Club Fair Spring 2008

The Club Fair, a two-day event which took place on February 5-6, 2008 is an opportunity for cultural display, diversity and celebration. The Club Fair enables cultural clubs to recruit new members and inform students about their activities. As many as 40 clubs and organizations took part in the function, where different stalls gathered in one place to symbolize a country’s traditions or an organization’s interests. Stalls representing many countries offered sweets, drinks, food and displayed traditional items. This event is an opportunity for students to know about the different cultural clubs and organizations at AUS that they can be a part of. The number of clubs is increasing dramatically and the scope of cultural diversity is widening according to student interests. A good number of students registered with more than one club or organization.

Charity Mini Marathon 2008

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, American University of Sharjah held its Seventh Annual Charity Mini Marathon on March 1, 2008 with the theme of “Healthy Environment.” The events continued on page 6
Spring Orientation Program

The Student Activities Office (SAO), along with other AUS divisions, held the Student Orientation Week, a program meant to receive fresh students, acquaint them with their new university environment, and inform them about the academics. The program is held twice a year, at the beginning of fall and spring semesters. The previous one ran February 18-23, 2008.

SAO organized a set of recreational activities for the freshmen and some continuing students such as games, movie sessions, contests and city trips as well as some traditional and cultural shows throughout that week. SAO prides itself on merging cultural diversity into a colorful set of events and getting-together, all occurring in the same place with a high spirit of entertainment, friendship, innovation and devotion.

UAE National Day

Every year, the UAE celebrates its national day. AUS, through the SAO, plays a vital role in participating in this celebration; special festivities are organized by SAO to display traditional dancing, singing and historical artifacts and records.

UAE National Day is also an opportunity to review UAE’s glorious achievements and magnificent advancements through the past and recent years.

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs’ Column

*Insight* is the Office of Student Affairs first quarterly newsletter that will give you a view of what’s happening in Student Affairs. *Insight* will keep the AUS academic community informed of multiple non-academic student support services and programs offered by Student Affairs. Student Affairs has progressed in all areas, whether it is facilities or services development. *Insight* is an attempt to keep you close to Student Affairs and create an awareness of how we add to student life. Knowledge of these services, I am sure, will encourage academics to encourage or direct students to Student Affairs to avail any specialized services that will benefit our student body.

*Insight* is a collective effort and therefore I am glad to see my team walk that extra mile and materialize *Insight*’s first issue in a short time. I am proud of this team that took the initiative of building this concept and putting it in action without any expectations or benefits. I wish the entire team of *Insight* success and congratulate them on the publication of the first *Insight*. I encourage all AUS community members to read *Insight* and get an *Insight* into Student Affairs.
Global Day 2008

Global Day is a two-day cultural festival held at AUS annually. The year’s Global Day event will be held on April 3-4. Various flags are hoisted during the event representing more than 25 countries taking part in this colorful festivity. Several cultural activities and functions will be taking place: on-stage and outdoor performances, traditional music, folkloric dancing, shows, poem reading, competitions and much more.

Guests and visitors from within and outside of the UAE will have the chance to savor many traditional foods and sweets and enjoy traditional shows.

Club Events

- The Computer Club organized the Linux Workshop on February 10. Around 20 students participated in the event. Brochures and pamphlets about the Linux Operating System were distributed among the attendees.
- The Lebanese Club organized a breakfast on February 17 to help people discover the savor of oriental Lebanese sweets. The breakfast was catered by Al Reef Lebanese Restaurant. Students and other members of the AUS community enjoyed the special treat.
- The Palestinian Cultural Club organized an event to show solidarity with the city of Gaza. The event started with a PowerPoint presentation depicting events happening in the city of Gaza.
- The Debate Club participated in the Third Annual University of Wollongong Dubai (UOWD) Public Speaking Competition. The event took place at UOWD in Dubai Knowledge Village on February 23. AUS was declared the overall winner of the competition among 11 competing universities.
International Student Exchange Program Office

Studying Abroad… an Experience of a Lifetime

Mission of the Office

The International Student Exchange Program Office is committed to facilitating the requirements of students who wish to study abroad and to provide all students with global opportunities and activities for an academic experience that incorporates intercultural exchanges, international studies and international experiences.

