AUS holds Student Leadership Conference

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah, and President of AUS, Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmad Al Qassimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Corporation opened at the AUS Main Auditorium on April 26, the first AUS Student Leadership Conference (ASLC11).

The opening ceremony was attended by Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah al Thani, Director of the Office of the AUS President; Hamid Jafar, Member of the AUS Board of Trustees and Chairman and CEO of Crescent Petroleum Company; Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS; Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Provost; 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; Ali Shuhaimy, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; Head of the Cultural Office of Kuwait and the Cultural Attaches of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, other senior officials, faculty and staff, and hundreds of students from various institutions of higher education.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, AUS Chancellor Heath, welcomed the guests and the delegates to the conference, and discussed aspects of leadership. "Leadership is the ability to develop a vision, get others excited about this vision, and then be able to find ways that enable everyone concerned to implement this vision," said AUS celebrates 13th Annual Global Day festival

AUS holds Charity Mini Marathon to help eradicate poverty

AUS teams win honors in AUB international sports festival

AUS signs MoU with Sharjah Sports Council

AUS awards six Active Student Scholarships

AUS students tour China

Twenty-seven students from AUS toured the Chinese cities of Beijing and Hong Kong from January 28 to February 3, 2011. Organized by the Student Activities Office of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), this trip to China marks the launching of OSA’s Student Multicultural Learning Program initiated to offer students firsthand knowledge of cultural diversity as well as social, cultural and educational experience.

During the two days in Beijing, students visited several cultural and historical sites such as the Great Wall, considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World, learning about the Great Wall’s original function as a fortification to protect China’s borders.
VCSA Column
Building Student’s Skills for Effective Ethical Leadership Practice

Our student leadership program has gained momentum at AUS. Being very optimistic, Student Affairs realized the dream of holding the first Global Ethical Leadership conference, ASLC 2011. A conference for student’s leadership development of this magnitude was a big leap for us. This conference was exclusively to motivate our students to engage and follow ethical practices as future leaders and I am glad we were able to create a lasting impression on the attendees whether it was our students, the AUS community or our guests.

Believing in the philosophy that leaders are made, we invited renowned keynote speaker Richard Brandt, Director of Iacocca Institute to provide an insight on some key topics, Can you Mandate Ethics? Corporate Responsibility; Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; and Ethical Issues in 10 Countries, delivered in the form of lectures, workshop and dialogue. Presentations were also made by renowned speakers Sheikh Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, Founder and Chairman of Barjeel Securities, spoke on The Role of Ethics in Social Media and Journalism; and Badr Jafar, Executive Director of Crescent Petroleum on Taking the Lead with Social Entrepreneurship.

Ethics bind people to each other; therefore the coverage of different facets of ethical leadership from experts can improve the knowledge of students, their skills and understanding on crucial issues they will consider as leaders while making decisions for their future organizations. We provided the conference audience a platform for respectful dialogue and learning from the experience shared by experts on how to attain global ethics, how to find parallels in the ethical traditions in the global society and how to seek best ethical practices. As winning is not everything, the biggest satisfaction a leader desires is by knowing they won the right way.

Two of our faculty members also spoke at the event; with Dr. Mahboub Hashem’s interactive discussion on Media Ethics and Dr. Sami Tabsh’s discussion on Engineering Ethics. Both were interesting topics and equally insightful for our students. This conference was just one effort of the many leadership programs, trainings, mentorship and national and international initiatives student affairs is offering students to become better effective leaders of the global society.

We took our audience through our years of Student Affairs progress and our student’s exemplary engagement in extracurricular programs and activities through our video presentation during the conference and exhibition in the rotunda on 26 April, 2011. I also want to congratulate our winners of the Convey Leadership program who expressed their leadership definition through their creativity.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to over 900 students, staff, faculty and guest who attended the conference for the whole day. Attendance in such large numbers show that the interest in the leadership program is not only limited to our AUS students but spread amongst youth from universities around the region. Successful programs increase our responsibility to initiate more leadership events.

We desire to intellectually challenge student’s thinking and provide interesting learning opportunities outside the classroom as they shift and change through the vicissitudes of life.

I am hopeful that with our student support, we will continue our journey of shaping students into successful leaders for tomorrow and transforming student life with a purpose.
AUS awarded Active Student Scholarships to six students in a special ceremony held at the meeting room of the main building on March 29. These are the first students to receive this new scholarship.

Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS, along with Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other officials of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) presented the winners with their awards.

The scholarship recipients are Rym Atbi and Salwa Tajar from the School of Business and Management; Fatima Tariq from the College of Arts and Sciences; and Waleed Hijazi, Yousuf Al Khanchi and Mohammed Al Nabtiti from the College of Engineering.

Dr. Heath congratulated the winners and praised them for their hard work and perseverance. “You are the only six students chosen for this award out of more than 5,000; you should be very proud of yourselves. We are proud of all that you have done. You deserve the recognition and you are wonderful representatives of the university. Your parents should be proud of you and the great jobs they have done with you,” he said.

Dr. Al Shehhi explained how student recognition contributes to strengthening student activities at AUS. “Students who are recognized for their achievements feel valued. This motivates them to contribute to an active and vibrant campus life. Introducing the AUS Active Student Scholarships is a way for OSA to acknowledge and express how it values student contributions in extracurricular activities,” she said.

Dr. Al Shehhi added that as a result, highly talented students serve as role models that inspire fellow students to excel and attract more students to participate in activities for their own personal and professional growth.

Al Khanchi, founder of the Games Club, expressed his gratitude for the scholarship. “I like what I am doing now even though it’s not related to my studies. I enjoy being a leader to my fellow students as well as an entertainer. I am learning a great deal. It is like I am doing a double major,” he said.

