Sharjah Crown Prince attends National Day celebrations at AUS

A merican University of Sharjah (AUS) began its celebrations to commemorate UAE National Day with the opening ceremony of the Emirati Heritage Village at the university’s Main Plaza on November 24, 2015, marking the 44th year of the country’s formation.

The special event was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah. Also in attendance were Sheikh Salem Bin Abdulrahman Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Ruler’s Office; Sheikh Mohammad Bin Humaid Al Qassimi, Director of the Statistics and Social Development Department; Sheikh Saoud Bin Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi; Rashid Ahmad Bin Al Sheikh, Chairman of the Amiri Court; Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS; Kevin Mitchell, Interim Provost; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; as well as other university officials.

The Heritage Village consisted of

74 student clubs participate in Fall 2015 Club Fair

A merican University of Sharjah (AUS) celebrated its cultural diversity during Fall 2015 student Club Fair. The two-day event featured 74 ethnic and interest-oriented clubs and seven units from the Office of Student Affairs.

One of the university’s largest events, the fair showcases how student participation in the student-led organizations on campus helps them pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build
Dean of Students’ Column

The fall break is an ideal time for students to take respite from extracurricular participation and focus on their finals. This period also gives us time to reflect on how we fared in implementing OSA programs, activities and events. Reflection and discussions help us strengthen and better every OSA area. Continuous development is one of our top priorities at OSA and to do this, we align our strategies and plans based on first-hand experiences, student views and our direct communication with the Student Council. As we strive to optimize student satisfaction in our programs and services, it is equally important that all our efforts are in parallel and contribute to the attainment of the university’s mission and goals.

Student events and success stories on social media kept AUS students and viewers close to student life happenings. OSA’s continuous online presence made it easier to connect with the student body. Student activities systems will soon be completely online, speeding the event approval process. This fall, student life programs, activities and events were impressive, innovative and learning centered. Among the many events taking place this semester were the Charity Marathon, Arabian Nights, American Sign Language Workshops, Emirati National Day, the Hult Prize Challenge and sports team wins in the DIAC Cup, CUCA Cup and Manipal Sports tournaments. I am pleased with the quality and impact of student events and with the continuous demand for existing and new events.

We tried our best to support you and provide you with better services and will keep doing more. Congratulations to all the graduating students—we wish you a bright future. Best of luck to all the continuing students.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Dean of Students

AUS celebrates UAE Flag Day

A merican University of Sharjah (AUS) took part in the countrywide celebration of UAE Flag Day at a ceremony held on November 3, 2015, to demonstrate national unity and loyalty to Emirati culture. The ceremony, hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and the Emirati Cultural Club, was led by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor, and other senior university officials as well as a large crowd of students. The attendees participated in raising the flag during the celebration.

“This day reflects our national pride,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi; Dean of Students. “Our flag is the symbol of our unity, patriotism, pride and great leadership. The UAE is blessed with great leaders who are loved and respected by Emiratis and residents alike. On this day, we commemorate the countless accomplishments of our leaders and people and the significant developments of our country. I wish everyone a happy UAE Flag Day,” she added.

According to Mohammed Kalbani, President of the Emirati Cultural Club at AUS, “UAE Flag Day reflects our loyalty to the UAE, and we try to represent our national spirit and our pride towards our country. We will continue to promote our national traditions. I am happy to be a part of the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.”
different booths that sold local cuisine, ranging from desserts to popular UAE dishes, and included a display of traditional items, perfumes and jewelry. It also featured various activities representing Emirati culture and heritage, including on-stage performances, traditional dances, and song performances. In addition, the Plaza was decorated with Emirati flags and light beams representing the colors of the UAE flag while Emirati songs played in the background. The event was organized by the Emirati Cultural Club and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA).

Dr. Al Shehhi expressed her satisfaction with the event and said, “As we celebrate our 44th National Day, I congratulate the people of the UAE and most especially our great leaders for the progress and development seen throughout the country as a result of their wise leadership. I am very grateful and proud of the Emirati Cultural Club for keeping up with the tradition of celebrating this auspicious occasion on campus that uplifts and celebrates our spirit of patriotism, unity and peace. Our students did a great job this year in bringing together various sectors of the community to support this event and to join in the celebration.”

“The purpose of this celebration is to express our patriotism towards our country, the UAE, and to celebrate the 44th UAE National Day with the 99 different nationalities present at AUS,” said Mohammed Kalbani, President of the Emirati Cultural Club.

Mariam Humaid, a second year student majoring in visual communication, said, “The event is a great way to connect with Emirati culture. There are a lot of activities taking place, and we are enjoying our time here!”
leadership skills. The Fall 2015 Club Fair introduced three new clubs: the British Cultural Club, the Studio Club and the Filmmakers Club.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the Club Fair highlights the university’s campus diversity and introduces new students to the student-led organizations on campus. The AUS Student Center was filled with students eager to learn about many cultures on campus and to join the participating clubs.

“The Club Fair reflects our students’ enthusiasm towards extracurricular activities. Our new students will surely enjoy this event, which opens doors for them to take advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities offered by the university. I encourage students to take part in our programs and spend their free time in meaningful activities that complement their academic pursuits and aid their personal growth and development,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“The Fall 2015 Club Fair is about learning other cultures and respecting them. The time and effort put into this Club Fair is very impressive and students are always eager to explore different things” said Huzaifa Imam, a junior student majoring in electrical engineering at AUS.

The opening ceremony of the fair was attended by senior AUS officials and crowds of students.

Active students attend OSA forum

More than 90 American University of Sharjah (AUS) students who actively engage in different student groups attended a forum held by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) on October 6, 2015 at the university’s Student Center. The students were members of the Student Council, leadership focus groups, interest-oriented and ethnics clubs, sports teams and community services. These students highlight the university’s extracurricular activities through their constant involvement and participation in the university’s events.

In her opening remarks at the forum, Dean of Students Dr. Moza Al Shehhi expressed her full support towards extracurricular activities. “The student forum is one of our assessment tools to gauge student satisfaction in our programs, services and facilities. It is also a platform where we share viewpoints about student life at AUS,” Dr. Al Shehhi said.

“We try to absorb as much information from student questions, feedback, concerns, ideas and complaints and consider them in enhancing our programs and services. The forum also promotes and strengthens the link between students and administrators for an open flow of communication and understanding,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

The students highlighted concerns regarding student life, including event sponsorship, student leadership programs, on-campus jobs, mediation programs, sport facilities, quality of sports equipment, time management and much more.

The Office of Student Affairs officials assured the students that their concerns have been noted and will be reviewed and studied. Students also expressed their appreciation to AUS and OSA for providing them with meaningful activities and extracurricular opportunities in various fields of interest.

The Office of Student Affairs organizes student forums at the beginning of each semester to discuss issues affecting student life and to further extracurricular activities at the university. The student forums were organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Development and Organizations Department.
Office of Student Affairs hosts new student orientation

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted a week-long orientation to welcome new students registered for the Academic Year 2015–2016. The activities that started on August 28, were designed to help new students transition into the AUS community, become aware of the university’s extracurricular offerings and learn to adapt to life at the university.

