Open forums: An effort to promote dialogue and improve student services

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities; and other senior staff members of the OSA team met with 170 student representatives from Student Council, sports teams, cultural and interest-oriented student clubs, Community Services volunteers and students associated with Student Leadership Programs in a series of forums in October. The open forums served as a wonderful opportunity for both students and OSA administrators to share their experiences on events and activities conducted by Student Affairs. Student Affairs elicited student challenges through dialogue, discussed their concerns, shared ideas and encouraged them to suggest ways to improve student services.

Following are the issues shared by the students:

- **October 14 forum with sports team members.** Twenty-nine student-athletes
Student Affairs provides opportunities for students to develop their leadership capacity and to empower them with skills to emerge as effective leaders. We have strengthened students’ leadership abilities through participation in the following:

- The Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN) held in Bahrain on November 28, 2008, when eight AUS students shared ideas, exchanged cultural information and gave a presentation on their country to a large audience.

- The Youth Café Meeting held in Beirut, Lebanon, September 30–October 2, 2009, when eight of our students brainstormed with 32 other youth to generate the most innovative and creative ideas to be incorporated in the youth agenda that will be discussed during the FIKR8 conference scheduled for December 9-10 in Kuwait. FIKR is the Arab Thought Foundation conducting activities in education, art and culture, youth empowerment and more.

- The Women as Global Leaders Conference on Learning Leadership held in Dubai March 10-12, 2008, for which six of our female students were selected to attend.

We recognized the need to prepare leaders who will be able to make a significant and positive impact on society through co-curricular programs and activities. Responsively, we have intensified our efforts in collaborating with other universities and community-based organizations to offer students opportunities to practice leadership and acquire practical experience. “Leap to Lead” is OSA’s student leadership development initiative to create effective leaders of today and tomorrow. I hope to see our students involved in:

- American University of Kuwait’s Model United Nations (AUKMUN) to be held November 19-21, 2009, in Kuwait. Ten AUS students will be able to participate, and student selection is in process.

- The Fifth Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN) is scheduled December 12–13 in Bahrain.


While opportunities are limited the initiatives are many; students who may not be able to participate in a particular event should not be discouraged but rather should keep looking at Student Affairs e-mails, the event calendar, the website or visit our offices in the Student Center. Explore leadership opportunities in sports, activities, residential life, mediation services, student employment and community service offered outside the classroom, to learn more of what is in store.

SEO offers short-term volunteer projects

AUS students can participate in short-term volunteer projects with help from the Student Employment Office (SEO). These projects offer students job-shadowing experience and give them the chance to gain professional expertise, build relationships and improve vocational skills. Participating students can receive incentives such as certificates and cash.

This year, 56 AUS students worked at different levels in GITEX 09 in Dubai, for multinational and international electronic, hardware and software companies such as TRA, Pelikan, Hewlett Packard, Kaspersky and PC International. Twelve students from different majors and with functional expertise in sales, customer service and administration were selected to work for Life Steps organization, the company that provides the Computer Aided Maths Instruction (CAMI) program in the Middle East.

For information on how you can participate in a volunteer project, please email aantar@aus.edu.
AUS students participate in Beirut Youth Café Meet

Eight students participated in the Arab Thought Foundation’s Youth Café Meeting held October 1 in Beirut, Lebanon. Alia Al-Mehairi, Hayaa M. Azzam, Hichem Aichour, Mahmoud Riad Ghandour, Razan Munir Majdalawieh, Yousef Khalifa Al Ghufli, Yusur Y. Abbas Al Bahrani and Zaid Ousamah Al Rayes joined 32 other youths from different Arab nations to debate, exchange ideas and experiences, and share thoughts to generate innovative and creative ideas that will contribute to enriching the agenda of the foundation’s FIKR8 conference, which will be held in Kuwait December 9–10.

The Arab Thought Foundation conducts activities in the fields of education, art, culture, youth empowerment and others. It offers Arab communities unique opportunities to interact, think creatively and focus on innovation during their annual conference. Every year, FIKR addresses major issues of the Arab region centered on a particular theme. This year’s theme is “Integrating Arab Economies: Partners for Prosperity” and the debate will cover this topic.

