Sultan visits AUS Club Fair

Students at American University of Sharjah (AUS) felt honored when His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS, visited their Club Fair on February 17, 2013 along with members of the AUS Board of Trustees.

The two-day event, which is held each semester, gives new students a chance to sign up for the many cultural and common interest clubs on the AUS campus. This semester 55 clubs participated in the fair: 28 ethnic clubs and 27 interest-oriented clubs.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the fair was inaugurated by Sheikh Dr. Sultan. Welcoming the visit of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah to the Club Fair, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said, “We are proud to have His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah visiting the Club Fair this time. We aim for our students to avail the extracurricular opportunities offered to them and which they benefit from as out-of-classroom learning experiences. Club Fair is not just a membership drive, it is a reflection of the vibrant campus life we have at AUS.” Also present were members of the AUS Board of Trustees, Dr. Peter Heath, AUS Chancellor, and senior university officials.

His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah and members of the Board of Trustees walked around the Student Center marveling at the colorful stalls, which were divided into segments for the ethnic clubs, the Student Council, interest-oriented clubs and the Student Affairs departments.

At the Emirati Club stall, His Highness continued on page 5

AUS holds second Student Leadership Conference

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 second AUS Student Leadership Conference (ASLC 13) was held at the AUS Main Auditorium on April 17, 2013.

The theme of the conference was civic leadership and social responsibility. The main objective of ASLC13 was to facilitate an exchange of ideas across a diverse group of experts and students who share the passion of civic leadership. ASLC13 allowed students to cultivate useful contacts and networks, and instill greater confidence in students to bring forth the immense leadership potential present in continued on page 16
VCSA Column

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Community Building

A US provides grounds for students’ multicultural integration through several programs of which a prominent one is OSA’s Student Multicultural Learning Program (SMLP). Students from diverse backgrounds travel together to different destinations. We took them to Japan, China, Italy, Spain, USA, Switzerland and France through this program during school breaks. More destinations are planned for 2013. Of the hundreds that apply we were able to take from 30 to 50 students on these trips. Visits to historical and cultural sights are essentially integrated in every trip. These trips create favorable environment for building diverse communities. Every student feels important and included irrespective of their language, economic condition, customs, history and religion.

SMLP travels promote cognitive learning—students learn about their own and other cultures and cultural diversity. They develop acceptance of other cultures every time they travel and interact with other group members. SMLP trips also develop students’ personality. They learn to be responsible, manage their time, adapt to the new environment, develop rapport and gain acceptance within the group. They establish dialogue, bonds and develop lifelong relationships. At the onset of travel we see confused students and on return confident students. Friendship, tolerance and respect for each other is clearly visible. The multicultural student web is expanding and integrating more and more students from a larger AUS community.

AUS is going to pass on this legacy of multicultural understanding and tolerance among generations that will be proud of studying here and developing “multicultural intelligence” through varied programs and activities hosted by Student Affairs. Your participation will allow you to develop as a person as well as understand diversity in a broader sense. I encourage students to join SMLP as well as other OSA-initiated programs, events and activities to experience a unique out-of-class learning experience.

Best wishes to all students taking classes in the summer term.

AUS team makes its mark at UAEU art competition

Six students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) successfully participated in the Art Competition organized by United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). Held May 22, 2013 at UAEU’s campus, the Art Competition entitled “Flowers” featured painting and photography works of 42 student competitors from eight universities across the UAE.

The AUS team comprised Hala Kojak, Marwa Jarkas, Eman Shafiq, Waleeya Ahmed, Mayla Afzal and Fatemeh Mirshafiei. Kojak won third place in the competition.

“I am proud that my art work was recognized in this competition and received third place. The competition was really tough with many entries that were really creative and beautiful. I thank Student Affairs for arranging our participation in this very challenging competition,” said Kojak, a junior majoring in finance.

“We have many creative and gifted students at AUS. We support these budding talents by providing them with a platform where they can compete and display their work while at the same time socialize and network with their peers from other educational institutions who share their passion,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “I congratulate our students for their successful participation and for winning third place,” she added.

The UAEU Art Competition included work done by students from higher education institutions across the UAE. The competition aimed to promote and develop the artistic talents of students by providing them with learning experiences that will raise their aesthetic concepts and perceptions.

The winners received cash prizes and all participants received merit certificates. The students’ participation in the event was organized by Office of Student Affairs’ Student Development and Organizations Department.
Global Day 2013, a most-anticipated event at American University of Sharjah (AUS), was inaugurated on March 14 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS, by Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmed Bin Sultan Al Qassimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Corporation.

AUS’s first Global Day was held in 1998 with eight student organizations and 400 students. Global Day 2013, now a two-day event, represents 30 countries and participation from over 5,000 students from over 84 nationalities. The Global Day festival represents one of the many ways in which the university reaches out to society with thousands of visitors coming to the AUS campus to enjoy the multi-cultural diversity of the university’s community.