The Active Student Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate juniors, sophomores and seniors who have excelled in extracurricular activities and whose efforts have yielded exceptional results. Whether they partake in community service projects, are a part of the Student Leadership Program, or are a member of various clubs, all recipients have shown exceptional dedication to these activities.

The scholarships consist of up to 50 percent tuition remission and are granted on a renewable semester basis. The scholarship program aims to further encourage and support students who have served the community and the university. It also aspires to support students who have limited financial resources and who demonstrate excellent leadership skills.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department
AUS celebrates 13th Annual Global Day festival

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, AUS held its 13th Annual Global Day festival from March 31 to April 1. His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the two-day student event. He toured the various cultural pavilions and met with students. The annual Global Day festival is the biggest event of the year at AUS.

Sheikh Sultan praised the university and the students for the various cultural activities organized and recognized the hard work put in building the cultural pavilions. He also thanked the efforts of the AUS Office of Students Affairs for organizing such the two-day festival and for providing the students with an opportunity to hone their skills and compete in showcasing their heritage.

"Inaugurating the Global Day has always been a happy experience for me. I enjoy seeing the students showcase the rich heritage and traditions of their respective cultures," said Sheikh Sultan. He added that such activities play a significant role in molding the personalities of students. He also highlighted the important role AUS plays in working with charity and social organizations in the UAE, whether through hosting these organizations on campus or student participation in these organizations.

Present at the event were Sheikh Mohammad Bin Saud Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Central Finance Department; Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al Thani, Director of the Office of AUS President; Sheikh Mohammad Bin Sultan Bin Mohammad Bin Sultan Al Qassimi and Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Bin Saudi Al Qassimi. Present were also Hamid D. Jafar, Chairman and CEO, Crescent Petroleum Company, Sharjah; Mohammad Dhiyab Al Moussa, the Advisor at the Amiri Court; Cultural Attaches of the GCC Countries as well as Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS; Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, AUS Provost, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and other senior university officials.

"Global Day is the most prestigious and illustrious student event of the year. It is a campus-wide event in which virtually all members of the university community passionately participate, from students and parents to staff and faculty," said Dr. Al Shehhi. "Thirty-Four clubs and organizations representing the diverse culture and ethnic backgrounds on our campus gather to celebrate the spirit of their cultures. Our clubs depict their distinctive heritage through presentation of traditional items, folk music and traditional cuisine," she added.

The theme for this year’s Global
Day was “Peace Throughout the World,” reflecting the harmony and peace in the multicultural environment of AUS and is manifested in the programs offered by the students. There are four main attractions in Global Day: World Bazaar, Children’s Corner, Food Fair and Cultural Performances.

“Global Day is a chance for the students to express their respective cultures through performances and the pavilions they build. Also, the event is meant to enhance the students’ leadership and management skills as they work together in teams to reflect their best work,” said Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organization at AUS.

The event also involved countless volunteers to assist and serve with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Student Activities Office. Organizing the two indoor performances in the packed Main Auditorium proved to be an enormous task. Both Thursday’s and Friday’s performances were over three hours long, and were attended by over 900 people each.

Nijat Zeynalov, a management information systems major from Azerbaijan, was heavily involved with the building of some of stands. “I helped with the building of the Turkish, Azerbaijani and Russian Cultural Club Pavilions, as their countries are close to mine. The Azerbaijani Club is a new club this year, and it’s quite different from many of the rest, as a lot of our culture is unique, as it is less influenced by countries outside.”

Samar Al Araj, an electrical engineering major from Palestine, volunteered as an organizer for the indoor performance in the Main Auditorium. She was also involved with ushering, helping members of the audience to find seats. “Volunteering gives you a lot of confidence. It’s very challenging, as it’s very busy in here, especially on a Friday. But one of the best things about Global Day is that every year, you get introduced to more and more cultures. For example, this year, the Brazilian and Azerbaijani Clubs began for the first time.”

The outdoor activities included a presentation of a collection of cultural skits, traditional dances and songs that blend with the theme “peace throughout the world.” The food corner includes restaurants and kiosks serving traditional cuisines from various countries that reflect the diverse range of cultures at AUS.

The AUS Community Services Corner hosted several organizations, each presenting different awareness programs in order to enlighten and inform the AUS community and the public on health and safety issues. The organizations are Sheikh Majid Bin Mohammed Youth Media Award, Supreme Council for Family Affairs of Sharjah – Health Promotion Friends of Diabetes Association, Emirates Volunteers Association of Sharjah – Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Al Thiqah Projects for Employment and Rehabilitation, UAE Red Crescent, Al Thiqah Club for Handicapped, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, Sharjah Cats and Dogs Shelter, Sharjah Charity International.

*Story by AUS Media and Printing Department*
Students at AUS were introduced to a wide variety of student clubs and organizations during the Office of Student Affairs’ semi-annual Club Fair, held February 28, at the Student Center. The fair was inaugurated by Dr. Thomas John Hochstettler, the AUS Provost and attended by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Thani, Director of the Office of the AUS President, and the following AUS vice chancellors: Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Public Affairs; George DeBin, Finance and Administration; Ali Shuhaimy, Enrollment Management And Youssef Al Jaberi, the president of the AUS student council.

One of the university’s largest events, the fair showcases how student participation in one or more of the 67 student-led organizations on campus helps them pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build leadership skills. “We organize Club Fair every semester to promote the various student cultural and interest-oriented clubs on campus as well as student support services offered by the Office of Student Affairs. We also encourage student clubs to publicize their events for the semester during the fair to encourage student participation. Club Fair also serves as a platform for cultural clubs to increase their membership and to plan for the upcoming Global Day, the biggest event at AUS,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, AUS Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

She also noted that the Brazilian Cultural Club, the Chemistry Club and the Choir Club are three new clubs introduced at this semester’s fair. “We have also launched the new Student Multicultural Learning Program, which provides opportunities for students to gain firsthand knowledge of cultural diversity and expand their understanding of the cultural, historical and sociological backgrounds of the UAE and other countries around the world,” she added.

