Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) held the 11th Global Day festival on April 9-10 on campus. Twenty nine cultural and other student clubs and organizations participated in the event.

His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the event. He was accompanied by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Dr. John Mosbo, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; George DeBin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Ali Shuhaimy, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; other senior university officials as well as senior government officials.  

AUS students vote - new student government elected

Students who aspire to be a part of the AUS Student Council are required to lead an active campus life as well as be in good academic and social standing. Furthermore, experience
No one ever attains very eminent success by simply doing what is required of him; it is the amount and excellence of what is over and above the required that determines the greatness of ultimate distinction.” – Charles Kendall Adams

High achievers and their achievements in the field of extracurricular activities have always been recognized and rewarded by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). For the seventh year in a row, we celebrated the success achieved in extracurricular activities by our outstanding students in a special ceremony held on May 5. What makes these individuals different from others in the student body? How did they reach this stage? What extraordinary qualities and skills do they have? What role did OSA play in their success? What examples are they setting for the current AUS student population?

To answer these questions, we must take a look at our exceptional achievers who possess a wide variety of qualities such as setting clear goals; having a strong determination to excel; working hard; being energetic; practicing continuously; possessing self confidence, strong leadership qualities, inborn and learned talents; and focusing on teamwork. Some of these students walked that extra mile to help others by taking part in community services activities. All these winners, however, made the best use of resources and facilities offered by OSA and participated actively in extracurricular activities. The encouragement and support of the entire OSA team has been with these students at every step. And though they certainly achieved their success because of their inherent talents, strong drive to excel, and commitment and hard work, OSA complemented their efforts by providing them with a platform to practice their talent and hone their skills through dedicated coaching and unstinting support.

I congratulate all the clubs and organizations as well as individuals who were recognized for their success and achievements. They were able to balance their academics with their extracurricular activities. I am glad that we are shaping our students to be successful all round leaders of tomorrow.

We will miss our graduating students who we commended on this occasion. However I wish to say that our association is a never ending one. I want our alumni to keep in touch with us, to remain associated with us so that they can pass their valuable experience and talent on to the next batch of students. Once again, I would like to congratulate all our students who were recognized for their achievements and would urge them, and others, to keep participating with the same vigor in extracurricular activities.

AUS wins top prize at Skyline Cross Fire Competition

The AUS Debate Club won the ‘Best Debating Team’ prize at the Ninth Skyline Cross Fire competition. The intercollegiate event was hosted by Skyline University. Engi Zidane and Mohammed Mushtaq displayed their debating skills as they competed with contestants from 11 regional universities. The topic of the debate was “Beauty Contest: A disgrace to women’s dignity.” Engi Zidane spoke ‘against’ the motion while Mohammad Mushtaq spoke ‘for’ it.

Engi won the ‘Best Speaker against the motion’ award while Mushtaq won the ‘1st runners up title for the motion.’ The winners, successful due to their hard work, the support of the Debate Club and their coach Dr. Don Love’s training, continued their winning ways at this competition after their recent success at the UOWD competition.

The winning team thanked Student Activities for giving them the opportunity to participate in the competition and to the AUS Debate Club for their encouragement and support.
“Peace Throughout the World” was the theme of Global Day festival which reflected the harmony and peace prevalent in the multicultural environment of AUS. Forty four corners were set up during the event. Student clubs set up country pavilions to present diverse cultures and traditions while Community Services brought 18 social service organizations on campus to help raise awareness for various humanitarian causes. The country ‘corners’ this year looked spectacular, with cultural performances and bands entertaining the crowds. The campus came alive with students, many in their traditional attire, dancing and enjoying themselves. The main attractions of this year’s event included the World Bazaar, Food Fair and cultural performances. Eight restaurants served a wide variety of traditional cuisines to thousands who visited the festival.

Each year the Office of Student Affairs increases the scale of this special event, which has become extremely popular and well known throughout the region. This year approximately 35,000 people attended the two-day event.

Audiences loved the stage performances presented on both days of the festival and held in the main auditorium. Tickets for the stage shows were sold out in two hours a couple of days prior to the event. However, for all those unable to buy tickets, a live broadcast of the stage performances was organized on giant screens. Student Council, in cooperation with Student Activities, also set an outdoor stage to present live performances.

Global Day is one of the many colorful events organized by OSA and Student Activities which teaches students to team up, work together and assimilate within a culturally diverse community. The planning involved in holding this event is learning provided outside the classroom which enables students to integrate academics with extracurricular life and allows them to use their engineering, accounting, design, management and media skills. The successful event was a product of months of preparation and hard work put together under the guidance and support of OSA and AUS.

This year’s Global Day not only highlighted the cultural diversity on campus but exposed students to different cultures on campus through exhibits of traditional items, attire, foods, folkloric performances, cultural bands and poetry. The popular festival was covered by all the leading newspapers of the region as well as by our own university publications.
of serving on the executive boards of clubs or regular, active participation in extracurricular events and activities is essential.

