Student Forum Series supports dialogue with students

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) has held a series of student forums during the semester for representatives of student groups actively engaged in extracurricular activities.

The OSA team met with more than 300 students representing Student Council, student leaders, club executives, sports teams and Community Services volunteers. Five forums were organized in the Main Building during the month of October.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Moza Al Shehhi opened the conversation by welcoming the students and introducing them to senior OSA officials representing OSA’s departments.

A presentation featuring OSA’s initiatives under the AUS strategic planning process was given and students were familiarized with the department’s priorities for the academic year.

The students proposed their projects for the year and expressed their concerns on various issues such as parking, the need for more residential halls and expansion of sports facilities.

Extracurricular events such as Club Fair, Global Day, international recreational trips and international tournaments were also discussed.

“Through these forums, we hope to establish a stronger partnership with the students and provide for better non-academic student support services that students will patronize,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. These forums aim to strengthen dialogues between OSA and...

Club Fair participation increases

Participation in the biannual Club Fair rose by 25 percent this fall semester, with a record 58 clubs and organizations participating.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Student Activities division, the fair is one of OSA’s most popular events.

The Fitness and Bodybuilding Club, the Environment Club, the Arabian Cultural Club, and the Azerbaijani Cultural Club were newly introduced in the fair. The various OSA divisions also distributed information on their programs for students.

Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Moza Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; Mr. Salem Al...
VCSA Column

AUS Community Services intensified its efforts to increase voluntary programs and strengthen relationships with the external community, which have been clearly visible over the years. Initiatives like community health awareness, home for the aged visits, orphan’s home renovation, charity marathons, honoring the elderly, blood donation campaigns, humanitarian causes, support of the underprivileged, and many more drives took the university’s community services to a recognizable level in the region.

As part of our strategic direction to foster productive relations with our external community, the Office of Student Affairs expanded student community service programs locally collaborating with civic and humanitarian organizations from Sharjah, Ajman and other emirates in the last two years. Student volunteers’ growth, caring attitude, motivation and passion to serve society stimulated Student Affairs to increase opportunities in community services. Volunteers performed beyond expectations as collaborative projects materialized, bringing noticeable success and recognition from internal and external community.

One indication of AUS’s success is winning the Sharjah Voluntary Award in the 8th Local and the 4th Arab Voluntary Awards in the educational institutions category. Our Chancellor expressed, “We can do more of course but this award is gratifying recognition of our progress so far in this area. Congratulations to Dr. Moza, her team and the student volunteers.”

This success is not mine, community services divisions or my teams or the volunteers alone; it is the success of this university. I feel proud of this accomplishment and wish to convey the many commendations from our Board of Trustees to all student volunteers. This is an honor for all of us that we should celebrate. Student Affairs main goal is student involvement in leadership activities and leadership development opportunities. To satisfy this goal, new programs were launched successfully, such as the Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program, the Peer Leaders Program, the Emerging Leaders Program and the Student Training and Workshop Series. Hundreds of students participated, and one of our successes on the leadership platform is the sixth annual Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN), held in Bahrain on December 4 and 5, in which our students Mohammed Metwally received the Diplomacy Award for ECOSOC, Mohammed Hukan and Hossam Shoman were granted the Diplomacy Award for General Assembly, and Sabika Zehra was awarded Honorary Participation for Security Council.

Our students, whether leaders or volunteers or others in the extracurricular field, are making us proud. This journey of success continues as student engagement and energy to perform and shine in extracurricular arena grows, bringing fame and recognition to them and our university in this region and beyond.
AUS celebrates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa’s well-being and safe return

The Student Council and Emirati Cultural Club in partnership with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) hosted a special ceremony to celebrate the well-being and safe return of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, on October 13.

Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani, Director General of the Office of the AUS President; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Dr. Nada Mourtada-Sabbah, Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs; Yousef Al-Gaberi, President of the Student Council; Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; deans and other senior university officials attended the celebration, which was held in the Student Center.

The Community Services Office also invited the Sharjah and Ajman homes of the Elderly to celebrate their Annual Day, which fell on the same day.

