Sultan bin Ahmed opens AUS Global Day, celebrating university’s cultural diversity

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the university kicked off its annual Global Day on March 15. As one of the most anticipated events at AUS, this year’s Global Day was inaugurated by Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Council. The opening was also attended by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students; along with other senior university officials, faculty, staff, and students.

“I hope success for the Global Day which aims at highlighting cultural diversity and highlighting the various cultures of the AUS students who

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Students honored during AUS appreciation awards ceremony

More than 600 students were honored at the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Annual Student Appreciation Awards held on April 30. The Annual Student Appreciation Awards honor students’ activities outside the classrooms and promotes their success by recognizing their achievements and encouraging them to explore their interests.

Students from the AUS Student Council, sports teams, student clubs and organizations, community services volunteers, and the leadership program were recognized for their

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This was a remarkable spring 2018 for Student Affairs. We engaged students in meaningful student activities with effective student learning outcomes promoting student learning and all round development. 166 diverse student activities were executed this spring 2018.


I am immensely pleased with our student achievements in varied extracurricular fields while retaining good academic standing. Maryam Belhoul won the Du Emirati Startup Challenge. “U-Light” project by Ahmed Kamel, Omar Mansour, Omar Khatib and Omar Ghanem from Student Leadership Program won the regional round of Hult Prize competition. AUS delegation to National Model United Nations (NMUN 2018) in New York comprising of Lena Khalifa, Salma Ahmed, Kateryna Kadabashy, Vikram Sakkia, Hend Mitkis, Hawazen Diab, Raj Mithani and Humza Ijaz won ‘Most Outstanding Delegation, two Outstanding Position Papers and three delegates selected rapporteurs.’ The Most Outstanding Athlete/Active Student Award went to Omar Tolba, Taher Amr Araf, Dina Allam, Baraa Elgamal, Maryam Alteir, Raghad El Saleh, Aljwara Al Juwaied, and Ahmad Azari. Our graduating students will be leaving with an out of class portfolio of achievements setting an example for their peers. OSA Annual Student Appreciation Awards celebrated the many achievements of our students who devoted their time, efforts and engaged in diverse activities, events and programs.

Facilities improvement has been another milestone. The Sports Pavilion is open for AUS community users for accomplishing their personal wellness goals. The Floating Theatre in the Student Center is functional and available for booking. Residential halls computer labs are equipped with academically related software application such as AutoCAD, Mat lab, Adobe software including 15 useful applications. Resident Students will be able to complete schoolwork in the comfort of their home away from home.

I thank all students, faculty, and staff for their continuous support to Student Affairs this Spring 2018 to serve our students even better.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Dean of Students

Come from 95 different nationalities. In fact, it is also a testimony that the UAE in general and Sharjah in particular, is a country of tolerance and openness to the other and likes to attract other nationalities,” said Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed in a statement after the ceremony.

Each year, the event showcases the cultural heritage of the many nationalities represented at AUS by turning the university campus into a festival of culture and color. This year ethnic stalls and pavilions depicting the cultural heritage of 33 countries – including the UAE, Iraq, Nigeria, Turkey, Kenya, Palestine, Brazil, Algeria, among many others – were set up across the Main Plaza, giving visitors a taste of the truly multicultural nature of the AUS campus. Thousands of visitors who attended the event on Thursday and Friday also sampled a wide variety of traditional food.
available in the outdoor food court. Organized by the Office of Student Affairs with the assistance of AUS students, the two-day event also included cultural performances held in the university’s Main Auditorium as well as on an outdoor stage, giving students a chance to share their talent and traditions through dance performances and skits.

Speaking about the event and the students’ involvement in it, Dr. Al Shehhi said:

“We are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year with the 20th Annual Global Day, a special occasion that continues to promote the cultural diversity and unity of the students at AUS. Our students are extremely creative in bringing their ideas and concepts to life at this special two-day event. Their enthusiasm is evident in the spectacular cultural performances for which they have worked very hard for the past couple of months.

“It is important for our students to apply their academic knowledge outside the classroom and learn practical skills for their personal and professional growth and development. Global Day is a platform wherein our students learn the challenges of managing a project of this magnitude, working with their peers and external entities to help build and decorate sustainable pavilions, as well as coordinate and present cultural performances. I am also thankful to the staff members for their hard work, from planning to implementation, in making this a successful event,” she added.

Sultan Alturifi, President of the Emirati Cultural Club expressed his pride in the various cultures comprising the university’s student body and stated that this is the time of the year were students get to express themselves through their cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The first AUS Global Day was held in 1998 with eight student organizations and 400 students. Since then, the event has grown manifold with this year’s Global Day witnessing the participation of a lively and dynamic student body that comprises more than 5,600 students from 95 nationalities.
efforts at a special event held at Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Center, Sharjah.

The evening, organized by the Office of Student Affairs, was an opportunity to reward active students for their efforts in leadership, sport, community service, and the many diverse clubs that create a lively community on campus.

