Global Day 2010 Festival – a cultural treat for the community

American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) 12th Annual Global Day festival was held on April 8—9. The theme this year was ‘Peace throughout the World,’ epitomizing the harmony and peace prevalent in the multi-cultural campus environment of AUS. The popular mega event was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah. Also present were Chancellor Heath, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, as well as other senior government and university officials.

This year’s Global Day showcased the talents of 29 student cultural clubs and organizations representing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Algeria, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Bangladesh, Armenia, Tunisia, Morocco, Chechnya, Sudan, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Russia, and Yemen. Various other interest-oriented student clubs present included the Photography Club and the Islamic Cultural Club in addition to the university’s Student Council.

A large number of people attended the cultural performances held both indoors and outdoors this year. The country pavilions displayed the

Athletes win honors at AUB sports festival

American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon after participating in the AUB President Club’s ‘First International Sports Festival’. The AUS men’s soccer team brought home the silver medal, while the men’s and women’s swimming team secured bronze medals. More than 500 student-athletes competed in men’s soccer, women’s volleyball and in men’s and women’s basketball, swimming and tennis during this four-day event. Other than AUS and AUB, American University in Cairo, American University in Dubai, American College of Greece, American University of Paris, Haigazian University, Jordan University of Science and Technology and the Lebanese American University also took part in the festival.

The AUS athletic contingent was accompanied by Dr. Peter Heath,
VCSA Message
Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Student Learning and Engagement in Social and Civic Organizations

Student engagement literature posits that an engaging institutional environment positively affects learning productivity. Student Affairs has attempted to engage students in social and civic organizations, intramural and cultural activities, sporting events and more extracurricular areas outside the classroom. Student behavior, emotional reactions, participation and interest demonstrate their engagement and learning. Through such activities, students are learning and experiencing the value of community work and gaining the satisfaction of helping the less privileged members of our society. Community Services volunteers were among the 500 students appreciated during the annual appreciation awards held on April 27, for their engagement in extracurricular programs, projects, events and activities.

Community Services is continuously collaborating with social and civic organizations in the UAE so that our students can engage in the planning and development of community programs. Our student-volunteers organized and participated in ‘Hand in Hand—Renovating an Orphan’s Home, ‘Cleanco Workers Appreciation,’ ‘Charity Marathon’ and many other such projects and activities, demonstrating their interest, empathy and awareness. Through such activities, students are learning and experiencing the value of community work and gaining the satisfaction of helping the less privileged members of our society. Community Services volunteers were among the 500 students appreciated during the annual appreciation awards held on April 27, for their engagement in extracurricular programs, projects, events and activities.

As this social and civic awareness grows, we look towards more students coming forward to volunteer and engage in community services. I assure them all that the personal satisfaction gained through this worthy engagement will be a learning experience they will cherish all their lives.

Students showcase their talent in ‘Mosaic’

Under the auspices of the Student Activities Office, the Innovators Club, the Photography Club and the Music Club jointly organized an art event entitled “Mosaic,” a multi-dimensional exhibition of the talents of AUS students. The event, which took place April 18—19 in the Main Building, and was inaugurated by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Also present were Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations, and Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities.

The Art Gallery featured sketches, photographs, poems and handicrafts displayed in the rotunda of the main building. The talent performances took place in the main auditorium and were lively and charged, with the audience applauding generously. The talent performances featured a variety of songs; piano recitals; R&B song offerings, Khawater along with piano accompaniment, Pakistani and English medley songs, Arabic Tarab, skits, and beat boxing. The event generated a great deal of interest and appreciation and the organizers hope to make it an annual affair.

AUS students undertake umrah trip

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) organized an umrah trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, March 19–25. The university’s Islamic Cultural Club rendered support to OSA in organizing this trip.

Thirty five students were selected, based on their good academic standing and social conduct, along with their involvement in extracurricular and voluntary activities and more. The student group, which included two staff members, spent three days each in Makkah and Medina.

“We are thankful to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan for his generosity in supporting this pilgrimage. Our students are blessed to perform this religious and spiritual journey,” stated Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
AUS student elected new council members

More than 1,000 students cast their votes during the day-long Student Council ballot held on April 28 at the university’s Student Center. Yousef Bader Al Jaberi was elected Student Council President. Twenty nine students filed their candidacies to fill in the 13 available positions. Prior to the elections, the candidates conducted intensive campaigns around campus to win their fellow students’ support.