The students’ participation in the event is organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Programs and sponsored by the Arab Thought Foundation.

AUS student clubs host a series of Iftars

Throughout the holy month of Ramadan the Student Activities Office (SAO) and AUS student clubs worked together to host customary iftars for students, faculty and staff. Iftars create a bond between students and the campus community as they share cultural information, traditions, serve each other and pray together.

Club iftars gained popularity this year as a result of the hard work and team spirit of the host clubs and SAO. Iftars hosted by the Emirati, Iraqi, Indian, Palestinian and Syrian cultural clubs were admired by guests for their hospitality and authentic portrayal of their cultures. Each of the club iftars had up to 200 guests.

In addition to the individual student club iftars, the AUS Islamic Cultural Club hosted a daily iftar in the special Ramadan Tent erected beside the AUS mosque. The Islamic Club spread the message of brotherhood and compassion through religious activities and events and provided iftar meals for around 100 guests daily.

All in all, AUS clubs and SAO were able to create a religious and inviting atmosphere for Ramadan this year that depicted the true spirit of giving and sharing and brought the AUS community together.
The Office of Student Affairs’ (OSA) Student Activities Office (SAO) held the Club Fair on October 5 and 6 in the Student Center. Chancellor Peter Heath inaugurated the event with senior AUS officials including Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mr. Salem Yousef Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and Mr. George DeBin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. Also present were Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities; Mr. Ezz Taha, Manager of Student Activities; and representatives from the Student Council.

One of the biggest events organized by OSA every semester, the fair promotes cultural and interest-oriented clubs on campus and provides a platform for students to share their common interests. The fair also featured seven OSA units: the Student Athletics and Recreation Department, the Student Residential Life Department, Community Services, Student Employment, Judicial Affairs, Student Learning and Counseling Services and the newly established Student Leadership Programs.

OSA units participate in the fair to help familiarize students with the non-academic student support services OSA offers and to encourage students to take advantage of these extracurricular opportunities to complement their personal and academic goals.

The highlights of this semester’s Club Fair included the participation of new clubs such as the Student Residential Life Association and the Entrepreneurship Club and the re-activation of the Chechen Cultural Club. During the fair, the clubs used innovative ways to promote themselves. The American Society of Civil Engineers Club placed directional signs in the university’s walkway leading from the Engineering building to the Student Center. The Photography Club took commemorative portraits of over 150 students. Power Hit Radio played students’ song requests in exchange for a donation to the Red Crescent.

More than 9,000 club registrations were recorded during the fair as a result of strong student interest in joining multiple clubs. This lead to an 80 percent increase in registration as compared to last year’s Club Fair. Online registrations were completed through several laptop computers stationed at the Student Center reception desk in addition to those located in the club stalls.

The lively event highlighted cultural diversity on campus as clubs portrayed their cultures and interests through colorful stalls, music, traditional food, national flags, multimedia presentations and live performances. The Club Fair was a rewarding experience for students involved in the preparation of the event with the help of the SAO team, who provided them with all the material and technical support.

The two-day event concluded with live cultural performances from selected clubs.
OSA organizes a week of activities for freshmen

The Student Activities Office welcomed new students and answered queries through a central information desk in the Student Center during the New Students’ Orientation week. More than 800 orientation packets containing important information on AUS services was distributed to new students.

A group of 15 undergraduates from student clubs and organizations assisted the newcomers.

New activities offered during the week-long open house activities in the Student Center were Nintendo Wii games, free bowling games in the Bowling City, DJ music, movies and a variety of table games for student recreation.

Sightseeing trips were organized to Sharjah and Dubai for 150 and 200 students, respectively.

Dr. Peter Heath, Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. George DeBin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities; and other senior OSA and AUS officials attended the freshman reception dinner with around 400 students. The gathering provided an opportunity for new students to interact with administrators and to learn more about OSA’s non-academic student support services.
Alumnus conducts session for Photography Club

AUS alumnus and current College of Engineering graduate student Ahmed Al Reyami, a skilled photographer and former president of the AUS Photography Club, lead a workshop for the AUS Photography Club on October 11 in the Student Center. Through the session, members gained a better understanding of the basics of photography and enriched their skills.