The event began with a welcoming speech from the Student Council President followed by speeches from Dr. Peter Heath, Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi.

A slide show on H.H Sheikh Khalifa was screened throughout the event and an Emirati cultural band enthralled the audience with their traditional dance and live music. The audience applauded and cheered the performers throughout the event. The senior administrators and Student Council endorsed a memorable souvenir for H.H Sheikh Khalifa to be presented to him on behalf of AUS.

This event showcased UAE culture, hospitality and kindheartedness to a multicultural audience, and, at the same time, the AUS community showed its solidarity with the UAE nation and expressed their happiness on the president’s well-being and safe return.
A t the onset of the 2010–2011 academic year, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) organized a week of activities aimed at orienting new students to university life.

The OSA activities included information sessions, presentations, games, trips, sports team registration and a dinner reception. OSA welcomed new students and their parents on the first day of orientation and answered their questions through its main student information desk. More than 800 orientation packets were distributed that day, providing information on the services offered by AUS.

The Student Residential Life desk offered room registrations on site, guided students with check-in procedures and helped answer some of their basic questions. OSA’s Student Leadership Program desk provided information on how students can join the university’s leadership program. Student leaders actively engaged a good number of freshmen through the Peer Leadership Program and many registered for the Emerging Leaders Program.

Around 340 new students registered for the dorms, and around 500 students and parents attended the Learning and Counseling Services presentations on adjusting to university life. Judicial Affairs organized visits to the residential halls for information campaigns regarding the university’s Student Code of Conduct and the conduct process, residential halls regulations, curfews and safety and security concerns. Community Services and Student Employment distributed brochures to keep students informed of volunteering and employment opportunities at AUS.

Student Athletics and Recreation offered tours of the Sports Complex and introduced new students to the sports programs, services and facilities that they can benefit from at AUS. Students were offered the opportunity to register for their favorite sport, to train or try out for the varsity team.

A group of returning students from various student clubs and organizations comprised the Student Activities orientation team and worked with the Student Activities staff to assist the newcomers. Student Activities’ week-long open house activities in the Student Center included computer games, DJ music, movies, table games and other recreational activities. City tours to Sharjah and Dubai familiarized new students with the neighboring areas and points of interest. Around 200 students joined the Sharjah tour and 250 joined the Dubai trip.

The freshman reception dinner was attended by around 500 students in the presence of Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior OSA and AUS officials. The gathering provided an opportunity for OSA administrators to interact with new students and introduce them to the non-academic services offered by OSA. Dr. Al Shehhi welcomed the new students and wished them success in their university journey at AUS.

“This is the start of a new journey in your lives. Always remember that we are one big family here at AUS and we are here to work with you and serve you,” she said. “Our doors are always open for you so please don’t hesitate to approach us; our team is always ready to help you.”
Pink Day campaign raises awareness of breast cancer

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and student organizations collaborated in conducting a two-day event entitled Our Own Pink Day in support of Safe and Sound’s Pink Walkathon.

The Pink Walkathon is an annual charitable, non-competitive event aimed at raising awareness and generating funds for breast cancer. It is the most comprehensive breast cancer campaign in the Middle East that truly supports the cause and provides hope for its sufferers.

OSA’s Community Services division supported the Sudanese Cultural Club and Student Council in this campaign, which was held October 19–20 in the Student Center. The campaign aimed to spread breast cancer awareness in the community, and discuss its prevention and the importance of regular checkups for its early detection.

Hundreds of students and members of the AUS community supported this event by taking part in the campaign. Pink ornaments in the Student Center symbolized the campaign while students distributed pink ribbons and t-shirts to participants. Other activities during the campaign included brief lectures, music and face painting. The campaign generated a good amount of donations that will be supporting this good cause.

The event is one of many campaigns held across the UAE to promote participation in the Pink Walkathon that takes place near the Burjuman Center. More than 200 AUS community members registered to participate in the walkathon.
Peer Leaders Program supports incoming students

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) launched the Peer Leaders Program on September 16 marking a new milestone for the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP).

