The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Activities held the Club Fair on October 13–14 in the Student Center. Chancellor Peter Heath inaugurated the event on October 13 with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Moza Al Shehhi. In addition, many students, AUS vice chancellors, deans, senior staff, faculty, and guests were also present.

Six student-athletes were awarded AUS Athletic Scholarships on October 14 at a lunch ceremony presided by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and other senior OSA administrators. The recipients for this fall’s athletic scholarship are...
The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs’ Column

Student Affairs has carved a niche as one of the best non-academic student support services providers. We regularly upgrade services and facilities to better meet the needs of our growing student body. Several surveys have been conducted to evaluate Student Affairs support services, and the feedback obtained helped us improve them.

As we move into the next developmental phase, I request the AUS community to contribute by suggesting and commenting on the non-academic student support services development, which includes the following entities: Residential Halls, Judicial Affairs, Learning and Counseling Services, Student Activities, Community Services, the Sports Complex, Student Employment, and the Study Abroad Program.

We are all responsible for sustaining our reputation as quality service provider. Please write to us on commentsonosa@aus.edu.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi

Club Fair...continued from page 1

More than 50 organizations participated in the fair, which introduced students, faculty and staff to the various student clubs and organizations and also familiarized them with the Office of Student Affairs’ support services. The Club Fair gave students the chance to register as members with the various clubs at AUS. Twelve laptops at the Student Center reception desk allowed online registration of new club members, in addition to the laptops made available at most stalls, which helped over 1,000 students register with multiple clubs.

As Chancellor Heath and the senior administrators toured the fair, some clubs offered souvenirs, traditional sweets and coffee, and took photographs. Many clubs organized live performances, while some gave presentations depicting their culture or their club’s past events.

Fall 2008 Club Fair was a rewarding experience for students who helped plan the event with assistance from the Student Activities, which provided them with all the material and technical support.
Student Activities assists newcomers
Student Activities Office (SAO) plays an active role in the university’s New Student Orientation week. From preparing orientation packets to organizing a week of open house activities in the Student Center, SAO introduces newcomers to campus and to an active and fulfilling year ahead.

This fall’s orientation included fun on-campus activities as well as sightseeing tours of Sharjah and Dubai. At a special dinner, new students met Student Affairs administrators and learned about non-academic student support services.

The following student clubs and organizations participated in the fair:

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<tr>
<th>Advertising Club</th>
<th>Innovators Club</th>
<th>Omani Cultural Club</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afghan Cultural Club</td>
<td>Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering</td>
<td>Pakistani Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Algerian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Intensive English Program Club</td>
<td>Palestinian Cultural Club</td>
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<td>American Institute of Architecture and Design</td>
<td>Iranian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Petroleum Engineering Club</td>
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<td>American Society of Civil Engineers</td>
<td>Iraqi Cultural Club</td>
<td>Photography Club</td>
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<td>AUS Debate Club</td>
<td>Islamic Cultural Club</td>
<td>Power Hit Radio Club</td>
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<td>Bahraini Cultural Club</td>
<td>Jordanian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Qatari Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Bangladeshi Cultural Club</td>
<td>Kuwaiti Cultural Club</td>
<td>Realms (Literary) Club</td>
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<td>Chemical Engineering Club</td>
<td>Lebanese Cultural Club</td>
<td>Russian Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Computer Club</td>
<td>Leopard Club</td>
<td>Saudi Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Drama Club</td>
<td>Martial Arts Club</td>
<td>Somali Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Economics Club</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Club</td>
<td>Sri Lankan Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Egyptian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Moroccan Cultural Club</td>
<td>Student Council</td>
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<td>Emirati Cultural Club</td>
<td>Music Club</td>
<td>Sudanese Cultural Club</td>
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<td>Indian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Nigerian Cultural Club</td>
<td>Syrian Cultural Club</td>
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OSA’s non-academic student support services participating were:
- Sports Complex
- Learning and Counseling Services
- Community Services
- Residential Halls
- Career Advising and Placement Services
- Judicial Affairs
- Study Abroad Program
Student employees welcome wage increase

Due to the country’s high inflation rates and in consideration of the demands from different AUS sectors, the Student Employment Office appealed for a raise in the hourly wage of student employees. The university granted the request and the usual AED 12–20/hour wage bracket was raised to AED 15–30/hour.

Student wages vary depending on job duties and on an employee’s work experience in the particular field. Jobs paying AED 15–20 accept freshmen who will perform simple clerical duties that do not require training or work experience. Jobs that pay between AED 20–25 require students to assume more responsibilities, such as coordinating major events and activities like the annual Global Day or orientation. Since such tasks require experience in monitoring other students, senior students are preferred. The highest pay of AED 25–30/hour is for jobs that involve greater responsibilities and work experience in the assigned area. For example, students in these jobs are obliged to undergo special training to familiarize them with the tasks of working on research programs, or perform IT-related jobs or jobs that require technical experience or special skills. Employers decide what tasks they expect a student employee to complete, the employee’s working hours and the rate per hour.