Students who aspire to be elected as members of the AUS Student Council Board are required to lead an active campus life as well as have good academic and social standing. Moreover, experience of serving on the executive boards of clubs and regular and active participation in extracurricular events and activities is also essential.

“At the end of every academic year, a new group of elected officers assumes responsibilities of the outgoing cohort,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “The university announces the elections early so that students can prepare adequately for the campaign. Thirteen elected student officials represent university colleges, media activity and public relations. The purpose of the elections is to give the students an opportunity to elect leaders of their choice who will give voice to their needs and work directly with the university administration. The student government is the student voice on campus. Student Council elections reflect the support, solidarity, interest and trust our student body has in their leaders. The university encourages all its students to play an active role in campus life,” she added.

Newly-elected President Yousef Bader Al Jaberi said that being elected as president and a representative of the student body was a great honor as well as a huge responsibility. “I did not want to miss the opportunity of serving AUS; I wanted to give back to the institution that has done so much for me,” he said. Yousef added that he will commence work with the rest of the executive officers, and committee and academic representatives during the summer session to plan and develop various projects.

The 13 students elected on the Student Council 2010–2011 board are: Yousef Bader Al Jaberi, President; Jihad Youssef Matar, Vice President; Mohd Y. R. Al Sharhan, Vice President for Public Relations; Luis Angel Quiroz Garcia, Secretary; Muhammad Iftikhar Amjad, Treasurer; Rania Al Ani, Events and Activities Coordinator; Yahia Adel Al Sharif, Athletics and Sports Coordinator; Yasmin Nagmeldin Elraba, Communication and Media Coordinator; Rehab Imad Elhadari, College of Arts and Sciences Coordinator; Mohamad Ahmad Raed Hajjar, College of Architecture, Art and Design Coordinator; Waqas Idrees, School of Business and Management Coordinator; Muhammad Ibrahim Asif, College of Engineering Coordinator; and Alyaa Jaafar Al Mansoori, Intensive English Program Coordinator.
Although the Community Services (CS)'s division of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) had worked with Sharjah Charity International on a number of projects, their strong relationship became official with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 25. The agreement was signed by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor and Abduallah Sultan Bin Khadim, Executive Director of Sharjah Charity International during a press conference held on campus.

University signs MoU with Sharjah Charity International

This collaboration between Sharjah Charity International and CS means enhanced cooperation between the two on the planning and execution of humanitarian programs and projects. This agreement will allow AUS students to actively participate in community services and give back to society through collaborative voluntary projects, thus extending their learning beyond the classroom by getting them involved in organizations that provide support to the less fortunate.

AUS team wins first phase of CIMA Global Business Challenge

Four AUS students have been declared winners of the first phase of the 2010 Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Global Business Challenge. Members of the AUS Student Leadership Program, the students are now preparing for the UAE final in hopes of representing AUS and the UAE in the global final, which will take place August 4–6 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The CIMA Global Business Challenge competition is based on a real business case study and is designed to bring out the finest student business proposals in the UAE, and to encourage the best in the young business leaders of tomorrow. Teams from the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India, Mainland China, Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa and Australia are also participating in this challenge.

The winning AUS team comprised electrical engineering major Hossam Shoman, business administration major Khairatullah Sheikh, international relations major Saeed Maseeh and business administration major Sara Choobor.

“We are delighted to have won the first phase of this competition. If we win the UAE final, it will be a great honor for us to represent our university and UAE in this international challenge amongst other international teams,” said Hossam Shoman, speaking on behalf of the AUS team.
Students participate in leadership events

Students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) and Community Services participated in the 2nd Youth Forum held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, and organized by the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development on April 21 at the University of Sharjah. The forum gave students an opportunity to meet with leaders that have contributed to the development of society.

In yet another exciting competition, students from the Student Leadership Program have submitted their projects to the DuPont Bright Ideas Eco Challenge, a science-based competition held for university students in the UAE. Topics addressed in the paper submissions will focus on world issues, in general and environmental challenges, in particular. The competition is organized by DuPont, a leading market-based science products and services company, and is supported by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), the UAE’s leading environmental organization.

SLP is creating more opportunities and our student leaders continue to represent AUS at prestigious competitions both locally and internationally.