Twenty-six peer leaders attended the training workshop conducted by Haifa Ismail, Director of SLP. This group was selected on the basis of their good conduct and sound academic standing. Their duties will be ongoing, as they will serve as AUS Peer Leaders for the entire academic year.

Training included an interactive presentation highlighting the characteristics of effective leadership and the goals and responsibilities of Peer Leaders. They also were presented with a welcome kit consisting of small symbolic objects that aptly summarized their duties.

“The welcome session was not only informative, it was extremely enjoyable,” said Sabika Zehra, one of the newly inducted Peer Leaders. “I got an opportunity to interact with and befriend many student leaders on campus. It was great to be able to help the incoming freshmen and welcome them into our AUS family,” she added.

The Peer Leaders Program is based on the underlying principle that peers strongly influence the development of attitudes and behaviors of one another. Its main goal is to ease the transition of new students from high school to university life by being their guides, mentors and friends.

The program requires the Peer Leaders to adopt two to five new students and ensure that they adjust comfortably to the university. In addition to benefiting the new freshmen, this program also provides the participating students with opportunities to enhance their leadership and interpersonal skills.

“Our plan is to launch a series of programs this year through the Student Leadership Program that focus on individual leadership development and demonstration,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “We are very pleased with the student response to the Peer Leaders Program and are confident that this program will make its mark on campus,” she added.

Community Services Charity Scholarship launched

Through its Community Services division, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) launched a program to help outstanding students from charitable institutions pursue higher education.

Through the new program, academically qualified students from charitable institutions who fulfill AUS’s admission requirements are assisted in acquiring a Community Services Charity Scholarship. Charitable institutions can nominate less-fortunate students who meet specific criteria. The scholarship provides partial tuition remission to the recipient.

“We would like to see the underprivileged benefit from this scholarship program,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. “It is our aim to support the youth from the charitable sectors of our community in order for them to become independent, responsible and productive citizens. This, we believe, is one way of strengthening our society,” she said.

Dr. Al Shehhi announced that the first recipient of this scholarship is an orphan who joined the AUS Achievement Academy this fall semester.
The Office of Student Affairs is pleased to launch the Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program specifically designed for female students to encourage participation and foster women’s empowerment.

The Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program began its activities this semester by offering female AUS students an opportunity to participate in a fully sponsored program by the US embassy offered by the Study of US Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders, Institute on Women’s Leadership, hosted by the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, United States. Scheduled for January 26–March 6, 2011, the Institute on Women’s Leadership is an intensive six-week program under SUSI that aims to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders from around the world a better understanding of the United States, and to help them develop their leadership and interpersonal skills.

The Institute on Women’s Leadership consists of a series of seminar discussions, readings and group presentations. Students will focus on the history of women’s leadership in the United States and relate it to contemporary issues faced by women globally. The institute will also focus on training and workshops to develop the leadership skills of students in areas such as critical thinking, communication, decision making, and managerial abilities. It will include educational travel to northern Minnesota, local site visits, and volunteer opportunities and activities. The program will conclude with a short ceremony in Washington, DC.

“We initiated the Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program to encourage and provide a comfortable zone for leadership development for our women students,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. She added that Emirati women play an important role in society and that our female students should take advantage of such opportunities provided by this new program. “I am confident that our students will best represent AUS and our country with pride. I thank the US embassy for its support and hope that we continue to work together for opportunities in developing our youth,” she said.

Fatima Showab, a student at AUS, said, “When I applied through the Student Leadership Program, I did not have much hope to get accepted. Now that I have, I am so eager to be part of this experience.”

“This is a new experience for me, and I hope I will get a chance to interact with a new culture—something that I can extend beyond our multicultural community at AUS. I look forward to gain a new perspective and develop my leadership skills,” Showab added.

The Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program will continue to provide numerous opportunities for women to develop and enhance their leadership skills by participating in worldwide programs, training and workshops focusing on women in leadership.
The Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Student Leadership Program organized the Student Training and Workshop Series to provide students with training opportunities that will help prepare them for successful leadership.

