW with enthusiasm to give back to their communities. We are pleased that our students had a fruitful experience again this year and encourage more students to take part in SLP offerings,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS students pay tribute to the elderly

Twenty-six students from American University of Sharjah visited the elderly under the care of Old People’s Home in Sharjah on September 29 on the occasion of the International Day of the Elderly. The students brought with them gifts and sweets as presents for the elderly. Joining students from other educational institutions, the AUS students participated in hosting a program which included musical performances and other fun activities to entertain the elderly.

“During our visit, we, as a group of volunteers distributed gifts as a gesture of kindness to the elderly. I felt overwhelmed as we managed to draw smiles on their faces” Samaa Mustafa, a student majoring in management.

“The thoughtfulness of our students and their respect for the elderly are values that will guide them throughout their journey in life. Spending time with the elderly helps our students understand how wisdom grows within a person and how to value the contributions of the senior members of our society during the height of their careers” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The visit was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division.
AUS student shares his experience on how to be successful at AUS

Husam Badi, a team leader and active student at AUS, delivered a lecture entitled “How to AUS? A Quirky Insight into Your Life as an AUS Student,” on October 23. The lecture was held under the AUS Student Lecture Series by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program.

The lecture demonstrated Badi’s involvement in various extracurricular opportunities offered by the university to shape students’ personalities, widen their knowledge and improve their interpersonal skills. Badi explained how participating in activities on and off campus have made him a stronger and more independent individual. From sport teams to leadership conferences and student employment opportunities, Badi urged his peers to get out of their comfort zone and dig into real-life experiences.

“I was lucky as a freshman to get excellent guidance which helped me achieve many goals and enjoy my university life at the same time,” said Badi, who is a senior majoring in finance. “It was my duty to guide my younger peers so they may do it even better than I have done. Keep paying it forward!” he added.

“It was really great to listen to someone like Hussam, who has always been a great inspiration to us. The lecture gave us the student perspective on how to best achieve different goals at AUS and also made us realize how much we are missing out if we aren’t making the best of our AUS experience. I think the Student Lecture Series is a great platform for us to hear about successful student-life stories and to get tips from our peers, and I look forward to many more of them,” said Rahsi Shafana, a junior student majoring in economics.

“The Student Leadership Program always encourages students to share their experiences and achievements with the community,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “Hussam’s lecture was inspirational and demonstrated how he has made the most of his life at AUS and taken advantage of the various opportunities offered which helped him develop as an individual,” she added.

Students take part in Food for Thought

The AUS Global Youth Leaders from the Student Leadership Program held the event Food for Thought for on-campus students to debate and analyze contemporary issues on November 7, 2016.

The event aimed to integrate students from various backgrounds across AUS and engage them in various topics that would allow them to stay updated about global affairs and help promote their leadership skills. Participants were evaluated based on the logic of their argument as well as delivery style. Certificates and gift vouchers were awarded to the best contributors.

“The event let us think outside the box and from different perspectives. It gave me an opportunity to explore and discuss a global topic that impacts all of us while working hand in hand with a team,” said Faiza Hashim Ali, a junior majoring in mass communication.

“We encourage more students to take part in Food for Thought to develop their skills and knowledge. The ability to think critically is essential for students nowadays to remain updated with current global issues. In reality, the ability to analyze ideas and articulate views confidently and persuasively will set them apart in whatever fields they pursue,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Students take part in AUS Farm Initiative

Community Services held the second edition of the AUS Farm Initiative with the participation of 27 student volunteers. Introduced during the spring semester earlier this year, the initiative aims to inculcate an appreciation for eco-friendly farming techniques and raise awareness about sustainable development amongst the students. The student volunteers sowed the seeds of eight distinctive types of fruits and vegetables in one of the gazebos on campus.

Sajith Roy, a finance major, said, “The farm is one of the best initiatives that Community Services has offered to its volunteers. To be able to dig, sow, nurture and watch the wide variety of plants grow is a satisfaction that cannot be expressed in words. This farm teaches us out-of-class real life skills and it has definitely invigorated a passion for agriculture in me.”

