AUS celebrates 14th Global Day

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the university kicked off its annual Global Day festival on March 22, 2012. The festival was inaugurated by Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Corporation. Themed “Peace throughout the World,” the annual festival marked its 14th year in production and sought to spread peace and depict how diverse cultures in AUS unite and celebrate together.

The two-day event was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Development and Organizations Department and featured four main attractions: the World Bazaar, the Children’s Corner, the Food Fair and cultural performances.

The World Bazaar, set up across the AUS Main Plaza, was a mix of pavilions depicting the cultural heritage of various nationalities represented on campus. Among the pavilions were those representing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Armenia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Palestine, Libya, India, Sudan and Egypt. Colorful cultural performances were held in the Main Auditorium as well as on an

AUS teams excel at international meet held in Belgium

American University of Sharjah (AUS) Leopards participated in the first International Championship for Universities and Colleges (ICUC) in Leuven, Belgium from March 29 to April 1, 2012 in both men’s and women’s volleyball, basketball and swimming, as well as men’s soccer events. The AUS men’s soccer and volleyball teams secured the third place, while the women’s volleyball team also came in third.

More than 1,000 student-athletes
Although extremely hectic for Student Affairs, Spring Semester 2012 is worth the success that our students achieved in different extracurricular areas. At AUS, we encourage students to take extracurricular participation seriously, as it enriches their personal skills and experience, thus keeping them engaged and happy. Happy students thrive academically.

Spring is the advent of good weather and colorful blooms and for our students it heralds the arrival of Global Day, a multi-cultural, multi-dimensional festival that characterizes AUS. Global Day, a small-scale initiative started 14 years ago, has transformed into the most eagerly awaited and biggest university festival on campus.

Our students’ attachment and enthusiasm for Global Day is well known and remains undiminished throughout their years at AUS. This year’s Global Day featured a plethora of diverse cultural activities, pavilions and multiple social causes and awareness drives. ‘Peace throughout the world’ was the theme this year. Our students conceptualized, planned and administered the entire program with the support of Student Affairs and the Student Council. Hundreds of hands came together to deliver this fun-filled, adrenaline-charged event.

I was truly impressed by the level of student work and talent seen at the Global Day. This mega event helps develop student’s leadership, creativity, management and teamwork. Students got an opportunity for self-expression and growth and were involved in the planning and organization of the various events. I received many positive comments from our chancellor, my colleagues, visitors and students and I thank each and every one for appreciating our work.

I received numerous requests from people asking us to extend the duration of the event, as many felt two days dedicated to this mega-event were not enough. What you saw was the outcome of countless preparatory meetings; heated debates with multiple facilitators and organizers; tough deadlines and relentless efforts of the Student Affairs’ staff, students and various AUS units. If we were to extend it, the event will lose its very essence. Students will have to be absent from class; there would be more burden on staff and other university units, trouble for gate personnel to control traffic, parking issues, the list is endless.

Good comments heighten our spirits but we know we cannot rest on our laurels, as we have to move on to providing our students with other worthwhile and meaningful activities.

Students, staff and faculty at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were treated to an entertaining concert by the US Air Forces Central (AFCENT) Expeditionary Band on April 8, 2012 at the Student Center.

Made up of dynamic musicians who perform throughout the Middle East to promote diplomacy and outreach to host-nation communities, the band rotates several ensembles that perform a wide variety of musical styles to appeal to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Night Wing, the five-member, country/rock showcase group of the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band, performed contemporary and classic numbers before a packed audience.

The concert was organized by the Student Multicultural Learning Program of the Office of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Consulate General of the United States of America, Dubai.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
outdoor stage. Visitors were able to sample a wide variety of traditional food in the Food Fair, the outdoor food court.

This year’s edition of Global Day also featured over 15 charitable organizations promoting awareness on humanitarian, health and safety issues.

“Global Day has flourished into a mega event year after year. I thank His Highness for his support; the Student Council and students for their participation; the Office of Student Affairs for successfully implementing this event; and families and guests for attending,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

Present at the event were His Excellency Dr. Saleh Al Suhaibani, the Cultural Attaché of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed Al Midfa, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce; as well as other dignitaries and senior officials. Also present were Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Provost; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Cleve McDaniel, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; and other senior AUS officials.

The first Global Day was held at AUS in 1998 with eight student organizations and 400 students. Participants now include 27 student organizations and over 5,000 students from more than 80 nationalities.
AUS teams excel.. continued from page 1

participated in the championship, with teams from the Catholic University of Leuven; American University of Paris; American College of Greece; American University of Beirut; Lebanese American University Byblos; and University of Balamand.

