Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, AUS held its 10th Global Day 2008 festival on April 3 and 4. The theme of this year’s festival was “Peace throughout the world,” which epitomizes the harmony and peace pervasive in the multicultural environment of AUS.

His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the two-day student event in the presence of senior government officials and Dr. Winfred Thompson, Chancellor of AUS as well as Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor...
The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs’ Column

As the academic year ends, it makes me feel proud to see our students excel both academically and in co-curricular activities. The honors and achievements of our students demonstrate their hard work and dedication. One achievement is that of our athletic teams leading in the intercollegiate sports arena. Our student-athletes are actively involved in competitions and have received many honors from major tournaments nationwide. Internationally, they represented AUS in Greece and competed with eight other American universities and colleges in the Second International Sports Festival, where the men’s soccer team won the champion’s trophy. Another milestone is the hosting of the 10th AUS Global Day. This year’s event drew an even larger crowd than last year’s to join the AUS community in celebrating this colorful festival. Many AUS student organizations received honors during the year for their participation in various events. Community Services continued to promote awareness programs and hosted charitable campaigns, while the AUS Diplomats supported on- and off-campus events and attended special gatherings and conferences. This year has been successful and rewarding for everyone. I wish you all continued accomplishment and good luck to all graduating students.

Student Activities

Student Council Election 2008

The AUS Student Council election was held on May 8 at the Student Center. The day-long event witnessed a large number of students casting their votes and expressing the right to choose their representatives. Yahya Ahmed Amiri, a mechanical engineering student, was elected as the President of the AUS Student Council for 2008–2009. Yahya is an active student involved in several student clubs and a member of the AUS basketball team. He has previously served a term on the AUS Student Council.

Prior to the election, the candidates were actively involved in campaigning and informing the student body about their platforms and agendas. The election reflects AUS’ support in promoting student government and its commitment to enhance student life on campus. The following students were declared winners in this year’s elections:

**Executive Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Yahya Ahmed Amiri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Esam Hasan Al Murawwi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President for Public Relations</td>
<td>Siraj Kamal Merghalani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Hina Sajid Raja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sabjot Singh Sahni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Committee Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events and Activities Coordinator</td>
<td>Abdalla Mohd Hamadeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics and Sports Coordinator</td>
<td>Ahmed Bassam Saymeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Media Coordinator</td>
<td>Lamis El Hamy Abdel Latif</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**College Coordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Adraa Mohamed Bennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>Kamal Ishaq Al Mazam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Architecture and Design</td>
<td>Saba Hossein Jaberolansar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Business and Management</td>
<td>Max Hayward Stanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive English Program</td>
<td>Kareem Samir Al Fares</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
for Public Affairs; Dr. John Mosbo, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mr. George DeBin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; and other senior university officials.

A lively multicultural festival, Global Day is planned by students with the help of OSA Student Activities, in spring semester every year. The first event, which was a humble cultural celebration, took place in Spring Semester 1998 in the university’s first academic year. Since then, more and more effort has been exerted yearly by the students and OSA Student Activities, to boost the dimensions of this biggest event at AUS.

At its 10th anniversary, and as it has been significantly developed, this year’s Global Day featured more than 29 student cultural clubs and organizations representing UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Algeria, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Bangladesh, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, USA, Russia, Afghanistan, and Kazakhstan. Other student clubs participating included Power Hit Radio, the Islamic Cultural Club and the Student Council. In addition to AUS Cultural Clubs, organizations such as Sharjah Charity International, Al Thiqah Club for the Handicapped, and Sharjah Police and Traffic Department took part and sensitized the public on social, health, safety, controlled substance abuse and its adverse effects, and more thought provoking issues.

Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS)

AUS Career Fair 2008: “Explore the World of Opportunities Where People and Jobs Meet”

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, AUS held its Fifth Annual Career Fair 2008 on March 31. This year’s theme
was “Explore the World of Opportunities Where People and Jobs Meet,” which symbolizes the commitment of Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS) to facilitate the meeting of high-caliber employers with alumni and students.