The Global Day 2013 festival showcased the cultural heritage of the 84 nationalities represented on campus by turning the university campus into a global village. Set up across the AUS Main Plaza was a mix of pavilions that depicted the traditions of countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Armenia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Palestine, Libya, India, Sudan and Egypt, among others. Themed “Peace throughout the World,” Global Day 2013 showcased the different cultures represented among the AUS student body, with student clubs presenting traditional items, music and cuisine.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, this two-day event included colorful indoor cultural performances in the Main Auditorium as well as on the outdoor stage, giving students a chance to parade their talent. Stage shows included dance performances and skits.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said, “The 30 student ethnic clubs and the Student Council prepared well for this most-awaited and biggest event at AUS. Our students came up with various ideas to present their culture and heritage through their stage performances and their pavilions. I thank them for their efforts in transforming these ideas into reality and presenting them at the 15th Annual AUS Global Day.”

“Global Day is more than just a cultural event; our students learn a variety of skills such as teamwork, creativity, resourcefulness, time management and many others. We are proud this event because it is by students for students,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

“We look forward to Global Day all year,” said Nour Al-Ali, a double major in mass communication and English literature. “It gives us a real sense of pride being able to share our culture with our fellow students who may never get a chance to visit our home countries. In the same way, it’s great fun to see the cultures our peers represented.”

The opening ceremony was also attended by Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Provost and Acting Chancellor; Dr. Saleh Al Suhaibani, the Saudi Cultural Attaché; Waleed Al Atiqi, the Omani Cultural Attaché; members of other foreign missions; AUS Vice Chancellors; senior officials; Hamdan Al Mimari, President of the AUS Student Council; as well as members of the AUS community and the general public.
Students of American University of Sharjah (AUS) elected new members to serve on the Student Council following successful elections held at the Student Center on May 15. The event was the culmination of week-long electoral activities in which candidates canvassed for votes.

Fourteen candidates were elected by the student body to represent them as members of the Student Council. The elected candidates represent the university’s diverse and multicultural student body. Elected to the office of Student Council President was Mohammed Sultan Al Qasimi.

A total of 1,746 out of 4,908 registered students voted in the elections, which represents a 35.57 percent voter turnout.

“Student involvement and interest in the Student Council has grown further throughout the years due to the many accomplishments of previous Student Council boards in conveying student concerns to the administration,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “This year, a good number of candidates were very active students in our extracurricular programs. I am glad to witness the growing number of students taking up leadership roles as a result of the programs we organize in Student Affairs. This is a manifestation of the effectiveness of the university’s extracurricular programs and to achieving Student Affairs’ vision of shaping future leaders. I wish the new Student Council board a productive year ahead,” Dr. Al Shehhi added.

Students who wish to be eligible for election as members of the AUS Student Council Board are required to lead an active campus life as well as have good academic and social standing. Experience in serving on the executive boards of clubs and active participation in extracurricular events and activities is also important.

“I have a set of goals for representing College of Arts and Sciences (CAS),” said Amna Ali Alali, a junior in mass communication who was elected student council representative for CAS. “I plan for there to be more communication between the dean and the students, as well as working on sorting out problems that might crop up between departments and students,” she added.

For Haya Mourad, a sophomore in multimedia design who was volunteering at the event, the election day was “very crowded and very thrilling. It was very chaotic but a lot of fun! I was really happy to have helped out with the election,” she added.

The Student Council aims to initiate programs and projects that cater to the demands of the student body as well as promote leadership and teamwork. The Student Council election was organized by the Student Activities Office of the AUS Office of Student Affairs.

The 14 students elected on the Student Council 2013-2014 board are:

- Mohammed Sultan Al Qasimi: President
- Osama Nehad Alhasan: Vice President
- Ahmed Abdelrahman El Tinai: Vice President for Public Relations
- Meerah Qamber Al Mulla: Executive Secretary and Office Director
- Jabir Abdul Khalique Iqbal: Treasurer
- Abeer Riyadh Sultan: Events and Activities Coordinator
- Bassel Mohamad Khanafer: Athletics and Sports Coordinator
- Yara Ahmed Ramadan: Communication and Media Coordinator
- Hamad Ali Al Ketbi: Student Organizations and Campus Services Coordinator
- Amna Ali Alali: College of Arts and Sciences Representative
- Ola Husam Alali: College of Architecture, Art and Design Representative
- Raghad Saud Al-Tamimi: School of Business and Management Representative
- Mustafa Jamil Assaf: College of Engineering Representative
- Mohamed Abdalla Sajwani: Achievement Academy Bridge Program Representative
AUS debate team wins NYUAD British Parliamentary Debate Championship

American University of Sharjah (AUS) Debate Club members Badar-ud-Duja and Tuqa Khalid won the British Parliamentary Debate Championship held by New York University, Abu Dhabi on May 11, 2013. Four teams of two students each participated from the AUS Debate Club and competed against clubs from Middlesex University, Dubai; Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah; and Masdar University, Abu Dhabi.