During his welcome address, Dr. Björn Kjerfve, AUS Chancellor, said:

“Take a few seconds to think about what your life would be like now if you hadn’t taken up extra-curricular activities. What if you hadn’t found your ‘voice’ in the debating club? What if you hadn’t come to see life through the eyes of people less fortunate than yourself? Who would have thought, you would be speaking at the United Nations in New York City! Or that your swimming team would win first place in Greece; or that your club would win the Outstanding Student Chapter Award, just like the AUS Chapter of the American Chemical Society did. The experience you gain from being involved in extra-curricular activities enriches your university life, enhances your career prospects, and will remain a part of you forever more.”

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“We acknowledge all your efforts and the time you have devoted in out-of-class activities. We value your contributions and appreciate your achievement in sports, activities, leadership, volunteerism, multicultural events, humanitarian and social causes, awareness campaigns, sustainability drives, and many others. AUS’s student engagement opportunities and popularity of events and activities remains unparalleled. We see universities around being inspired by our signature events and activities, which is evidence that AUS provides excellent out of class opportunities.”

Eight students were awarded the Most Outstanding Active Student Award to recognize and reward their contribution and dedication to extracurricular activities throughout the academic year. The award is aimed at acknowledging the efforts, commitment and hard work of students who positively contribute to the enhancement of student life on campus. The awardees receive a certificate and an AED 5,000 tuition remission.

The winners were:
- Omar Tolba – Men’s Soccer
- Taher Amr Arafa – Men’s Swimming
- Dina Allam – Women’s Swimming
- Baraa Elgamal – Palestinian Cultural Club
- Maryam Aleter – Emirati Cultural Club
- Raghad El Saleh – American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Aljawhara Al Juwaied – Community Services
- Ahmad Azari – Leadership Program

Other recipients of awards during the evening included:
- Palestinian Club – Cultural Club of the Year
- American Society for Mechanical Engineers – Interest-Oriented Club of the Year

Global Day Corner Awards:
- 1st Place: Palestinian Cultural Club
- 2nd Place: North African Clubs (Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian)
- 3rd Place: Lebanese Cultural Club
- Teamwork Award: East Asian Clubs (Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Philippines)
- Creative Idea Award: Emirati Cultural Club

Global Day Performance Awards:
- 1st Place: Indian Cultural Club
- 2nd Place: Jordanian Cultural Club
- 3rd Place: Palestinian Cultural Club
- Creative Idea Award: Pakistani Cultural Club
- Teamwork Award: Syrian Cultural Club

Global Day Best Sustainable Pavilion Award
- Saudi Cultural Club
OSA welcomes AUS freshmen for orientation week

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) welcomed new students to the university through exciting weeklong orientation activities aimed to help them get accustomed to university life and encourage them to participate in extracurricular activities.

The activities included information sessions, distribution of orientation packets containing information about the university's services, new student athletics orientation and tour of sports facilities, Peer Leaders adoption of new students, Judicial Affairs Code of Conduct orientation for exchange students and dorm residents, Sharjah cultural tour, Dubai city tour and an open-house in the Student Center with table games, movies, karaoke, table tennis, foosball and PS4 Football tournament.

The activities also included a Freshman Reception Dinner that was attended by Kevin Mitchell, Interim Provost; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, along with other senior OSA officials.

Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi said:

“The Office of Student Affairs aims to offer you the best services, programs and activities to complement your academic education as well as enhance your student life experience here at AUS. We hope to see you as an active member of the AUS community and wish you all the best in your new academic journey.”

The theme of this year’s OSA orientation week was in line with the UAE’s theme for 2018: The Year of Zayed, marking 100 years since the birth of the founding father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

SLP Peer Leaders adopt freshmen during orientation

Peer Leaders from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at AUS took an active role during the New Students and Parents Welcome Session held on January 12. Peer Leaders welcomed and assisted incoming freshmen and “adopted” freshmen, whom they will guide and support during the spring semester. Peer Leaders play an integral role in helping new students adjust to university life.

Nada Nassereddin, a junior majoring in international relations, said:

“As a university student, I understand how overwhelming and intimidating freshman year can be. Therefore, as a Peer Leader participating in the New Students and Parents Welcome Session, assisting new students and reassuring their parents gave me great joy. From the complexities of registration to concerns about residential halls, all questions were answered in order to ensure that students are comfortable and prepared. Personally, I found this to be an exceptional experience because it allowed me to meet bright students and make them feel more at home. It is an ideal way to interact, connect, and give back within the AUS community.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“We are happy with the efforts of our Peer Leaders to assist and guide incoming freshmen. They are role models that positively impact the experience of new students at AUS. We thank them for all their efforts and encourage more students to take part in the Peer Leaders Program.”
Students of American University of Sharjah (AUS) highlighted the university’s campus and student life, renowned for its multicultural diversity and extracurricular activities, during the biannual celebrations at AUS Spring 2018 Club Fair held on February 5 and 6, at the university’s Student Center. The opening of the two-day event drew a large number of students from all across the campus and was attended by AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve, along with other senior university officials.