Saher Saeed, a freshman student studying finance, said, “The clubs have a lot of fun activities and you can learn a lot from club meetings. You get to meet and interact with other people from different majors. You can also add club experience to your CV.”

Ahmed Ozkul, a junior majoring in management and vice president of the Turkish Cultural Club, noted the skill-building opportunities clubs provide. “Having a leadership role in a club gives you responsibility. It puts you in a real-life situation like in a business, where you have to manage a budget and work to meet deadlines. It can really give you career skills. It also allows you to be creative.”

The event drew many students, faculty and staff. Colorful stalls with national flags, posters, multimedia displays and music livened up the Student Center. Many students wore their national dresses and gave samples of their traditional foods, reflecting the vibrant, multicultural environment prevalent on campus.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department
OSA holds forum with active students

AUS’s Office of Student Affairs (OSA) held a forum with more than 100 active students from the student council and student clubs. Held February 23 at the university’s Student Center, the forum was attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and other senior staff members of OSA. Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi announced the newly launched Active Student Scholarship. “This is a gesture of the university’s support and acknowledgement of your efforts,” she said.

The students were informed of OSA’s upcoming events for spring and were briefed about new programs and activities lined up for the semester. Among the main concerns discussed during the forum was the organization of Global Day, the Active Student Scholarship, joint club events and many others.

“We continue to hold forums to promote healthy dialogue between OSA and students actively engaged with extracurricular activities. Student concerns and feedbacks are highly valuable to us and enable us to offer programs that appeal to most students and further extracurricular activities on campus,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

The forums serve as a platform for students and OSA administrators to discuss issues affecting student life and to exchange experiences, ideas and thoughts about events and activities organized by OSA. The students were encouraged to share their opinions, ask questions and air their concerns about extracurricular activities in an effort to align programs and activities to fulfill student demands.

AUS students undertake Umrah trip

Under the patronage and sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS, 33 AUS students embarked on an Umrah trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from April 8–15, 2011. The delegation, which included two staff members, spent three days in Makkah and three days in Medina.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs thanked His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah for his interest in and support of the AUS students. “We are very grateful to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan for his generosity in supporting this religious trip,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

The student members of the delegation were selected based on a variety of criteria, such as their academic records, behavior, and volunteer and extracurricular activities.
OSA holds orientation week for new students

The Student Activities Office (SAO) of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) held a week of orientation activities for new students from February 4−10, 2011. The orientation program of spring semester 2011 commenced with a welcome session for freshmen students and their parents.

An information desk was run by SAO with the help of its student orientation team to assist new students in getting acquainted with AUS. The student orientation team is comprised of experienced AUS students that guide new students and parents and answer their queries about AUS. With the help of the team, Student Activities prepared the orientation packages with brochures, information sheets, handbooks, guides, and orientation timetable for open house activities. Over 200 orientation packages were distributed during the orientation week.

The week-long open house activities held by SAO included board games such as chess, monopoly and backgammon in addition to programs and contests prepared to entertain the freshmen and help them overcome any stress they may have during their transition to the university. Live music was broadcast in the Student Center by a student DJ from the Power Hit Radio Club, creating an inviting ambiance for new students. Afternoons were reserved for movies, games and a talent competition. These open house activities also provided new students with a chance to meet and network with their peers.

In the evenings, more than 100 students took part in guided tours to Sharjah and Dubai, visiting landmarks, historical sites and shopping centers. The trips provided students with the opportunity to socialize and learn about their new home, Sharjah.

More than 200 new students attended the freshman reception dinner organized for students to meet with OSA administrators and learn about various OSA services available for them. The special dinner gathering was attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities, and other senior OSA officials.

AUS student wins best speaker award in debate competition

A US student Akshay Kothari won the Best Speaker Award in the Annual Skyline Crossfire Debate Competition held March 3, 2011. Organized by Skyline University College, eight universities participated in the competition and debated on the topic Social Networking: A Boon or A Curse?

After a period of intense debating by AUS team members Akshay Kothari and Alkhalsa Alharthi, the AUS team emerged as the first runner up. The AUS Debate Club’s participation in the event was arranged by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Activities Office.
AUS launches campaign to support orphans

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at AUS launched a project on campus aimed at ensuring the health and wellbeing of orphans in different parts of the world, called the Orphan Sponsorship Campaign. The project is in support of Sharjah Charity International’s (SCI) project entitled For a Bright Future. Through this project, OSA aims to promote productive relations with the external community and to strengthen its partnership with SCI.

“This is one of many ongoing campaigns we have for orphans. We will support them and help them become independent so they can contribute positively to society. Through these campaigns, our students learn the value of helping others and nurturing the orphans that are part of our society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

This campaign at AUS received donations through tickets sold at the university’s Student Center. Registration was open for SCI’s For a Bright Future project at the Community Services office for those who wished to help further.

The campaign organized by OSA’s Community Services from March 14-17 and was supported by student volunteers and other students from the student-run Islamic Cultural Club.

Community Services volunteers paint parking area

Community Services student volunteers began a new project entitled Hand in Hand for AUS, initiated by the Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs. Students will be involved in many activities that are labor-intensive as part of this project and will assist varied AUS divisions. The first activity was painting of the mosque parking area. Students understood the hardships of painting under the hot weather and the amount of physical effort and time required, and were afterwards more appreciative of the university facilities department who work year round in making AUS campus a great place to study and live.