“It is our hope that the farm initiative will mature into a full-fledged AUS community farm over the course of time. We want our students to learn through hands on experience the value of preserving the environment for sustainable development. It is good to see our student volunteers refreshed and rejuvenated after the event. It was a good opportunity for our students to have a break from their daily routines and reconnect with nature,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Student volunteers undergo Takatof Volunteering Essentials Certificate Training

In an effort to promote volunteerism among AUS students, Community Services conducted the Takatof Volunteering Essentials Certificate Training in collaboration with 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 His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi; and the direction of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Held on campus from September 26 to 27, the training sessions were aimed at educating students about social welfare and providing them with the requisite skills and knowledge for voluntary work. Takatof training also provides students with the basic framework to be able to successfully plan and implement social service initiatives. More than 130 students attended the training sessions, which were delivered in Arabic and English.

“Many young people are highly driven and passionate about social causes but they either lack the foundation or the ability to translate their vision into action. The Takatof training sessions provided ample information that will enable them to channel their energy into initiatives that can positively impact the society. It is our aim to provide our students with the right tools and knowledge for them to become effective individuals and contribute to the society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Students of American University of Sharjah, in collaboration with the Student Leadership Program at the Office of Student Affairs, held the local round of the Hult Prize Competition on campus on November 24, 2016, for the second year in a row.

Run in partnership with former US President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative, the Hult Prize identifies and launches disruptive and catalytic social ventures that aim to solve the planet’s most pressing challenges. Student teams competed around the world for a chance to secure US$ 1 million in startup funding to launch a sustainable social venture. The winning team will compete at one of the five Hult Prize regional finals events around the world, bypassing the general application which annually receives over 20,000 applicants from more than 350 colleges and universities in over 150 countries.

The winners of the AUS competition were Alaa Kilani (industrial engineering), Aisha Al Suwaidi (Master of Business Administration), Youssef Ellawendy (economics), and Sara Al Basha (biology).

A total of 15 AUS student teams competed around the world for a chance to secure US$ 1 million in startup funding to launch a sustainable social venture. The winning team will compete at one of the five Hult Prize regional finals events around the world, bypassing the general application which annually receives over 20,000 applicants from more than 350 colleges and universities in over 150 countries taking place on March 3 and 4, 2017 in Boston, San Francisco, London, Dubai and Shanghai. Following the regional finals, one winning team from each host city will attend a summer business accelerator, where participants will receive mentorship, advisory and strategic planning as they create prototypes and set-up to launch their new social business. A final round of competition will take place in September, where one team will be selected as the winner and will be awarded the US$ 1 million seed capital by former US President Bill Clinton.

The winners of the AUS competition were Alaa Kilani (industrial engineering), Aisha Al Suwaidi (Master of Business Administration), Youssef Ellawendy (economics), and Sara Al Basha (biology).

It is an honor for us to organize the Hult Prize competition for a second year in row at AUS after securing its place among the top ten local round competitions over 100 other local rounds in different universities globally. We would like to thank all the judges who made the effort to come to the event and provided mentorship, recommendation and feedback to the participants. Many thanks also to our student leader, Merna Elmedany, Hult Prize Campus Director, for her hard work, commitment and determination to make this event happen,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The winners of the AUS competition were Alaa Kilani (industrial engineering), Aisha Al Suwaidi (Master of Business Administration), Youssef Ellawendy (economics), and Sara Al Basha (biology).
The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program conducted its Peer Leaders Training on August 17, 2016, to prepare students to take part in the new students and parents Welcome Session held on August 18. The training was designed to help students throughout the year network with other peer leaders and staff on campus. The main role of the Peer Leaders is to ease the transition of new students from high school to university life by being their role models, guides, mentors and friends. During orientation, each Peer Leader adopted a new student to help them easily adapt to university life. In addition to benefiting freshmen, the program helps the Peer Leaders enhance their leadership and interpersonal skills.