Among the orientation activities were information sessions, fun and intellectual games, educational and entertaining trips and a dinner reception. The week’s events began with the OSA staff welcoming new students and their parents. More than 600 orientation packets containing information on the services offered by AUS were distributed to students.

A group of returning active students comprised the orientation team that worked alongside the OSA staff during the orientation period. 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.

A freshman reception dinner was also organized and attended by more than 700 students in the presence of Kevin Mitchell, Interim Provost; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; and other senior OSA officials. Addressing the students on the occasion, Dr. Al Shehhi said, “I welcome you all to the AUS family. Student Affairs is here to provide you with programs, services and activities to complement your academic endeavors and enrich your student life experience at AUS. We hope to see you in our events and I wish you all good luck as you start your journey with us.”

The gathering provided an opportunity for OSA administrators to interact with new students and introduce them to the non-academic services offered by the department. The evening program included many entertaining games and musical and cultural dance performances by students belonging to the Emirati, Syrian and Palestinian cultural clubs.

Student Council organizes trip to Sharjah Planetarium

The Student Council at American University of Sharjah (AUS) organized a visit to Sharjah Planetarium on October 24, 2015. The students viewed exhibitions that presented information about astronomy and space sciences in the Arab world in particular. Students also learned more about the solar system through interactive exhibits and enjoyed the black hole show though a simulated experience of travelling through the galaxies in a spaceship. “We thank His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan for providing us students with state-of-the-art learning facilities and experiences that aid our knowledge and education,” said Fatima Bin Ashour, a junior industrial engineering student and a board member of the Student Council.

“We encourage our students to explore the many learning facilities in Sharjah. Sharjah Planetarium will satisfy one’s curiosity and expand their understanding about what lies beyond the earth that we live in,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
American University of Sharjah (AUS) honored nine outstanding students who earned the Active Student Scholarship awards for Fall 2015.

The purpose of the Active Student Scholarships is to recognize undergraduate students who display excellence in extracurricular activities including community service projects, clubs and the Student Leadership Program. The scholarship consists of up to 50 percent tuition remission for one semester. The recipients of the Active Student Scholarship awards are as follows:

Student Clubs and Organizations
- Issam Saif
- Mariam Mohsen Khater
- Alanood Afifi Dabbour

Community Services Volunteers
- Mohammed Ramez El-Jachi

Student Leadership Program
- Mehnoor Mehmood
- Catrine El Sayegh
- Hanan Arab

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said, “These scholarships are a gesture of the university’s support and acknowledgement of student achievements in the extracurricular field. Through these scholarships, we hope to inspire students to become high achievers and to be role models among their peers. We aim to support highly skilled, financially challenged students to pursue their education at AUS.”

Eighteen outstanding student-athletes at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were awarded athletic scholarships for Fall 2015.

“We are proud of our student-athletes’ achievements in local and international sports competitions. The university extends its support to highly skilled athletes so that they may pursue their academic endeavors at AUS,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The Athletic Scholarship winners are as follows:

Men’s Soccer Team: Hakeem AlHashash, Khalid Ahmed
Men’s Basketball Team: Mohamad Chohayber Zaydan, Yousef Mousa Yousef Shatat
Women’s Basketball Team: Hams Nageib
Cricket Team: Mohammed Umar Shaikh, Syed Hammad Hussain

- Bassim Rachid Younis
- Karan Mohan

Student Leadership Program
- Mehnoor Mehmood
- Catrine El Sayegh
- Hanan Arab

Men’s Volleyball Team: Amer Imam, Raees Rizwan
Women’s Volleyball Team: Sarah Aldosary, Noor Chehayber

Men’s Swimming Team: Talmir Ishmukhametov, Taher Amr Arafa
Women’s Swimming Team: Danya Khafaga, Cyndi Faber
Men’s Badminton Team: Akhil Pradeep
Powerlifting Team: Mohamed Reza
Women’s Table Tennis Team: Shahdan Barakat

The scholarship program aims to encourage, improve and develop sports at the university and consists of up to a 50 percent tuition remission. The scholarship aims to support the student-athletes who have limited financial resources and who demonstrate athletic excellence as well as outstanding sports qualities.
AUS commemorates sacrifice of brave UAE soldiers

In memory of the 45 UAE soldiers who sacrificed their lives while performing their national duty in Yemen, the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Council and the university’s Emirati Cultural Club invited the AUS community to observe a moment of silence to express their sympathy and condolences on the martyrdom of the Emirati soldiers. The gathering took place at noon on September 9 at the AUS Student Center.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; Mohammad Al Hashimi, President of AUS Student Council; Mohammed Al Kalbani, President of Emirati Cultural Club; AUS senior officials and AUS students and faculty members.

Dr. Kjerfve expressed his sincere condolences and said, “The AUS community is really saddened to hear about the loss of the UAE soldiers and we send our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the martyrs.”

Also speaking on the occasion, Dr. Al Shehhi said, “We pray for our soldiers who sacrificed their lives in performing their national duty. May their souls rest in peace. I extend my deepest condolences to our great leaders, our countrymen and the families of our brave martyrs.”

She thanked the attendees for standing with Emiratis in this very difficult moment. “I ask you to pray for those who are still performing their national duties to defend our country and our people,” she added.

Student Council President Al Hashmi also spoke at the gathering and voiced the UAE cultural club’s pride in the UAE soldiers who are seen as heroes of the nation. He offered prayers for the fallen heroes.

“May God Almighty bless their souls and grant them rest in paradise,” said Al Kalbani, President of the Emirati Cultural Club. “They are our heroes and represent what courage truly means.”

AUS holds UAE Commemoration Day

A merican University of Sharjah (AUS) observed a moment of silence in memory of the UAE soldiers who dedicated and sacrificed their lives in the field of civil, military and humanitarian services, by lowering the UAE flag at the AUS Main Roundabout at a special ceremony held during the UAE Commemoration Day on November 30, 2015.

As the national anthem played, the flag was then raised again by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor of AUS, in the presence of senior officials, faculty, staff and students. “We are here to honor the fallen heroes and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country,” said the AUS Chancellor.

The event was organized by the Office of Student Affairs in cooperation with the Emirati Cultural Club. Mohammad Al Kalbani, President of the Emirati Cultural Club, spoke at the gathering and voiced the Emirati Cultural Club’s pride in the UAE soldiers who are the heroes of the nation. “We are proud of those who died fulfilling their duties towards the country,” he said. “We pray for those heroes and their families.”
Ten students from the Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter at American University in Sharjah (AUS) travelled to Ubud, Indonesia, to renovate a school for an impoverished community, August 2–8, 2015.

During their stay in Ubud, the students renovated the bathroom facilities of a school and repaired the school library’s exterior walls. They did all the manual labor themselves, including removing mold embedded in the walls, breaking down layers of contaminated plaster and cement, scrubbing every surface with industrial strength chlorine, and then reapplying layers of cement and plaster.