The Student Employment Office is delighted with the wage increase, which will certainly satisfy student employees’ demands and encourage more students to apply for work on campus.

AUS students take part in GITEX 2008

Every year GITEX-Dubai through the Student Employment Office offers AUS students off-campus employment opportunities with hundreds of national and international electronic, hardware and software companies. At this year’s GITEX, held October 18–24, companies such as Etisalat, Hewlett Packard, Dell, Pelikan, Intel and PC International showed interest in hiring our students for different positions during GITEX. Etisalat alone interviewed more than 350 students, while Dell and Pelican interviewed 111 and 25, respectively. Participation in GITEX invariably exposes our students to a professional work atmosphere, helps them gain experience and improves their vocational skills.

Athletic Scholarship... continued from page 1

Ausama F. Azeez, men’s soccer; Jadallah Chehade, men’s soccer; Ahmed Bassam Saymeh, men’s volleyball; Mohamed Farouk Ismail, men’s basketball; Rola Issam Awad, women’s volleyball; and Jaidaa Adel Khouga, women’s basketball.

Awarded by the Office of Student Affairs, the scholarship provides for a 50 percent tuition remission to student-athletes with outstanding sports qualities and limited financial resources. The scholarship is granted on a renewable semester basis. The scholarship program aims to develop athletics at AUS and to encourage students to become high achievers.
Community Services hosts biggest ever Charity Iftar

What’s more beautiful than bringing a smile to an orphan’s lips or helping out an elderly person, especially during the holy month of Ramadan? Community Services kept the Ramadan spirit alive through its Annual Charity Iftar held September 17 for around 800 people from the AUS community, orphans from Human Appeal International, Ajman, and the elderly home in Sharjah.

Student volunteers joined together to prepare gifts, sell coupons and host guests during the iftar. Fun games were organized for the orphans. The smile on the guests’ faces reflected happiness and gratitude. The response from the AUS community was quite impressive, showing its readiness to help charitable causes. Sponsored by Procter and Gamble Wella, the event was an unforgettable experience for those who attended.

Residential Halls: Your home away from home

While summer term may not be as active as the fall and spring semesters, in Summer 2008 more than 1,000 students lived in the residential halls. Each year, a high percentage of the resident students attend the short summer session. As usual during this period, Residential Halls closes some of the dormitory buildings for full maintenance. This year, too, five of the dorms closed.

In fall semester the women’s residential halls staff organized a welcome party for the female students who were new to dormitory life. Held in the Women’s Welcome Center on September 26, the event was well appreciated, with games, music and dancing livening up the atmosphere.

Ramadan brings in a complete change in the dorm life. Most students are up late studying, returning late after attending the taraweeh prayers or simply enjoying the change in the pattern of life during the month. Normally, no sports activities are held in the residential halls during Ramadan, but this semester arrangements were made for Interdorm Indoor Ramadan Tournaments for table tennis, billiards and baby foot (foosball), which culminated after the iftar dinner in the men’s dorm on September 14 with a tug-of-war event. The women’s dorms held a one-day Interdorm sports competition and iftar on September 16.

The residential halls staff and resident students also arranged a number of iftar meals throughout the month. The Residential Halls Department encourages such social gatherings to help students who might miss the company of their family members during these special times.
LCS offers tips on relieving stress

Is your university life bringing you stress? Are you able to find sometime for yourself and relax? While the years you spend at university can be some of the best of your life, the stress that comes with them must be addressed.

The Learning and Counseling Services unit is on the mezzanine floor of the Main Building. Students are free to make an appointment with an LCS counselor to get help in facing life with a positive attitude. You can also write to us at lcc@aus.edu or call us on 06 515 2767.

Some tips to fight stress and relax

- Listen to your favorite music
- Indulge in hot bath
- Meditate
- Practice yoga
- Exercise
- Do breathing exercises

Anyone can try these steps for a very simple breathing exercise:

1. Lie on your back
2. Relax your body
3. Slowly inhale
4. Hold your breath for a second or two
5. Slowly exhale
6. Repeat this for 5–10 minutes
7. You will feel relaxed

CAPS stresses the importance of planning

We always think of a dream job. But do our skills match the requirements of the dream job? Where to look for one? How to plan and secure a dream job?