Community Services hands over renovated orphan’s home to residents

A special reception was held on March 17 to hand over a completely renovated orphan’s house located in Al Ramla Sharjah, to the Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation, as part of the Community Services (CS) project ‘Hand in Hand’.

More than 50 CS student volunteers worked over the span of one month renovating the house, working from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on weekends, as scheduled by the contractor handling the project. The students undertook a variety of jobs including painting, cleaning, gardening, tiling and laying cement. CS also utilized the artistic talents of the volunteers. From approximately 10 art samples submitted by the students, CS selected Vidya Diwakar – who has had experience in drawing murals – to paint a wall mural to liven up the house.

CS collaborated with University City’s Landscaping department to create a pleasant garden for the house.

Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation was extremely impressed by the hard work put in by the students and presented all the volunteers with appreciation certificates.
OSA holds Annual Student Appreciation Award

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) held its Annual Student Appreciation Awards at the university’s Sports Complex on April 27. This was the eighth year since the inception of these awards that celebrate the extracurricular achievements of AUS students. More than 500 students from sports teams, student clubs and organizations, volunteer groups and leadership programs were honored at the special ceremony. Those honored came from 24 men’s and women’s sports teams, 65 active student clubs, 9 student volunteer groups, the Student Council and students associated with the leadership program.

Eight students received the ‘Most Outstanding Active Student Award’ for their contribution and dedication in the field of athletics, activities and community services in the academic year 2009-2010. Each of them were awarded AED 5,000 credited to their AUS accounts. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations presented the awards to Omar Alkarmastaji, Samer Baseet, Hicham Amine and Roseanne Aqel for their contributions in athletics; Bilal Alhabash, Meshari Al Ghamdi and Sara Sakir for their active involvement in activities; and Rania Al Ani for her exceptional contributions as a student volunteer with Community Services.

In addition to the individual awards, cultural clubs that participated in the Global Day 2010 festival were also given awards. The awards were presented by Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities, to the Pakistani Cultural Club, the Lebanese Cultural Club, and the Sudanese Cultural Club, for attaining the first, second and third place respectively for the ‘Best Global Day Performances.’ The Palestinian Cultural Club, the Saudi Cultural Club, and the Indian Cultural Club, won the first, second and third place awards respectively for the ‘Best Global Day Corners.’

“This event is held especially to celebrate your achievements in the fields of athletics and extracurricular activities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, addressing the students. “Student Affairs has developed a strong bond with students at AUS and we hope to continue our mission of supporting you to become effective leaders of tomorrow. Your engagement with us will help us build stronger student affairs programs for you. Student Affairs is the heart of a university. We shape leaders of tomorrow by providing opportunities for personal as well as intellectual growth,” she added.

Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS, also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the winners on their success and thanked them for their contributions to the university. Max Stanton, President of the Student Council, also congratulated the award winners on behalf of the council and thanked the students for their support. Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; other senior university officials; faculty and staff members; also attended the event.
Appreciation Award 2010
**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.

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**Sara Sakir**
Senior
Mass Communication
Most Outstanding Active Student Activities, 2009-2010

“My last few days as a student in AUS and as an active student with the Student Activities Office have been truly memorable. My efforts were recognized upon receiving the Most Outstanding Active Student award. I was filled with joy as our work in the Photography Club was honored, and I will cherish this memory for life. I started in the Photography Club as an executive assistant and then I was elected to be the president in my senior year. For three years, I learned so much outside the class room; I met a lot of new friends and worked with many helpful administrators. We covered events for cultural clubs, organized photography workshops, competitions and trips. I spent great years at AUS with a lot of unique memories that I will always cherish.”

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**Roseanne Aqel**
Sophomore
Chemical Engineering
Most Outstanding Active Student Athletics, 2009-2010

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Office of Student Affairs for honoring me with the Most Outstanding Active Student award. I would also like to thank my coaches, whose constant support and guidance was the reason behind my achievements, and without which I would not have been able to improve and succeed.”

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**Omar Mohamed Alkarmastaji**
Graduate Student
Engineering Systems Management
Most Outstanding Active Student Athletics, 2009-2010

“I’m glad that my efforts met my team’s and the university’s expectations. I would like to dedicate this accomplishment to my valuable team for its support which has helped me achieve the Most Outstanding Active Student award. I truly appreciate this initiative from the university and I believe that it encourages all AUS athletes to excel.”