“The overall impact of our volunteering experience was big. We made a better school for the children and a better environment for them to learn but that did not stop there. We also set a good example of how a volunteer can be as we did our work with love and passion. We represented our university, individual countries and the Arab world as a whole in the best possible light as we were the first group of Arabs to volunteer there. Leaving behind pride and simply working to make something out of ruins was something appreciated by both the locals and other international volunteers,” said Omar Al Jahdami, an Emirati mechanical engineering senior who volunteered on this trip.

Organized under the supervision of the Office of Student Affairs, the initiative was fully sponsored by the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai.

According to Tuqa Khalid, President of the AUS Engineers Without Borders Chapter, “This incredible project was worth all the blood, sweat and tears it took to make it happen. And I am eternally grateful to our sponsors, the Road and Transport Authority in Dubai, who took a chance on me and believed in this project enough to back us completely. They brought my dream to life; they enabled nine other students to experience the true joy of giving back to the international community; they gave the local villagers of Ubud the opportunity to see that they are not insignificant, their struggle is not trivial. RTA gave us the means to reach out to the people of Ubud and help better their children’s lives.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the students from the Engineers Without Borders Club for achieving their mission. “Our students worked as a team and worked hard under stress and in difficult situations. I am glad that they handled all challenges and achieved positive results. I encourage AUS students to get involved with our volunteering projects and learn from first-hand experiences. This kind of humanitarian project is a good platform for our students to network by working with different levels of people and learning from their experiences and perspectives. The most rewarding part of this experience is the joy of giving and helping less fortunate members of the society,” she added.

According to Moaza Al Marri, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, “RTA’s support to this initiative is part of its commitment to serve the local community and the public interest through showcasing the value of volunteering efforts to the rising generations, and inculcating the sense of responsibility in university students who will steer the future development drive of our nation.

In Indonesia, the students coordinated the work with the International Volunteering Headquarters (IVHQ) and the Green Lion Bali organization.
American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted its first annual Arabian Nights event on November 18, 2015. The event highlighted and celebrated the different cultures, customs and traditions within the Arab region.

The event was opened by Dr. Björn Kjerfve and attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. Organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs, the event was also attended by various members within the AUS community including AUS faculty, staff and their families as well as crowds of students.

AUS has a very high percentage of students, faculty and staff from various Arab nations and the Arabian Nights event provided a platform where these different nationalities and their cultures and traditions could be celebrated.

Gaith Ataya, a junior majoring in chemical engineering and a member of the Syrian Cultural Club, said, “We are glad to introduce and be introduced to the different nationalities in the AUS community. It is a great way to interact and be educated about others’ traditions and customs.”

Arabian Nights showcased 10 different nationalities within the Arab World. The cultural clubs participating included the Emirati, Saudi Arabian, Bahraini, Omani, Iraqi, Palestinian, Jordanian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian Cultural Clubs.

The cultural clubs set up tents on the AUS Main Plaza where they shared aspects of their cultures through presentations, food, and performances.
Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and Community Service Office at AUS held a mini marathon as part of UAE’s 44th National Day celebrations. The event, organized in association with the Sharjah Sports Council, was held on Saturday, November 21, 2015, under the theme “44th Unity Spirit.”

With over 50 AUS volunteers who helped in organizing the event, the charity run attracted more than 1,500 participants from over 22 registered schools across Sharjah and Ajman, members of the AUS community, government departments and institutions, charity organizations in Sharjah, as well as members of the general public.

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

The event was attended by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation; Ahmad Al Ketbi, a representative from the Sharjah Sports Council; among others.

Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated the winners and expressed her satisfaction with the success of the event which was held to promote the university’s active participation in the celebrations of the 44th National Day.

Event partners and contributors of the charity marathon included Sharjah Sports Council; Government of Sharjah; Sharjah Grand Hotel; Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club; All Prints; Dunkin Donuts; Break Point Restaurant and Sharjah Cooperative Society.

Funds generated from the event will be used to support various charity initiatives at AUS.

First place winners were as follows:
- Special needs category: Mousa Hussain from Ajman Disability Club
- Girls under the age of 12 category: Munira Ahmad from Al Zuhur School
- Boys under the age of 12 category: Motaz Mohammad from Al Dawha Private School
- Girls between the age of 12 and 17 category: Safaa Jumaa from Al Maarifa International School
- Boys between the age of 12 and 17 category: Musab Ramadan from Al Shola Private School
- Women between the age of 18 and 35 category: Dalia Shady from AUS
- Men between the age of 18 and 35 category: Adel Hanfi from Al Ain
- Women between the age of 36 and 45 category: Zeinab Majid from Al Zuhur Private School
- Men between the age of 36 and 45 category: Hussain Mohammad from Al Dawha Private School
- Women above the age of 45 category: Gringe Safostin from Berlin International School
- Men above the age of 45 category: Fadel Ali Mohamad from Dubai Police.
AUS students visit Old People’s Home

In commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, American University of Sharjah (AUS) students visited Sharjah Old People’s Home on October 19. Organized by AUS Community Services, the visit aimed to give attention to a group often ignored and to share a family atmosphere with the elderly. Each student spent the two-hour visit chatting with an elderly person.

The visit included some fun games. Students also distributed gift bags containing clothes and perfumes and offered the elderly traditional sweets, karak tea and Arabic coffee. They also handed out toys to children who were also visiting from the nearby orphanage.

“This was not my first visit to the elderly house. Each time I love seeing how their eyes shine from the happiness of our visit,” said international relations student Jawhrah Al Jawead.

Mechanical engineering student Loay Farhat said, “The fact that, as humans, we still care for one another, that we still care to make others to smile, is a great feeling.”

AUS Community Services holds an event for the elderly every semester. In Fall 2014, Community Services and the Student Council brought some elderly visitors to AUS to attend a Mother’s Day celebration, and last year, they organized two visits in collaboration with the Islamic Club and the Saudi Cultural Club.

“I feel proud of our student volunteers for always remembering the senior members of the society and for spending quality time with them. These visits are highly appreciated by the elderly. They feel valued and cared for and the activities give them a break from their daily routine,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS students attend Sharjah International Children’s Film Festival

Thirty-four members of the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Filmmakers Club attended the Sharjah International Children’s Film Festival at Al Jawher Reception and Convention Center on October 22. The film festival promoted world cultures, peace, tolerance and global understanding of how people from different cultures, religions and backgrounds coexist.

“It was a great experience for our students to be exposed to international films and new media content for youth and children,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. The festival was a first of its kind in the UAE and the region. It was dedicated to enhance the media literacy of children, foster their creativity and showcase the very best in filmmaking for, by and about children and young people.

The trip to the festival was organized by the AUS Filmmakers Club, Office of Student Affairs.
AUS students create toys for orphans

Inspired by the Hand in Hand Project of renovating orphans’ homes, a group of student volunteers from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Community Services division launched the Toy Stories Initiative to create hand-stitched toys for orphans. More than 70 students participated in the first two days of the initiative, November 2–3, which was then extended until November 4 due to the overwhelming response from students. During the toy creation process, students with experience in creating and stitching toys coached other students on the step-by-step process. Using their creativity, the students created more than 60 handcrafted toys that will be presented to orphans. “I am very glad to see how our students have responded positively to this initiative,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “Our students have not only created toys but works of art that I am sure the orphans will appreciate and enjoy. I thank our students for doing a great job,” she added.