The Club Fair is held every semester, introducing students, especially freshmen, to the university’s diverse ethnic and interest-oriented clubs. The event provides students with an opportunity to take pride in the cultural heritage of the many nationalities represented on campus. Known internationally for its diversity, AUS has students from more than 95 nationalities currently enrolled.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), the Club Fair also allows students to pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build leadership skills. This semester 34 ethnic clubs, 34 interest-oriented clubs, six OSA associations and the Student Council are participating in the two-day event.

Appreciating the students’ enthusiasm and hard work in helping organize a successful event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: “Club Fair has remained a much awaited event for our students. The preparations create a proactive environment where our students have fun while they engage in practical learning experiences. They socialize, create friendships, engage in team work, discover talents, hone skills and express their passion through their creative works. “The colorful booths and the activities within these booths are an expression of our students’ interests and their keenness to share their cultures. We have many enthusiastic students who have worked hard on several projects and are proud to present them at Club Fair. This event encourages students to take part in extracurricular activities that complement their academic endeavors at AUS,” she added.

Mirna Elkouly, a marketing major in her senior year and a member of the Egyptian Cultural Club, said: “Every semester, AUS provides us with a platform to showcase our many cultures and interests to the AUS community. We are happy to introduce AUS freshmen to both the ethnic and interest-oriented clubs at the 2018 Club Fair and help introduce them to the various cultures that AUS students come from.”
SLP Students Learn about Family Businesses at Youth Business Voice

Twelve students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at the Office of Student Affairs, American University of Sharjah (AUS) took part in Youth Business Voice held by Dubai Startup Hub in partnership with Youth Hub on January 17 at Jumeirah Emirates Towers in Dubai.

“Overcoming Challenges and Growing within Your Family Business” was the main topic of the session. The panel hosted Alia Al Mazroui, Chief Operating Officer of Mazrui International LLC, and Khaled Al Fahim, Board Advisor of Al Fahim Group, to talk about their personal experiences, challenges and achievements through their family businesses. The panel discussion was followed by a Q&A session, open forum and interactive feedback.

Speaking of the experience, Shaham Thekkumury, a computer science freshmen major said:

“Attending Youth Business Voice opened my eyes to what it takes working for family businesses. The event was informative and exciting, touching on various topics including the best way to keep a family business running for generations, how to form a family business, and how to deal with conflicts that take place in a family business environment.”

Commenting on how students benefit from participating in such events, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“It is important for students to take part in various forums to enrich their knowledge on diverse topics related to family businesses, startups, innovation and entrepreneurship. The interactive sessions highlighted real life experiences of professionals in different fields and industries. I encourage more students to take part in opportunities as such as these provided by SLP.”

Student clubs elect board members for next academic year

Hundreds of students turned up at the university’s Student Center to cast their votes at the annual student clubs and organizations elections on April 22. Prior to the elections, the students were given the opportunity to campaign and promote their causes. The two days of campaigning created a lively atmosphere in the Student Center with cultural performances accompanied by traditional music.

Elections for both cultural and interest-oriented clubs were conducted via an online voting system that ran over a period of six hours. As the elections concluded, crowds of students gathered in excitement to hear the results. The newly elected club board members will assume office in the 2018–2019 academic year.

“Congratulations to all newly elected ethnic and interest-oriented student club board members and all the appointed board members of academically linked student societies and associations. We are glad that many students seized the leadership opportunities offered through these elections. The nominations, campaigns and elections served as a platform for our students to promote teamwork and camaraderie and to hone their leadership, organizational and planning skills. I wish all our student clubs a productive year ahead,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

The elections were organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Clubs and Organizations division.
AUS raises awareness on health and environmental issues at annual Awareness Day

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah, and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS) the university held at the Student Center on February 27, the annual Awareness Day.

AUS is holding the event to raise awareness among AUS community including students, faculty, staff and their families, as well as students from schools across the country on a wide variety of issues related to health, social, environmental and safety concerns.

With booths and banners set up at the university’s Student Center, the participating organizations educated attendees about topics ranging from health issues to volunteering opportunities for those interested in giving back to the community.

Organized by the Community Services Division of the AUS Office of Student Affairs, hosted 18 governmental and private organizations.

Speaking about the significance of the issues highlighted by the event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“As we get busy with the many responsibilities and obligations in life, we tend to forget issues that impact our lives, the society and the environment in many ways. At AUS, we make it a point to address these issues at our Awareness Day event as a reminder to everyone, especially to our students and the youth, and to provide them with valuable knowledge that will benefit them and help improve their lives.

“Through this event, we create awareness of the various pressing issues related to health, safety, the society and the environment by bringing various governmental and private organizations under one roof to help them bring their message to a large. I wish to thank all the participants for coming forward and joining this event and to the AUS units and our student volunteers for supporting our goals and objectives,” she added.