Hundreds of questions come to your mind as you approach the final year at university. Planning should begin early and not be undervalued nor postponed till after graduation. Besides your chosen major, the university through Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS) provides many opportunities to increase your chances of securing a great job. Opportunities include summer jobs, internships, part time, full time placements, career advising and planning.

As the competition amongst universities and graduates increases, one’s options can be limited and the prejudices of the employers can be difficult to overcome as they will tend to choose people with experience in their own industry or sector.

One of the solutions to overcome this situation is to follow your passion early; screening a job in the industry that interests you most, check which skills it requires, which minors or elective courses you need to take and finally in which sector or industry you want to pursue your internship. Thus, planning is not only important for increasing your odds of getting any job, but it’s also important for getting the right job.

The importance of having a plan now becomes even more important further down the road; this will strengthen your career development, evade failure, and prevent a start over from square one in a new company or industry.
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.

Haneen Nafiz Al Hassan
College of Arts and Sciences

“I believe that the Club Fair was a great success. What was really special was how prepared all the clubs were and how outstanding the stalls were. Almost every stall was unique and gave students a feel of the country it represented or the identity of the club and what it’s all about.”

Mohammed Hajjaj
Finance

“To me, the Student Employment Office provided a lot of help as I gear up to experience the work environment at AUS. Moreover, experiencing work on campus helps student gain the needed skills and knowledge when they graduate and join the working population.”

Lindsey Snyder
Visiting Student, Summer 2008
University of Florida - USA

“I was a visiting student at AUS for Summer 2008 session. I really enjoyed the class and the professors equally, I learned so much about the culture, politics and the history of this part of the world that I couldn’t have anywhere else. The professors were very amusing, the dorms were fantastic and all the girls were so incredibly nice and helpful. I have really enjoyed my time here at AUS and cannot wait to come back and study for a third semester despite the heat of the weather! I have really enjoyed my experience at AUS so much.”

Zaineb Al Amin
Finance

“This is my second year working with Community Services. It helped me develop my teamwork skills through the many events I helped organize. It’s also a very rewarding experience giving back to the community and seeing that our efforts as students can help others smile.”

Comment on Judicial Affairs during Club Fair 2008
“Excellent—they are 9/10. I really think that Judicial Affairs is doing a great job and keeping things cool.”
Mohamed

Comments on curfew in the residential halls
The curfew is good.
Anonymous
No curfew!
Raheel Ahmed
Curfew extension on weekends.
Aisha Ameen and Humaira Khan

Student Suggestions
Excessive policing at gates—is it really necessary? Policing on campus—can we allow students to use good judgment?
Max Low
If it’s possible, can we have annual survey about the new rules and actually be informed?
Anonymous

Jumana Rezwan
Finance and Marketing

“Life in the dorms has given me valuable lessons that go beyond classroom teachings. The multicultural environment has taught me to adapt, adjust and accept people for their differences. At the recent freshman welcome party, I realized that I had come a long way from where I was since my first day at university. My dorm life in Block EF will always hold a very special place in my most fond memories.”
AUS Ramadan Intercollegiate Tournaments

The Athletics Division held the annual AUS Ramadan Intercollegiate Tournaments September 14-21. The competitions included soccer and volleyball for men and basketball for both men and women. Twenty-two teams representing various UAE universities and colleges took part in the event. The AUS teams won first place in the men’s and women’s basketball and second place in men’s soccer.

The event is a nine-year-old tradition that promotes athletic activities during the holy month of Ramadan. The Office of Student Affairs actively supports athletic events at the intercollegiate level to create a harmonious atmosphere for sporting competitions among UAE universities.

The closing ceremony was presided over by AUS Chancellor Dr. Peter Heath, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Moza Al Shehhi and senior OSA administrators.

“...I would like to congratulate the Athletics Division for their teamwork that led to the outstanding hosting of the Ramadan Intercollegiate Sports Tournament that extended for one week. Universities from all over the UAE competed and took part in the events for men’s and women’s basketball, men’s volleyball and men’s soccer. Being the basketball team captain, I felt that this tournament gave my teammates the opportunity to develop stronger bonds with one another. This team chemistry—along with our coach’s efforts and the encouragement from all AUS community members who cheered for us during the games—resulted in overcoming very strong teams and achieving first place in men’s and women’s basketball, and second place in men’s soccer. Finally, I would also like to thank Dr. Heath, Chancellor of AUS, as well as Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities, who attended the final game as their presence inspired hope and confidence in us.”

Participating universities/colleges in the men’s events:
- University of Sharjah
- Al Ghurair University
- BITS Pilani
- Gulf Medical University
- Sharjah Men’s College
- University of Wollongong in Dubai

Participating universities/colleges in the women’s basketball event:
- University of Sharjah
- BITS Pilani
- Zayed University Dubai

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