The initiative was conceptualized by a group of volunteers led by Karan Gurnani, a student majoring in finance. He was inspired by the idea of using one’s creativity, time and effort to come up with something that will be valued and appreciated. “We thank the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division for supporting this initiative and for providing all requirements and materials to make this project a success,” he said.

Due to popular student demand, Community Services is preparing to conduct the project on a weekly basis with more supplies and an expanded workshop.

AUS students present hand-stitched toys to orphans

Students from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Community Services division presented over 100 hand-stitched toys to orphans under the care of Sharjah Social Services and the Child Protection Center on December 14, 2015. Representatives from both centers expressed their sincere gratitude to the students for their efforts and the initiative’s noble cause. “We are really out of words; we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making us and our kids happy,” said a representative of Sharjah Social Services.

The toys were stitched by more than 70 AUS students over the course of two workshops held on campus. The student volunteers are part of the Toy Stories Initiative, created by students under the supervision and support of the university’s Community Services division. Through the initiative, the students aim to use their creativity, time and effort to come up with something that will be valued and appreciated by orphans.

Shruthi Sri, a student volunteer in the Toy Stories Initiative, said “It took me that one moment—witnessing the kids’ faces light up after seeing the toys—for me to realize how important the initiative was.”

Karan Gurnani, a volunteer team leader of the Toy Stories Initiative, said “It was an overwhelming feeling that validated all the hours of work we AUS students have put into this initiative.”

“It is heartwarming to see the children’s reactions when presented with our students’ creations. Their joy and smiles are more than just rewards for our students; they fulfill our students’ passion in caring, sharing and giving to those in need. I am proud of our students for creating diversified activities that benefit the less privileged members of society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) completed the renovation of an orphan’s home under the university’s Hand in Hand Project in collaboration with Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation (SSEF). The renovated house was turned over to its residents on November 1, 2015 in a simple ceremony held in Al Ghafiya, Sharjah, in the presence of AUS officials, representatives from SSEF and AUS students.

The project was launched with an intensive fundraising campaign on campus with the participation of more than 200 student volunteers collecting donations from the AUS community. In the second phase of the project, 100 students volunteered in the actual home renovation. The students took turns in the renovation work over a period of two weeks. The students worked alongside a building maintenance contractor and assisted in cleaning, painting and decorating the house. In addition to the renovation work, basic home furnishing was also provided.

“This is the ninth home improvement project that we have completed under the Hand in Hand Project in collaboration with various humanitarian organizations across the UAE. Through these projects, we aim to engage our students in social work and gain from the experience of giving back to the society. We are proud to have many students who are enthusiastic in volunteering and in helping the less privileged members of society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Hand in Hand is an award-winning project organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division. The Hand in Hand Project received the Sharjah Award for Voluntary Work in 2010 and in 2013. The initiative is aimed at improving the lives of the needy to promote a stronger society while at the same time promoting volunteerism among the youth so that they may engage in meaningful activities for the society.
The AUS Leopards brought home a number of honors from the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) Sports Cup 2015 held November 21 at GEMS Modern Academy.

AUS won first place in men’s volleyball, badminton, tennis, women’s volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball. In tennis, the AUS men won first, second and third place, while the AUS women placed second and third. The men’s soccer team also placed third.

Eighteen teams from various universities took part in this tournament, including the AUS men’s and women’s volleyball, basketball, badminton and tennis teams, and men’s soccer and cricket teams.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated all the winners and advised the team members to renew their goals in sports while maintaining a proper balance with their academic pursuits. Dr. Al Shehhi also thanked them for their hard work and dedication. “AUS is proud of you for this great achievement and all budding athletes will be motivated by your success,” she said.

American University of Sharjah (AUS) held a Breast Cancer Awareness week on campus to commemorate the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign, which aimed to raise funds and awareness of breast cancer, took place at the Student Center on campus and concluded on October 29, 2015.

Organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division and the Student Council, in collaboration with the Gastronomy Club, Women Empowerment Club, Photography Club, Student Residential Life Association and the Bahraini Cultural Club, the campaign included various fundraising activities such as hair, henna and nail polish stations, as well as photography services and food for sale.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said, “We conduct this week-long campaign on campus annually to spread breast cancer awareness among students and the AUS community. It is very important for women to be aware of the early signs of breast cancer and be knowledgeable about how to conduct self-tests. We emphasize the importance of timely screening and early detection of the disease.”

“As we encourage more students to get involved, the Student Council and student clubs responded by jointly organizing various awareness activities in addition to raising funds that will be donated to Pink Caravan for breast cancer research and for the treatment of breast cancer patients. I thank our students for their time and efforts throughout the week,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

Representatives of the Pink Caravan, a breast cancer awareness initiative by Friends of Cancer Patients, distributed informational material to raise awareness of the disease, providing instructions on how to conduct self-tests as well as highlighting the importance of early detection.

“The collaboration between the different AUS clubs is helping the community raise funds towards breast cancer research and treatment and to highlight the importance of detecting the disease in its early stages. We are very proud of the combined efforts we are putting towards this important issue,” said Aljawhara Aljuwaied, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

Leopards win at DIAC Sports Cup 2015

Student clubs collaborate for breast cancer awareness campaign
N ine teams from AUS competed at the first annual Inter-University Sports Festival hosted by the City University College of Ajman (CUCA) November 17-23. A total of 60 teams from 13 different colleges and universities participated in the week-long sports festival.

AUS teams secured first place in men’s volleyball, basketball, badminton, table tennis, and women’s basketball, while the women’s badminton, table tennis and volleyball teams came in second.

The tournament started with men’s badminton, with the AUS team beating BITS Pilani for the first time in seven years to claim first place. The men’s volleyball team also won first place by fighting its way to victory against their Sharjah rivals, University of Sharjah, in the final. The tournament ended with the men’s and women’s basketball teams crushing their opponents in the finals to claim first place.

The prize distribution and award ceremony was held on November 23 and CUCA President Imran Khan and Vice Chancellor Dr. Mohamed Amerah distributed the medals and trophies to the winners during the closing ceremony.

OSA used book sale starts off semester

I n order to support various charitable initiatives, the Community Services division of the AUS Office of Student Affairs organized a used book sale at the Student Center. The campaign started on the first day of classes on September 6, and continued until September 10, with over 30 student volunteers in assistance. The volunteers collected more than 1,200 books donated by the dorm residents, the AUS Library and the AUS community.

The used book sale was quite successful, with students happy to find the books that they needed at a very reasonable price and knowing that their contributions were going to charity. Merna Elmedany, an international studies junior and a volunteer said, “The book sale is a great opportunity to mingle with new students while working for a noble cause such as gathering donations for charitable projects.”