“Our volunteers have made remarkable progress in off-campus volunteering, but it is also important to dedicate some of their time towards their home, AUS. We are constantly encouraging students to contribute their time towards community services work and we have now commenced with this new initiative of Hand in Hand for AUS which will offer more on-campus volunteering opportunities for our students,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The first project of Hand in Hand for AUS was completed successfully with the hard work of 20 student volunteers who worked in three shifts under the supervision of Khalid Mehmood, Civil Services Manager at AUS. Community Services contributed painting materials for this project as a token of appreciation to the facilities department for collaborating in the initiative.
Students from AUS received the most Outstanding Delegation Award at the recently finished Rome Model United Nations (RomeMUN) 2011 held in Rome, Italy from March 7-11.

As the first and only university from the Middle East to take part in the RomeMUN, AUS sent a six-member delegation of students from the university’s Student Leadership Program. Five days of rigorous debating and negotiation gave students an opportunity for simulation during the UN General Assembly sessions which resulted in the most Outstanding Delegation Award to be granted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo represented by two AUS Students, Sabika Zehra and Hessa Ali Alechla.

The model UN assembly under the theme “Empowering Youth in Creating a Sustainable Future” focused on global affairs related to poverty, hunger and environmental issues. AUS students got an opportunity to propose resolutions related to world issues and compete against 300 students from universities in Europe and North America.

The event was a superb learning experience that allowed students to strengthen their communication and public speaking skills. In addition to the debate, students had an opportunity to visit the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as LUISS Guido Carli University, in Rome, Italy.

"Visiting the worldwide headquarters of two UN agencies is an accomplishment by itself. It was a great opportunity to be part of such a learning experience and to be involved firsthand in the issues that the UN addresses. Not only RomeMUN was an outstanding experience, but the city of Rome was too," said Hessa Ali Alechla, sophomore majoring in accounting at AUS.

"RomeMUN 2011 was an excellent lesson in negotiation and diplomacy. It tested the very essence of us as leaders and diplomats. The strategic location of the conference and diversity of the participating delegates provided us with an insight of international perspectives on contemporary global issues. Moreover, it was a lesson on life and I will forever cherish the experiences I gathered in the beautiful city of Rome," said Sabika Zehra, a junior majoring in International Studies at AUS.

“Not only was RomeMUN 2011 an exciting forum for debate about international development issues such as poverty, hunger and environmental sustainability, it was also a great opportunity to network with exceptional students and faculty from around the world.
as well as with professional experts in the fields of international development and global affairs,” said Yousef Khalifa Al Ghufli, a senior majoring in International Studies who also attended RomeMUN.

The AUS delegation consisted of Sabika Zehra, Hessa Ali Alechla, Yousef Khalifa Al Ghufli, Israa Hamad, Saeed Hussain Maseeh and Sara Samir Choobbor, accompanied by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Haifa Ismail, Director of the Student Leadership Program.

“The AUS student delegation has set a mark at the RomeMUN 2011. Being the only university participating from the Middle East and winning the Outstanding Delegation Award is a remarkable achievement. The organizers expressed their amazement at the performance of our students and showed interest in learning more about AUS and the region. I am proud to say that our students have left an ever-changing impression behind,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department

Former NASA Astronaut delivers lecture at AUS

Former NASA astronaut Marsha Ivins delivered an engaging lecture at AUS March 31. The lecture, which was organized by the university’s Student Leadership Program in cooperation with the US Embassy, Abu Dhabi, was attended by students, faculty members and staff and was held in the Main Building on campus.

Ivins’ talk covered a discussion of her career with NASA. She said that determination, setting goals and her love for what she did enabled her to reach her ultimate goal: to visit space. Ivins also shared some of her experiences and photos taken during her time in orbit.

Born on April 15, 1951, in Maryland, Ivins made her first spaceflight on the Space Shuttle, STS-32. Prior to her journey into space, Ivins worked as an aerospace engineer before becoming an astronaut in 1985 and spending over 1,009 hours in space on four flights undertaken in 1990, 1994, 1997 and 2001.

“Meeting an astronaut is no ordinary event; we thank the US Embassy for their cooperation in organizing this lecture,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Our students were amazed by Ivins’ lecture, seeing and hearing things normally perceived as impossible. The AUS Office of Student Affairs organizes and supports such initiatives and programs that help encourage positive development among our students,” she added.

“It was a brilliant lecture, I was in awe,” said Fatima Tariq, a senior student majoring in mass communication. “Marsha Ivins is an inspiration. Her lecture was mind-blowing and the pictures taken from space were amazing.”

Mohammad Hukan, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, was also impressed by the lecture. “It was a life changing experience. It was the first time I saw real photos taken from space. I knew about the space station but I never imagined the things that Marsha spoke about,” he said.

The talk concluded with a question and answer session, with students also getting a chance to engage in a one-on-one dialogue with Ivins.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department
OSA hosts forum for student leaders, volunteers and peer mediation coordinators

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at AUS hosted a student forum for more than 30 students active with the university’s Community Services, Student Leadership Program and Judicial Affairs. Attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior staff members of OSA, the forum was held at the university’s Student Center on February 22.

The students were given an overview of OSA’s upcoming events, new programs, activities and volunteer opportunities lined up for spring semester. The students were encouraged to share their experiences with OSA’s programs, what they learned and how the programs are benefitting them. Members of the Peer Leaders Program and Peer Mediation Program expressed their appreciation to OSA for the knowledge and skills they gained by joining these programs. Student volunteers were thankful to OSA for its support and motivation that helped them achieve the 2010 Sharjah Voluntary Award.

Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi announced the Active Student Scholarship initiated by OSA. “This is a gesture of the university’s support and acknowledgement for your engagement and efforts in the extracurricular arena,” she said.

Students ask questions about the newly-launched Active Student Scholarship for outstanding active students, the upcoming student leadership conference, volunteer opportunities abroad, among others.

“This forum gives us the best opportunity to communicate with the administrators directly. They welcome most of our ideas and respond to all of our questions and suggestions, and that’s exactly what I want from OSA!” said Waleed Hijazi, a sophomore student majoring in civil engineering and a member of the Peer Leaders Program.