Seventy seven AUS students and OSA staff members participated in the championship with team leader Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations. AUS athletes showed excellent sportsmanship, team spirit, professionalism and responsibility. This tournament was a great opportunity for AUS teams to play and learn from their international counterparts as well as connect with other university pupils.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, had a pre-departure meeting with the AUS student athletes to encourage athletes to make the best of the opportunity AUS was offering them. “We offer our students a diverse range of extracurricular programs. Regional and international participations are organized to strengthen partnerships in sports with other institutions as well as to provide a platform for our students to network with peers from other institutions,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

“Speaking for the men’s volleyball team, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Athletics Department for taking us to yet another successful, challenging and entertaining sports festival,” said Ahmad Ismaeel Al Madani, a senior student majoring in civil engineering and a member of the men’s volleyball team. “Special thanks to Dr. Al Shehhi for providing us with these wonderful opportunities and for trusting in our potential to compete and succeed.”

The university's participation in the ICUC was organized by the Office of Student Affairs and Student Athletics and Recreation Department.
The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) organized a week of activities for new students joining AUS for Spring 2012 to orient them to university life.

The OSA activities included information sessions, presentations, games, trips, sports orientation and a dinner reception. OSA offered a warm welcome to new students and their parents on the first day of orientation and responded to their queries through student's manning the information desk. More than 300 orientation packets were distributed providing information on the services offered by AUS.

The Student Residential Life desk offered room registrations on site, guiding students with check-in procedures and answered their basic questions. The OSA’s Student Leadership Program desk familiarized students with the university’s leadership program. Student leaders actively engaged a good number of freshmen through the Peer Leadership Program and many registered for the Emerging Leaders Program.

Students and parents attended the Learning and Counseling Services presentations on adjusting to university life. Judicial Affairs organized visits to the residential halls for acquainting students with the university’s Student Code of Conduct and the conduct process, residential halls attendance policy, curfew and other regulations that concerns student safety and security. Community Services and Student Employment distributed brochures to keep students informed of volunteering and employment opportunities at AUS.

Student Athletics and Recreation held a special orientation session wherein new students were familiarized with sports facilities at AUS including the rules and regulations on their use. New students also had the opportunity to meet with coaches and register for training sessions and try outs. The sports orientation session was concluded with a tour of the facilities followed by refreshments.

A group of returning students from various student clubs and organizations comprised the Student Activities orientation team and worked with the Student Activities staff to assist the newcomers. Student Activities’ week-long open house activities in the Student Center included computer games, DJ music, movies, table games and a treasure hunt organized by the Student Council. City tours to Sharjah and Dubai familiarized new students with the neighboring areas and points of interest. Around 50 students joined the Sharjah tour and 70 joined the Dubai trip.

The freshman reception dinner was attended by around 130 students in the presence of Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior OSA and AUS officials. The gathering provided an opportunity for OSA administrators to interact with new students and introduce them to the non-academic services offered by OSA. Dr. Al Shehhi welcomed the new students and wished them success in their academic pursuits.

“Welcome to AUS! OSA is here to assist and guide you through your transition to university life. I encourage you to take advantage of extracurricular opportunities to gain out of classroom learning experiences that will complement your formal learning. Our team is always ready to help you so please do not hesitate to approach us with your queries,” said Dr. Al Shehhi addressing the students at the dinner.
Active students awarded scholarships

Six outstanding students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) were honored with Active Student Scholarship awards on March 5, 2012.

A special ceremony was held in the AUS Board Room and the awards were presented by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor. Also in attendance were Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior officials.

The scholarships for Spring 2012 were awarded to Jashan Jot Singh and Sina M. Tarabi, members of student clubs and organizations; Sana H. Abdul Majeed and Omar M. Kayali, Community Services volunteers; and Sara S. Choobbor and Bilal A. Maarouf, members of the Student Leadership Program.

The Active Student Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students who display dedication and excellence in extracurricular activities including community service projects, clubs and participate in the Student Leadership Program.

“This scholarship program aims to encourage and support our students who have served the community and the university. I am very proud of these students as they have made the most of the extracurricular opportunities offered by AUS,” said Dr. Heath.

According to Dr. Al Shehhi, “These students were selected because of their sheer dedication to the enhancement of student life at AUS. They are role models for their peers as they depict the perfect balance between education and extracurricular activities.”

The scholarships, renewable each semester, give the awardees up to 50 percent tuition remission.

16 AUS students receive athletic scholarships

Sixteen outstanding student-athletes at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were awarded athletic scholarships for Spring 2012 at a special ceremony held at the AUS Chancellor’s office on February 27, 2012.

Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, congratulated the students on their achievements.

“It is important for a university to have sports teams and you add a whole dimension to university life,” Dr. Heath told the recipients. “You are an example for your peers and the fact that you have been selected for this scholarship is an honor.”

This semester’s recipients were Hamad Saleh AlKawari, Ahmed Charif and Khaled Walid Farchoukh for men’s soccer; Mohamed Chohayber Zaydan Ghada and Ahmed Elwahab M. Arabi for men’s basketball; Fahad Tariq Raja and Shahzada Haris Attique for cricket; Hisham Amin Alayan and Ahmed Al Madani for men’s volleyball; Tarun Shyam for men’s badminton; Rima Ziad Baghdhan and Doha Assem Tantawy for women’s basketball; Joanne Y. Mattar and Khalda Imad Eljack for women’s volleyball; Sharifeh Yousif for women’s table tennis; and Lilian Ghassan Neim for women’s swimming.