According to Ajith Roy, a junior majoring in finance, “To say that the Peer Leader Program was amazing would be an understatement. The responsibility of guiding individuals is no small one, and I am thankful to the Student Leadership Program at AUS for giving us this opportunity as well as the freedom and support to perform our duties in the manner we saw fit. It was a great experience meeting all the new students and adopting them, knowing that we have the ability to make a difference and act as a pillar of support in their lives.”

“It was my first time assisting as a Peer Leader on behalf of the Peer Leaders Program, and I’m so glad I signed up for it,” said Kanikaa Khubchandani, another junior majoring in finance. “I have gained indispensable insight about what it takes to organize an event on such a large scale, provide students and parents with all the information they need while also putting them at ease to avoid feeling overwhelmed. I loved how all of us were driven by a single unifying energy and were enthusiastically helping each other out.”

“The Peer Leaders Training is an essential part of the Peer Leaders Program as it outlines students’ responsibilities and goals and allows them to understand the importance of their duties throughout the whole year. Good luck to all the Peer Leaders!” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Forty-five students from American University of Sharjah attended a Japanese calligraphy workshop held on campus on October 10, by Maaya Wakasugi, an internationally renowned calligrapher and artist. This cultural learning experience was organized by the Student Multicultural Learning Program of the Office of Student Affairs and the Japanese Cultural Club in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Dubai. Students learned calligraphy techniques as the artist demonstrated his unique style of writing and drawing. Traditional brushes, papers and inks were used to recreate a complete Japanese writing experience. The Japanese Cultural Club prepared the traditional Japanese lunch box called “bento” which was served to all the attendees.

“Through the Student Multicultural Learning Program, we offer our students rich cultural learning experiences, both on and off campus,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “We partner with various governmental and private institutions to boost cultural exchange opportunities for our students. We want our students to gain firsthand knowledge of cultural diversity beyond their daily experiences on campus,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.
Four students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program participated in the International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC) held October 23-28, 2016, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference was a weeklong youth forum on different topics pertaining to world politics, international relations and social affairs.

During the conference, participants had the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, debate contemporary issues, deliver speeches, draft resolutions, make executive decisions and realize through experience the complexities of international relations. The main objective of IYLC was to facilitate an exchange of ideas across an ethnically diverse and socially responsible group of young international leaders. Their interaction provoked communication and dialogue that, throughout the week, provided an unparalleled learning experience and cross-cultural adventure.

“The International Youth Leadership Conference was a great opportunity to bridge differences between people from all around the world. It was an enlightening experience that fosters and improves many skills. The opportunity helped to broaden my horizons and get me engaged with people from various parts of the world on a different level,” said Hanan Arab, a senior majoring in international studies.

“We are pleased our students got a chance to take part in IYLC and experience various perspectives on current global issues. Nowadays, it is very important for students to be up-to-date on political, economic and social challenges. The conference was an open-minded exchange of ideas concerning the global future,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
SLP students take part in “Investing in The Future”

Students from the AUS Student Leadership Program took part in the “Investing in The Future: Building the Resilience of Women and Girls in the Arab Region” conference held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah. The event was held from October 19-20 at Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Center, Sharjah.

The regional conference was hosted by the United Nation Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in partnership with The Big Heart foundation and focused on community engagement and civic leadership through various inspirational lectures and workshops. This year’s theme focused on advocacy for Arab women and the girl child by building their capacity and increasing the opportunities available to them.

“The conference was such a great experience and we got to meet a lot of great personalities, including Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousufzai and Kailash Satyarthi,” said Rhsi Shafana, a junior majoring in economics. “There were many sessions that discussed various topics like the role of women in peace building, in economic development, their rights in Islam, and many more. It was very beneficial for us as we got to meet different people from organizations like UNHRC, UNDP and WHO, and interact with them,” she added.

“The conference was an eye opening experience that broadened my horizons. It is an excellent initiative and very necessary. The theme of the conference, education and gender is a very pressing matter in today’s world. Addressing it on such a multidimensional diverse platform helps bring multiple areas of focus, issues and concerns regarding education and gender in the 21st century. The conference was very well coordinated and planned. The guest speakers were highly influential and accomplished individuals,” said Hanan Arab, an AUS senior majoring in international studies.