The participants at the event included: The Big Heart Foundation, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, Sharjah Civil Defense, Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority, Sharjah Medical District, Sharjah Police, Supreme Council of Family Affairs, Sharjah – Health Promotion, Protection of Children’s Rights, Dubai Blood Donation Center, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Noor Dubai Foundation, Emirates Society for Consumer Protection, Emirates Strategic Planning Association, Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Red Crescent, Abbott Nutrition, American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, and Australia Medical Centre.
AUS students elect their council president, representatives

American University of Sharjah (AUS) students convened at the university’s Student Center to take part in the student council elections for the academic year 2018–2019 on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. Candidates vied for 13 elected offices that represent the university’s diverse and multicultural student body.

The AUS Student Council serves as a voice for the student body and works directly with the university administration. It aims to initiate programs and projects that cater to the demands of the student body as well as promote leadership and teamwork.

The voting followed week-long electoral activities in which candidates canvassed for votes. The students elected to the Student Council for 2018-2019 are:

Executive Board:
• Maryam Khalid Al Qasemi-President
• Baraa Mohamed Elgamal-Vice President
• Hilal Fayiz Alshar-Vice President for Public Relations
• Ayesha Ali-Executive Secretary and Office Director

Community Outreach Committee:
• Tarek Bilal Knio-Events and Activities Coordinator
• Manal Mohamed Machou-Athletics and Sports Coordinator
• Jawaher Ahmed Alhamidi-Communication and Media Coordinator
• Khalid Osman Elhussein-Student Organizations and Campus Services Coordinator

Board of Colleges, Schools and Academic Programs Representatives:
• Janah Mouallem-College of Arts and Sciences Representative
• Aashish Ben Rajesh-College of Architecture, Art and Design Representative
• Dania Sudqi Jallad-School of Business Administration Representative
• Rawan Mohab Mangoud-College of Engineering Representative
• Maram Mhd Nazir AlDahabi-Achievement Academy Bridge Program Representative

Congratulating the students, said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said, “We have many enthusiastic students eager to represent their peers in the best interest of the students and the university. The whole process, from nominations and campaigns, all the way up to the final day of the elections, is a gratifying experience for our students. It helps enrich their skills in planning, organization and public speaking, among others. We are very happy to see our students express strong interest in enhancing student life at AUS. I wish the new Student Council elect a fruitful and successful year ahead.”

The Student Council election was organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs.
Seventy four American University of Sharjah (AUS) athletes participated in the ACG International Sports Festival held at American College of Greece from March 28–30, 2018. Around 800 athletes, representing 18 universities across different continents, competed in various sports events. The AUS teams participated in men and women’s basketball, volleyball, swimming and table tennis events as well as in men’s soccer and tennis, and performed outstandingly well.

AUS swimmers emerged as the overall champions with 143 points and were ranked first in the men’s category while the women claimed the second spot in their category. In the men’s category, Ahmed Mohamed Eladl led the medal hunt with 2 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze followed by Taher Amr Arafa with 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze while Amr Mohamed won silver in the 100-meter backstroke. In the mixed relays of 4x50 meter freestyle and medley, AUS swimmers Taher Arafa, Khaled Abdulghani, Ahmed Eladl, Cyndi Faber and Dina Allam came second among the seven universities that participated.

In the women’s category, Dina Allam secured three silver medals while Cyndi Faber received a silver and a bronze apart from the second places in both relays.

Six teams participated in the men’s basketball tournament. AUS won three matches and reached the finals to face the home team, American College of Greece (ACG). Mahmoud Trab, Mohamed Azmi and Stefan Bubanja fought well in the final match but the combined attack of ACG in front of their home crowd overwhelmed AUS who had to settle for the runners-up trophy at the end.

Srushi Vipul Kothari and Shaya Iram represented AUS in the women’s table tennis, with Shaya Iram securing second place after a spectacular performance in the round robin tournament.

Eight teams participated in the soccer tournament. The AUS Leopards performed well to enter the knock out stage of the tournament and achieved third place.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, congratulated the athletes on their return and commended them on their remarkable achievements in the International Sports Tournament at ACG. She thanked the athletes for their dedication and involvement in sports along with their academic pursuits.

The AUS squad was accompanied by Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations and Head of the AUS delegation, along with seven coaches.
Spectators at the 13th AUS Men’s and Women’s Intercollegiate Racket Tournament witnessed exciting matches of skill and determination among 16 teams. The tournament was held March 5–7, 2018, at the AUS sports facilities on campus.

Badminton and table tennis competitions were conducted for both men and women players while the squash and tennis tournament was organized for men only. In the men’s category, AUS won first place in squash and second place in tennis and badminton while in the women’s category, the Leopards placed second in badminton and table tennis.