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**Hicham A. Amine**
Sophomore
Chemical Engineering
Most Outstanding Active Student Athletics, 2009-2010

“To be looked at as an outstanding athlete feels wonderful. My two-year involvement with the AUS volleyball team has helped me not only to develop my volleyball skills but also to build up efficient time management skills, sense of leadership, and responsibility towards the team’s success. Thanks to AUS and my coach for their never-ending encouragement and support. It’s a great honor for me to play for AUS and to be a part of the wonderful AUS community.”

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**Rania Al Ani**
Freshman
International Studies
Most Outstanding Active Student Community Services, 2009-2010

“I am extremely grateful for receiving the Most Outstanding Active Student award. I was also very surprised. I am glad to know that all my hard work and effort did not go to waste and has been recognized. This has made me want to work even harder and to continue my work with student activities and community services. Thank you for everything that Office of Student Affairs has done and helped me with!”

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**Samer Yahya Baseet**
Senior
Electrical Engineering
Most Outstanding Active Student Athletics, 2009-2010

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Office of Student Affairs for its support to AUS student-athletes. I am thankful for receiving the Most Outstanding Active Student award which highlights my commitment to swimming. This award will motivate me to work harder and to be a better representative of the AUS swimming team.”
Summer is here. Everyone is glad to be done with the semester and get back home to be with the family. Isn’t that right? However, we have to admit that sometimes going back home can prove a bit stressful! Living away from your family has probably made you more independent. Do you find it difficult to find a place for yourself back home? Do you find it difficult at times to get back the rapport you had with your family? Some small initiatives from you could easily help overcome such feelings. You must remember that you are part of the family and will always remain so.

• Talk
Start off a conversation with your mom, dad or siblings. Try to get yourself updated on the days you were not at home. Take interest in knowing details of family events. Talk to siblings about the activities at your university and ask them about their university or school. Such interaction helps break the ice and bring back the rapport that you once shared when you stayed at home

• Stay away from distractions
Minimize the time spent on internet, TV and on your mobile phone. When one is online chatting with friends, one does not realize the significance of time. Do keep in touch with your friends but make sure that you also give your family the time that they deserve.

• Reconnect with each member
Spend some quality time with each member of your family. Going on a drive, going out shopping, watching a movie together, etc are all good ways to connect.

• Plan a trip
A trip with the whole family is a great way to bond. Planning the trip together, preparing for it and undertaking the journey brings family members closer together and leaves one with tons of good memories that are cherished forever.

The Student Learning and Counseling team is always glad to receive students at our office, located on the first floor of the Student Center. You can approach us if you are in need of any help with your academic performance or personal life. You can call us on 06 515 2767 to fix an appointment with anyone of the counselors.

Global Day... continued from page 1

cultural heritage, artifacts, traditional cuisine and costumes of some of the many nationalities present on campus. The event attracted over 30,000 people and was the year’s biggest event. The Office of Student Affairs worked in tandem with the students to organize and plan this successful annual event.
A number of residential halls residents are keen athletes and this semester 760 of them registered for the various sporting categories in the inter-dormitory tournament. After a keenly contested competition, winners were awarded their medals at the AUS Sports Day held on April 20.

According to the Student Residential Life Department (SRLD), a percentage of students don’t have regular exercise as part of their dormitory life. It was felt that the department could make a positive contribution by engaging these students in a fitness program. This program, termed Fitness Tracking Program (FTP), was launched in two of the men’s and one women’s dormitories in March. SRLD staff, with a background in fitness training, was involved in the supervision and the publicity of this program. Over 100 students showed interest in joining FTP. The aim of this program is to assist students set fitness goals, help them in tracking their progress, as well as to create supervised fitness exercise sessions. For the female dormitories aerobic sessions were organized whereas in men’s dormitories, participants enjoyed exercise sessions held both inside and outside the dormitories.

The month of April saw SRLD organize farewell functions for graduating resident students. From this academic year onwards, the Student Residential Life Association (SRLA) has started collaborating with SRLD in organizing these events as it is one of the main activities planned for residents each semester. For graduating women students the event was held in the GH Women dorm garden area on April 13. Over 150 students attended the event. A similar event for male residents was also held successfully, with the front steps and the porch in front of CD men dormitory serving as an ideal location. Graduating residents and members of the SRLA spoke about their experiences on the occasion while talented student musicians entertained the gathering with their musical skills.
AUS celebrates Sports Day 2010

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) held an entertaining and exciting Sports Day 2010 at the university’s Sports Complex on April 20. Sport Day brought the AUS community together and marked the end of intramural competitions for the academic year.