The session began with an introduction to DSLR cameras, camera settings and parts, followed by question and answers. Practical training was offered using a variety of techniques. The session concluded with a discussion on choosing photography as a career. Novice club photographers said they appreciated the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and planned to use what they learned on their upcoming photography trip.

“As an undergraduate student, Ahmed was very active and seized extracurricular opportunities that supported his interests and talents for personal and professional growth,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “We encourage our alumni to share their knowledge, talents and experience on how extracurricular activities played an important role in their lives,” she added.

Al Reyami is now a project engineer with ADNEC and is pursuing a master’s degree in engineering systems management at AUS. The session was organized by the AUS Photography Club in coordination with Office of Student Affairs’ Student Activities Office.

AUS commemorates International Day of the Elderly

The AUS Community Services Division hosted an event in honor of the International Day of the Elderly on September 30. The UAE Band led the march from the AUS main gate to the Student Center with 10 student volunteers who greeted and celebrated this event with 50 elderly guests from the Old People’s Home in Sharjah. Community Services volunteers help bring a smile to the lips of the elderly on this special day.

Community Services staff and student volunteers visited the Old People’s Home in Sharjah on October 1. They participated in a festive program that was inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah. Our students participated in the Alyouth (a traditional UAE dance) and gave superb performances during the rapturous reception. Our students’ community awareness and involvement attracted media attention, and they were interviewed by Sama Dubai and Noor Dubai.
AUS invited orphans and the elderly from social services institutions for iftar on September 8. This Community Services Ramadan Charity Iftar united 500 individuals from the AUS community with 60 guests from orphanages and the Old People’s Home in Sharjah.

OSA’s Community Services collaborated with Human Appeal International from Ajman and the Social Care Center for Children and the Old People’s Home in Sharjah to serve the underprivileged. Fifty students volunteered to raise awareness of this cause and assist in organizing the event. The orphans were entertained with fun games and were delighted with the gifts they received.

AUS community members rendered support by buying charity tickets. Sponsors such as All Prints, Deli Marche, Subway, Abella, Sharjah Islamic Bank and Sharjah Grand Hotel supported this charitable initiative by generously contributing cash and in-kind donations. The proceeds from this event were donated to charity.

OSA organizes similar events during the month of Ramadan every year. This year, OSA organized an iftar gathering for Cleanco staff members at AUS. Around 145 staff from the university’s cleaning company attended the event and were very thankful to OSA for organizing the special gathering.
**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.

**Yousef Khalifa Al-Ghuffli**  
Sophomore  
International Studies  
AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

“Saying that the event was impressive is the least I could say for the FIKR-8 Youth Café meeting. Attending a conference that brought together some of the most innovative Arab youth from a diverse number of backgrounds was extremely fulfilling. Additionally, as an AUS student whose education is centered on the English language, the experience of connecting in a professional atmosphere with other professionals through my native Arabic has been quite enlightening and helpful. Personally, I had a memorable time with all those I had interacted with on this trip. First, the intellectual group of AUS students whom I had just met the day our flight was about to leave to Beirut, and second, the young, innovative Arab minds that I met the day after in the Youth Café meeting. In the end, I would like to thank the Arab Thought Foundation and its President and Founder His Royal Highness Prince Khalid al-Faisal Bin Abdul-Aziz al-Saud who made this gathering of young minds possible and our American University of Sharjah and its President and Founder His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi for facilitating our participation in this event.”

**Hichem Aichour**  
Senior  
Electrical Engineering  
AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

“Regarding my experience in Lebanon, at the beginning, I thought that the main thing that I would gain from the conference is having better interpersonal skills. This happened mainly because of the fact that they did not require any preparation from us and that it would be just a brainstorming session. However, at the beginning of the Youth Café Meeting, the host asked us to remember this day, Thursday, October 1, 2009, as a historical day that will not only change our lives, but the world’s life. I thought that this was just a way to catch our attention, but after the day had finished I was completely convinced that it would be a historical day. At the end of October 1, everyone went out of the door filled with hope that tomorrow will be a better day. We have seen in the conference two examples of Arab youth who made our tears run. It was an amazing experience that has changed my life and made me think more about my short- and long-term goals.”