At the closing ceremony and prize distribution, Munketh Taha, Director, Student Development and Organizations/Acting Director of the Department of Student Athletics and Recreation, congratulated the winners on their achievements and thanked all the coaches, officials and players for participating in the tournament. He awarded certificates of appreciation, medals and trophies to the winners.

Participating teams in the tournament included the University of Wollongong in Dubai; BITS-Pilani Dubai; Manipal University; Skyline University College; Canadian University Dubai; Emirates Aviation University; Ajman University of Science and Technology; London American City College; Amity University Dubai; University of Sharjah; Gulf Medical University; Al- Ghurair University; RAK Medical and Health Sciences University; United Arab Emirates University; American University in Dubai; and AUS. The tournament was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Department of Student Athletics and Recreation.

Congratulations to the winners, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, expressed her happiness at the increase in participation this year and congratulated the AUS men’s and women’s racket teams for their achievements. “Great moments are born from great opportunity and AUS will always strive to organize such events in the UAE,” she said.

Maryam Belhoul, an active student in the Student Leadership Program (SLP) offered by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) was among the winners at the Du Emirati Startup Challenge on April 30, 2018, held at Zayed University. She won third place.

With 18 teams competing, the Startup Challenge brought together the brightest minds in the UAE to pitch and turn a startup idea into a real, scalable business venture. The preferred presented ideas were business ideas concerning tech innovations, social entrepreneurship, and digital solutions.

Speaking on her achievement, Maryam Belhoul, a senior industrial engineering major, said:

“I went into this competition with a different mindset than usual. Although we all had our eyes on the prize, but I tried my best to learn and make the most out of this unique experience. The fact that we had time with mentors with different expertise, and were able to take their advice and apply it to our initial ideas made me realize how important it is to be humble and to appreciate criticism with an open mind. I encourage everyone with an idea, no matter how big or small, to pursue it with all their passion. Do not let the fear of failure control you – because if you never try, you will never know the true potential of your ideas.”

Dr. Moza Alshehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“We are delighted to hear that Maryam benefited from her participation in this competition. I congratulate her on a job well done in securing third place amongst 18 teams competing in the final stage of the challenge.”
It was no ordinary spring break for the 20 American University of Sharjah (AUS) students who participated in a volunteering trip to Jordan March 23–28.

The team of students worked on several projects, ranging from helping refugees to working with school groups and the elderly, learning the value of helping those in need.

First, the AUS team worked with the non-governmental organization Tkiyet Um Ali to pack more than 60 boxes of food and amenities for refugees. The students’ hands-on experience helped them learn about the work done by Tkiyet Um Ali, which was founded in 2003 by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein to provide sustainable food aid to Jordan’s most unprivileged.

Next, the students visited an underperforming all-girls public school, where they donated educational and recreational gifts, including stuffed toys handstitched by students during the AUS Toy Stories initiative. The team also tidied up the school, painted the walls and planted saplings on the campus to help provide a better learning environment.

The AUS volunteers also visited the SOS Children’s Village, where they spent time with the children and their mothers and distributed gifts. Lastly, they visited the Golden Age Home in Amman and spent the day with the elderly.

“International volunteering is a unique opportunity for our students to experience voluntary work while learning the historical and social backgrounds of the host country. Being away from the comfort of their homes and engaging hands-on with a variety of volunteering activities empowers our students with the qualities and skills needed to become well-rounded individuals. International volunteering trips are a platform for our students to express their passion for social work, create bonds and friendships, explore new horizons, learn how to be independent, build teamwork and benefit from the learning outcomes,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students.

“The trip to Jordan was filled with meaningful events. Through our visits to a school, an orphanage and a home for the elderly in Amman, we were able to have unforgettable experiences,” said Nada Nasseriddin, a volunteer majoring in international relations.

The Jordan trip was organized in collaboration with Madrasati, which means “my school.” Madrasati was launched in 2008 to connect individuals, private companies and organizations, and provide them with support for improving the physical and educational learning environments of Jordan’s most neglected public schools.

The international volunteering trip is one of many opportunities offered by the university’s Community Services division to allow students to experience first-hand the value of serving others, giving back to the community and enriching the lives of the less fortunate.
Five students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) graduated from Al Maktoum College Academic Training Program held February 4–March 2, in Dundee, Scotland. The goal of the program was to challenge and expand the participants’ intellectual abilities and provide them with the knowledge and skills required for active leadership in the 21st century.

The AUS delegation consisted of Fatima Alshamsi, a visual communication major; Reem Alnauimi, an electrical engineering major; Amal Alsayegh, a computer engineering major; Moza Alshamsi, an international studies major; and Hamdah Bin Alshaikh, a design management major.

Speaking about her experience, Amal Alsayegh said:
“...My experience in the Academic Training Program in Dundee was truly one of a kind. I learned so much about the world around us, from globalization and multiculturalism to ethics and leadership. The program was intense. We interacted with people from different backgrounds, most of whom became our good friends by the end of the program. I liked that the program didn’t just focus on attending classes and writing reports as we also had the chance to explore Scotland, its culture and its people, which made the experience all the more worthwhile.”