“The conference was an excellent platform to discuss pressing issues facing women and children in the world. Students were inspired and learned how to overcome obstacles and the importance of their role in contributing to the region’s economic and social development. We are looking forward to participating in this conference’s next edition in 2017 and encourage more students to attend,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Students analyze cases in public policy challenge

The American University of Sharjah Global Youth Leaders, in collaboration with the Economics Club and the Finance Club, held a public policy challenge entitled The Crisis on November 13, 2016. The event was organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP).

Eight teams with three to four members each competed in the challenge. Each team was given a case at the beginning of the event and the participants had one hour to prepare, research, analyze and finalize their presentations for a panel of judges. The challenge was open to all students from different majors and academic levels. The cases touched on various themes pertaining to politics, economics, sustainability, and social and cultural affairs.

“I had a wonderful experience at the event. It was an opportunity to think outside the box on issues that are quite relevant to the environment and lifestyle we live in. Personally, I gained perspective on understanding the individual role each citizen in the UAE can play towards building a sustainable lifestyle. I believe that there is a lot to gain from understanding different perspectives,” said Rhea Das, sophomore majoring in accounting.

“The Crisis was a wonderful way to get students to understand issues surrounding us and entice them to find reasonable solutions. The challenge played an important role in developing the students’ leadership and communication skills by allowing them to enter the discussion and debate and formulate their ideas. We thank our student leaders for organizing this event and we encourage more students to take part in SLP programs,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
In the spirit of sharing and caring for community members, 15 AUS student volunteers participated in the Water Distribution Campaign held by the Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Community Services division in collaboration with Emirates Red Crescent on August 31. The students distributed water to outdoor workers on the AUS campus and around University City to promote the benefits of drinking water to keep the body hydrated.

The simple act of handing out drinking water to workers at their job site provided not only a physical boost for the workers, but also a boost to their morale knowing they were cared for and that their hard work is not taken for granted.

“Going out in the heat and distributing water to the workers in University City not only felt good but also helped me realize their hard work and value them more. The smile and happiness on their faces when we met them and gave them water made the entire event worthwhile,” said Zulfiqar Shahpurwala, an economics student.

“Through this campaign, our students understand the importance of water for their daily existence and realize the need to share what is considered a basic need for survival. Distributing water is a gesture of our respect and gratitude to community members who work tirelessly under challenging situations. I am thankful to our students for setting an example to their peers by supporting this simple but very meaningful campaign,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Student volunteers distribute water to outdoor workers

The AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP) conducted the DISC Analysis Training Workshop for 15 students on October 10. DISC is a tool that builds mutual understanding, communication, teamwork, trust and respect among team members.

“The DISC analysis workshop was a wonderful experience,” said Ayisha Saleem, a junior business administration and management major. “The best part of the workshop was to analyze and figure out our own personality types. Attending the workshop made me aware of the various personality-types around. Based on the DISC personality elements, I learned how some people get along with a particular type of a personality while others do not. I also got to understand and learn how to deal with the different kinds of personalities around me,” she added.

For senior electrical engineering major Uzma Ahmed Din, the workshop proved extremely useful. “The workshop helped me to discover who I am and how people react to my personality. It also helped me understand how to deal with different people,” she said. The workshop provided students with a new terminology for describing the differences between personality-types, and helped them learn how to deal and communicate better with people in a personal and professional environment.

“Learning and understanding how to deal with the different personality-types is a key skill to success. We are pleased with the feedback received from students who attended the DISC Analysis Workshop and will continue to conduct it every semester and encourage more students to take part in it,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The workshop was organized as part of the Student Training and Workshop Series by the Office of Student Affairs.

SLP conducts DISC Analysis Workshop
For Student Residential Life, Fall 2016 kicked off with orientation sessions for freshmen as well as an introduction to the Similar Interest Group (SIG) program. Events held in the dorms from September 4 to 7 supported new students by familiarizing them with all aspects of residential life, ranging from rules and regulations and safety and security issues to social, cultural and sporting and recreational activities. Presentations also focused on addressing students’ expectations and anxieties.