**Mahmoud Riad Ghandour**  
Senior  
Electrical Engineering  
AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

“I really would like to express my thanks to the activities department for giving me, again, the chance to participate in such a conference, not as a participant only, but as a group leader. This allowed me to enhance my leadership and communication skills significantly, besides the gain I had from participating in the conference. Moreover, the conference was so informative and helpful; it introduced me to many Arab youth leaders who are willing to make a change in this world.”

**Yusur Al-Bahrani**  
Junior  
Mass Communication  
AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

“It was a great opportunity to meet other Arab youth from all Arab countries and share with them views about important issues that affect us. I think it is a great step towards building leaders of the future. Thanks to AUS, which gave me the opportunity and informed us about the Arab Youth Café meeting. After the meeting, I am optimistic about a better future for the young. Our AUS group was such an amazing group. I felt that these students are my real brothers and sisters. It was a very successful trip.”
“The preparatory meeting of the Arab Thought Foundation Conference (FIKR8) followed the informal café meeting method. There was a panel discussion where we—the youth of the Arab world—met and discussed ideas about the reality of the Arab world’s affairs and its economic integration project. We, the AUS Diplomats, contributed and shared our modern ideas with 32 other Arab students.”

“First of all, the trip was amazing; I had so much fun. Besides having fun, I learned too many things from participating in the Youth Café meeting by al FIKR foundation. The most wonderful thing is that I met many people from different Arab countries; we shared our thoughts, beliefs and our dreams and I had the opportunity to add them to my friend list. Personally, I learned something that I would never forget, which is if you want to be the best you have to fight till the end. Finally, I wish that I will have another opportunity to participate in another meeting and of course, I want to thank all the people who worked and came up with this useful program.”

““The trip to Beirut to attend the Youth Café Meeting was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I met people from all over the region, including people from Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and many more. Before attending the meeting, we were given badges composed of one of five colors: blue, yellow, green, purple and pink. At the conference, we were asked to form a table of five, with each person holding a different color badge. After forming the table, we were given a question that we were to discuss with people at our table, which we would later present in front of all participants and event coordinators. After discussing the question, we would be asked to form a new table with new people in order to meet as many participants as possible. Also, during the meeting we were honored to have His Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal as a guest speaker, and we were able to take a group photo with him. We, as well as many of the other participants, had quite intelligent ideas on the conference topic, which was mainly Arab economy and culture. The conference ended with a huge banquet held at the Intercontinental Hotel. This is a trip I will never forget and I hope we will all be able to reunite again for the FIKR8 conference in Kuwait. Thank you and thanks to Dr. Moza as well for giving us the opportunity to attend such an amazing conference. It has truly lifted our spirits and given us hope for the future of the Arab region. I am excited for many of the other opportunities you have to offer us students here at AUS. Thank you again for everything.”

Hayaa M. Azzam
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Sophomore
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AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

Alia Al Mehairi
Junior
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AUS Delegate to the Beirut Youth Café Meet

““Our trip to Beirut, Lebanon, was distinguished. We discovered the kindness of Beirut and its inhabitants. We had fun discovering Beirut and its neighborhoods. We also got an open invitation from the AUB students to visit the most prestigious university in Lebanon, and look into its various academic programs. We met many Arab students living or studying in Arab countries other than those of their actual residencies. This meeting encouraged me to participate in more conferences and meetings abroad in the future. I’m really proud that I was chosen to go to the café meeting. I’m so proud that AUS selected me to represent the Diplomats, where I can reflect myself, my university, my culture and my country.”

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Lulwa Al-Muhanna  
Graduate, Spring 2009  
Living in the dorms...  
“After graduating from AUS, I reflected upon my life experience and the many people and organizations I have dealt with during my stay at AUS. I found myself fondly looking back at the wonderful times I had spent at the women’s dormitory at AUS and the many great and hopefully lasting friendships I have developed in the dorms. The Residential Halls’ management must have a unique ability of choosing particularly kind and helpful supervisors who, in no time at all, became individuals we could go to for advice and support. Thus, I thank you all for creating a place that provides students with a basis of support, a home.”