Commenting on her time at ATP, Moza Alshamsi said:
“The ATP program was a rewarding experience. We were presented with a wealth of new and valuable information and we had the opportunity to grow as individuals. We learned how to depend on ourselves for an entire month in a foreign country."

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said:
“Al Makotum College Academic Training Program is a wonderful opportunity for our students. It allows them to develop their leadership skills and provides them with a better understanding of cultural diversity. We are pleased with the positive feedback received from students who took part in this program and we look forward to future collaborations with Al Maktoum College.”

Eleven students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) attended the World Government Summit (WGS) held February 11–13 in Dubai. The World Government Summit is a knowledge exchange forum at the intersection of government, technology and innovation. It also functions as a thought leadership platform and networking hub for policymakers, business and civil society in human development.

Abdulla Albanna, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, said:
“The World Government Summit 2018 was an exceptional experience. What motivated me to register and attend WGS were the interesting topics in the summit’s agenda, which included artificial intelligence, future governments and smart education, all which highlight the UAE’s 2020 vision and the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We attended sessions held by inspiring speakers like His Highness Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zayed, Paul Bennett and Graca Machel.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:
“We continue to encourage students to take advantage of opportunities around them such as WGS. By attending WGS, students were able to network and better understand future plans, concerns and opportunities ahead of them. I encourage more students to take part in such opportunities offered by SLP.”
Ahmad Azari, a team leader at the Student Leadership Program (SLP) and a senior majoring in chemical engineering and chemistry, was the first student from the UAE selected to serve on the National Model United Nations (NMUN) staff body for Conference B in New York in 2018. Azari was appointed as Assistant Director for General Assembly First Committee, which included the task of choosing and writing the background guide, an extremely comprehensive document that will help delegates learn everything they needed to know about the topic in their respective committees.

Azari was also trained to edit and understand resolutions. He was selected from a large global pool of candidates due to his experience in Model United Nations in general and the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in specific. Azari attended NMUN twice in March 2016 as a delegate, and March 2017 as Chair of General Assembly 1 (GA1). Due to unavoidable circumstances, Azari could not travel to the United States to take part in NMUN 2018, however, his work and achievement were recognized in the NMUN 2018 catalog.

He has been an active student in SLP since he was a freshman and has taken part in numerous events and functions organized by the program. He has trained AUS delegations dispatched to National Model United Nations in 2017 and 2018, in addition to Bahrain Universities Model United Nations in 2016.

Speaking about this selection Azari said:

“I believe that leadership characteristics – strong writing skills and valuable recommendations – were the main factors in selecting candidates in the NMUN staff interviews. The conference has always impacted me on a professional and personal level. It leads to the natural growth of the human intellect as well as enhances soft skills as we are dealing with people we have never met before and are expected to work with for over 50 hours a week. It’s truly magical. I am forever grateful for the NMUN team for such a development of my character.”

Commenting on Azari’s achievement, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“What a great achievement for Ahmed to make it this far. Serving as a staff in the largest Model United Nations simulations in the world exemplifies his leadership abilities. It is all about determination and persistence. Our Student Leadership Program encourages students to look for opportunities and guides them to achieve and maximize their potential. Congratulations to Ahmed and we wish him continuous success and a bright future ahead.”

The Student Multicultural Learning Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) organized a trip for 35 students to Louvre Abu Dhabi on February 24, to see the incredible paintings, drawings, sculptures, manuscripts, archaeological findings and decorative arts on display.

Students from the different colleges at AUS and mostly from College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) discovered the art, ideas, people and politics behind the conceptions and monuments. The group was given an extensive tour of the museum and explained the background of the art collections exhibited, which comprised a blend of Western and Eastern art; many artworks were inspired by Islamic and Arabic art and culture, as well as other local, historical influences.

Commenting on the visit, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said:

“We are proud to have the Louvre in the heart of Abu Dhabi. The aim of the visit was to expose the students to the fascinating art collections at the Louvre in order to inspire them and enlighten them about the artistic and cultural themes and nuances behind the masterpieces.”
Six students from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Leadership Program participated in the 21st World Business Dialogue. “The Digital Organization: Decrypting its DNA” was the topic of discussion in the event, held March 7–9, in Cologne, Germany.

The dialogue included a number of panels, workshops, master classes and executive sessions which enabled the delegates to learn, meet and network with professionals from various reputed firms and organizations. Innovation, cyber hacking and security, leadership, digital mindset, disruption management, Holacracy, organizational culture and many other topics were discussed in an interactive sessions involving experts and participants.

Commenting on his experience at the event, Amro Dajani, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, said:

“The World Business Dialogue is the best experience I have had so far. It gave me the chance to learn more about artificial intelligence, how the world is going to be in the future, and how to become a successful entrepreneur. During this trip, I had the opportunity to meet new people from different cultures and backgrounds who motivated me, enriched my knowledge, and taught me about their culture.”