“The OSA Student Forum provided us with the chance to meet with inspiring people who ensure that our university experience is always enjoyable and constantly improving. The student forum is a great way to establish two way communications and encourage closer ties between OSA and the student body,” said Rym Djanet Atbi, a junior majoring in finance who is an active student volunteer with Community Services and a trained peer coordinator in the Peer Mediation Program.

Forums such as these serve as a platform for students and OSA administrators to discuss issues affecting student life, exchange experiences, ideas and thoughts about events and activities organized by OSA. The students were encouraged to share their opinions, ask questions and air their concerns about extracurricular activities in an effort to align programs and activities to fulfill student demands.
This year’s AUS Charity Mini Marathon added more activities such as face painting, clowns, henna artists, photo gallery, DJ music and the AUS Against Poverty canvas, where participants can express their support against poverty eradication by placing their handprints in different colorful paints, among other new additions to this year mini marathon to add more fun and variety to the event.

The theme of this year’s charity mini-marathon was AUS against Poverty in support of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) millennium goal of poverty eradication. The event, supported by Sharjah Sports Council, Sharjah Charity International, Leader Sports and the UNDP was held March 5.

The marathon attracted more participants this year with more than 1,500 people from 50 private organizations and educational institutions participating in the mini-marathon. Over 50 AUS student volunteers assisted in organizing the race, as well as various activities in the event.

The mini-marathon winners were Mohammed Abd Al Jabbar for the boys under 12 category; Hissa Mohammed for girls under 12; Rabie Al Khatib for boys 12–17 years old; Hanan Ibrahim for girls 12–17; Ali Bu Jad for men 18-35, Engie Hussein for women 18–35; Ahmed Thabet for men 34–45; Zofia Reid for women 34–45; Ashraf Khalaf for men over 45; and Anna-Liisa Haverila for women over 45. The winners were presented with trophies by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at AUS; Ahmed Al Fardan, Secretary General of the Sharjah Sports Council; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs at AUS; Solaiman Al Rifai, Programme Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the UAE; and Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations at AUS.

"The Charity Mini Marathon is an AUS tradition for many years now. We will carry on with this tradition in the years to come, since it not only brings people together from all over the UAE but it also encourages people to run for a noble cause," said Dr. Al Shehhi.
AUS, under the patronage and direction of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah, and President of AUS, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sharjah Sports Council on March 20, 2011.

The agreement, which addresses the basic relationships, roles and responsibilities of the parties that constitute the substance of the partnership, was signed by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs of AUS, and HE Nasser Ahmed Al Fardan, Secretary General of Sharjah Sports Council.

The MoU sets to action steps for AUS and Sharjah Sports Council to further strengthen mutual relations through continuously promoting and implementing their common practical strategies covering several areas including management, promotion of competitions and events, exchange of knowledge of sports programs, expertise, technical information and general development of participating athletes to achieve maximum success in taking advantage of human and material resources and infrastructure to all parties.

By signing this MoU, AUS intends to establish strong ties with prominent local, regional and international associations, organizations and universities in the area of sports.

Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS said: “The signing of the agreement assures the university’s commitment in engaging and cooperating with different sectors of society. We are delighted to move forward with the vision of developing sporting activities in the UAE and we believe that our agreement will be of great mutual benefit to both of us.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said, “The signing of the agreement today comes as an affirmation of the continued cooperation with the Sharjah Sports Council, which comes within the context of the university’s desire to increase the communication on systematic and extracurricular levels with the Sharjah Sports Council,” adding that AUS was proud to be affiliated with the council.

HE Nasser Ahmed Al Fardan also expressed his full satisfaction for the initiative. “My goal is to promote cooperation between the Sports Council and the university as a well-established vision of the Council and its mission. The MoU aims to achieve mutual benefit between both parties in the framework of cooperation of government institutions and the capacity to achieve maximum success in taking advantage of human and material resources and infrastructure to all parties.”

He also added that the signing of this agreement is complementary to the Council’s plans for universal principles of partnership with community institutions.

Also present in the ceremony were H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, Director of the AUS President’s Office; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs as well as several senior officials from Sharjah Sports Council.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department
Student Employment Office launches training series

The Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Student Employment Office (SEO) recently launched the Self Improvement Training Series for students who aspire to work as student employees at the university. The series are aimed at preparing students for work by equipping them with some requisite skills to become competitive and productive at the workplace. Thirty-three students completed the first training session that covered some basics of Adobe Photoshop CS4, held over three sessions during the month of April. The training was conducted by Ms. Ana Gavassa, a Mass Communication Instructor at AUS with an excellent reputation for applying inspirational methods of teaching apart from her qualifications and experience.

It is the hope of OSA’s SEO that students will apply their newly acquired knowledge to their work field at a later stage. More training sessions will be organized in the future to train students in additional computer software packages.

Residential Halls: Your home away from home

Student life in the AUS residential halls is evolving. The major changes that are taking place are due to the Similar Interest Group (SIG) program that took off last fall semester and provides learning-based direction to most events and activities in the dorms.

This spring, residents held an art exhibition where residents showcased their sketches, painting and even origami. Some students use the SIG program to promote their academic interests and in one residential hall this led to a senior resident student offering scheduled assistance to students who had academic issues.

In the residential halls where the SIG program needed more publicity, the focus was on arranging introductory events and registering interests. This exercise is proving useful to motivate residents to get into meaningful dialogue with each other. Other activities linked to SIG program were cooking classes and talent contests.

Sports and recreational activities is another area that is well subscribed to especially in the men’s residential halls and over 1,000 registrations were received for the 17 categories of games offered.