According to Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, “The used book sale is one of the pioneer events of our Community Services division and it continues to be successful year after year. This effort provides multifaceted results: our students benefit from low-cost books, contributions go to charity and we help save the environment by reusing books instead of throwing them away. It has become a tradition to launch this campaign at the start of each semester. I thank our student volunteers for their efforts during the entire week. With their help, a good amount of books were collected and sold.”

The proceeds of this event will be used for various charity initiatives and unsold books will be donated to charity organizations.
Four students from the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) participated in the Public Health Think Tank Conference (PHTT) at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) held October 30–31, 2015 at the NYUAD Saadiyat Campus.

The 2015 Public Health Think Tank is a student-led initiative that aims to unite local university students to increase public health awareness in the UAE and to solve a problem of great societal importance. At PHTT 2015, students worked to devise public health interventions against obesity among children and adolescents, possibly one of the most pressing public health issues in the UAE today.

The event began with renowned speakers addressing the delegates about obesity, after which they were placed into teams to analyze the problem and develop new interventions to tackle the issue. Finally the teams were asked to present their ideas and the event concluded with the judges declaring the winners.

“The weekend spent at NYUAD was an extremely memorable one. The speakers there shed new light on the issue of obesity and made us look at the problem in a different perspective,” said Osman Bin Omar, a junior majoring in finance. “I have benefited a lot from all the speakers and participants and have learned various ways obesity can be tackled. This is very important to me as I plan to do social work after graduating and this is why I was motivated to join.”

“I was keen to attend this conference because I wanted to take a small step to tackle the nationwide issue of obesity. My team proposed the idea of implementing mandatory after-school fitness and educational programs at public schools, which won the second place at the competition,” said Shruthy Jayakrishnan, a sophomore student majoring in economics.

“We are delighted to hear that our students benefited from their participation in the conference. This is the second year we have taken part in the conference, and since this year the topic tackled obesity among children and adolescents, it was crucial for our students to be part of this initiative. Congratulations to the AUS team for securing second prize in the competition,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Leopards shine at AURAK soccer tournament

The AUS men’s soccer team overwhelmed the competition during the first American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) Indoor University Soccer Tournament, which took place at AURAK December 16-17, with 10 participating universities. AUS cruised all the way to the final by beating their opponents easily by a minimum of five goals, with a 10–3 victory against the hosts in the finals.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated all winners and said, “It is crucial for our athletes to meet with others across the UAE to gain more experience and enhance their talents.” In addition, she expressed her gratitude to all AUS teams for their many achievements in the fall semester.
The fourth Manipal Sports Festival, held November 22-30 at Manipal University in Dubai, was a huge success for the 14 participating AUS sports teams, of which eight teams won first place, and one team placed second. In first place were the men’s and women’s track and field; men’s basketball, soccer, badminton, table tennis and tennis teams; and the women’s volleyball team. The women’s basketball team came in second place.

The tournament kicked off on November 22 with the AUS men’s and women’s track and field teams dominating their opponents to win first place in the university category. Next, the men’s soccer team beat Herriot Watt 2-0 in the finals and claimed first place. Following that, the men’s badminton, table tennis, tennis and women’s volleyball teams cruised their way to first place, respectively.

In basketball, the AUS team faced their rivals, University of Sharjah, and won while the women’s basketball fell short in the final against University of Sharjah and placed second.

At the awards ceremony, the AUS teams were celebrated as leaders in the university sports arena and for winning the overall championship.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, expressed how impressed she was with the overall performance of the AUS sports teams and gave credit to the players as well as the coaches for performing so well even after a hectic month that featured four major tournaments.

“I am very proud of the student athletes and all they have accomplished this semester not only on the court or field, but also off of it, maintaining a successful balance between academics and athletics,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

The American University of Sharjah (AUS) women’s swimming team placed first at the University of Sharjah Union Sports Day 2015 Swimming Competition against teams from University of Sharjah and the Ajman University of Science and Technology. Winners included Nour Attia, Cyndi Faber and Danya Khafaga, who secured first place in the 50 meter backstroke, butterfly and freestyle races, respectively. Danya Khafaga and Cyndi Faber secured second place in the 50 meter breaststroke, and freestyle, while Rawan Salah placed third in 50 meter breaststroke.

In the 4x50 meter medley relay, AUS swimmers kept their archrivals, University of Sharjah, well behind and earned first place.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the AUS swimmers for winning the championship once again. Dr. Al Shehhi also praised the team for its consistent performances and for maintaining such a high standard, both in and out of the pool.
The transition from high school to university can be challenging, but the Peer Leaders at AUS make it an easier process for new students.

In preparation for the Fall Semester 2015 Orientation, 70 returning AUS students attended the Peer Leaders Program’s training workshop on August 27, organized by the AUS Student Leadership Program.

The Peer Leaders Program is based on the core principle that peers strongly influence the development of attitude and behaviors of one another. The main role of the Peer Leaders is to ease the transition of new students from high school to university life by being their role models, guides, mentors and friends. During orientation, each Peer Leader adopts two to five new students and aims to help them easily adapt to university life. In addition to benefiting freshmen, the program helps the Peer Leaders enhance their leadership and interpersonal skills.

“My experience as a peer leader was exhilarating. I learned to take action when I see others lost or confused, and it motivated me to continue pursuing this, not only in an event such as orientation. By helping others, it brings up a feeling like no other, a feeling of immense joy and worthiness, which is what peer leading is all about,” said Ayatollah Yehia, junior student majoring in civil engineering.

“I have learned that we must put ourselves in other’s shoes in order to help them. Peer leading is a great experience because you get to deal with so many people; it helps you expand your horizons. Overall, being a Peer Leader makes me feel proud to represent myself as a hardworking, dedicated and helpful AUS student to the new freshmen and their parents,” said Dima Khalayli, sophomore student majoring in multimedia design.

“The Peer Leaders Program is one of our most popular programs. We are pleased to see students enthusiastic about helping freshmen transition into university life. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Peer Leaders and Team Leaders for their hard work and dedication,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Students from the AUS Korean Cultural Club attended the Korean Food Festival held October 11 at the Address Hotel, Dubai Marina. Organized by the Consulate General of Korea in Dubai, the festival was aimed at introducing Korean culture and food to the UAE community. Famous Korean restaurants and cafes participated in the event, which included food sampling and cooking classes.

During the event, the students were introduced to many Korean dishes, both modern and traditional and were taught how to prepare some of these dishes. In addition, the students also watched traditional Korean dances including buchaechum, a fan dance, and samgu-mo, a drum dance.

“It was a great experience for our students to learn and experience Korean culture and food right here in the UAE. We encourage our students to take advantage of the many cross-cultural learning opportunities through events and activities offered by the Office of Student Affairs and those in partnership with private and governmental entities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Students take part in Bahrain Model United Nations 2015

Two students from the Student Leadership Program represented American University of Sharjah (AUS) at the 11th Annual Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN) 2015, held November 26–27, 2015 in Al Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. At the event, AUS students had the opportunity to gain experience in public speaking, negotiation, research and debating and learned more about international affairs. Students prepared extensive research about their appointed countries in order to understand the political, social and economic status, which gave them a unique opportunity to learn about different perspectives, views, beliefs, values and cultures of various nations.