The Career Fair was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Esam Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, in the presence of Dr. Winfred Thompson, Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Dr. John Mosbo, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mr. George DeBin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; and other senior university officials.

This event was organized to help talented alumni and graduating students locate promising careers with reputed companies in a variety of sectors. Some 106 major local and international companies, such as DIFC, Emaar, Nakheel, Amana, Istithmar, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Mouchel, P&G and Unilever, had the opportunity to tap the rich talent pool emerging from AUS. Prior to the fair, presentations and workshops were held to address issues related to employment and human resources practices, intending to provide students the required competitive edge.

At the fair, students and alumni met with recruitment managers and human resource officials from private sector companies and government departments to gain in-depth knowledge on the nature of specific job profiles as well as training opportunities. Sponsors and participants were impressed by the quality of our event organization and the practical knowledge, expertise and potential of our students.

Participants expressed that they would continue investing in human capital through AUS, as our graduates have excellent educational backgrounds and professional skills. In addition, the fair provided the right venue to compare the corporate organizational capabilities with students’ skills.

The feedback and the substantial number of job offers received after the event was a great indicator of the success of the fair.

Study Abroad Department

Responsibilities of the Study Abroad Department

In the previous edition of Insight, we promoted the International Student Exchange Program, which helps students who wish to have an academic experience that incorporates intercultural exchanges, international studies and international experiences.

In this edition, we note that the study abroad responsibilities are now centralized under the Study Abroad Department, which reports to the Office of Student Affairs and coordinates with the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Academic Affairs. This simplifies the procedures for students from abroad who are applying to AUS as well as AUS students who want to study abroad.
The Study Abroad Department manages the following:

**International Student Exchange Program (ISEP):**
AUS has exchange agreements with a number of institutions. This program helps both AUS students interested in studying at these institutions and students from these institutions who want to study at AUS. The ISEP is only applicable for fall and spring semesters.

**Visiting Students:** These are students from any non-ISEP university who want to take courses at AUS. A visiting student is one who is not formally admitted to AUS but is allowed to take courses at AUS for transfer back to his/her home institution. This option is available for fall and spring semesters as well as summer term.

**AUS Study Abroad Students:** These are AUS students who want to spend a fall or spring semester at an accepted university that is not part of the ISEP.

**Summer Courses Abroad**
AUS students interested in taking courses at different universities during summer must submit the Permissions to Take Courses Outside AUS form to the Office of the Registrar. If they need assistance with visa and all other issues, they can contact the Study Abroad Department.

**What study abroad students say**

**James Abyad** is from American University (AU) in Washington, DC. He is one of six students from AU studying at AUS this semester.

Describe briefly the main highlights of your visit to AUS, Sharjah and the UAE.
Most important are the great people I’ve been able to meet and the lifelong friends I’ve been able to make. Living in the dorms is great because you get to spend a lot of time with friends that live here. Another highlight is the number of people from different cultures. The Desert Safari was amazing! Global Day was a lot of fun and bigger than expected. You need to meet someone that has a car.

What would you say to students in your home country planning to study abroad at AUS?
Arabic is not a necessity. Rules here are stricter than any other university I have seen. The curfew can be frustrating; I don’t like how you cannot have visiting students, and they are a little bit harder on the girls than on the guys. AUS and the United Arab Emirates is a great place for American students to study. It introduces the average American to all types of Arab and Islamic cultures that you may not be able to receive in many parts in the US.

**Community Services Division**

**Volunteers and Diplomats enjoy Umm Al Quwain beach trip**
Community Services organized a trip to the Umm Al Quwain Beach Hotel for its volunteers and AUS Diplomats on April 19. Activities included volleyball, football and swimming as well as a barbeque. Music kept people’s spirits high and energized throughout the trip, and everyone sang while having lots of fun being together. The trip was organized to show appreciation for student volunteers’ efforts during the year.
More on mediation services

Mediation is an attempt to reconcile. Mediation services are offered through the Judicial Affairs Department of the Office of Student Affairs. It may sound ironic for Judicial Affairs, which applies sanctions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, to offer peaceful mediation services, but we hope to strike a balance.