This semester, the awareness drive in the residential halls included participation of all residential halls in Earth Hour. A large amount of publicity was given, including the use of a video presentation through the dedicated TV channel available in student rooms and dormitory receptions.
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.

Joudi Mahfouz
Senior
Architecture
Women’s Basketball Team Member
AUS Delegate to the AUB International Tournament, Lebanon

The international tournament in Lebanon has been a very beneficial experience for all the AUS sport teams, and was one of the most memorable moments of this academic year. I would like to thank the university and the OSA for providing us with such a great opportunity to meet different teams and improve our skills. We are very grateful for the support and care during the trip. We hope to have more successful trips and games in the future.

Rihan Ahmad
Senior
Civil Engineering
OSA Student Trip to China Participant

I would like thank the OSA team for providing us with such an entertaining recreational trip in which we learned about the history, culture and tradition of China. In one sentence, I can describe it as “the trip of a lifetime.” The moments of the trip will be cherished forever. I just wish the trip could have been a bit longer, but I know about the time constraints. I’m looking forward to being a part of such trips and activities in the near future with OSA.

Noora Al Katheeri
Senior
Civil Engineering
OSA Student Trip to China Participant

The trip to China was my first trip abroad with the university. I didn’t think that I would enjoy it to this extent. Every now and then, I keep remembering every detail of the trip and the nice memories I had there. This trip was well organized and successful. We were really sad that we had to go back home because the days we spent there were so precious that it passed so quickly. We met people we didn’t know and started new friendships with them. The supervisors were so friendly that we didn’t feel that they are staff members, we felt like they were our brothers and sister. I loved this trip so much that so many simple details reminds me of it. I would like to thank Dr. Moza Al Shehhi for her efforts throughout the trip and that she considered us her sisters. Words can’t describe my feelings but what matters is that every time I think of China, I think of the Office of Student Affairs. Big thanks for all of your efforts and I hope we stay in touch and meet in next trips.

Meriam Sehrewerdi
Senior
Finance
Women’s Basketball Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Recipient of Spring 2011

I would like to thank AUS for granting me the Athletic Scholarship for Spring 2011. Throughout my studies in Finance for the past 4 years, I hadn’t been able to let go of my passion for basketball and due to that, I always find time to engage in my favorite sport. Getting this scholarship made me feel appreciated for the efforts that I have put since childhood towards this sport as well as for my contributions to the AUS women’s basketball team.

Shehzada Harris Attique
Junior
Electrical Engineering
Cricket Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Recipient of Spring 2011

I would like to express my gratitude to OSA for awarding me the athletic scholarship. The athletic scholarships increased and encouraged student participation in sports activities to a great extent. This is a big step taken by OSA and I am very thankful to all those who helped me in achieving this target. It will certainly motivate me to renew my goals and ambitions. I am sure that awarding such scholarships will encourage athletes to become more professional. By distributing these awards AUS exhibits its concern for the welfare of the student community in general and athletes in particular.
I would like to thank the Office of Student Affairs for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons and create new relationships. The trip to China was wonderfully planned and organized and was a success in every aspect. It truly was an experience not to be forgotten.

Maram Al Abdullatif
Junior
Finance
OSA Student Trip to China Participant

On behalf of myself and all my friends that participated in the China trip, I would like to thank OSA from all my heart. I also wanted to mention what a lovely and entertaining trip it was especially with the company of the OSA team. We all enjoyed our time and felt that we were traveling with our own families.

Fahad Al Abdullatif
Senior
Public Administration
OSA Student Trip to China Participant

Our experience seeing some of the ancient sights of Beijing and the astonishing modernity and interesting political evolution of Hong Kong gave us the opportunity not just of traveling and adventure, but also discovering together the way people live and interact in that part of the world.

Yousef Al Jaberi
Senior
Mechanical Engineering
OSA Student Trip to China Participant

I would like to express my gratitude to OSA for giving us the chance to be part of the AUB international tournament in Lebanon. I hope that we have presented a positive image of AUS through our sportsmanship. Thank you for an experience that can never be forgotten.

Hisham Alayan Amine
Junior
Chemical Engineering
Captain of the AUS Men’s Volleyball Team
AUS Delegate to the AUB International Tournament, Lebanon

AUS supports charity book festival

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at AUS participated in the fourth Used Book Festival held by Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services from March 1–5 in Nakheel Park, Sharjah.

More than 30 student volunteers from OSA’s Community Services helped in collecting, transporting and selling the books during the festival. The AUS stand sold more than 5,000 books donated by the AUS community members during a three-week campus-wide book donation campaign run prior to the book festival.

“The book festival was a great success. Besides the proceeds going to charity; people who bought the books benefitted as well, as they got the books at low prices. Overall, it was a great experience as it gave us the opportunity to assist in this charity project,” said Salwa Al Tajjar, a student volunteer majoring in Finance.

“Community Services has been successful in carrying many similar fundraising campaigns that involves the entire AUS community to donate for a good cause. Through these campaigns, our student volunteers engage in varied charitable fundraising initiatives supporting humanitarian causes,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

This is the fourth year of the book festival, which is successful in raising funds to support less fortunate children across the UAE. AUS’s participation in the festival was organized by OSA’s Community Services with the help of student volunteers.
Other sites visited were the Ming Dynasty Tombs, followed by a tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Side trips included visits to the local pearl, pottery and tea shops where students learned the history and art of these ancient Chinese industries.

During the three day Hong Kong tour, students learned about its political evolution and were able to witness the vibrant, cosmopolitan society first hand. The students visited Hong Kong Disneyland and witnessed the park’s performance-filled fifth year anniversary celebration.

The students learned about the original inhabitants of Hong Kong during a visit in Aberdeen, a place famous for its floating village and giant seafood restaurants. The students took the Peak Tram and enjoyed a breathtaking overlooking view of the city from Victoria Peak, also visiting Repulse Bay, Stanley Market and the Ladies Market. The tour was concluded with a visit to the Avenue of Stars where the students had the chance to see the handprints of famous Hong Kong stars such as Jacky Chan’s.