The 29 candidates contesting for Student Council seats conducted an intensive campaign prior to the election. As a result, a large number of students cast their votes to select new members of the Student Council during the day-long voting held on May 13.

“Our University has always been very eager to promote student participation and student government on campus. The AUS Student Council elections are a reflection of that support and interest. We encourage all our students to play an active role in campus life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The newly elected council members will serve for the academic year 2009-10.

Max Hayward Stanton from the School of Business and Management (SBM) was elected Student Council President. He had served as College Coordinator for SBM on the previous Student Council. He was an extremely active member of the previous council; this played a significant role in his electoral success.

The following students were elected and will assume Student Council (2009-10) functions effective September 1, 2009:

Executive Board
President: Max Hayward Stanton
Vice President: Mahmoud Riad Ghandour
Vice President for Public Relations: Mohammed Aslam Quraishi
Treasurer: Hazem Ibrahim Al Habdan
Secretary: Tara Salah Al Rubaie

Committee Coordinators
Events and Activities Coordinator: Jumanah Asad Suboh
Communication and Media Coordinator: Nasab Ahmad Abu Kheer
Athletics and Sports Coordinator: Mariam Mostafa Fahmy

College Coordinators
College of Arts and Sciences: Fatma Ahmed Al Saleh
College of Engineering: Ahmad M Al Janabi
School of Architecture and Design: Naji Muneer Mah’d
School of Business and Management: Tariq Sayed Al-Hashmi
Intensive English Program: Sara Osama Abaalkhail
Humanitarian activities of AUS commended

A delegation from Human Appeal International honored American University of Sharjah (AUS) for its continued support to charitable causes and its collaboration with the organization in conducting humanitarian campaigns during the academic year. Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, was presented with a ‘commemorative plaque’ by Mr. Ahmed Yousef Abdullah, Assistant Secretary for Secretary General Office Affairs, on behalf of Human Appeal International. Dr. Moza received this plaque on behalf of AUS during a special meeting held between AUS and Human Appeal International. Certificates of appreciation were given to Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities and Mrs. Aisha Ali, Community Services Coordinator, for their efforts in developing strong ties with humanitarian organizations.

The Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs is currently associated with more than 20 private, governmental health institutions, social services organizations and charity foundations and organizes events and programs supporting charitable causes, serving the underprivileged, raising awareness on social issues and community awareness. Community Service programs offer a unique opportunity to AUS student volunteers to engage in charitable causes, serve the society, become responsible individuals and get acquainted with the various needs of the society.

Establishing healthy peer relations

How often do you listen to and counsel your friends and college mates? You might even have surprised yourself by the way you successfully managed to communicate, mediate and influence an individual or a situation. You succeeded because you gave it your best shot. You made your peers happy by listening to them and giving them valuable advice.

We at the Office of Student Affairs would like to encourage you to join our Peer Mediation Program through Mediation Services, and Judicial Affairs. This program will equip you with the requisite skills and provide you with resources that will enable you to practice peer mediation on campus. We will provide you with practical learning experience through 10 hours of coaching.

For further information on the Peer Mediation Program, write to us on judicialaffairs@aus.edu
Annual Student Appreciation Award
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.

Hasnaa Rabat  
Sophomore  
Electrical Engineering

“I would really like to thank the administration for hosting the wonderful Appreciation Dinner to celebrate students’ achievements in various activities. The celebration was splendid and allowed us to enjoy ourselves after all the hard work. It also allowed us to commemorate yet another special moment with our respective teams and organizations. I thank the Sports Complex administration and AUS officials who adjudged me one of the most outstanding active students for this year. This appreciation from the administration has motivated me to work harder and participate in more activities around the university. Again, thank you.”

Mashaal Naeem  
Junior  
Finance  
President, AUS Debate Club

“I have been actively involved with the Student Activities Department for the past two years and this experience has proved to be one of great value for me. This semester, I was elected as the President of the AUS Debate Club and received immense support and encouragement from Student Activities to organize and participate in any event internally as well as major national events such as UOWD Inter-Collegiate Public Speaking Competition and the Skyline Cross Fire Competition. The OSA Appreciation Dinner honored me with the ‘Most Active Outstanding Student’ award which gave me a lot of encouragement to perform even better in the future and to give my best in the field of extra-curricular activities. Hence, I would like to thank Student Activities for giving me numerous opportunities to explore my skills and gain real-world experience.”

Meera Abu-Madi  
Sophomore  
Business and Finance

“To be honest, volleyball to me is not only a sport, it is also what motivates me and brings out the competitive side of me but I can assure you that without the help of my coach, I wouldn’t have reached where I am today. Of course, special thanks to the AUS Sports Complex management for granting me the ‘Most Outstanding Active Student Award’ which is a great recognition and motivates me to train harder and hopefully perform even better. Last but not least I would like to thank my parents for their unconditional support.”