Dana El Assi  
Senior  
Architecture  
On Campus Student Employee  
“I have been working on campus for the past two years. I worked as a student helper in the Testing Center as well as a teaching assistant in School of Architecture and Design. Both jobs enriched my experience in terms of developing my communication and time management skills. I gained professional experience that taught me how to work in a professional environment and deal with different parties (students, staff, parents…etc). In addition to the experience I gained, I received adequate pocket money.”

Joanne Youssef Mattar  
Sophomore  
Mechanical Engineering  
AUS Volleyball Team Member  
Athletic Scholarship Awardee  
“Receiving the AUS sports scholarship was the paramount of my accomplishments, and the greatest of the honors I have received. My sole wish is to give back half of what the Sports Complex management and faculty have given me, from comfort and relief during working hours, as well as experience and improvement during practice, to pride and joy after receiving the scholarship. Thanks a million. “

Talal H. Al Marzooqi  
Sophomore  
Civil Engineering  
AUS Soccer Team Member  
Athletic Scholarship Awardee  
“I would like to take this opportunity of receiving the prestigious Athletic Scholarship to thank the OSA for their unyielding support to the AUS student-athletes. The scholarship will motivate me to work hard on the pitch to be a better player and a better representative of AUS in all national and international competitions.”

Asa’d Mohammad Monther  
Sophomore  
Mechanical Engineering  
AUS Basketball Team Member  
Athletic Scholarship Awardee  
“Being awarded the athletic scholarship motivates me to work hard, and to improve and achieve professionalism in the game of basketball. It is a great opportunity to learn new morals, especially leadership traits. Being a major player in the team, I am faced with many responsibilities and this scholarship allows me to be more confident, optimistic and cooperative while playing with my teammates.”

Mohd William Nazzal  
Junior  
Management Information Systems  
AUS Soccer Team Member  
Athletic Scholarship Awardee  
“I’d like to start by thanking the Sports Complex management for selecting me as the right candidate for the scholarship, I am very grateful for this great reward that I have been given. Being awarded with this scholarship has proven to me that hard work is never taken for granted. Thank you again, I highly appreciate this, and hopefully you will not regret your selection.”
“I would like to take this chance to thank American University of Sharjah for granting me with the generous athletic scholarship for the current semester. The scholarship is a great way to motivate me to work harder academically and athletically. AUS has demonstrated its interest in improving athletics. Since I have been here, scholarships have increased from four to nine, and I am glad to know that more scholarships will be offered in future semesters. This is certainly a very encouraging way to provide athletes with a feeling of appreciation from the university for their hard work in representing AUS over time.”

Fahad Tariq Raja
Sophomore
Accounting
AUS Cricket Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Awardee

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the honor of being granted with the Women’s Basketball Athletics Scholarship. I was very thrilled and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. You have given me an opportunity to excel and it has been an unforgettable experience.”

Jasmine Ibrahim Sehrewerdi
Senior
Marketing
AUS Basketball Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Awardee

“I would like to thank the management of the Sport Complex for the facilities that we are provided with. I would also like to thank them for their continued support and encouragement.”

Adey A. El Amasy
Junior
Civil Engineering
AUS Volleyball Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Awardee

“Firstly, I would like to thank my coach, who believed in me and gave me a chance to improve in what I love most. Moreover, I am thankful for achieving the Athletic Scholarship, which highlights my improvement, commitment and desire to play for the AUS soccer team.”

Yahia Adel Al Sharif
Freshman
Marketing
AUS Soccer Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Awardee

Yassin Mohamed Fares
Junior
Business Marketing
AUS Basketball Team Member
Athletic Scholarship Awardee
**I could never do that**

*Student Learning and Counseling Services shares tips on how to free oneself from a negative attitude*

Does that sound familiar? It’s OK, you can be honest. No one is actually watching you. Feel free to answer. Do you ever ask yourself, “What will others think of me?” “What if they laughed at me, or what if the person didn’t like what I just said?” Do you feel trapped in your own world and can’t live your life freely because of these feelings? If that’s the case, then it’s time for a change. It’s time to liberate yourself and start over, stronger and with a positive attitude. So listen carefully as you read the rest of this article.

Negative attitudes can affect every aspect of a student’s life, from your academic studies to your relationships, friendships, your future career and even the color of the clothes you wear! You might not be aware of the broad ranging effect that your attitude has on your life.