Speaking about the event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“The World Business Dialogue exposes students every year to a new topic pertaining to the current global marketplace and its status. It helps them widen their vision regarding what is going on in the market and what potential skills are most needed. The dialogue gave students a great insight into the job market and it was an opportunity for them to network with senior-level professionals from various industries.”
The much-awaited annual AUS Sports Games were held April 17–18 amid great mirth and camaraderie, with the team Blue Tigers emerging as the overall champions. The fantastic turnout from the students in their club uniforms and the pleasant weather were the perfect boosts for around 600 students to participate in the event, which was organized by Student Athletics and Recreation in collaboration with the Student Council. The event saw 457 male students take part in three individual competitions and four-team games, while 139 female students participated in all events except cricket.

Ali El- Barag of the Desert Warriors and Kausar Abdul Qayum of the Sultans were declared the healthiest man and woman at AUS, respectively. Mohammed Kyuare of the Student Council and Maryam Al Hamad of Al Ahmar were the fastest on track. In table tennis, Faiz Basheer of Blue Tigers and Shaya Iram of Schwarz Und Weiss won the gold.

The Sultans won the cricket championship, and Mehdi Raza Asaria from the Blue Tigers was awarded with the Most Valuable Player trophy. The men’s basketball championship was won by Al Rayah, while Pharaohs won the women’s basketball championship. Habiba Khalifa (Pharaohs) and Tarab Mahmoud (Al Rayah) received the most valuable player trophies. The Al Nashama team won the women’s volleyball championship while Desert Warriors won the men’s volleyball championship. Yasmeen Abdelfatah (Al Nashama) and Seif Amr Gaber Aly (Pharaohs) were declared most valuable players.

The Pharaohs won the men’s and women’s soccer championship. Sophie Hill (Al Nashama) and Ahmad Noor Wali (Pharaohs) were selected as most valuable players, while Abdel Rahman Samir (Cedars) and Merihan Dobia (Pharaohs) were awarded the top scorer trophies.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, and Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations and Acting Director of Student Athletics and Recreation, awarded the medals and trophies to the winners.
SLP students from AUS participate in Dubai University Startup Weekend

Ten students from the Student Leadership Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) took part in the Dubai University Startup Weekend, organized by Dubai Future Accelerators on April 19–21.

During this intense, 54-hour event, participants pitched their business ideas. They then formed teams around the top ideas, which focused on specialties such as marketing, web development and graphic design. The teams spent the rest of the weekend developing and building their idea, aided by local mentors. On Saturday evening, teams came together to pitch their prototype company to a panel of judges.

Hamad Almutairi, a sophomore majoring in international studies and mass communication, said:

“The Dubai University Startup Weekend was a great experience. I developed my public speaking skills and learned how to communicate and present in front of a large audience.”

Speaking about SLP and the event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“The Student Leadership Program continues to engage students in opportunities that allow them to share their ideas through channels that enable them to gain knowledge and support to transform their ideas into reality. The Startup Weekend served as an ideal platform to pitch ideas, form a team and gain feedback from experts in the field. More and more students are encouraged to take part of these wonderful local opportunities provided by SLP.”

AUS volunteers empower people of determination with new skills

The Student Volunteers Association at AUS launched a volunteer program at Al Thiqah Club for the Handicapped helping members with basic English, computer operation and public speaking skills. Weekly sessions were held during the Fall 2017 semester. The student volunteers served as mentors and assisted throughout the learning process.

Members from Al Thiqah Club who completed the sessions were invited to AUS on February 13 for a special gathering to showcase their achievements and skills before a large crowd that comprised their families, friends and the AUS community. The gathering acknowledged the accomplishments of the group.

During the event, student volunteers presented a film clip of the volunteer program at Al Thiqah Club and the various learning activities that took place. It was followed by members of Al Thiqah Club presenting their newly acquired knowledge from the practical learning sessions. They were then awarded certificates and acknowledged for their accomplishments.

Speaking about the program, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“We have many passionate students volunteering for the programs and activities of our Community Services Division. The volunteer program at Al Thiqah Club is one of the many initiatives of our students. We are glad to be able to provide them with the platform and the means to express their passion for caring and giving and engage them with meaningful volunteering opportunities.”

Marah Halloum, a volunteer and junior majoring in finance, said:

“The volunteer program in Al Thiqah was an enlightening experience for me. I encourage my fellow students to take part in community services to benefit from its many enriching opportunities.”

The students’ engagement was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services Division.
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.

Fatima Alshamsi, Graduate, Visual Communication
Al Maktoum Academic Training program which took place in the UK was a one-of-a-kind experience. Mostly, I think, we have learnt from the interaction of us as AUS graduates with other female students from different universities and backgrounds. The program included very interesting topics such as globalization, multiculturalism, feminism, Islam, economics, sustainability and the environment. The program has widened my scope over many of those subject matters.