The scholarship program aims to encourage, improve and develop sports at the university and it consists of a 50 percent tuition remission. The scholarship is granted on a renewable semester basis and aims to support the student-athletes who have limited financial resources and who demonstrate athletic excellence as well as outstanding sports qualities.

Also present at the ceremony were other senior AUS officials.
Government and private organizations help raise awareness at AUS

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the university held the Annual AUS Awareness Day on March 6, 2012.

The day-long event was designed to spread awareness of health, social, environmental and safety issues among students and the general public and featured the participation of prominent government and private organizations.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Provost; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and other senior university officials.

“We encourage our students to make the most of Awareness Day as it gives them a chance to stop and examine their own health and wellbeing without leaving the campus. The turnout today has been quite impressive, and I am pleased to see the level of interest our students have shown in issues of health and safety,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

Participating organizations included Friends of Cancer Patients, Friends of Arthritis Patients, and Friends of Diabetes; Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Health Promotions), Sharjah; Sharjah Police; Sharjah Civil Defense; Noor Dubai Foundation; Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation; Sharjah Medical District (Preventive Medicine); Maternal and Child Healthcare Center, Sharjah; Alihsan Charity Center; Dubai Sports Council (Dubai Pulses); Human Appeal International; Department of Health and Medical Services Dubai (Blood Donation Center); Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority; Dubai Foundation for Women and Children; Safe and Sound, Dubai; Sharjah Municipality; Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services; and Al Serkal Group.

All the participating organizations distributed handouts and informed the attendees about social and cultural issues. Stalls were also set up to check blood sugar and pressure, while a blood donation campaign was also organized on one side of the Student Center.

The event, organized by the Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs, attracted a large number of students, faculty, staff as well as members of the media.
A group of students from the Finance Club at American University of Sharjah (AUS) took an exciting educational trip to New York, organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Development and Organization Department, from April 1-6, 2012. During their five-day stay in New York, the students had the opportunity to visit financial sites like the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Museum of Finance and the World Financial Center. The trip combined educational and entertaining tours including a visit to the United Nations headquarters where they had the chance to sit in the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council rooms and be informed about the countries’ representatives and the types of meetings held. Students also visited other popular sites including the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building.

“The event was an international educational trip designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain educational experiences that augment their understanding and practical knowledge,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who led the group.

“A similar study tour was made to Turkey by the American Society of Civil Engineers Club in January. Since then, the program has gained popularity among the student body and many students have shown interest in taking part in such international educational tours,” she added.

“From checking out where all the big financial and political decisions are made to entertaining ourselves in the city that never sleeps, I experienced a trip of a lifetime. What made it all the more enjoyable was the group I was with; we became a family bonded by lovely memories,” said Asma Al Rafi, vice president of the Finance Club.

The delegation comprised students majoring in finance and related majors and two supervisors.
The Community Services division of the Office of Student Affairs organized a First Aid Workshop on March 3. Conducting the workshop was Mohammed Rashed, an international trainer of first aid and diving in Aikido Club, Ajman.

Twenty-two students learned and applied the basic skills of first aid. The workshop displayed videos on accidents, disasters and injuries that occurred in different countries around the world and how the first aid group dealt with them and helped people. Rashed explained the different techniques of dealing with different types of injuries and conducted a demonstration and practice session.
Forty Community Services volunteers from AUS participated in the renovation of Al Haitham Quran Learning Center for orphans in Sharjah. On March 4, AUS volunteers completed the renovation which was initiated under the Hand in Hand project by the Office of Student Affairs.

Al Haitham Center plays a significant religious and social role in the district of Hazanah in Sharjah as it teaches Holy Quran studies and the sayings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and develops the children’s religious and ethical knowledge.

“The Hand in Hand Project is quite popular at AUS and our students constantly show a big interest in participating in it. Every year, Community Services students volunteer to renovate a house or an educational center as duty toward their community. We are very proud of them and very thankful for their efforts. The Hand in Hand project is one of many that the Community Services Office at AUS undertakes and it was organized in collaboration with Sharjah Social Empowerment Center,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Student Leadership Program holds Leaders Edutainment Day

The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program held its second Leaders Edutainment Day, as part of the Emerging Leaders Program, earlier in the semester.

Designed to help freshmen develop their leadership and communication skills, the event gave them the opportunity to work as a team and understand the importance of effective communication. Through these activities, the freshmen realize their leadership potential, become more self-aware and develop an enhanced set of personal skills with a strategic understanding of leadership.

Wajih Khalil, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering, said, “I believe that the Leaders Edutainment Day is one of the most enjoyable events, and I highly recommend it to every freshman. It’s a starting point to becoming a leader. I truly enjoyed it; I made new friends and developed my leadership skills.”