Mohammed William Nazzal  
Junior  
Management Information Systems

“It was amazing to be selected among the few elite athletes who are annually recognized by the OSA for their contribution to the AUS teams. I sincerely believe that AUS athletes are very fortunate to be members of the AUS community; a community that doesn’t hesitate to highlight the hard work and perseverance of the athletes. I would like to thank OSA for creating such an award. This award will further motivate me to give my best in training as well as in the field.”
Hooman Alireza Bagheri
Freshman
Biology

“As a member of the badminton team, I thank the university for the ‘Most Outstanding Active Student Award.’ I also thank the coach who did a great job. I had a great time during the period I spent with the team and coach. It is a great privilege playing for the AUS badminton team and to be honest, it feels great to be one of the most outstanding students. I hope I can help the team achieve more titles. Once again, thanks to all who supported me in my journey towards the championship and success.”

Mahmoud Ghandour
Senior
Electrical Engineering
President, Syrian Cultural Club

“It’s really hard to describe how wonderful it is working with the Student Activities Department. For the past three semesters, I have been an orientation team leader. This position has helped me a lot in improving my communication skills and be more involved in student activities. In the past year, I tried to be as active as I possibly could in student activities; whether it was serving as President of the Syrian Club, or being an AUS Diplomat, or even through the various events of community service. I tried my best to get involved in various activities. The staff of the Student Activities Department was there to guide me and support me in my journey.

“One of the best nights of my life was the appreciation dinner night. The concept of the night itself is amazing; to see all those involved in student activities gathered in one place and appreciated for what they had done throughout the year. For me, winning the award of the ‘Most Outstanding Active Student’ was the recognition of all the hard work done throughout the year. In fact when the Syrian club won the ‘Best Corner Award,’ I was extremely happy and proud as I felt that I had fulfilled my duties and responsibilities successfully as leader. For me, being an active student, diplomat, and successful leader would not be possible without the great support from the Student Activities Department.”

Haneen Al Hassan
Senior
Mass Communication
President, Photography Club

“This year the Student Activities Department did an amazing job in helping students achieve their goals. So many clubs were able to create new and fun events this year. The annual appreciation dinner was extraordinary; it was hard for us as students to decide on which was the best performance because picking out the best from among all the great work was very hard. I personally was so overwhelmed when I received the ‘Most Outstanding Active Student’ award. I wasn’t expecting it at all, and for me to know that the Students Activities Department saw the potential I have and appreciated all the effort I put in throughout the semester made me truly grateful. So thank you to Student Activities for making this year a great one and giving us all the opportunity to shine.”

Basel Al-Haj
Junior
Mechanical Engineering
President, Palestinian Cultural Club

“It was a great experience working with Student Activities this year. Working on the activities added a nice flavor to university social life and gave me a push to study harder. This year was full of interesting events, and it ended with the best one, the appreciation dinner, as it is always a great feeling for students to be appreciated by the university.”
On campus student employment

Do you need extra help?
Are you looking for bright, responsible student workers?
Do you want to help enrich students’ work experience at AUS?
The Student Employment Office can provide you with the ideal candidate from a pool of talented and qualified student workers.
For further information, please contact SEO on 06 515 2752 or email aantar@aus.edu

Student employees are allowed to work up to 40 hours per week (160 hours per month) during summer session from May 22-August 26, 2009. Avail of this opportunity.

Choose to be happy
Self development plan

“Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.”
Aristotle’s definition of happiness

Because happiness is something most of us aim for, how we define it has important implications for how we conduct our lives.

Happiness is all about minimizing pain and maximizing pleasure.

This is just a list of tips that will help many people in life — some of them common-sense tips that we often forget about. Consider this guide a reminder.

- Make happiness for self and others a top goal, along with love, truth, growth, health and other timeless values that go hand-in-hand with happiness.
- Learn how to find and solve deep causes of unhappiness.
- Create a positive world by adopting a positive world view. Overcome your greatest fears, and learn that you can be happy in any situation.
- Develop a greater self worth and self-confidence. Learn to love yourself and others unconditionally.
- Learn to hope for the best, be prepared for the worst, expect something in between, and be grateful for all that you receive.
- Replace external control with internal control. Overcome too much dependence on others, need for others, or worrying about what others think. Learn to improve relationships by being more internally controlled, intimate, and assertive.
- Don’t compare yourself to others. This is hard to do, but it can be a great way to accept who you are and what you have. Whenever you find yourself comparing yourself to a co-worker, a friend, or someone famous, stop. And realize that you are different, with different strengths. Take a minute to appreciate all the good things about yourself, and to be grateful for all the blessings in your life.
- Focus on benefits, not difficulties. If you find yourself struggling to do something, stop thinking about how hard something is, or why you don’t want to do it. Focus instead on what benefits it will have for you, what opportunities it will create — the good things about it. By changing the way you see things, you can change how you feel about them and make it easier to get things done.