“The China and Hong Kong trip was very successful. Through this trip, OSA tried reaching its initiative of strengthening student activities, establishing stronger partnership with students and providing unique extracurricular programs that our students patronize. I am thankful to our students for being responsible throughout the trip and pleased with everybody’s cheerfulness that bonded all of us as one big AUS family. I am certain that the experiences and friendships gained during the trip is something that our students will cherish for life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“This is a unique opportunity for our students to visit historical sites and learn about the Chinese culture and how it is different from our own culture. It was also a good opportunity for them to unwind and enjoy the sights of a foreign country after a long semester;” she added.

“I would like to thank OSA for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons and create new friendships. The trip was a wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons and create new friendships. It was also carefully planned and organized and was a success in every aspect. It truly was an experience not to be forgotten,” said Maram Abdullatif, a Junior Finance student.

“I would like to thank the OSA team for providing us with such an entertaining recreational trip in which we learned about the history, culture and tradition of China. In one sentence, I can describe it as “the trip of a lifetime,” said Rihan Ahmad, Senior Civil Engineering student. “We started out not knowing each other but we ended up like one big family. I will cherish these experiences forever. I look forward to being a part of such trips and activities in the near future with the OSA,” he added.

Yousef Al Jaberi, AUS Student Council President said: “Our experience seeing some of the ancient sights of Beijing and the astonishing modernity and
interesting political evolution of how Hong Kong gave us the opportunity not just of traveling and adventure, but we also discovered together the way people live and interact in that part of the world.”

OSA will be organizing further international recreational trips during long university breaks. Students who wish to join the trip will be selected based on a number of criteria including social and academic status.

The students were accompanied by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities; and Virgilio Mateo, Student Activities Coordinator.

How to get a good night’s sleep

Never oversleep

Never oversleep because of a poor night’s sleep. Get up at around the same time every day, especially on the morning after you’ve lost sleep.

Set your body clock

Light helps restart your body clock to its active daytime phase. When you wake up, go outside and get some sunlight. Or if that’s difficult, turn on all the lights in your room. Sleeping late for just a couple of days can reset your body clock to a different cycle — you’ll be getting sleepy later and waking up later.

Exercise

Keep physically active during the day. This is especially important the day after a bad night’s sleep. Strenuous exercise (brisk walking, swimming, jogging, squash, etc.) in the late afternoon seems to promote more restful sleep.

Don’t nap

Don’t take any naps the day after you’ve lost sleep. When you feel sleepy, get up and do something. Take a walk, make your bed, or do some errands.

Set a bedtime schedule using these two steps:

First, try to go to bed at about the same time every night. Second, go to bed later when you are having trouble sleeping. If you’re only getting five hours of sleep a night during your insomnia period, don’t go to bed until just five hours before your wake-up time. For instance, if you’ve been waking up at 7 a.m., don’t go to bed until 2 a.m.

Some additional strategies:

- Warm bath, yes; shower, no.
- Stretch and relaxation.
- Avoid caffeine and tyrosine-rich foods from the late afternoon onwards.
- Cut down or avoid alcohol.

Visit Student Learning and Counseling Services, Student Center, first floor
A delegation comprising 101 members of multiple student sports teams from American University of Sharjah (AUS) won eight gold, ten silver and nine bronze medals in the Second Annual American University of Beirut (AUB) President Club’s International Sports Festival 2011 held recently in Beirut, Lebanon.

The AUS men’s soccer, track and field teams brought home gold medals, the men’s basketball and swimming teams secured silver; while the men’s volleyball and table tennis teams, in addition to the women’s volleyball and swimming teams, ranked third to win bronze. Collectively, the AUS teams brought home a total of eight gold, ten silver and nine bronze medals.

More than 400 student-athletes competed in several events including men’s soccer, men’s track and field and in men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, swimming, tennis and table tennis during the four-day event. As well as AUS and AUB, American University in Dubai (AUD) and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) took part in the sports festival.

The AUS sports delegation was accompanied by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs, as well as several coaches and officials.

“I congratulate our athletes for their achievements in this tournament. Their investment of time, effort and hard work has been rewarded. We offer our students
a diverse range of extracurricular programs for them to benefit and enjoy. Regional and international tournament participations are organized to strengthen our partnerships in sports with other institutions as well as to provide a platform for our students to network with their peers from other institutions,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

“On behalf of the women’s volleyball team, I would like to extend my sincere appreciations and gratitude to the Athletics Department for engaging us in yet another successful, challenging and entertaining sports festival. Special thanks to Dr. Al Shehhi for providing us with these wonderful opportunities and for trusting in our potential to compete and succeed,” said Joanne Youssef Mattar, a junior student majoring in Mechanical Engineering and captain of the AUS women’s volleyball team.

“On behalf of the men’s basketball team, I would like to convey my sincerest appreciation to AUS Chancellor Dr. Heath, Dr. Al Shehhi and the rest of the athletics staff for providing us the needed support and for ensuring our participation in this prestigious tournament. Our participation in the AUB sports festival is extremely successful in terms of achievement and the wonderful experiences gained during our stay in Lebanon; this is one of the best trips we have ever had. The careful planning and organization of this trip ensured a safe and enjoyable trip for students,” said Yassin Fares, a senior student majoring in Business Administration and captain of the AUS men’s basketball team.

In addition to the sports competitions, a sightseeing tour was also organized of Faraya, an area popular for winter sports and skiing. AUS’s participation in the international tournament was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Athletics and Recreation Department.
Dr. Al Shehhi, also spoke at the opening ceremony urging students to understand ethics. “We require our students to understand ethics, as honesty, caring and social responsibility are important qualities typical to an ethical leader. Through the conference we bring together global leaders that will help us to build on existing knowledge of this topic.”