AUS Students

Any student enrolled at AUS who plans to take courses at another college or university must obtain prior approval from his or her dean to transfer credit to AUS so that the credits are awarded or transferred.

The host institution must have a formal exchange agreement with AUS where it should be recognized by the ministry of education of the country and must provide learning experiences similar to those offered by AUS. AUS students are not allowed to take courses at other institutions within the UAE.

Listed below are universities that can be attended by AUS students as International Exchange Program Students:

- James Madison University
- Louisiana State University
- Lawrence Technological University
- Simon Fraser University

Study Abroad Students - (foreign students)

Students from a university that has a formal exchange agreement with AUS may study at AUS for a semester or for a full academic year. Students must first apply through the study abroad office at their home institution. Once approved by the home institution, the student must complete the Study Abroad Application form and mail it to the International Student Exchange Program Office at AUS. Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime. AUS staff will work hard to provide the proper tools to make this student experience a success.

Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate and assist AUS students and graduates throughout all phases of their career development, preparing them to meet the challenges of a competitive work environment, and to forge dynamic relationships with employers and other relevant constituencies.

Today, programs like Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS), are part of the central educational activities in colleges and universities that value the career-related needs of the students and develop the strategies that will enhance the quality and importance of career advising. CAPS, as part of the Student Affairs, adheres to the overall mission and objectives of AUS and strives to provide the students and alumni with various services that keep up with the fast-growing changes in the working world in order to ease students’ integration in their new work places.

Being conscious of its imperative role, CAPS aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry through several methods in its three main service areas: (1) student career advising (2) placement services (3) job
fair and open days.

Current efforts are focused towards the expansion of CAPS employers’ network and enhancement of the quality of services and the organization of major events.

By organizing events such as the Career Fair on March 31 and SA&D Open Day on March 6, CAPS provides students, alumni, faculty and employers with excellent opportunities to interact and establish channels of communications so they can be involved in the career development process.

**Become a Career Peer!**

CAPS is looking for outgoing, energetic students to become charter members of the new Career Peer Volunteer Program! Career Peers will be ambassadors of CAPS, presenting and assisting with programs, events, marketing and providing input into the work of CAPS. If you are looking for a way to develop strong career-related skills and to make a difference for your classmates at AUS, the Career Peer program is for you.

Contact CAPS to register now: 06 515 2032.

---

**Student Employment**

AUS provides ample employment opportunities for students who wish to work on campus. Any full-time undergraduate student is eligible to work on campus. The positions available are funded by the university, and the employers are our departments, schools/colleges and administrative areas. The wages for on-campus employment range from AED 12 to AED 20 per hour.

**The six basic criteria by which a student is considered for employment are:**

- Undergraduate (full-time student)
- Financial need
- Qualification
- Seniority
- GPA
- Involvement in student life

Once the Student Employment Office has determined that a student meets the necessary criteria, he or she will be eligible to work a maximum of 15 hours per week (60 hours per month). Students are allowed to work up to 40 hours per week (160 hours per month) only during academic breaks and in the summer.

On-campus employment has been established. Online to speed up procedures and facilitate our students and student employers. The on-line system has been operating since Summer Session 2007.

All students who wish to work must open an account with the on-campus bank (SIB). Payments will take 15 working days to process after the time sheets are submitted by the Student Employment Office to the Finance Department.

**Role of the employer**

Those who wish to hire student employees must abide by the following procedures:

- The employer must fill out an online ap-
application and submit it to the SEO.

- Once the application has been processed, student employees will be forwarded to the respective AUS employer.

**Role of the student**

- Students who wish to work on-campus must check for vacancies with the departments, schools, administrative offices, SE board or office.
- Once the student gets the approval, he/she can start working and fill in his/her timesheet (online).

**Student Employment Policy**

- She students are not allowed to hold two part-time positions; thus, only one payment will be made.
- Freshmen and visiting students cannot apply for on-campus employment unless they finish one semester at the university; some students may be allowed to work under certain circumstances deemed valid by the SEO.