The first workshop, entitled “Discover Your Leadership Personality,” was held in two sessions and aimed to help students become better communicators, learn how to resolve and prevent conflicts, appreciate differences with others and gain credibility to positively influence others.

The workshops were conducted by Dr. Jeanine Romano, Director of Institutional Research at AUS.

“We are very pleased with the feedback from students,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “We initially planned to conduct one workshop but after receiving an overwhelming response, we scheduled another session to offer this opportunity to more students. I thank Dr. Jeanine Romano for supporting our initiative in developing the youth” she added.

The Student Training and Workshop Series will augment student learning and personal development under professional guidance and support.

“The workshop was very interesting because it focused on explaining what my personality is and how I can deal with other people’s personalities, which I found useful for us,” said Waleed Hijazi, AUS student and Peer Leader. “It helped me to better express myself and taught me how to understand and deal with others” he added.

“It was a fantastic experience and served as an eye-opener in helping me deal with different personality types,” said Fatima Tariq, AUS student and Peer Leader.

For more information about the Student Leadership Program and upcoming workshops through the Student Training and Workshop Series, email osaslp@aus.edu
OSA launches Emerging Leaders Program

The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) launched a new program for freshmen entitled the Emerging Leaders Program. Over 100 freshmen registered for the program, marking an exceptionally successful launch during the new student orientation week.

The Emerging Leaders Program aims to provide freshmen with a chance to participate in a wide range of activities and leadership opportunities planned for the upcoming academic year. Students will undergo a series of workshops, spread over the year, to develop their leadership and communication skills. This huge turnout predicts a very productive year for SLP.

Peer Leaders played a vital role in promoting the program and continued with their duty of adopting new students to help ease their transition into AUS. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and the students did a superb job in carrying out the responsibilities assigned to them.

“Overall, this duty was an interesting experience. Not only did I get to help new students adapt to AUS campus life and introduce them to the Emerging Leaders Program, I also helped myself gain valuable communication and leadership skills,” said Yousef Khalifa Al-Ghufli, AUS student and Peer Leader.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, welcomed the new students and encouraged them to join the Emerging Leaders Program and take advantage of opportunities available through SLP.

“I believe that leaders are developed through a process of careful guidance, encouragement and discipline, which students will be able to put into practice through such programs,” Dr. Al Shehhi said. “I commend the Peer Leaders for a job well done during the orientation. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the program was clearly visible,” she added.

Freshmen interested in joining the program can visit the Student Leadership Program’s office in the Student Center, first floor, room A250 or email osasl@aus.edu
International Day of the Elderly: “We Care”

In recognition of the International Day of the Elderly, AUS students welcomed elderly guests to a celebration on October 13 in the Student Center, organized by the Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs.

This event also celebrated the safe return of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the country.

“This event was a small gesture in support of the elderly; it strengthens the spirit of cooperation between students and the elderly and conveys our feelings that we care,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The event was attended by senior AUS officials, including Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani, Director General of the Office of the AUS President; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and a number of students and university officials.

Club Fair continued from page 1

Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and Mr. Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities, officially inaugurated this event, which was attended by students, faculty, staff and guests.

At the fair, students were able to register for membership in the various clubs by using the 15 laptops available at the Student Center reception and in club stalls. Approximately 15,200 membership registrations were recorded, with students joining multiple clubs.

“The Club Fair introduces students to scores of cultural clubs and organizations we have on campus. We are very proud of the fact that AUS in its true sense is a multicultural university,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The Fall 2010 edition of the Club Fair presented an opportunity for students to promote and share their cultures with the AUS community. The event also offered a very rewarding experience for students involved in the preparation of the fair with the Student Activities Office’s support.
Ten youths from Human Appeal International, Ajman, completed a month-long computer workshop organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs (OSA). OSA's Community Services Division launched the computer workshop in October as part of its community outreach initiatives to help the underprivileged members of the society.

Held at the AUS computer engineering lab, Haneen Abdelkareem Musleh, a student volunteer from the AUS College of Engineering conducted the workshop on Microsoft Office basics. The attendees were very thankful to the university for providing them with the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills for their own personal growth.