Throughout the semester, many students were engaged in a variety of Similar Interest Group (SIG) activities in their respective dorms. SIG cooking classes were organized and conducted in CD and EF women’s dorms on October 17 and November 29-30 with participants learning how to prepare various dishes. SIG events in MN Men included a finance video presentation followed by a question and answer session on October 16. Also organized were sessions on time management in KL Men on October 17 and in EF Men on October 26.

The Student Residential Life Association (SRLA) organized a trip to Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi on October 15, which was enjoyed by 31 students. A similar trip to IMG World in Dubai was arranged by the students of GH Men’s Dorm on October 29, and with 18 residents participating.

Sports and recreational activities also featured prominently. From September 25 to October 23, inter-dorm sporting and recreational competitions were held with many students registering to participate in the preliminary intra-dorm knockout tournaments. The disciplines involved were billiards, chess, table tennis, baby foot, PS4, Wii and 7-aside football. Sixteen teams took part in the football tournament, and 160 students gathered at the soccer field during the finals on October 24. The winners in the various disciplines assembled at the Sports Complex on the same day and were awarded prizes. Additionally, both IJ and GH women’s dorms had weekly fitness programs with aerobics and Lose-to-Win Zumba exercises. AB Men and IJ had sporting activities on October 11 and on November 1, respectively with activities such as arm wrestling, musical chairs, and a one-foot hopping competition, among others. On November 29, PQ Men had a push-up challenge, tug-of-war and video games, among other activities.

Several programs focused on health and safety. From September 18 to 25, a safety week with fire drills was conducted in all dorms to foster awareness of how to react in case of fire. On October 18 and 23, AB Women’s Dorm students participated in campaigns on traffic and safe driving, anti-smoking and diabetes awareness. In EF Women’s Dorm a Room Cleaning Awareness program was run culminating in a competition on November 15 in which the best cleaned and organized rooms were identified and the respective students honored.

Dorm residents marked the UAE National Day with special activities. IJ and GH women’s dorms celebrated National Day on November 29 with IJ Women celebrating in collaboration with the UAE Cultural Club and Qarayen Kindergarten School. Celebrations in CD and EF Women’s dorms featured Khaleeji music and an Emirati food exhibition.

Graduating students who were living in the dorms were honored with parties near the end semester. The party for the women’s dorms was on November 15, bringing together over 90 residents. The men’s party was held November 23 and was attended by a similar number of residents. These two are flagship events in the Student Residential Life calendar.

In summary, Fall 2016 was an eventful semester in which residents were fruitfully engaged in activities that foster healthy lifestyles, collaboration and positive community values.
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.

Yasmeen Akmal, Sophomore, Industrial Engineering
The UAE National Day Sports Festival was a fun-filled experience. The events on this day were volleyball, football, cricket and basketball and there was even a fitness segment. The fitness challenge was quite difficult, but everyone really enjoyed watching and taking part.

Faizan Rahim, Senior, Civil Engineering
The AUS Intercollegiate Cricket Tournament was a very well conducted and was a great experience for the AUS cricket team, which missed out on the championship trophy and had to settle for the second place. The tournament helped us to understand our strengths and weaknesses while competing with highly skilled teams.

Rama Tolimat, Senior, Finance
We had the privilege of participating in the Second World InterUniversities Championships in Rome, which included participants from more than 50 universities from 30 different countries. As a senior graduating student, representing AUS both internationally and locally for the past four years has by far been one of the most remarkable experiences of all.

Mohammad Reza Jafareian, Senior, Civil Engineering
The third edition of the AUS Intercollegiate Bench Press competition was the biggest challenge that I have ever faced as a Leopard. I had already become the champion of the 66 kg and 74 kg categories in the first and second series of the competition, and I was going for the third gold medal in the 83 kg category. The AUS Powerlifting Team became the champion for the third time in a row.