---

The event was organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services Division in association with the Sharjah Sports Council. More than 600 people participated including those from 13 secondary and higher educational institutions, individuals with special needs and AUS students, faculty and staff. The marathon kicked-off from three starting points and participants with special needs ran in a kilometer and a half stretch. Contestants below the age of 12 ran for two kilometers while the rest of the participants ran the entire four kilometers starting from Sharjah University City gate and finishing at the AUS main gate. The marathon this year witnessed the participation of 40 student volunteers from AUS who helped in the organization of the event.

Secretary-General of the Sharjah Sports Council Ahmed Al Fardan attended the event and distributed the awards to the winners on behalf of His Excellency Sheikh Esam Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Office of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah and President of the Sharjah Sports Council. Also present were Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Mr. Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs. The awards were distributed to the winners of the following 11 categories: special needs, under 12 years male and female, 12-17 years male and female, 18-35 years male and female, 36-45 years male and female, and above 45 years male and female. Al Doha School received a special award for being the school with the most number of participants.
Serving students through mediation services

The Office of Student Affairs introduced mediation services for students this spring semester. This service aims to assist students in resolving disputes amicably by mediation and peer coordination. Mediation services are a part of Judicial Affairs; this is a confidential and voluntary process that facilitates the resolution of conflicts with the help of neutral mediators. They will take care of resolving disputes between students who find it difficult to function together or disagree regarding group assignments or conflicts stemming from cultural diversity, differing personality types or work styles, and misunderstandings that rise due to culturally based differences or general communication barriers. Disputes involving serious violation of the Code of Conduct will not be mediated.

A dispute or disagreement between students may be brought to mediation services. The Mediation Coordinator will collect all the required information and contact the students seeking mediation. The coordinator will determine if the dispute is appropriate for mediation and schedule the mediation in a neutral location. If it is determined that another university procedure should be used, the person will be referred to the appropriate procedure. Mediation is a confidential service. However, the mediators may be required to break confidentiality when violation of the Code of Conduct or the university policy or the safety of persons is revealed during mediation. Mediators will discuss this with the concerned students before contacting the concerned officials. Mediators will assist both the parties to arrive at a solution to the dispute and when the solution is found that is acceptable to both the parties, they will be asked to sign an agreement that they will abide by it. After a certain time interval, both the parties will be contacted to find out if the solution is working.

Judicial Affairs disseminated information on mediation services in the residential halls during Fall Semester 2007, during their presentations organized for freshmen residing in the dormitories, and to non-resident AUS students during the Club Fair 2008.

A survey was conducted by Judicial Affairs during Fall Semester 2007 to conduct exploratory research and gauge the knowledge and interest of AUS students in mediation. The survey results showed that 74 percent of the surveyed resident students were positive and interested in mediation services. Several surveyed students commented that they are peace followers and strong supporters of non-violence. They believed that conflicts can be resolved amicably by mediation. Negotiation would help them in resolving conflicts between friends, work groups and with their peers. 34 percent of the surveyed students exhibited interest in playing the role of peer coordinator. We encourage undergraduate student volunteers who enjoy mediating to register by sending an email to judicialaffairs@aus.edu. Interested students will be equipped in negotiation and conflict management skills by professionals in due course.

Students are encouraged to drop by Judicial Affairs Offices, 202 to 208, Student Center, 1st Floor, for more information on mediation services.
Learning and Counseling Services (LCS) believes in and promotes the individual worth of each student through supportive services designed to encourage intellectual and personal development and to prevent concerns from becoming barriers to success. LCS values the highest standard of professionalism, and from time to time sensitizes and supports the AUS community to improve its services. Below we provide a few pointers that will enable service providers to offer quality services.

• **Separate the problem from the person**

• **Clear messages** - Verbal communication and body language both are important aspects of communication, so it is advisable to ensure what you want to say and how it can be understood for good communication.

• **Listen and Ask** - What we hear is amalgamation of fact and feeling, so be clear on what we heard and what we felt.

• **Speak without interrupting each other**

• **Feedback** - We can only be assured about what we have communicated when our listener provides us feedback of his/her understanding. As a communicator, it’s advisable to ask for feedback. As a listener, summarize what you have heard and ask questions to seek clarification if parts of the message seem unclear.