“I am honored to have taken part in Bahrain Universities Model United Nations 2015. From this experience, I have learned so much about the significance of strategic relations between countries and how important it is to work as a team in order to benefit the individual countries and the world as a whole,” said Farah Al Sayegh, a senior student majoring in chemical engineering. “I was skillfully trained to resolve conflicts in a diplomatic manner. I also managed to enhance my public speaking and debating skills and I learned how to speak up and express my viewpoint in a respectful manner. I believe the lessons I have acquired from this experience have helped me grow as a person, where it developed my interpersonal and communication skills and boosted my confidence level, and I will carry these lessons with me throughout my life.”

“BUMUN has been a wonderful regional MUN experience and we have been pleased by the outcome and feedback received from students over the years. We encourage more students to get involved in SLP and take advantage of the opportunities provided to them,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

Leopards place first at BITS Pilani Sports Festival 2015

The AUS men’s and women’s basketball teams completely dominated the BITS Pilani Sports Festival 2015, held December 6-9 at the BITS-Pilani Dubai campus, winning first place. This is the fourth tournament in which the AUS men’s basketball team has won first place, and the women’s basketball team placed first in three of the last four tournaments.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the winners. “We are very happy at your great achievement during this competition, and today’s win is a stepping stone in targeting more glory in upcoming competitions,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.
Five students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) took part in the One Young World Summit, held November 18-21, in Bangkok, Thailand. The summit was the seventh one held since its inception in 2010.

The One Young World Summit is a valuable gathering of global and national companies, NGOs, universities and other forward-thinking organizations and individuals. Delegates from 196 countries around the world formulate and share innovative solutions for important issues facing the world. They make commitments to undertake tangible actions which they aim to carry out in the following years. The summit is a groundbreaking event that offers decision-makers a powerful insight into critical global issues affecting the younger generations.

The summit addressed a wide variety of topics which included human rights, refugee rights, environment and sustainability, disability, education, and global business and energy. In addition, the delegates had the opportunity to learn more about Thai culture, initiatives by the youth in Thailand, the ASEAN forum and volunteering in the region. Delegates also had the opportunity to attend internal and external sessions which broadened their understanding of particular subjects and enabled them to interact with delegates and professionals from different fields.

“The Student Leadership Program at AUS has been participating in the One Young World Summit since 2013,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. “Our delegates come back with unparalleled motivation and willingness to make a positive change in their communities. We believe that the young generation is the driving force towards development, sustainability and influence. The summit is a cornerstone in identifying current global issues that they need to address, understand, measure and resolve. They are the leaders of the future and the hope for a better world,” she added.

“The One Young World Summit 2015 was an amazing opportunity for me to learn and grow as an individual,” said Alya Almaazmi, an electrical engineering sophomore and the UAE flag-bearer at the summit’s opening ceremony. “The sessions were extremely eye opening and motivating, as they encouraged me to view things from an entirely different perspective. I was able to meet new people from across the globe. I realized that no matter how big the world is and no matter the differences, we are able to overcome everything and anything by simply joining forces and believing in one another. Unity is power.”
AUS student delivers speech at Visions2Reality conference

American University of Sharjah (AUS) student Alya Alhazami, a member of the AUS Student Leadership Program, was a speaker at the Visions2Reality (V2R) conference held on November 2, 2015 at the Dubai World Trade Center.

Visions2Reality is a knowledge sharing conference where business leaders from award-winning organizations shared exclusive insights on the entire major thrust areas of business excellence: strategic planning, business management, process excellence, customer relationship enhancement and corporate social responsibility.

The conference also featured presentations by renowned keynote speakers and provided a platform for discussions with experts from multiple industries.

"V2R was a very enriching and humbling experience," said Alya Alhazami, a sophomore student majoring in international studies, who delivered a speech entitled "Navigating Diversity."

"Being chosen as a youth representative of the UAE after rigorous auditioning processes was rewarding. I spoke about diversity in the UAE, and related it to how it can help human existence flourish. I made sure to include our rulers in the speech, as they are a huge inspiration to everything I do and achieve," said Alhazami.

"The competition was rigorous and we are very pleased to have our student chosen from among a pool of speakers to deliver a speech at the conference. The conference provided a better understanding about best practices in leadership, strategy and people management. We thank Sharjah Islamic Bank for giving our students the opportunity to take part in the conference and look forward to future collaboration," said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The conference was organized by Sharjah Islamic Bank, SIB Academy and Department of Economic Development.

SLP students participate in Mubadala Youth Forum

Fifteen students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the Mubadala Youth Forum 2015 on October 7, 2015, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC).

Themed “From College to Career,” the forum was created to raise awareness about the education and career pathways available for young nationals across the UAE. The forum’s panelists included renowned Emirati leaders from various backgrounds and organizations in the UAE, such as Aerospace and Engineering Services, Human Capital and Real Estate and Infrastructure at Mubadala; Emirates Defense Industries Company (EDIC); the Terrestrial Biodiversity Environment Agency; and the Tourism and Culture Authority Abu Dhabi. The forum was followed by a workshop that focused on the skills and knowledge needed for the transition from college to workplace. Participants took part in exercises highlighting critical thinking, verbal reasoning, team building, open communication and problem solving.

“The forum touched on significant skills pertaining to teamwork and leadership. It was very motivating to interact with successful Emirati leaders in various sectors and businesses. It encouraged us to work hard to leave a positive impression on our community and society,” said Aljawhara Aljuwaied, a sophomore student majoring in international relations.

“It is essential for our students to take part in such forums where they learn more about their career path and potential opportunities. Interacting with experts and leaders in various fields is very important for students to better understand and prepare for the job market. It also helps the students identify and develop the skills they need most," said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.
Five students from the Office of Students Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) attended a summer school program at Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland, July 20–August 15, 2015. The program is designed to challenge and expand the participants’ intellectual skills and to provide them with the knowledge and skills required for active leadership for the 21st century.

Sixty female students from the UAE, Egypt and Malaysia participated in the summer program. Participating AUS students were Budoor Al Khaja, Ayesha Al Hashmi, Sara Ismail, Nada Matter and Fatma Al Khaja.

“This was a life changing experience for me; it helped me look at the world from a different perspective by learning about different cultures, from the UK to Malaysia and Egypt,” said Ayesha Al Hashmi, an AUS student majoring in marketing. “It opened my mind to the diverse opinions of others and their ways of living. We went as strangers and came back as sisters with memories that will never be forgotten. I’m really grateful to have been part of this journey and to have the opportunity to gain this amazing experience.”

According to Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, “Al Maktoum College Summer School Program is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their leadership abilities and cultural understanding. We are delighted to continue to send students biannually to Al Maktoum College and look forward to future collaboration.”
American University of Sharjah (AUS) students, in collaboration with the Student Leadership Program, held the local round of the Hult Prize Competition on campus recently for the first time ever. Sheikha Jameela Al Qassimi, Vice President of Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Sharjah and Director of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, attended the competition as a member of the judging panel.