Based upon our experience working with people suffering from what may be called the “negativity complex,” we know that people generally are aware of this to a certain extent. The problem, however, is that most people tend to believe that it is too hard—almost impossible—to change. Or, they may ask themselves, “What if I tried to change and it didn’t work?”

**A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step**

So here are some tips that should help you free yourself from a negative attitude:

1. Set goals. Try setting some goals for your life, school, semester, next week or even goals for one day. This will help you become more motivated and focused.
2. Take care of your body. Sleep well, exercise, make a balance.
3. Meditate. It is a good way to promote harmony between your body and mind.
4. Make new friends and get in touch with your old friends.
5. Laugh! It is always a positive thing to laugh. Laughter promotes physical health and can help put you in a positive mood.
6. When having a negative thought, don’t ignore it. Fight it by using rational thinking. Have a kind of a dialogue between you and yourself. This dialogue by itself is a step towards freedom.
7. Try new things. Read a book, go to a movie and allow yourself to love and be loved.
8. Practice telling yourself positive things like “I can do it,” or, “It’s going to be OK.”
9. Reward yourself. It is extremely important to reward yourself from time to time, as it will keep you motivated.
10. Be yourself. Don’t try to be someone else.

Is this all common sense to you, but you don’t feel it can actually help you change or motivate you enough? Then, my friend, this is an official invitation for you to stop by our office. Please don’t be ashamed, as there is nothing at all to be ashamed of. We at Student Learning and Counseling Services (SLCS) promise you the confidentiality and the attention that you deserve. The SLCS offices are located on the first floor of Student Center. Appointments can be arranged by sending an e-mail to LCS@aus.edu, by calling 06 5152767 or by visiting our office.
Residential Halls: Your home away from home

The start of Fall 2009 coincided with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. Students were observed to be quite active in most extracurricular activities during this month of fasting. The season of sharing was quite visible in the residential halls as students and staff cooperated to arrange iftars jointly. This community spirit was higher among the women’s residential halls, which organized multiple iftars for their residents.

The Ramadan Interdormitory Tournament, organized in collaboration with the Athletics Division, also saw enthusiastic participation with a record number of students registering for the sports competition. The competition included basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, squash, badminton, swimming, chess and soccer. As usual the largest participation was for soccer. The finals were held in the Sports Complex on 9th September and all the winners were awarded at the end in a well publicized ceremony.

Student Residential Life Department encouraged students to form an association for resident students that will be managed by the students and will further enhance the extracurricular activities for campus residents. The students registered the new Student Residential Life Association just in time to participate in the fall 2009 Club Fair. Earlier 200 students had signed up to support the creation of such an association.

OSA supports two health campaigns

OSA’s Community Services supported two successful health campaigns on October 20. For the University Health Center’s blood donation drive, Community Services helped promote the campaign and engaged student volunteers in registering the donors before their initial screening and blood donation aboard a mobile blood donation vehicle of the Ministry of Health. Close to 150 members of the AUS community registered to donate blood.

Community Services collaborated with the Emirates Medical Students Society (EMSS) in conducting a breast cancer awareness campaign at the university’s Student Center. An EMSS doctor gave a presentation for the AUS community in the ladies welcome center, and discussed how the disease can be treated and how early detection can help prevent it from spreading further. EMSS’s campaign at AUS is part of its UAE-wide breast cancer awareness program.
represented different sports teams. The student-athletes raised the possibility of hosting an international sports competition at AUS. Athletes asked that AUS consider being flexible on the academic requirements for high-potential student-athletes who apply for admission to AUS, taking into consideration their sports career. The athletes suggested that this would attract more students to AUS since limited opportunities are available for outstanding athletes at other universities of equivalent standing in the region.

Students requested bleachers for the new cricket ground and reported lighting problems in the outdoor tennis courts.