• It’s advisable to use “I” statements and tell the person what your perspective is. For example “I feel” or “I see” is preferable instead of “You are wrong” or “You don’t know.”

• **Negotiate** - Everyone’s a winner! Continue to negotiate until both the parties feel they have been heard and justified equally. Going for one-upmanship or making someone feel like a loser is only storing up troubles for the future.

• **Maintain Confidentiality** - The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has defined confidentiality as “ensuring that information is accessible only to those authorized to have access” and is one of the cornerstones of information security. Therefore, confidentiality plays a vital role in establishing a healthy relationship between two parties. It benefits stakeholders by providing a secure environment to give a full and frank account of their issues, and also it expresses respect for their autonomy. Seeking stakeholders’ consent to disclosure of information is part of good communication between two parties.
A home away from home

Campus housing is normally the most convenient place for students to reside in while studying at any university. At AUS this is no exception; over 2,000 students live in the 12 dormitory buildings (eight for men, four for women) and enjoy the proximity to school buildings, the library, the food court and the Sports Complex.

Residential Halls contributed towards developing leadership skills and work experience among its residing students by hiring resident assistants and desk attendants for each of its dormitories. These students participate in organizing events and providing an open communication channel between the staff and other residents.

This year welcome parties have been arranged for the new female students in the Women’s Welcome Center building. Interdormitory sports competitions as well as farewell functions for graduating students were conducted for residing students.

In line with the AUS Accreditation Self-Study slogan “Signature of Quality”, a number of steps were successfully taken in the past year. One important initiative is the creation of an online Housing Renewal Application Form. This self-service banner form was immediately appreciated by all the resident students, as this was a major improvement in the whole process of applying since it reduced the need to visit the cashier or handle a paper-based record. It has also improved efficiency through the use of Banner reporting options to follow up with those students who forget to apply.

Other steps towards better quality have been the upgrade of PCs in the computer labs, additional fitness room equipment, optimum stocking of new linen, and the addition of a bathroom accessories kit and mattresses for the new students. Some of the Residential Halls have also received flat screen TVs and new swivel chairs.

The Residential Halls continue to grow in capacity and the latest dormitory, Block H-Women, is already under construction. Once opened, this will provide us with a total capacity exceeding 2,100 beds.
Scholarships for outstanding student-athletes

AUS Athletic Scholarships were granted to six outstanding student-athletes who demonstrate athletic excellence and outstanding sports qualities. The scholarship program was introduced to encourage, improve and develop sports at the university as well as to support student-athletes with limited financial resources. The scholarship offers a 50 percent tuition remission and is granted on a renewable semester basis.

Athletic Scholarship Recipients for Spring 2008

“I believe that the Athletic Scholarship is a moral incentive for students to regularly practice all sorts of sporting activities. The Athletic Scholarship motivates me do my best in local and international gatherings.”

Ausama Azeez, AUS Soccer Team

“I was so pleased to be one of the few students at AUS to receive the athletic scholarship. It is not only helping me to become a better athlete, but also to excel in my studies. I found the financial incentive very appealing. It has aided me to commit myself to AUS and the AUS soccer team.”

Jadallah Chehade, AUS Soccer Team

“A person, in general, works harder when he/she is appreciated by others. Therefore, the volleyball scholarship was a great motivation for me. It has changed so many things for me as a university student.”

Ahmed Bassam, AUS Volleyball Team

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the generous scholarship AUS has awarded to me. Receiving the scholarship motivates me to work harder, display a stronger commitment in attending practice sessions, and do my best to contribute to the team.”

Mohamed Ismail, AUS Basketball Team
The Sports Complex received an overwhelming number of students during the freshman open house orientation from January 20 to 24. Eighteen sports programs were offered initially and the registration process was extended for a week. Training sessions began January 27, with a very positive turnout from the student body.

Students aspiring to become a member of an AUS team were invited for tryout sessions held February 3-14. On the results of the tryout sessions, AUS now hosts 21 men’s and women’s sports teams for Spring 2008. These sports teams are actively involved in local, regional and international tournaments representing AUS in the intercollegiate arena.