“The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program is dedicated to helping students maximize their personal potential by providing opportunities for leadership development. Leaders Edutainment Day was developed to support freshmen at AUS and encourage them to become involved in university programs and activities. This event is unique; it nurtures the development of critical thinking and helps students internalize and understand their vision,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The first Leaders Edutainment Day was held in Fall 2011.
Twenty-three students from AUS attended a training workshop for the Peer Leaders Program held for the Spring 2012 orientation, earlier in the semester. The workshop was organized by the Student Leadership Program of the Office of Student Affairs.

The Peer Leaders Program is based on the core principle that peers strongly influence the development of attitude and behaviors of one another. The main role of the peer leaders is to ease the transition of new admitted students from high school to university life by being their role models, guides, mentors and friends. The program requires peer leaders to adopt two to five new students during orientation day and ensure that they easily adapt into university life. In addition to benefitting freshmen, this program also provides the participating students with opportunities to develop and enhance their leadership and interpersonal skills.

The main objective of this workshop was to update the peer leaders about a checklist for all new students, which included various points about essential rules, procedures and steps which new students had to complete before registration during the orientation week and throughout the first week of classes. The checklist also highlighted the main roles and tasks of some AUS departments which new students would be visiting during their first two weeks on campus.

“The Peer Leaders Program will continue developing and improving itself through its peer leaders’ feedback and comments,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “We, in Student Affairs, sincerely believe that students must be given the opportunity to speak up and give their opinions to improve the program, as they are the ones who can better tell how the program can advance based on their experience during the orientation and through their communications with the new-admitted students.”

Haya Hasan, a sophomore student majoring in computer engineering said, “The training session for the Peer Leaders Program was more like a semi-formal training where the peer leaders were guided through various steps which included an informative presentation and an interactive discussion. Overall, the training was beneficial, interesting and productive.”

AUS peer leaders adopt new students

Peer leaders at AUS inducted a large number of newly-admitted students into the Emerging Leaders Program during the new students’ and parents’ welcome session for Spring 2012 held earlier this semester.

Outstanding sophomore, junior and senior peer leaders serve as role models and mentors for incoming first-year students. They demonstrate leadership characteristics and involvement in other substantive areas of university life. In addition, peer leaders promote students’ involvement in various orientation activities and trips; broadening student familiarity with resources and services available on campus; helping students establish a sense of belonging to university and enhancing student knowledge of various students’ activities and sports facilities.

“The Peer Leaders Program is extremely essential as it implements the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ philosophy to build upon our students out-of-classroom involvement with volunteer and leadership experience, establish positive relationships with faculty, staff and peers within the program, develop and articulate transferrable skills appropriate to their personal and professional goals, enhance their communication and facilitation skills, and strengthen their personal leadership identity,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“As a peer leader it was my responsibility to act as a guide, a mentor and a friend to our freshman peers who have just joined the university,” said Jashan Jot Singh, a finance senior and a peer leader. “I, along with my colleagues, have been working hard to achieve our two main goals as peer leaders which are to encourage freshman students to join our leadership program and to ensure that they have a smooth transition into university life. I would like to thank the Student Leadership program for giving us this great opportunity to hone our skills as student leaders,” he added.

“By ‘adopting’ new students and guiding them, we try our best to help them adjust to academic life. Also, we focus on immersing them into the social life on campus so that they feel more confident and become an active part of the student body,” said Osama Alhasan, a civil engineering junior and peer leader.
AUS students participate in Model United Nations in New York

Eight students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program attended the National Model United Nations—New York (NMUN—NY) held in New York, from April 1–6. AUS was the only university from the Middle East that participated in this event.

NMUN—NY is the largest collegiate Model UN conference in the world. Under the theme “Hope for Lasting Peace,” more than 5,000 delegates from across the world gathered to create practical solutions based on global problems. The conference included 20 committees including the Security Council, along with over 200 universities and MUN international institutions taking part.

“This was a wonderful experience for our students as they got to be part of a simulation of the UN and debate current world issues,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Students were immersed in culture; practiced their writing and public speaking skills and got a greater sense of global citizenship. Having the opportunity to visit the United Nations headquarters made this experience a truly memorable one. We believe international experiences such as these aid in the development of personal and leadership skills,” she added.

“This platform provided us a chance to build alliances with a diverse group of people from all over the world, some of whose thoughts and approach greatly differed from ours. For me, this was the best thing about NMUN,” said accounting major Mudassir Idris. “Additionally, the knowledge we acquired about the task at hand, whether through formal meetings or un-moderated caucuses, has certainly improved our knowledge curve and strengthened our skills to think as global citizens,” he added.

Student Residential Life Department holds awareness campaign

The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Residential Life Department organized an awareness campaign on cleanliness and healthy eating on April 12.