- **October 18 forum with Student Council members.** All 13 members of the AUS Student Council attended the forum. The Student Council members discussed: (1) parking issues and the need for pedestrian crossing in the small roundabouts close to the free parking areas; (2) dorm issues, including facilities maintenance, pest control problems and TV connections and channels; (3) new restaurants that will be introduced in the food court; and (4) the Student Council’s fundraising campaign, held in collaboration with Community Services, for the earthquake victims in Indonesia.
• **October 19 forum with Community Services (CS) volunteers.** Fifteen CS volunteers expressed their feelings on working with other student clubs to increase participation in Community Services events, the need for more Community Services events beyond the emirate of Sharjah, a dedicated volunteers’ office in the Student Center, recognition of volunteers for the number of hours they spent on volunteer work, and offering scholarship for volunteers.

• **October 20 forum with student leadership representatives.** Thirty-three students who are active participants in Student Leadership Programs attended the forum. The students suggested conducting on-campus workshops and seminars locally and internationally, and sharing Student Leadership representative event participation experience with peers by establishing leadership networking. They also discussed restrictions imposed by governments of certain countries on certain nationalities participating in an international conference and ways to help such students as a university. Also discussed were OSA’s criteria for selecting the delegates for local or international event participation, the limited number of participants in each event, and the possibility of students sponsoring themselves to participate in a leadership event. They also expressed their hope of having a fully established and dedicated office for Student Leadership Programs during their tenure at AUS.

• **October 21 forum with board members of student clubs and organizations.** Eighty representatives from student clubs and organizations joined the forum. They voiced issues and gave suggestions on club event approval procedures, the inclusion of smaller clubs’ events on the OSA website calendar, an Umrah trip for women, joint club events, regular meetings between club presidents, and ways for interest-oriented clubs to work together.

OSA officials replied to all student queries and explained policies, procedures, capacities, limitations and other circumstances that affect the delivery and quality of some services. “I have personally visited many educational institutions in the country and overseas and you can rest assured that AUS’s facilities and services are highly competitive and exceptional,” explained Dr. Moza. “Through these forums, we hope to establish a stronger partnership with the students, bridge the gap and provide for better non-academic student support services that students will patronize,” she added.

Students expressed their interest in joining future forums and said they hope that OSA will organize more forums to accommodate a larger group of students.
AUS students compete in First Ramadan Interdormitory Sports Festival

Over 300 male and female AUS resident students participated in the First Ramadan Interdormitory Sports Festival organized by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). The combined efforts of OSA’s Student Athletics and Recreation and Student Residential Life departments proved to be a successful partnership in encouraging more students to participate in co-curricular activities.

Held August 31 – September 9 at the university’s Sports Complex, the festival featured competitions in individual and team sports such as men’s events in indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, squash and men’s and women’s events in table tennis, tennis, badminton, swimming, bowling and chess. “This Ramadan, OSA increased the number of activities it offers to encourage participation from students living on campus,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Over 40 percent of the AUS student population lives in the university’s 12 dormitories, and it is very important that they are provided with adequate activities and enough motivation for them to participate and enjoy the benefits of these programs,” she added.

In addition to enhancing student participation in sports, the event was also aimed at promoting the importance of fair play, interpersonal interaction and sportsmanship among the participants. The events concluded with an awards ceremony attended by senior OSA officials.

Nine student-athletes awarded Athletic Scholarships

American University of Sharjah conducted a special ceremony on October 20 to award nine outstanding student-athletes with Athletic Scholarships for Fall 2009. The scholarships were presented by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Mr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Activities.

The scholarship recipients listed by team are:

| Men’s Soccer                   | Yahia Adel Al Sharif    |
|                               | Mohammad William Nazzal |
|                               | Talal H. Al Marzooqi    |
| Men’s Basketball              | Yassin Mohamed Fares    |
|                               | Asa’d Mohammad Monther  |
| Men’s Volleyball              | Adey A. El Amasy        |
| Cricket                       | Fahad Tariq Rajak       |
| Women’s Volleyball            | Joanne Youssef Mattar   |
| Women’s Basketball            | Jasmine Ibrahim Sehrewerdi |

The scholarships provide a 50 percent tuition remission and are granted on a renewable semester basis. AUS offers the Athletic Scholarships to support students with limited financial resources who demonstrate athletic excellence and outstanding sportsmanship. AUS encourages students to participate and excel in their sport of interest so that they might win such scholarships, which would be a significant achievement.