Students deal with internal and interpersonal conflicts daily, and numerous examples can be cited that invariably lead to frustration, disputes, bad mouthing, misunderstandings and many other ill effects that affect group work, academic performance and relationships. To “nip the problem in its bud,” dialogue is essential between two parties. This is when the mediators play a vital role.

What is the outcome of mediation?

1. Student conflicts are resolved by applying alternative problem-solving techniques.
2. Positive thinking is inculcated in students, and they learn to tolerate team members, fellow students, and the cultures and traditions of people around them.
3. Student’s personal relationships improve as they learn to communicate better.
4. Actual violence and disciplinary actions decrease.
5. Students learn problem-solving and active listening skills.
6. Students who use mediation services assume responsibility for resolving conflicts and learn the consequences of their decisions.
7. Students are trained by professionals and involved in facilitating the mediation process.
8. Students are able to contribute to the community.

Mediation services benefit both students and the entire AUS community by establishing harmonious relationships. We ask the AUS community to support these efforts by referring students for mediation by writing to us at judicialaffairs@aus.edu.

Learning and Counseling

Family therapy services now available for students

Learning and Counseling Services (LCS) now offers the AUS community a new clinical program in family therapy.

Family therapy is a type of psychotherapy that helps families or individuals within a family understand and improve the way family members interact with each other and resolve conflicts. It is often a short-term therapy. Participants usually attend one session a week, typically for three to five months.

Family therapy can help students with such issues as:
- eating disorders, such as anorexia or bulimia
- substance abuse
- depression or bipolar disorder
- chronic health problems, such as asthma or cancer
- grief, loss and trauma
- work stress
- difficulties with school
- emotional abuse or violence
- financial problems

The main purpose of family therapy is to resolve a student’s emotional, behavioral and social problems by working with his/her whole family for an effective outcome. This makes sense because the behavior of any one member of a family affects the family dynamics.
Working with a counselor, you and your family will examine your family’s ability to solve problems and express thoughts and emotions. You may explore family roles, rules and behavior patterns.

Family therapy may help you identify your family’s strengths, such as caring for one another, and weaknesses, such as an inability to confide in one another. It can help you pinpoint your specific concerns and assess how your family is handling them. Guided by your counselor, you’ll learn new ways to interact and overcome old problems.

The counselor will help you set individual and family goals and work on ways to achieve them. In the end, you may be better equipped to cope with your concerns. You’ll understand your needs better, and you and your family members may all get along better.

In general, family therapy helps students improve communication, solve family problems, understand and handle special family situations and create a better functioning home environment.

Finally, if any concern is taking over your life, consider visiting the LCS on the mezzanine floor of the Main Building. The counselors are willing to help you beat it and be a happy student.

Remember, they can help you change, but you need to make an effort, so contact them at 06 515 2767 or lcc@aus.edu.

### Residential Halls

**A home away from home**

The end of the academic year is near, and students are preoccupied preparing for their exams. There is a noticeable change in the behavior of the students in the residential halls as they are having more study groups, are sleeping a lot less and the dorms are quieter. This is apparent when students come out of their rooms in the middle of the night for snacks, and in the increase in interdorm visitors coming for joint study sessions. Residential Halls’ staff are aware of this high-pressure period and strive to solve all issues bothering the students with patience and tact in the shortest possible time.

Highlights of this year’s Residential Hall Department extracurricular activities included welcome parties, an interdorm sports tournament and farewell parties for the graduating students. The spring semester farewell parties for the graduating students took place on April 15 for the female residents and on April 22 for the male residents. These farewell parties are a way to congratulate the students as well as to share a memorable moment at the end of their stay in the dorms. Both of these events were well attended as non-graduating students also participated. The graduating students, who gave speeches at these events, reminisced about the community spirit they experienced not only with other resident students but also with the staff whom they have grown fond of during their stay.
Annual Student Appreciation Award 2008

The Office of Student Affairs holds its Annual Student Appreciation Award at the end of the academic year. The event commemorates distinguished and active students in athletics, student activities and community services. This year, the event was hosted on May 6 with more than 400 students honored for their active participation in extracurricular activities. Chancellor Winfred Thompson; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and other university officials attended the event. Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated all the students for their achievements and emphasized their hard work and contributions in making student life at AUS a promising and memorable one.