Two of the women’s residential halls’ staff arranged an awareness drive to promote cleanliness and healthy eating. In the EF Women’s dorm, staff and active residents collaborated to display relevant posters and spoke about their food preferences. Some of these residents even had food delivered from one of the healthy food outlets and spoke of the benefits of healthy food. A PowerPoint presentation was shown in the reception area of the building to attract attention during the drive.

AB women staff and residents prepared presentations on display boards with pictures of clean and untidy rooms as comparison. The boards also conveyed dangers related to disorganized rooms in terms of hygiene and safety concerns.
Six students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program at AUS attended the 15th World Business Dialogue at the University of Cologne, Germany earlier in the semester.

The World Business Dialogue is considered one of the most important platforms for discussion in Europe. This year’s topic was “Checkpoint Consumption: Needs, Duties and the Search for Balance.” The dialogue touched on different aspects of the topic of consumption and its behavior models in the fields of e-commerce, energy and psychology. The conference drew 300 students from over 60 countries, 300 corporate participants and top speakers representing the fields of economics, science and politics. The conference aimed to bring students and experts together to face current problems in an entrepreneurial way in order to find solutions for a mutual and sustainable future.

“Participating in the World Business Dialogue served as a bridge to experience different cultures and thoughts on various global issues. The knowledge we acquired throughout the workshops and panel discussions will certainly improve our knowledge horizons and strengthen our critical thinking skills. Special thanks to the Student Leadership Program for providing students with this opportunity,” said Hamad Al Ansari, a finance major.

“This was more than just a meeting of students from around the world; it was a platform to communicate, to learn and, most of all, to understand the current global trends that will shape our futures. It was fantastic to see a mindset shift from a conventional view of consumption and jobs to social entrepreneurship and thinking about how we can help on an individual level,” said Mudassir Idris, an accounting major.

“The Office of Student Affairs enables students to participate in events such as the World Business Dialogue in order to provide them with a platform to interact with international students, experienced entrepreneurs and inspiring speakers. This helps students enhance their interpersonal, communication and leadership abilities by forcing them to put their skills into practice,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Student Learning and Counseling Services holds orientation for new students

Student Learning and Counseling Services (SLCS) conducted an orientation earlier in the semester to welcome new students.

Two hundred new students attended the SLCS sessions on Adjusting to University Life, Study Skills, Personal Development and Time Management. These sessions help new students get their university career off to a good start and become acquainted with the university.

Students enjoyed the exercises and the questions and answers section. The SLCS mini-survey instructed them to first try to solve the problem on their own; and if the problem develops, they should consult the SLCS student counselors.
American foreign policy expert lectures at AUS

Marco Vicenzino, a renowned foreign policy expert spoke to the AUS community about the current dynamics of the American foreign policy earlier in the semester at the university’s Main Building.

In his lecture titled “American Foreign Policy Today,” Vicenzino enlightened his audience on the origins of the American foreign policy, how it evolved to the current status and speculated as to its likely future.

According to Vicenzino, at the very beginning, America adopted an isolationist policy of non-interference with issues beyond American borders. He cited a statement from George Washington’s last speech to congress in which he encouraged an approach of avoiding all entangling alliances.

“The republic went through periods of enormous pressure such as the 1898 Spanish-American war, the two World Wars, Pearl Harbor attack and the emergence of foreign threats such as the Soviet Union where America was pushed to get involved in foreign issues,” said Vicenzino. “In spite of those events, Americans continued to push for the isolationist ideals. So you will see that for more than 200 years American foreign policy was, for the most part, an isolationism and non-interference policy.”

Speculating on the future of American foreign policy, Vicenzino said that in order for America to retain its influence, it will have to establish strategic relationship with regional powers which America will work with to resolve regional issues.

“Looking into the future, America will probably go through a relative decline of its influence as regional organizations such as the Arab League, in collaboration with international organizations, such as the United Nations, take leadership roles in resolving regional issues. So if America wants to retain its influence around the world, it will have to establish strategic relationship with these regional organizations as well as regional powers,” he said.

Vicenzino is the founder and director of the Global Strategy Project (GSP). He represents a new generation of independent foreign policy thinkers that combine successful international private sector experience with profound insight into contemporary geo-politics.

“Student Leadership Program continues to nurture student minds through meaningful educational lectures that allow for positive development and growth. We live in a global world and understanding one another is essential nowadays. We encourage students to attend our lectures and share their views with others. We also thank the US Consulate in Dubai for their continuous cooperation with Office of Student Affairs,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“Mr. Vincenzino’s lecture was truly inspiring. He discussed American Foreign Policies today and shared some insightful knowledge. His perception on certain aspects were eye-opening and intriguing. Even though the lecture is far from my major, I still benefited a lot and gained general knowledge that could assist me in real life,” said Aly El Gayar, junior Civil Engineering student.

The lecture was organized by the Student Leadership Program of the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the US Consulate General in Dubai.

ACE -- Setting a trend for Engineers

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) organized a dinner on February 15 to celebrate the establishment of an ASCE International Student Group at AUS and to appreciate active students, staff and faculty who contributed to the club’s establishment and success.