Following the welcoming remarks, Richard Brandt, Director of the Iacocca Institute, delivered one of three keynote addresses. His address was entitled “Can you Mandate Ethics?” “Leaders who rationalize unethical behavior find that there is no way out of it. Once you’ve gone down that road, you can’t get off it,” he said. He also shared with the audience what he described as the “Fraud Triangle” whereby unethical behavior occurs in a three step process, namely by incentive, opportunity and rationalization. “We have all come to the place where we have to decide what kind of ethics we will have. You need to have your own ethical compass,” he added.

The second keynote speaker was Sheikh Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, Founder and Chairman of Barjeel Securities, with his talk entitled The Role of Ethics in Social Media and Journalism. He clarified to the audience the importance of social media in our world today, giving as an example his coverage of the recent events in Egypt.

The third keynote speaker was Badr Jafar, Executive Director of the Crescent Petroleum Group with his address entitled Taking the Lead with Social Entrepreneurship. He called on leading business leaders to consider giving back to their society in the form of social entrepreneurship.

Dr. Sami Tabsh, head of the AUS Department of Civil Engineering, and Dr. Mahboub Hashem, professor at the AUS Department of Mass Communication, also spoke about Engineering and Media Ethics, respectively.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), ASLC11 included presentations, workshops, discussions and team-building debates and activities addressing different aspects of leadership.

The event was part of the OSA Student Leadership Program (SLP), which aims to foster ethical leadership and offers a wide range of opportunities to develop students’ leadership and communication skills, preparing them for a lifelong commitment to ethical leadership and citizenship. There are also plans to hold the conference every year.

Story by AUS Media and Printing Department
AUS cricketers win Intercollegiate T20 Cup

AUS cricketers won the prestigious AUS Intercollegiate T20 cup in an exciting final match on March 8, 2011. AUS and BITS Pilani Dubai reached the final by defeating Canadian University and Manipal University Dubai respectively, in the semi-finals.

Winning the toss in the final match, AUS elected to bat first, making 128 runs for BITS Pilani to chase. Students Fahad Tariq, Naresh Gunashekar and Arqam Aftab made the highest score for AUS. AUS bowlers Fahad Tariq, Jaffer Al Naqvi, Shehzada Harris, Shahrukh Khan and Ziad Ahmad challenging the batting line up of BITS Pilani, who reached 108 runs all out, with AUS declared the winners by 20 runs. AUS captain Fahad Tariq won three individual titles: Man of the Match, Best Batsman and Man of the Tournament.

Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations, distributed the prizes to the winners in the presence of Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs, and other OSA officials.

The knockout tournament was held by the AUS Student Athletics and Recreation Department with the participation of University of Wollongong in Dubai; Skyline University College; BITS Pilani Dubai; BITS Ranchi Ras Al Khaimah; Canadian University of Dubai; American University in Dubai and Manipal University Dubai.

Athletes attend OSA Student Forum

Over 50 AUS student-athletes attended the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) student forum on March 2 at the university’s Sports Complex. Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior OSA staff members were present in the forum.

Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated the 14 student-athletes who were awarded with athletic scholarships for the spring semester as well as the women’s table tennis team for achieving second place in the Higher Education Sports Federation tournaments.

The students were briefed on OSA’s upcoming events, new programs and activities lined up for spring semester. Athletes inquired on the upcoming participation of AUS in the American University of Beirut’s (AUB) tournament and AUS Intercollegiate Cricket Tournament, the need of a services area in the soccer field; requested for quality sports equipment and many other

Dr. Al Shehhi explained current policies and limitations for major requirements such as new facilities, major equipment and other physical resources. “We will carefully study your concerns and rest assured that we will do our best to fulfill your requirements,” she said.

The forums serve as a platform for students and OSA administrators to interact and openly discuss issues affecting student life, exchange experiences, ideas and thoughts about events and activities organized by OSA. The students were encouraged to share their opinions, questions and concerns about extracurricular activities in order align programs and activities to fulfill student demands.
AUS awarded athletic scholarships to 14 outstanding student-athletes on February 23. Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor of AUS, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented the outstanding athletes their awards. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs also attended the function.

The scholarship recipients are Hamad Saleh Alkawari, Husam Yahya Baseet, Mohamed Mustafa El Magdoub and Omar Mohamed AlKarmastaji for men’s soccer; Mohamed Issam Altermanini and Khaled Ismail Ismail for men’s basketball; Adey Abdelrahman El Amasy and Hisham Amin Alayan for men’s volleyball; Fahad Tariq Raja and Shahzada Haris Attique for cricket; Tarun Shyam for men’s badminton; Joudi Eyad Mahfouz and Meriam Ibrahim Sehrewerdi for women’s basketball; and Roseanne Aqel for women’s volleyball and swimming.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the OSA for awarding me this scholarship. I am very thankful for all those who helped me in achieving this scholarship. It will certainly motivate me to reach my goals and ambitions in sports. By awarding these scholarships, AUS exhibits its concern for the welfare of the student body in general and in athletics in particular,” said Shahzada Haris Attique of the cricket team.

The athletic scholarship consists of a 50 percent tuition remission and is granted on a renewable, per-semester basis. The scholarship program aims to support student-athletes who have limited financial resources and who demonstrate athletic excellence as well as outstanding sports qualities and aims to encourage, improve and develop sports at the university.

“The athletic scholarship is an effective tool in motivating our athletes to perform their best. It also serves as an inspiration to other varsity team members to excel and aim for the scholarships,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “Many students join our tryouts aspiring to be in the AUS team to get a chance to receive the scholarship, and this is a good indication of how effective the scholarship program is,” she added.