Talmir Ishmukhametov, Senior, Mechanical Engineering
The trip to Rome for the Second World InterUniversities Championships was an incredible experience. As the captain of the swimming team I was proud to represent our university and be able to achieve three gold medals in my individual events. Overall, we ranked third. There are so many great memories and the trip was very well organized.

Omar Mansour, Senior, Chemical Engineering
I have been playing on the volleyball team since I first joined university and this semester’s World InterUniversities Championship in Rome was the perfect test of all the hard work and long practices my team and I have put in since day one. By competing at such a high level we’ve gained a lot of experience and had fun at the same time.

Mohamed Barzanji, Exchange Student
The social environment made it easy for a new student in the country, like me, to make local friends and have meaningful conversations. I didn’t expect much before I joined the university but AUS’s MN dorm truly made it feel like my home away from home.
Amal Al Sayegh, Senior, Finance
Bahrain Model United Nations (BUMUN) has been an experience I would gladly participate in again if given the option. BUMUN allowed me to be more comfortable speaking to a group of people, whether I was giving a speech or sharing my ideas. It taught me the value of teamwork and helped me experience different cultures.

Sebastian Jasper Ter Borg, Exchange Student
The dorms are a place full of life and activity, a place where you can hang out with your friends, chill and study.

Sebastian Jasper Ter Borg, Exchange Student
The dorms are a place full of life and activity, a place where you can hang out with your friends, chill and study.

Lucas Milan Ballings, Exchange Student
This was an experience I will never forget, living and studying abroad was great. The dorm was my comfortable home away from home where it was always easy to meet new people and make friends. Living in the dorm was great. Everyone is really hospitable, friendly and always willing to help.

Sara Zoubi, Junior, Finance
Participating in the International Youth Leadership Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was one of the most eye opening experiences I’ve had during my student career here at AUS. I gained the knowledge necessary to allow me to participate in structured court cases, as well as the social skills to interact with students from all around the world.

Joseph Colonna, Exchange Student
Never in my life have I been surrounded by kinder, more generous people. From the cleaning staff, to the dorm supervisors, to the friends made around campus, everyone was incredibly welcoming. In hindsight, coming to the AUS was one of the best decisions of my life.

Walid Morsi, Senior, Mechanical Engineering
Residing in the dorms was hard and challenging when I first came to AUS. However, after my four-year journey at AUS, I would have to admit that it's a place to be missed. Staying at the dorms was advantageous; it had the quiet places to study when I needed to, a great fitness room and amazing people to meet every semester.

Ahmad Azari, Senior, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry
Youth Connect 2020 was an incredible experience for students to meet people with different levels of creativity, inspiration and passion from different cultural backgrounds. The event offered several keynote speakers and a variety of workshops.
Seventy-eight AUS athletes participated in the second World InterUniversities Championships held November 16-20, 2016, in Rome, Italy, and organized by the Inter Universities Sports Committee (IUSC). Around 2,000 athletes took part in this prestigious event, representing 55 universities from 28 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The AUS athletes competed in men and women’s basketball, volleyball, swimming, table tennis, badminton and men’s soccer. The men’s soccer and volleyball teams achieved fifth place in the championship along with the men and women table tennis and badminton teams.

AUS swimmers, both men and women, achieved were placed third among 11 universities that participated. Talmir Ishmukhametov of AUS bagged three gold medals by winning the 50-meter backstroke, 200-meter free style and 200-meter individual medley along with a silver in 50-meter free style. Hady Khafaga won silver in the 50-meter breaststroke event. In the women’s category, Danya Khafaga and Dina Allam won silver and bronze respectively in the 50-meter butterfly stroke.

In the much awaited relay races, AUS swimmers faced tough competition but emerged as runners-up in both free style and medley relays categories. Two men and two women swimmers from AUS swam the mixed relay and won the bronze medal. AUS men and women swimmers together achieved three gold, seven silver and two bronze medals and placed third in the overall ranking.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the students and advised them to use such international tournament experiences for further development of their skills and adaptation to diverse competitions. “It was a great exposure for you and I am happy that you’ve utilized it in the right direction for self-development while up keeping the image of AUS in the international sports arena,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.