Many more charitable programs are being organized by the Community Services Office in an effort to offer more volunteering opportunities to student volunteers and to benefit more charitable institutions.
University Life: A New Experience

University life brings lots of new experiences. It’s a new start with lots of dreams and hopes. Since students are faced with many new opportunities, finding balance in their lives is important. Students find themselves away from their parents and from the routine they are used to, making it difficult to do their best in their studies. Although university life can be fun and adventurous, it should also be about working hard and getting good grades. That’s where the word “balance” comes into picture.

Tips for an enjoyable university life
- Prioritize your needs.
- Develop a routine.
- Know your classmates.
- Make friends.
- Find time for your friends.
- Find time to study on a daily basis.
- Get to know your professors.
- Get involved in activities happening on campus.
- Take advantage of Student Affairs extracurricular programs and be part of different clubs.
- Take care of yourself by eating at the right time, sleeping at the right time and by seeking support when you are in need of help.

University life helps students discover who they are and grow as adults, so take advantage of all services, both academic and non-academic, and try to excel. During a busy university life, students might feel the need for special academic attention. If any support is required, students can visit Student Learning and Counseling Services on the first floor of Student Center. Students can also make an appointment with our counselors by calling 06 515 2767.

Training program in peer mediation: A new initiative

As part of its continued efforts to make AUS a conflict-free community, the Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Judicial Affairs Department held the workshop Peer Coordinator: A Training Program in Peer Mediation October 10–25.

The students selected were shortlisted from a pool of more than 50 candidates that had applied to the program. As part of the selection criteria, students were asked to describe their thoughts on mediation.

“You are all privileged to be selected for this training,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, addressing the candidates. “This training, initiated by OSA, is the first of its kind offered by a university in the region. I wish you and the Judicial Affairs team success in this endeavor.”

Noira Khan, a School of Business and Management sophomore, said, “Though the workshop, I learned the proper and more professional way of resolving conflict between people through mediation. I got to learn the different strategies we can use in order to solve a problem.”

Zulikhatu Usman, a Civil Engineering senior student, said, “In this training, I learned the steps to resolve a conflict between two disputing parties. I also learned the importance of mediation. I have learned to be more empathetic and attentive in listening to conflict situations. I have learned the rules of a mediation session as well.”

The Judicial Affairs Office encourages students to abide by the guidelines stated in the Student Code of Conduct, AUS regulations and the UAE laws, as well as learning the benefits of mediation.

We are constantly carrying out peer mediation training. If you are interested, please send an email to mediation@aus.edu or visit the Mediation Services office, first floor, Student Center, room A254.
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.

Shaheen Salim Khoja
Junior
Computer Engineering
Table Tennis Team Captain

On behalf of the women’s table tennis team, I would like to thank the Athletics Department for giving us the opportunity to represent AUS in the Seventh Wollongong Inter-University Tournament that was held this week. We are proud to have reached the second place in this tournament and hope to achieve more in the future with your support and collaboration.

Samr Al Araj
Senior
Electrical Engineering

After completing “Peer Coordinator: A Training Program in Mediation” offered by OSA’s Judicial Affairs Office, I learned what a conflict is, what is mediation and what is my role as a Peer Mediation Coordinator. I also learned how to prepare a good mediation session.

Eman Saadieh
Senior
Architecture
Women’s Volleyball Team Captain

The Seventh University of Wollongong’s sports festival was a further proof of our team’s improvement throughout the year: beginning with second place in HESF and now first place in this tournament. Out of the four teams participating, we rose to the top with an impressive score of 2-0 in both of our games. Teamwork, skill and effectiveness are what got us to the cup, and hopefully they will help us in the coming tournaments.