In need of help, don’t hesitate to contact the Student Learning and Counseling Services’ (SLCS) counselors. SLCS offices are located at the first floor of Student Center.
AUS wins First Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament

The Office of Student Affairs’ Athletics Division organized the 1st AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament at the newly constructed AUS cricket grounds. Prominent institutions of higher education such as American University in Dubai, Middlesex University, Skyline University College, Emirates Aviation College and Mahi Manipal University participated in the tournament, which was held April 7-14.

The exciting matches attracted a large crowd of cricket enthusiasts. The AUS varsity team beat Mahi Mahipal University in the final match of the tournament. This was our team’s fourth consecutive victory at a recently held tournament. AUS captain Bilal Saleem was awarded the ‘Man of the Match’ award.

“It has been a successful season for the AUS cricket team, winning several titles at competitions held all over the UAE. The addition of a cricket ground is the first phase in the improvement and development of our sports facilities and will certainly increase the number of programs we offer. I would like to encourage our students to take advantage of these new facilities to complement their academic life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The awards ceremony was held on April 14 and attended by senior OSA staff.

Residential Halls: Your home away from home

A large number of resident students took part this Spring semester in the inter-dormitory sports activities. Over 500 registrations were received for the inter-dormitory sports, with just the football event seeing 165 students participating.

On the demand of the students, residential halls added women’s volleyball and karate as well as a bowling competition to the events. Football, volleyball, karate and bowling were organized in collaboration with the Sports Complex. The prize distribution ceremony was held on April 28 on the occasion of AUS Sports Day. Students competed for top prizes in the men’s football, table tennis, foosball, ten-pin-bowling, billiards, chess, women’s volleyball and women’s karate events.

Staff and students of the residential halls also organized two functions in the men’s and women’s dormitories for graduating resident students. Over 150 students gathered to bid farewell to Spring and Summer graduates during the women’s function on April 14 whereas more than 200 attended the men’s function held on April 21.

Apart from it being an occasion to recall fond memories of their stay in the dorms, these events provided a platform for students to perform in front of their peers and build their confidence. The women’s event included a cultural costume show, while the men’s event included stand-up comedy and cultural dances. The events also included solo singing and piano recitals as well as farewell speeches by graduating students. Students also participated in preparing of flyers and invitations for publicity inside the residential halls.
AUS celebrates Sports Day 2009

The annual AUS Sports Day celebration was a testimony to the success achieved by the Athletics Division in terms of reaching the many goals it had set for itself. Increased student participation along with a greater level of student satisfaction were prime reasons for this success.

After a thrilling semester of intramural and interschool sports activities, the Sports Day was held on April 28, 2009. It was a special occasion for students who participated in sports tournaments and activities held during the year.

“I thank AUS athletes for their tireless efforts in representing our university in local and international tournaments; I also thank all the students who took part in intramural sports activities during the academic year. I encourage our students to avail of the many services and facilities provided by OSA to complement their academic endeavors and help them fulfill their goals,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, speaking on the occasion. The event was attended by around 400 AUS community members.

The event began at 5:00 p.m. The final matches of a number of sports events were held simultaneously in the indoor and outdoor courts. The main attraction included the final match of the 2009 Residential Halls Soccer Tournament, a soccer match between the AUS varsity team and an AUS alumni team, a karate display by the AUS women’s karate team and a martial arts competition for men by the AUS men’s martial arts team. Additionally, games such as a sack race, tug of war and three-legged race saw the participation of students, faculty and staff members. Some of the intramural events organized were held in collaboration with the Residential Halls Department.

The awards ceremony was presided over by senior OSA staff followed by a barbecue dinner.

AUS team achievements in HESF spring 2009 tournaments

The Higher Education Sports Federation (HESF) of the UAE organized country-wide inter-university competitions throughout the Spring semester. The sporting events, held at selected regional venues, attracted a great number of student-athletes from prominent UAE universities and colleges. Sports fans from AUS and other competing universities attended the events in large numbers to cheer for their respective teams.

American University of Sharjah (AUS), being an active member of HESF, participated in seven men’s and five women’s tournaments and hosted the final events of women’s swimming, basketball and volleyball. Around 150 student-athletes competed for AUS and achieved the following ranks in the HESF events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s chess</td>
<td>1st place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s badminton</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s swimming</td>
<td>1st place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s table tennis</td>
<td>1st place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s swimming</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s badminton</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s volleyball</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s basketball</td>
<td>4th place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s soccer</td>
<td>Quarter finalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s volleyball</td>
<td>Quarter finalist</td>
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