Run in partnership with former US President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative, the Hult Prize has created the world’s largest student movement and crowd sourcing platform dedicated to solving the most pressing social challenges on the planet. The local competition gives the university’s winning team the chance to bypass the general application round and fast-track into one of the five regional finals: Boston, San Francisco, London, Shanghai or Dubai. Winners of the Hult Prize final challenge will receive US$1 million.

A total of 14 AUS student teams competed to tackle the topic of crowded urban places and improvements for people living in these areas. Each team had a total of six minutes to do a presentation, followed by a discussion between the judges and the student teams. The Hult Prize competition is run entirely by student directors on each participating campus. It encourages students to play a vital role in resolving the world’s toughest challenges, starting in their own communities.

“The Hult Prize is a student-led initiative which has great sense of responsibility behind it. Our students have worked endlessly and we thank the judges for encouraging our youth to better society,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The winners of the AUS competition were Simran Chowdhry (economics), Venkata Saicharan Thatipamula (chemical engineering), Kartik Radder (management information systems) and Gopika Venugopal (chemical engineering).

In addition to Sheikha Jameela, the judging panel included Marwan Al Sarkal, CEO of Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq); Dr. Yousef Assaf, President of RIT Dubai, Rochester Institute of Technology; Dr. Sameh Elmedany, Head of Radiology Department, Al Baraha Hospital, Ministry of Health; Essa Alzaabi, Senior Vice President–Institutional Support Services at Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Abdulla Baqer, Senior Advisor to the Chairman, I.C.A.F.E- IGO, (Intergovernmental Collaborative Action Fund for Excellence, Intergovernmental organization sponsored by the United Nations); Danish Farhan, Founder and CEO of Xische and Co. (nominated one of the most nine influential entrepreneurs of Dubai); Alissar Nasr Soubra, Chief Academic Officer of AMSI, (Academic Management Solutions International); Azza Sayed Al-Hashimi, Corporate Affairs Manager and Automotive Corporate at Al-Futtaim Automotive Group; Anas Bukhash, Emirati entrepreneur who co-founded Ahdaaf Sports Club and Bukhash Brothers; Dr. Raymond H. Hamden, Director of the Human Relations Institute and Clinics in Dubai; Khalid Al Mulla, Founder and President of Group 63; Mudassir Nagaria, Manager of Corporate Leadership Development, Quality and Standards along with Strategic Commercial Sales Initiative departments at Emirates Airlines.
A group of students from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Multicultural Learning Program visited the newly renovated Sharjah Al Hisn Fort Museum on October 20, 2015. The visit was organized in collaboration with Sharjah Museums Department as part of the program's UAE Cultural Trip Series aimed at introducing students to the local culture, heritage and history.

The students were welcomed in a traditional Arabic style setting called majlis by specialists from the Sharjah Museums Department who introduced the students to the UAE culture, customs and traditions through an interactive cultural awareness session. The students then visited the museum’s different sections where they learned about the modern history of Sharjah, the ruling family, the history of the fort, the defense methods used back then and Sharjah’s everyday life 200 years ago. Located in the heart of Sharjah, Sharjah Fort was built in 1823 and was considered as the emirate’s government headquarters and the residence of the Al Qawasim ruling family.

“We at AUS have a highly diverse student body comprising of more than 90 nationalities. Through the multicultural program, we aim to enhance the cultural awareness of our students by engaging them in cultural learning experiences. The UAE Cultural Trip Series educates students about the UAE culture, heritage, and its development throughout history,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

AUS students attend Host Cities Summit in Dubai

US students attended the fourth edition of the Host Cities Summit held by Emirates Airlines at Fairmont the Palm, Dubai, on November 19. Host Cities is the largest industry summit held in the Middle East. The theme this year was “Embracing Future Events,” and it explored how the hosting strategies of cities today will shape the cities of tomorrow.

“We attended the second day of Host Cities Summit and the panels were highly interactive,” said Mahnoor Mehmood, a senior student majoring in accounting. “The discussions were sports-related and my favorite panel was on ‘Women in Sport.’ We also had the opportunity to network with the panelists and various other important people to discuss issues. It was a great experience overall,” she added.

“This was a good opportunity for our students to meet and network with individuals who work on strategies to best serve our communities. Students were inspired by many of the speakers at the summit and learned how determination is the key to success,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The trip was organized by the Office of Student Affairs.
Resident students were engaged in a variety of events held both on and off campus during fall semester.

Orientation sessions were arranged for new resident students to convey the important issues related to our community living environment, and other OSA units were invited to disseminate useful information to the students. These sessions were conducted in two locations on September 6 and 7 to cover all the dormitories.

Female resident students conducted orientation sessions for the SRLD Similar Interest Group (SIG) program in the residential halls between September 17 and October 14. The aim was to provide learning-based activities in the residential halls.

The Similar Interest Groups (SIG) Introductory session in EF Women dorm was held on September 15. More events were held at the end of the semester, the first being the CD Women’s Dorm SIG Awareness about Breast Cancer and Hygiene Awareness program in EF Women’s dorm. The other was the exciting Edutainment Challenge for Time Management and Leadership event organized by KL Men’s Dorm.

The interdormitory sports and recreational tournament was initiated on September 21 for men and women residents to provide extra-curricular activities as a healthy pastime during their stay on campus. This included 7-a-side football tournament on October 6. The much-awaited SRLD 7-a-side soccer finals were held at the AUS Sports Field four weeks after the knockout round of the tournament. The event brought together some 40 participants in four teams and a good crowd of supporters. The closing sports ceremony took place in the Sports Complex, where winners in the different tournaments and disciplines were awarded prizes.

On November 9, some 75 residents of AB Women’s Dorm also gathered in their garden for a Special International Night, Multicultural Night function. This provided an opportunity for the residents to showcase unique characteristics of the cultures they come from through a variety of activities.

A truly noteworthy event was the Diabetes Day Awareness Event organized by AB Women’s Dorm and attended by some 50 residents of the dorm on November 11. This function came at the most appropriate time as diabetes has grown to become a dominant health problem.

In preparation for the men’s dorms graduating students’ farewell party, the Resident Idol initiative was again involved to prepare entertainment activities for the event. The graduating party for the women’s dorms was held on November 10 bringing together over 90 residents. The event for resident men was held on November 17 and was attended by some 100 students.

On November 24, AB Women’s Dorm in collaboration with other women’s dorms hosted an outing for over 40 students to Global Village.

Many other activities were also held in various dorms, such as a cooking class and yoga and Zumba workout sessions.

It was a truly eventful fall semester in which most resident students remained actively involved in diverse sporting, cultural and recreational activities. There is ample evidence of a growing awareness among the residents that university is more than just books, classes and assignments.
Echoes

Echoes reflects student opinions about the services offered by the Office of Student Affairs. The section provides an opportunity for students to express their views and experiences with student extracurricular activities at AUS.

Shahdan Barakat, Junior, Visual Communication
This year, the First World Inter Universities Championships had a high level of competition. Our AUS women’s table tennis team and I did our best, and our overall scores got us second place. We enjoyed the experience, and we will keep working hard to achieve better results in the future. I would like to thank everyone who helped us get to where we are today.