The teams competed in three rounds where they were ranked in order of performance of their respective debate roles as well as their content. Teams with the highest rankings proceeded to the final round. The topics for the parliamentary debate ranged from arts and sciences, to politics and economy with “Globalization Marginalizes the Poor” as the topic for the final round.

“It was an amazing experience to participate in the New York University Abu Dhabi Debate Championship. It was the first time I had participated in a British parliamentary style debate, and I surely learned a lot from it. I would like to thank the AUS Debate Club for this wonderful opportunity,” said Anam Merchant, a senior student majoring in management and a member of one of the AUS teams.

“The AUS Debate Club is one of our very active clubs at the university. They organize a range of events and activities including workshops on public speaking, presentation skills, interview skills and a series of debate championships at the university. They are equally successful in the intercollegiate level with their recent victories in the Emirates Environment Group Public Speaking Competition, Skyline Intercollegiate Debating Championship, American University of Dubai Debating Championship, and BITS Pilani University Debating Championship,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “I thank the members of the AUS Debate Club for their efforts, and we recognize their achievements that promote a positive image of AUS among universities across the UAE,” she added.

The students’ participation in the event was organized by the Students Clubs and Organizations Office of the Office of Student Affairs.

Sultan visits....continued from page 1

the Ruler of Sharjah signed the guestbook with “With my best wishes for your continued success.”

The Club Fair highlights the culturally diverse AUS community and encourages students to use the university’s non-academic student support services as well as engage in the many out-of-classroom learning opportunities the university offers its students.
AUS team wins interuniversity cultural challenge

Four students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) claimed victory over eight other competing universities in the debut of United Arab Emirates University’s (UAEU) Kas Al Reyadah Universities Cultural Challenge held May 22, 2013. Members of the AUS team were Aisha AlMidfaa, Alyaa AlMansoori, Marwa Khost Jarkas and Nadia Al Safi.

The AUS team won against Ajman University in the qualifying round and made it to the final round. AUS was declared the winner after winning against UAEU and Dubai Islamic College in the final round.

Kas Al Reyadah Universities Cultural Challenge 2013 was organized by UAEU with the aim of promoting research and encouraging female students to acquire and strengthen their national identity and cultural heritage. The question-and-answer competition examined the participants’ knowledge in various fields including science and technology, history and culture, general information and many others.

Participating universities were UAEU; AUS; University of Sharjah; Dubai Islamic College; Ajman University of Science and Technology; Abu Dhabi University; Higher Colleges of Technology, Al Ain; Al Hosn University, Abu Dhabi; and Al Khawazmi International College.

“It was an honor for me and the rest of the team to represent AUS and win the first place in this competition. I encourage my fellow female students to participate in the next season of this event to continue our achievement and prove the capabilities and competence of female AUS students,” said Aisha AlMidfaa, a junior student majoring in international studies.

“We are so proud of our students for this great accomplishment. These four students are very talented and are active in our extracurricular programs. They are good role models for their ability to utilize both their academic knowledge and their out-of-classroom learning experiences to achieve their objectives in a unique competition such as this one. I congratulate the winners for their efforts in representing AUS in this event,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The AUS students were awarded AED 30,000 in cash, a trophy and certificates. The students’ participation in the event was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Development and Organizations Department.

AUS team wins three trophies in debate championship

The Debate Club at American University of Sharjah (AUS) won the championship at the First Intercollegiate Debate Championship organized by American University in Dubai on March 2, 2013. The AUS debate team won the Best Team award and AUS students Mamour Ahmad and Tuqa Khalid won the Best Opposition Speaker and the Best Proposition awards respectively.

Students from seven universities across the UAE engaged in a parliamentary style debating with a topic “This house believes that freedom is more important than security.” Among the participating universities were Skyline University College, Sharjah; New York University, Abu Dhabi; Middlesex University, Dubai; BITS Pilani, Dubai; and Murdoch University, Dubai.

“AUS emerged as the best debating team among the competing universities, instilling yet again a great sense of pride in all AUS Debate Club members,” said Sahar Saeed, a finance student and president of the AUS Debate Club.

“The AUS Debate Club members have once again proven that they are among the best debaters in the intercollegiate level. Their previous and present achievements set a good example of a model student club. I congratulate our students for another accomplishment and I thank them for their hard work and efforts,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Renowned Islamic scholar Hamza Yusuf speaks at AUS

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, a prominent Islamic scholar and President of Zaytuna College in the United States, spoke on the Islamic civilization’s contributions to science and technology at American University of Sharjah April 14, 2013 at the university’s main auditorium.