The Athletics Division has been experiencing demands for new and more frequent programs. To satisfy student demands, women’s karate was introduced this semester and additional sessions were created. Women’s aerobics sessions now run six sessions per week compared to four in last semester, and women’s yoga now runs four sessions per week instead of three as in last semester. The Athletics Division continuously strives to fulfill its role in providing for satisfying sports experiences in both organized and recreational activities by constantly developing programs that appeal to the AUS community.

“The Athletic Scholarship has motivated me to become a better player. Moreover, it is wonderful to feel appreciated for the efforts and time we put in practices and matches. Finally, I would like to thank the AUS management and my coach, Samira Awad, for nominating me to receive the scholarship.”

Reema Shrouf, AUS Volleyball Team

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank American University of Sharjah and the management of the Sports Complex for awarding me the sports scholarship for the semester. I hope that I will meet the expectations of those who have believed in me.”

Laila Jaafari, AUS Basketball Team

Athletics Division takes off for spring events

The Sports Complex received an overwhelming number of students during the freshman open house orientation from January 20 to 24. Eighteen sports programs were offered initially and the registration process was extended for a week. Training sessions began January 27, with a very positive turnout from the student body.

Students aspiring to become a member of an AUS team were invited for tryout sessions held February 3-14. On the results of the tryout sessions, AUS now hosts 21 men’s and women’s sports teams for Spring 2008. These sports teams are actively involved in local, regional and international tournaments representing AUS in the intercollegiate arena.

The Athletics Division has been experiencing demands for new and more frequent programs. To satisfy student demands, women’s karate was introduced this semester and additional sessions were created. Women’s aerobics sessions now run six sessions per week compared to four in last semester, and women’s yoga now runs four sessions per week instead of three as in last semester. The Athletics Division continuously strives to fulfill its role in providing for satisfying sports experiences in both organized and recreational activities by constantly developing programs that appeal to the AUS community.

“The Athletic Scholarship has motivated me to become a better player. Moreover, it is wonderful to feel appreciated for the efforts and time we put in practices and matches. Finally, I would like to thank the AUS management and my coach, Samira Awad, for nominating me to receive the scholarship.”

Reema Shrouf, AUS Volleyball Team

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank American University of Sharjah and the management of the Sports Complex for awarding me the sports scholarship for the semester. I hope that I will meet the expectations of those who have believed in me.”

Laila Jaafari, AUS Basketball Team
Third AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament

The Athletics Division organized and hosted the Third AUS Men’s Intercollegiate Racket Tournament from March 2-4, 2008. The three day event proved to be another success for the division in terms of participation and level of competition. The tournament, aimed at promoting racket sports at the intercollegiate level, has also proved to be an effective platform of publicity for AUS. Prominent educational institutions took part in the event and competed in the fields of tennis, table tennis, squash and badminton. AUS won first place in squash, tennis and badminton and third place in table tennis.

Athletics Division gears up for Greece tournament

Once again the Athletics Division is gearing up to participate in the 2nd International Sports Festival organized by the American College of Greece. This event, aimed at providing AUS student-athletes with exceptional experiences is scheduled on March 18-22 in Athens, Greece. Students are excited to participate in this event due to the high level of competition and the opportunity to interact with international students. AUS student-athletes will be representing the university in men’s soccer, men and women’s volleyball and basketball, men and women’s swimming and in men and women’s tennis and table tennis respectively.

Office of Student Affairs contact numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs</th>
<th>06 515 2216</th>
<th>Judicial Affairs</th>
<th>06 515 2250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director of Student Activities 06 515 2773</td>
<td></td>
<td>Residential Halls 06 515 2292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics Division 06 515 2778</td>
<td></td>
<td>Learning and Counseling 06 515 2767</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities 06 515 2751</td>
<td></td>
<td>Career Advising and Placement Services 06 515 2032</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services 06 515 2794</td>
<td></td>
<td>International Student Exchange Program Office 06 515 2161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Employment 06 - 5152752

Comments? Suggestions? e-mail osanewscommittee@aus.edu