Mishails Balonuskovs, Freshman, Management Information Systems
I truly enjoyed the trip to the First World Inter Universities Championships in Rome. The AUS team spirit was great. Everyone cheered for each other, we were united and it was great to be a part of the team. The level of the tournament was very high, and it was good to compete against challenging players from other universities and win second place.

Cyndi Faber, Sophomore, Biology
I am one of many who were lucky enough to be invited to participate in the 1st World Inter Universities Championships sports tournament. It was an incredible journey where I got to experience top sportsmanship. I have realized how honorable it actually is to have had such an opportunity, to show what I am capable of and that I truly respect not just this, but any sport.

Talmir Ishmukhametov, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
The trip to the 1st World Inter Universities Championships was one of the brightest events in my life. Our teams prepared hard to perform on the highest level as there were many participants. It was very nice to feel the positive spirit among the AUS delegation. The competition was very challenging because there were professionally skilled swimmers but we managed to win the gold.

Marawan El-Bardicy, Sophomore, Electrical Engineering
It was a great experience participating and winning the first place at the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) Sports Cup and City University College of Ajman (CUCA) Sports Festival. Winning or losing the fixtures is not everything; it is important to act as a team and support each other. Sharing those moments together, on and off the court, makes my years here at AUS much more pleasant.

Aleksandar Milanovic, Sophomore, Accounting
It was amazing to be part of the DIAC, CUCA and the Manipal Sports Festival Tournament. I am happy to say that we won all of them. Our basketball team showed great teamwork to accomplish these achievements, and we are obviously building up our team spirit as the season goes by. Surely, if we continue working hard, we will be able to bring back more trophies to AUS.

Hams Alwalid, Senior, Chemical Engineering
I am grateful as the team captain of the women’s basketball team to have been able to participate in the CUCA, DIAC, and Manipal tournaments and be able to carry the gold cup not once but twice. My dedication to this team allows me to excel and motivate my teammates, and I aim for a prosperous future for this team always.

Sumayya Taha, Senior, Finance
As part of the AUS women’s volleyball team, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to compete in CUCA, DIAC, and Manipal 2015 sports tournaments this semester. The tournaments featured teams from all around the UAE competing fiercely in their respective sports. We won second place in CUCA, and first place in DIAC and Manipal.
Hanan Arab, Junior, International Studies
The Peer Leaders Program is a great way to welcome new students. It is the Peer Leaders’ duty to help bridge the gap between high school and university for the new students. I recall when I was a freshman, I was very intrigued by the Peer Leaders and I aspired to join them one day.

Hashim Noor, Junior, Computer Science
Taking part in the One Young World 2015 Summit was a riveting experience. I had the opportunity to interact with countless young leaders who are playing an active role in transforming the lives of people around them. These experiences have instilled in me a drive to work for social welfare and never have I been more passionate about the spirit of ‘giving back’ to the community.

Mina Mazin, Senior, Marketing
As a returning ambassador, I was very excited to reconnect with the One Young World community and engage with the counselors on how young people can have a role in fighting the most pressing issues of our generation. I am currently focused on how to empower young people to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the region.

Carl Constantin Werner, Sophomore, Economics
It was an amazing feeling to be able to represent AUS in the DIAC Cup 2015 and to win gold, silver and bronze for the Leopards in the men’s individual tennis. The following week felt even better to win first place as a team in the Manipal Sports Festival Tournament and beating the hosts in the final. It was just an overall awesome experience.

Mohamad Elsayed, Sophomore, Computer Science
The soccer team has been training hard from the beginning of the semester. The chemistry between the players is improving day by day and the team’s unity is developing really well. The DIAC tournament was very competitive and challenging. The players were focused and we were aiming to win first place; however, we were very close to our goal as we came in third place.

Priyanka Soni, Sophomore, Interior Design
The entire experience at CUCA was amazing. When we represent AUS at other universities, we understand the true value of teamwork and friendship, and a true sense of collective belonging emerges within the team as a whole. It’s also a great opportunity for us to gain a measure of the standard of the sport (badminton) throughout the country and it encourages us to practice harder.

Swati Ganeshani, Junior, Biology
Earlier in the semester, my teammates and I attended two tennis competitions: the DIAC and Manipal tournaments. The tournaments were great opportunities to not only enhance our tennis skills by playing with a variety of tennis athletes, but also a chance to meet new people. I also achieved the third place in DIAC where my teammate Nour got the second place.

Rishabh Bafna, Senior, Finance
I strongly believe that the tournaments at CUCA, DIAC and Manipal were the most memorable for me as well as the entire men’s badminton team in the last four years. Though we faced stiff competition, we were the champions at all three tournaments.

Al Jawhara Al Juwaied, Sophomore, International Relations
Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN) makes everyone participating in it act diplomatic and makes us all work together to find resolutions that would possibly pass, knowing that each decision we make has many implications. MUN also teaches leadership skills and ways to convince others if a point that was made is valid or not.

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Seventy-four athletes from AUS participated in the First World Inter-Universities Championships, held in Rome, Italy from November 12-15. More than 1,800 athletes representing 55 universities from 24 countries competed for supremacy in various sports, displaying their extraordinary talents.

The AUS men and women athletes put on spectacular performances in various sports disciplines in the highly competitive events. AUS teams participated in men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, swimming, table tennis and men’s soccer.

AUS swimmers lifted the swimming crown and ruled the pool in Rome overcoming some stiff competition from nine renowned universities with highly talented swimmers. AUS men and women swimmers together achieved five gold, eight silver and 11 bronze medals to be declared the overall champions at the tournament.

Talimir Ishmukhametov of the AUS men’s swimming team distinguished himself by winning two gold and two silver medals followed by Ahmed Eladel with one gold, three silver and one bronze, while Taher Arafa won one gold and two silver medals. Amr Mohamed won gold in freestyle and silver in medley relays. In the men’s 4x50 meter freestyle relay AUS swimmers thrilled the spectators with a photo finish and clinched gold. They won silver in the 4x50 meter medley relay.

AUS women swimmers including Danya Khafaga, Cyndi Faber, Razan Al Khamis, Roseanne Aqel and Fatemah Habib won bronze in both the freestyle and medley. Razan Al Khamis and Danya Khafaga won bronze medals in 50 meter freestyle and 50 meter butterfly respectively.

In the table tennis competition, the AUS men’s and women’s players were placed with reputed national-level players from the Czech Republic and China but fought well to achieve second place. Mihails Balonuskoks and Ahmad Abdelhadi represented AUS in the men’s category while Shailee Vipul Kothari and Shahdan Barakat played in the women’s category. AUS won 4 silver medals in singles and doubles together in this competition.

AUS athletes departed Italy with an overall medal tally of 28 including 5 gold, 12 silver and 11 bronze medals.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the athletes on their return and appreciated their valuable contributions. Dr. Al Shehhi pledged her support and assistance to the AUS athletes in fulfilling their athletic goals along with their studies and thanked them for the effort and dedication in keeping the AUS flag flying in the international sports arena.

The AUS team was accompanied by Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation, along with several coaches in the various sports disciplines.