Colleges, departments and student residential halls competed with each other in team sports such as soccer, basketball and volleyball and in individual sports such as bowling, badminton, table tennis, tennis, swimming, squash, chess, baby foot and billiard. Students, faculty and staff members enjoyed the sack race and tug of war. 760 students registered for 14 inter-dormitory intramural events organized jointly by Student Athletics and Recreation and Residential Life Departments.

College of Engineering (CEN) won both the Men’s Interschool Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments; College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) won both the Women’s Interschool Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments; and the School of Business and Management (SBM) won the Cricket Tournament.

The winners of the main inter-dormitory events were Dorm AB for women’s basketball; Dorm CD for women’s volleyball; Dorm CD for men’s 5-a-side indoor soccer; Dorm IJ for men’s soccer; Dorm IJ for men’s cricket; Dorm EF for men’s basketball; and Dorm PQ for men’s volleyball.

“I congratulate all winners and thank all the students who participated in intramurals during the academic year. I encourage you to take advantage of our sports facilities and programs,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, addressing the students.

Also present on the occasion were Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; and Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organization, along with senior athletics staff. Chancellor Heath presided over the prize distribution ceremony, which was followed by a barbecue dinner.

AUS teams win honors at HESF tournaments

Nine varsity teams of American University of Sharjah (AUS) won honors in the Higher Education Sports Federation (HESF) tournaments’ 2009-2010 concluding season. AUS won first place in men’s soccer and women’s swimming; second place in men’s and women’s basketball, women’s table tennis and volleyball; and third place in men’s volleyball, swimming and chess.

Around 25 HESF member colleges and universities from across the UAE competed throughout the year in various competitions held at selected regional venues. These competitions attracted a large number of student-athletes from prominent higher educational institutions in the country. This year, AUS took part in seven men’s and five women’s sporting events and hosted four HESF events on campus.

“AUS has been a pioneer member of HESF and gained a deserved place in the intercollegiate arena of the UAE,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “We are one of the few institutions in the country that hosts the most teams and student-athletes, averaging around 250 student-athletes and 24 varsity teams each academic year. We are committed to providing students with social, cultural and athletic experiences while at the same time promoting and establishing partnerships in sports across the UAE,” she added.

HESF is the governing authority for collegiate sports in the United Arab Emirates and is presided over by His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mabarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
The AUS Student Athletics and Recreation Department organized the Second AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament at the university cricket ground, April 10—14. University teams from AUS, University of Wollongong in Dubai, American University in Dubai, Skyline University College, Bits Pilani—Dubai, Manipal University, The Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi, and the Institute of Management Technology, Dubai, took part in the tournament.

In the qualifying match AUS defeated AUD by a margin of 83 runs. Naresh, Fahad and Pramod were the major contributors in batting while Jaffer, Jagraj, Shahrukh, and Harris led the bowling attack. AUS met Manipal University in the semifinal on April 13 and outplayed them, winning in the 19th over. The target of 134 set by Manipal was easily chased by AUS players with some extraordinary knocks from Naresh, Haseeb, Pramod and Harris.

In an exciting final match on April 14, AUS cricketers made a decent score of 177 in the allotted 20 overs against Bits Pilani University. A brilliant knock of 79 runs by Fahad played a major role in the AUS team’s final score. Bits Pilani started their chase slowly but later found gaps in the AUS fielding and capitalized on their opponents’ mistakes. It was a nail-biting finish in the last over with Bits Pilani completing their run chase in the very last over and winning the match by four wickets and lifting the AUS T20 Cup 2010.

Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs, distributed the prizes to the teams in the presence of invited guests from other participating universities. Special awards were given to Fahad Tanq of AUS for Best Batsman of the Tournament and Bits Pilani’s Hareesh for Best Bowler of the Tournament. AUS is keen to promote cricket in the Gulf and holds regular tournaments, encouraging cricketers from other universities and colleges to compete and excel in this sport.

Summer Hours

**Sports Complex**

May 7 to July 8
12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily
Closed on Friday

July 9 to September 18
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed on Friday and Saturday

**Student Center**

May 7 to July 8
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily
Closed on Friday

July 9 to September 18
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Friday and Saturday

Both facilities will resume normal hours on September 19, 2010.