Yassin Mohamed Fares
Senior
Business Administration
Men’s Basketball Team Member

The AUS men’s basketball team made it to the final in the University of Wollongong tournament, where we unfortunately lost in a closely battled match. Starting off strong, we were up 12 points in the first minutes of the game, yet Wollongong made a series of comebacks every time we got a comfortable lead. The major factor that helped Wollongong to victory was their home court advantage, as they had a huge amount of supporters and were more used to the court than we were. All in all it was a great experience and I feel that the UAE needs more sports competitions such as these where we can compete and prove our abilities. I would like to thank the AUS Sports Complex management for giving us the opportunity to participate in this tournament, even though it was far from AUS. I would also like to thank the UOWD management for setting up such a successful tournament.

Hicham Alayan Amine
Junior
Chemical Engineering
Men’s Volleyball Team Member

Winning the UOWD Seventh Annual Sports Festival for the third year in a row is a great honor for us, the volleyball team. This victory wouldn’t have been possible if it were not for the continuous support and encouragement from the team management, and for the hard work and willingness of our team members. Along with our enthusiasm and enjoyment of playing for AUS, we believe we are heading on the right track to win larger tournaments and attain better achievements. Go AUS!
After finishing “Peer Coordinator: A Training Program in Mediation” offered by OSA’s Judicial Affairs Office, I learned how to mediate between two parties, how to control my temper and how to show respect to my peers. I also learned how to communicate in a better way and how to find solutions to my own problems.

Nooria Azizi  
Senior  
Finance

After finishing “Peer Coordinator: A Training Program in Mediation” offered by OSA’s Judicial Affairs Office, I learned that mediation is the best and most effective way to resolve a conflict. In addition, I learned the different techniques of mediation. I also learned how to use good communication abilities with parties involved in a conflict situation.

Mustafa Harbaji  
Senior  
Electrical Engineering

Residential Halls: Your home away from home

More than 2,200 students have chosen to live on campus in Fall 2010.

The Student Residential Life Department (SRLD) welcomed all students to what truly can be called their second home. Orientation sessions in each of the dorms focused on providing all necessary information to the new residents and acquainting them with the staff available to assist them on a 24/7 basis. Most of these sessions were held in the first and second week of classes.

Starting this fall, a much requested addition to the dormitory facility was the installation of satellite TV channels in the student rooms. Around 25 free-to-air channels are now available in all rooms and students have brought their own TVs. A policy covering the use of TVs has been implemented in the interest of the residents.

On October 6, Residential Halls Assistants (RAs) attended a training session for their leadership roles in the residential halls. These training sessions, held at the beginning of semesters, are collaboratively conducted by SRLD, Student Learning and Counseling Services, which presents time management training, and the Judicial Affairs Department, which informs the RAs about the code of conduct policies and its Peer Mediation program. SRLD training includes discussions about the various initiatives in the residential halls.
AUS leads UOWD Sports Festival 2010

American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) men’s and women’s teams in volleyball and table tennis as well as the men’s basketball team participated in the University of Wollongong in Dubai’s (UOWD) Sports Festival held in Dubai on October 24.

The AUS teams won first place in both the men’s and women’s volleyball events, thus marking the AUS men’s volleyball team’s third consecutive-year lead in this category in the UOWD Sports Festival. The men’s basketball and women’s table tennis teams took second place, while the men’s table tennis team took third position.

The AUS student-athletes made intensive preparations for the event and performed well due to their hard work and dedication.
Six AUS swimmers participated in the Open Water Sports Orientation at Ajman beach on October 23. Organized by Al Hamriyah Sports Club, the swimmers gained kayaking and boat sailing training.

The AUS swimmers thanked the Athletics Department for providing them this enjoyable and new experience. The Athletics Department plans to organize more collaborative events with the club to offer open water training sessions to more AUS swimmers.

The Student Athletics and Recreation Department (SARD) and the Student Residential Life Department (SRLD) launched the Interdormitory Sports Tournament for resident students at the university’s residential halls on October 25. Over 500 registered students were grouped in teams representing each of the residential halls.

Competitions continue until December with a total of 24 events being conducted in the Sports Complex.

“More than 40 percent of the AUS student population lives in the university’s 12 dormitories, and it is very important that we provide them with adequate activities and motivation to participate and enjoy the benefits of these programs,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.