Eight students were awarded a Dhs. 5,000 scholarship for their distinguished and active participation in student activities. The recipients were:

- Saima Habib – AUS Volleyball Team
- Sidra Tariq – AUS Debate Club
- Jaidaa Adel Khouga – AUS Basketball Team
- Jihad Mnasria – Tunisian Cultural Club
- Adham Ounah – AUS Soccer Team
- Hisham Aichour – Algerian Cultural Club
- Gibu Cherian George – AUS Volleyball and Badminton Teams
- Sameh Bana – Palestinian Cultural Club

Cultural clubs that participated in Global Day 2008 were awarded for their contributions to the event. The clubs who received the Best Pavilion awards were:

- Iraqi Cultural Club – First Place
- Saudi Cultural Club – Second Place
- Emirates Cultural Club – Third Place
- Palestinian Cultural Club – Fourth Place

The clubs who received the Best Stage Performance awards were:

- Iranian Cultural Club – First Place
- Syrian Cultural Club – Second Place
- Jordanian Cultural Club – Third Place
- Indian Cultural Club – Fourth Place
Throughout the year, the Residential Halls staff carry out awareness programs on subjects such as safe driving, anti-smoking, time management, study skills and healthy eating. These are effective programs, as the staff are ever present in the dorms and create a special bond with the students over time.

The spring interdormitory sports tournament, which included table tennis, baby foot, chess, billiards, snooker and soccer, concluded on April 30. More than 800 students from the residential halls participated in the various sports.

The end of the semester requires preparations, including processing the room assignment for summer session and fall semester. There will be partial closure of dorms due to the reduced student population during summer session. Only seven out of the twelve dormitories will remain open. Most other students will be busy packing their belongings for storage and leaving soon after their finals, whereas graduating students will move out after the commencement ceremony.

**Echoes**

This section is a new addition to *Insight*. *Echoes* aims to reflect 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 activities. *Echoes* mirrors student life at AUS.

**Student Activities**

“'I would like to take the opportunity to thank the activities office at AUS for the great help that they have offered to me for the past two years. I never thought of myself as part of the activity life of AUS. However, the frequent encouragement and the great help I found from the activities office staff has given me confidence to give my best. Thank you all.'”

**Hisham Zakaria Aichour**

Electrical Engineering
Residential Halls

“Living in the Al-Khansa’ (AB Women) dormitory has been a truly extraordinary experience for me, because it is like being a member of a cosmopolitan family. Being a resident assistant made my experience even more unique. Not only have I been able to participate more in the dorms’ activities, but I also have had the chance to learn a lot about administering the dorm and see what huge efforts it requires from the supervisors and all the Residential Halls staff to coordinate all their work for the purpose of making our life in the dorms most secure, comfortable and entertaining.”

Dina Hammad, Resident Assistant
International Studies

Athletics

“The women’s athletics division at AUS is more of a tightly knit group more than anything else. The care and support we have for each other goes way beyond the court. For me, it’s more about working out, staying in shape, and winning. It’s about respect, responsibility, and trust not just for myself but for the team and the coach. It’s an honor and a privilege to be a part this division.”

Rola Awad
Mass Communication, Public Relations

Community Services

“Community service is the community for every student who wants to participate in social and humanity activities. Moreover, it’s the way for every student to contribute positively to the society, and to lives of people who may not be as fortunate as you and me.”

Fatima Salim
Business Administration

Student Employment Office

“The knowledge I gained by working as a student employee in designing posters and brochures helped me to be more creative, organized and improved my communication skills. I believe that the whole experience enriched my personality and will be a good start for my career.”