The event was attended by Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor; Dr. Gajanan Sabnis, a distinguished International member of the ASCE; Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; ASCE club committee members; and several engineering faculty members.
AUS students participate in Women as Global Leaders conference

Students from the Student Leadership Program at AUS recently attended the Women as Global Leaders conference held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak. The conference took place in Zayed University, Abu Dhabi earlier in the semester and focused on creating a sustainable future.

With more than 30 speakers, the conference brought together influential figures giving students the opportunity to meet with women who are making a difference in their communities. The topics discussed were mainly to inspire women and give incentives towards development, productivity and success.

According to Tarneem Alagha, a management information systems major, “Women as Global Leaders was a great learning experience; it wasn’t only about listening to speakers but rather it was an opportunity to meet and understand their success. I was inspired by how they reached and achieved where they are now. One of the most important aspects of my participation has been networking, and as a result I have met great individuals that are already making a difference in my life.”

“Women’s leadership is special to us; we established the Women’s Leadership and Enrichment Program to enhance development opportunities for female students and allow them to take part in conferences and activities related to women’s leadership. We must not forget that women play a pivotal role in our society and their influence on their communities, families and the generation ahead is enormous,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Community Services organizes a fun day for orphans

Community Services division of the Office of Student Affairs organized a fun day for orphans, in collaboration with the Cove Rotana Hotel in Ras Al Khaimah. Twenty orphans from Human Appeal, Ajman, and 15 AUS Community Services volunteers participated in the event. The Fun Day schedule included fun activities, gift distribution and lunch.
Eight students from the Student Leadership Program at AUS participated in the annual Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD) conference held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, April 1–3. The conference was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

DIHAD is considered the largest humanitarian event in the Middle East where the world’s key decision makers, NGOs, United Nations agencies, governmental departments, international associations, humanitarians, researchers and academics come together.

At the conference AUS students had the opportunity to critically question and evaluate the ideas presented by leading humanitarians and dignitaries working in the field. AUS students also met HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, UN Messenger of Peace and Chairperson of the International Humanitarian City; renowned artist Sami Yusuf; and the former president of Sudan, His Excellency Field Marshal Abdelrahman Mohamed Hassan Sawar Elzahab.

The conference trained students on providing humanitarian assistance and developing effective leadership skills in order to become successful social entrepreneurs.

Arfa Siddiqi, a sophomore majoring in journalism said, “The conference was exactly what I needed to be taught the necessary skills for starting up my own humanitarian project. Furthermore, I got to interact with humanitarians working in the field who provided us with valuable insights about diplomacy and bureaucracy in humanitarian aid.”

“We introduced the DIHAD conference to students as part of our Civic Leadership and Responsibility Program. This program aims to develop students’ ability to work with communities, develop programs and services that meet community-identified needs and effectively engage root causes of issues impacting our societies. Additionally, the program’s goal is to shape active citizens who understand the surrounding environment and undertake the responsibility to address social problems, improve conditions and build healthier communities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The Judicial Affairs Department of the Office of Student Affairs organized a special ceremony to award certificates to 20 peer coordinators comprising the third and fourth batches trained in peer mediation earlier in the semester. Students attended the peer mediation training for a period of three weeks in which they learned important mediation skills that will enable them to understand and resolve conflicts. They also learned how to help their peers resolve conflicts using mediation techniques.

“This training has not only enriched your skills to mediate conflicts with your peers, but has promoted lifelong learning as even after you graduate you will be able to mediate your own conflicts with friends, family members and that of others around you,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Hossam Shoman, a student from the College of Engineering said: “Through this workshop, I learned new things such as how to deal with difficult people, how to listen to people’s conflicts and assist them in solving those conflicts harmoniously by bringing them together and facilitating communication between them.”

Noor Al Ali, a sophomore from the College of Art and Sciences said: “This program taught me that most conflicts are misunderstandings and that they are not as hard to solve as they seem. The Peer Coordinators’ Training Program in Mediation broadened my perspective towards viewing conflicts as opportunities.”

20 Peer Coordinators awarded certificates in peer mediation
AUS swimmers retain Intercollegiate swimming title

The second AUS Men’s Intercollegiate Swimming Competition was held at the AUS Sport’s Complex on April 17. AUS swimmers raced ahead of their rivals from several different UAE universities, namely the University of Sharjah; Ajman University of Science and Technology; Sharjah Police Academy; Emirates Aviation College; Canadian University of Dubai; Birla Institute of Technology (Ras Al Khaimah); and Manipal University Dubai.

AUS bagged the championship for the second consecutive year, gaining 124 points, followed by University of Sharjah with 83 and Police Academy Sharjah with 23 points. AUS swimmers Tareef Tamim and Hossam Shoman secured double gold medals while Shady Waleed and Khalil Sido won the gold in butterfly stroke and freestyle. Weitian Zhao, Abdelrahman Rowaizak, Abdurahim Umarov and Moustafa Awad were the other contributors for AUS. Beau Cummins from Emirates Aviation College took the gold in the back stroke event.