Mohammed AlMarri, Senior, Electrical Engineer
Global Day is the largest event on campus and is a unique one in a sense that everyone including students, faculty, and staff attends the event with their families and friends. This year’s Global Day showcased many varieties of cultural aspects through the different cultural pavilions and performances.

Mariam Alqassimi, Junior, International Studies
We do not always consider the hard effort that our gardeners put into making our campus beautiful. The “Our Winter is Warm” event made me realize their contributions to our community and how important it is to acknowledge their contributions through a simple gesture of giving and caring.

Hafsa Matto, Junior, Mass Communication
The Pakistani Cultural Club’s Urdu Open Mic Night was a winner in this semester of Spring 2018! Titled “Ye Sham Aap Ke Naam”, or “A Night Dedicated to You”, it truly was a musical and poetic fest that revolved around our audience and their talents. Students had a chance to share their voice and words with an audience that did nothing but dwell in the beauty of their skills.

Nadien Ahmed, Junior, Mass Communication
The dorm at AUS is one of the most valuable aspect of the university life outside the classroom. Living on my own under the same room with different nationalities definitely allowed me to have more cultural awareness and to completely be independent. The AUS dorm does a great job of letting students worry less and concentrate more on what is important. There are always people around to hang out with, and classes are just a 7-minute walk away.
Abdallah Osman El–Amin, Senior, Chemical Engineering
On the evening of Monday, 26 February, we had a marvelous experience here in CD dorms; it was BBQ, a social event. Some of which are displaying their barbecue skills, trying to cook the best barbecue ever. Delicious grill, cool weather, laughter everywhere. We, for a while, forgot all about our assignments, quizzes and exams. It was such a thrilling occasion, and we are surely excited for more to come.

Nazha Lahib, Sophomore, Economics
Taking part in the World Business Dialogue in Cologne was a unique experience and a step out of my comfort zone that allowed me to enhance my interpersonal skills and create new networks. Through the master classes and executive sessions held in the conference, I was able to closely interact with digital startup companies such as Cobrainer and Zortify. Overall, I learned the importance of digitalization, artificial intelligence, proper leadership, and innovation in the success of any entrepreneurial idea.

Mera Abouyoussef, Junior, Accounting
The Palestinian Cultural Club has decided to widen its circle of friends and thus collaborated with the Industrial Engineering Club on a BBQ trip that gathered over 75 students from various majors and ethnicities at Creek Park on February 23rd. The trip was more than relaxing and fun, it brought some new people together and we shared memorable moments around some delicious sizzling food.

Yara Kassem, Junior, Mass Communication
It’s always inspiring to see people coming together as a community to make things a little better for those in need. The hand in hand project of renovating homes of the less privileged members of the society was indeed a gratifying experience.

Farah Ali, Junior, International Relations
The Tagalog Language Learning Workshop hosted by our new Philippine Cultural Club was a great way to gain the momentum we sought when opening the club. It was a pleasure interacting and working with both speakers and non-speakers of Tagalog, opening them up to new cultural experiences and heightening their cross-cultural awareness. Given the energetic reception and my personal passion to teach and share knowledge, I definitely love to hold more workshops like these in the future.

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AUS delegation wins accolades at NMUN 2018 held in New York

For the third year in a row, a delegation from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) won the Outstanding Delegation Award, the highest-ranking recognition, at the National Model United Nations (NMUN 2018) in New York City, United States, held March 25–29, 2018.

In addition, the delegation achieved two Outstanding Position Paper awards in two distinct committees and three students were selected during the conference to be rapporteurs. The university’s delegation represented Malawi in four committees: General Assembly 2 (GA2), General Assembly 5 (GA5), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The AUS delegation consisted of Hawazen Diab, Hend Mitkis, Humza Ijaz, Kateryna Kadabashy, Lena Khalifa, Raj Mithani, Salma Ahmed and Vikram Sakkia.

AUS delegate Salma Ahmed, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, said:

“Participating in NMUN2018 enhanced my interest in politics, diplomacy and solving global issues. Being selected as a rapporteur for a conference with such a great magnitude allowed me to communicate with people from different countries, backgrounds, and interests and provided me with a clear vision on the environment of work in the United Nations. Organizing, editing and monitoring ECOSOC’s resolutions as well as overlooking the committee greatly improved my communication skills and challenged me in various ways, all directing me towards flourishing as an adept diplomat. It was truly a pleasure to have taken part of AUS’s 2018 NMUN delegation team.”

Commenting on the AUS delegation’s success, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

“It is an honor to secure the Outstanding Delegation Award for the third time in a row. Our students worked hard for this event and attended numerous training workshops held in preparation. The United Nations simulation this year attracted more than 2,500 delegates from universities across the world, and gave participants a profound insight into the current political, economical, cultural and social issues. It was an unforgettable learning opportunity on pressing topics pertaining to human rights, global warming, education, peace and security. I congratulate our students on a job well done.”