Dana Issa
Mass Communication-Advertising
Athletics Division holds Annual Sports Day

The Athletics Division held its Annual Sports Day event on April 23. The fun-filled activity offered hours of fun, games, competition and barbecue. The event also wrapped up all the academic year’s intramural events and interschool tournaments. Student and faculty representatives from the College of Engineering, the School Architecture and Design, the School of Business and Management and the College of Arts and Sciences competed in the final games of the men’s five-a-side soccer, men’s interschool volleyball tournament, men’s interschool basketball tournament, women’s street ball competition, and the happy doubles tennis tournament that day. Fun games had active participation from the AUS community. The awards distribution was conducted by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities, Dr. Saad Abrahim, Manager of Sports Complex, and the rest of the Sports Complex staff. The event was concluded with a barbecue dinner.

“I was informed before I came that AUS was very strict. While there are many different rules that I was not accustomed to, I do not think it has been as strict as I was led to believe, such as women only wearing long sleeves.”

Sarah Greer
Exchange Program Student
American University, Washington, DC
Second AUS Women’s Interuniversity Racket Tournament held

The Athletics Division hosted the Second AUS Women’s Interuniversity Racket Tournament April 6–8. Eight universities and colleges from Sharjah, Ajman and Dubai participated in the three-day event, which witnessed an overwhelming turnout from the intercollegiate audience. The events included competitions in badminton and table tennis. AUS won second place in both events.
the tournaments, AUS won first place in the men’s soccer event while the men’s volleyball, men’s table tennis and women’s swimming teams won third place in their categories.

This trip was organized by the Office of Student Affairs to broaden the scope of student activities and to offer quality activities to students that complement the learning process and promote physical, social and moral development.
Victorious semester for AUS athletes

At the conclusion of the AUS Spring 2008 sports calendar, the Leopards have once again proven their dominance in UAE collegiate sports in terms of organization and achievement. Among other local universities and colleges, AUS hosts the most men’s and women’s sports teams under one roof, representing AUS in local and international competitions. The dedication and hard work of AUS athletes paid off with continued successes throughout the semester bringing fame and glory to AUS. The achievements for spring semester include:

**Men’s Soccer**
- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 1st Place
- HESF* Outdoor Soccer Tournament 2008 - 2nd Place

**Men’s Tennis**
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 1st Place
- Preston University Cricket Tournament - 1st Place
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 3rd Place

**Men’s Table Tennis**
- Skyline Table Tennis Tournament - 1st Place
- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 3rd Place
- HESF Table Tennis Tournament - 3rd Place
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 3rd Place

**Men’s Badminton**
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 1st Place
- BITS Pilani Sports Festival - 2nd Place

**Men’s Squash**
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 1st Place

**Cricket**
- Preston University Cricket Tournament - 1st Place
- BITS Pilani Sports Festival - 2nd Place
- GMC Sports Festival - Semi-finalist

**Men’s Squash**
- AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament - 1st Place

---

*HESF* denotes the Higher Educational Students’ Federation.
Men’s Chess

- HESF Chess Tournament - 1st Place
- HESF Chess Tournament - 3rd Place

Men’s Swimming

- HESF Swimming Competition - 5th Place

Women’s Table Tennis

- HESF Table Tennis Tournament - 2nd Place
- AUS Interuniversity Racket Tournament - 2nd Place

Women’s Basketball

- Zayed Univ. Dubai Basketball Tournament - 2nd Place
- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 2nd Place

Men’s Volleyball

- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 3rd Place

Women’s Swimming

- HESF Swimming Competition - 1st Place
- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 3rd Place

Women’s Badminton

- AUS Interuniversity Racket Tournament - 2nd Place

Women’s Volleyball

- HESF Volleyball Tournament - 3rd Place
- Second International Sports Festival, Greece - 4th Place

*HESF stands for the Higher Education Sports Federation of UAE. Presided over by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mabarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education, HESF is the governing authority for collegiate sports in the United Arab Emirates.

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