“It is very crucial for our athletes to participate in such healthy competitions to release stress, apply learned and practiced skills and make it to the top,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs, congratulated the swimmers and distributed trophies and medals to the winners. Taha also commended the Student Athletics and Recreation Department staff for successfully organizing the championship.

AUS regains title in Intercollegiate Cricket finals 2012

AUS cricketers overpowered the BITS Pilani Dubai team by 7 wickets in the fourth AUS Intercollegiate Cricket tournament finals on April 18.

After defeating Manipal University Dubai in the semifinals, BITS Pilani had the highest winning expectations. However, AUS bowlers Shahzada Harris, Fahad, Shahruk, Sohaib and Jagraj bundled them out for 155 runs in the allotted 20 overs. In response, AUS openers Abdul Basit and Rehan Ali demoralized BITS Pilani’s bowling attack, hitting the ball with ease. Fahad and Harris easily reached chased the set total in the twelfth over. AUS had lost in the finals of the second edition of this tournament in 2010 against the same opponent; however, this time they ended up deserving winners.

The seven participating universities were: American University in Dubai; BITS Pilani Dubai Campus; Manipal University Dubai; Ajman University of Science and Technology; University of Sharjah; Middlesex University Dubai; and Canadian University of Dubai.

Shubhaneet Kohli of BITS Pilani scored 163 runs against Manipal University; Abdul Basit from AUS made a century, while Shahzada Harris, also from AUS, scored 98 runs in the match against the American University in Dubai.

Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Manager of Sports Programs, distributed the awards. “I am very proud of the achievements of the AUS Men’s Cricket Team and the acclaim they bring to AUS. I am really interested in promoting cricket among budding cricketers as well as seasoned cricket players so they get ample opportunities to play and enjoy the sport regularly,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
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.

National Model United Nations in New York, USA (NMUN 2012) April 1–7

Mohammad Hukan, Electrical Engineering, Junior

“My participation in the National Model United Nations was a totally new experience. Although I had previous experience in MUNs, the NMUN was on a much higher level and I enjoyed every bit of my participation. I was able to experience new MUN procedures and debates with students from all over the world. Moreover, we got to experience the real feeling of the UN system by holding the plenary sessions in the actual UN building and the actual meeting rooms. It was a fruitful experience that I will not forget and I would like to thank the Student Leadership Program for providing me with such an opportunity.”

Nada Al Yafaei, Visual Communication, Senior

“NMUN was an educational experience like no other; academically, as well as socially and culturally. In addition to learning a lot about the diplomatic and political processes, you also get to meet so many different people and spend hours on end with them. Because there are so many goals to be accomplished in such a short amount of time, you must learn to connect, negotiate and compromise very quickly. Additionally, it was interesting that the delegation from AUS did not contain students majoring in political science. Most schools had specialized courses or programs for NMUN and the students were all majoring in law or international relations. I’m very impressed with the business majors and the engineers and the design majors in the AUS delegation who managed to keep up with those who had both more training and more experience.”

Ali Al Gergawi, Business Administration, Junior

“The NMUN experience was one of a kind. The quality of the discussions and the advanced capabilities of the delegates made the conference very engaging. NMUN hosts over 5,000 delegates annually in different locations, and it’s the premier MUN conference where the best come to compete. Participants emulated the UN very well and it’s very easy for someone to get carried away and think that they really are at the UN. At times the conference can be really taxing but overall it was worth it.”

Mudassir Idris, Accounting, Junior

“This platform really gave a chance to build alliances with a diverse group of people from all over the world whose thoughts and approaches are different from ours and, for me, that is truly the best thing about NMUN. Additionally, the knowledge we acquired about the task at hand whether through formal meetings or un-moderated caucuses certainly helped improve our knowledge curve and above all strengthened our skills to think as global citizens. I’m truly thankful to the Student Leadership Program for having faith in us students to carry the AUS brand name proudly overseas and furnish us the opportunity to take part in such a monumental annual event.”

Banah Nassar, Marketing, Sophomore

“NMUN–NY was an experience of a lifetime that allowed students to find solutions to real world problems. I am thankful to AUS and SLP for giving me the opportunity to be part of such an enlightening experience!”

“Being part of the 5,000 students at NMUN–NY was an honor. It was an experience that brought together students from all over the world with a common goal. I had the opportunity to discuss, debate and integrate different opinions into a treaty that aimed at limiting the transfer of armed weapons between countries yet still ensure national security. Throughout the process I got to meet several interesting individuals with different backgrounds. This was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience!”
The first International Championship for Universities and Colleges (ICUC) in Leuven, Belgium, March 29–April 1, 2012

Lubna Hasnain, Mass Communication, Sophomore

The trip to Belgium was definitely an experience to remember. Nothing else can beat the feeling of travelling not only with your teammates, but with a large group comprising other athletes, to a completely new destination for the specific purpose of representing the university. Belgium was an amazing new environment, and the competing teams all brought their best, creating an atmosphere of healthy competition. This trip was a huge step forward in helping me advance myself as a volleyball player, bringing me closer not only to my team, but also to the sport itself.

Yahia Alsharif, Business, Junior

As a member of the AUS soccer team and the sports community, I always look forward to the annual sports tournament abroad. Luckily this year’s international tournament was held in the Katholieke University in Leuven (KUL), Belgium. These kinds of tournaments do not only give us the chance to compete on an international level, but also bring all the sports teams closer. As a senior member of the AUS soccer team, I got to know more about the new players on the team and made sure a family-like environment was created between the players. Even though we came third and failed to defend the title we won last year in Beirut, AUS now has a more united and committed squad to depend on for upcoming tournaments.

Julie Doughan, Marketing and Finance, Junior

Every spring semester, AUS gives us student-athletes the opportunity to travel to another country in order to participate in an international sports tournament. This semester, six teams, including the women’s basketball team of which I have been a member for three years, had the privilege of travelling to Belgium to participate in the International Championship for Universities and Colleges (ICUC) organized by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL).

Tareef Al Bassam, Finance, Sophomore

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Office of Student Affairs – Student and Athletics Department – for providing us with an amazing sports experience in Belgium. We all enjoyed the trip, and the short stay in Belgium was unforgettable. AUS athletes utilized the occasion to interact with athletes from various countries and exchanged their different views. The tournament was highly competitive which helped us to learn and grow. We tried our best while competing in this tournament. I am really happy that I made great friends from different universities with who I am now in touch via Facebook.

Yusur Al-Hadithi, Computer Engineering, Junior

It was a new experience for me to participate in the International Championship for Universities and Colleges abroad and travel as an athlete to represent my university. Meeting athletes in an international competition and seeing their level in sports was very motivating for me to work harder and aim higher. Belgium is a very beautiful country and filled with historical and ancient places. What made the trip unforgettable was the presence of my teammates, both young women and men. The trip wouldn’t have been the same without them and I am very glad that I had the chance to represent my university internationally and have an amazing time in such a beautiful country.

Ahmed Al-Madani, Civil Engineering, Senior

It is one of the dreams of any volleyball player to travel abroad. AUS fulfilled our dreams and provided us with that opportunity. Being a participant in the International Championship for Universities and Colleges ICUC was a great pleasure and experience. First of all, visiting a new country is a wonderful way to learn about their culture and tradition. Secondly, meeting new athletes from different places around the world was very interesting. Learning different styles and techniques of the game makes the players even better than they are since they acquire new skills through this experience.
Echoes


Zahraa Al Fardan, Finance, Sophomore

“The 15th world business dialogue in Cologne has taught me so much about the world and made a tremendous difference to the way I perceive life. The atmosphere, the idea of meeting new people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and engaging in an intelligent conversation on global issues and the ways in which we can make a change and become global leaders can inspire and shape anyone’s personality to want to go out there and do something BIG! It taught me that in life, there are no limits to what you can do. Success can be achieved as long as you try, have faith and never give up.”

Hamad Al Ansari, Finance, Sophomore

“Participating in the WBD served as a bridge in experiencing different cultures and thoughts on various global issues that affect mankind. The knowledge we acquired throughout the workshops and panel discussions we attended will certainly improve our knowledge and strengthen our critical thinking skills. Special thanks to the SLP for providing students with such an opportunity that strives to build students’ character.”

Mudassir Idris, Accounting, Junior

“The World Business Dialogue was more than just a meeting of over 300 Student Delegates from around the world, it was a platform to communicate, to learn and most of all, understand the current global trends that will shape our future.

It was fantastic to see a shift in mindset from the conventional view of consumption and jobs to a shift towards social entrepreneurship and thinking about how on an individual level we can help shape our future and daily lives.

I’m truly thankful to OSA and the SLP Program for entrusting me to carry the AUS image proudly overseas and represent them. This trip was a triumph in many ways and for many people but for me it made me realize that hopes do come true and that no matter what stage you are in life (I’ve been applying since freshman and finally made it in my senior year) that opportunities do come true and they make you fall completely in love with them.”

Mohammed Alshawa, Mechanical Engineering, Junior

“Participating in the word business dialogue was a unique experience that can’t be forgotten. We all had the chance to meet people from around the world to discuss various aspects of consumption. The discussions were highly enriching and it introduced us to multiple ways of thinking and analyzing information. I would encourage every AUS student to participate in the upcoming WBD as it was an unforgettable experience.”

Hassan E. Eladasy, Civil Engineering, Junior

“To be chosen as a delegate to the World Business Dialogue Forum 2012 that was held in Germany was a great honor for me. I gained a lot from meeting new people, learning from colleagues, and imbibing the rich culture and traditions of Germany. I would like to thank the Student Leadership Program, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi and Mr. Munketh Taha for giving us such a fantastic opportunity to gain such a great experience.”

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