In his lecture, entitled “Contributions of Muslims in Science and Technology,” Yusuf spoke on the technological advances of Islamic civilization, its roots and its influence today. “We are technology creators by nature. But we are not only that. One of our inclinations is to ornament. This building was designed clearly with an aesthetic component. This desire to ornament the functional is embedded within the human species,” said Yusuf.

“Civilization is a river with many rivulets that pour into this vast river. We have all these different civilizations, but the reality of it is that the idea behind civilization is really one—the idea of making life more bearable, creating civil environments, societies and cities where people can live together,” he added.

Yusuf discussed specific contributions by Muslim scientists, in fields such as alchemy, distillation, cryptography and irrigation, among others. He also spoke of the numerous problems that technology has caused, such as ecological and social damage.

“Young people, you have an enormous responsibility,” he said addressing the students. “Don’t waste your time. It is like we are on the Titanic, and the band is playing on. We’re upsetting the balance ecologically,” said Yusuf.

Hamza Yusuf is the President and Cofounder of Zaytuna College, a non-profit, educational institution located in Berkeley, California, United States. Founded in 1996, Zaytuna College is the United States’ first Muslim liberal arts college. Yusuf is a convert to Islam and was called “the Western world’s most influential Islamic scholar” by the Guardian newspaper.

A capacity audience comprising students, faculty and members of the AUS community attended the lecture, which was organized by the Islamic Cultural Club at AUS.

Active students awarded scholarships at AUS

American University of Sharjah (AUS) honored seven outstanding students by presenting them with the Active Student Scholarship awards at a special ceremony on February 27, 2013. Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, the AUS Provost, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, congratulated the students on their achievements.

The recipients were Mohamad El-Moud, Leen Barqawi and Jabir Iqbal of Student Clubs and Organizations; Community Services volunteers Amr Abd El Aal and Anas Masamreh; and Christian Momah and Hashem Alharharah from the Student Leadership Program.

Dr. Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said, “This semester, we have witnessed an increase in the number of scholarship nominees. The Active Student Scholarship Program has become successful in motivating our students to become high achievers and contribute to an active student life at AUS. We support our students by offering them due recognition through this scholarship and through many of OSA’s recognition programs that acknowledge student work and accomplishments.”

The scholarship program supports students who have limited financial resources and who live an active life on campus.
Over 600 active students at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were honored for their extracurricular achievements for the academic year at the Annual Student Appreciation Awards on May 15, 2013.

Students from sports teams, student organizations, volunteer groups, university leadership programs and other student associations were honored at a special ceremony held at the AUS Sports Complex. The awards are held to promote the university's support towards student contribution and achievements in extracurricular activities.

The annual event promotes the university's diverse extracurricular programs and the multitude of out-of-classroom learning opportunities and the related student recognition programs available to AUS students.

Speaking at the ceremony were Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Acting Chancellor and Provost, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“While recognizing your efforts today, we also praise your good time keeping, your academic and non-academic performances and your continuous out-of-class participation that has kept us on our feet throughout the year,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “We all hope you keep building your portfolios in extracurricular areas while achieving academic excellence.”

Hamdan Mohamed Al Maamari, President of the Student Council, also addressed the students. He thanked His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS, for his continuous support. He said that this year had been a great journey for both the Student Council and for the student body in general. “In addition to all the work done with the administration and the meetings to solve many other issues that were raised by the students, we also had a very active year,” he said. “We organized the traditional desert safari, celebrated Eid on campus, held the first Student Council soccer league and many other events in collaboration with ethnic and non-ethnic clubs.”

Eight students received the Most Outstanding Active Student Award for their contributions and dedication in the academic year 2012–2013. The awardees were:

Student Athletics and Recreation: Ashley Ann Mansour, AUS Women's Basketball Team; Mohammed Osama Siddiqui, AUS Men's Squash and Badminton Teams; Somtochukwu Junior Uchundu, AUS Men's Track and Field Team

Student Clubs and Organizations: Saif Altonaiji, Vice President of the Emirati Cultural Club; Ayman Jaber, President of the Palestinian Cultural Club; Ahmed Abdelrahman El Tinai, President of Power Hit Radio Club

Community Services: Rihab Badsha

Leadership Program: Anam Shahid

The following awards were also presented for participation in AUS Global Day 2013.

Global Day Best Performance Award: Indian Cultural Club; Nigerian Cultural Club; Lebanese Cultural Club

Global Day Creative Idea Award (Performance): Emirati Cultural Club

Global Day Teamwork Award (Performance): Pakistani Cultural Club

Global Day Best Corner Award: Palestinian Cultural Club; Saudi Cultural Club; Syrian Cultural Club

Global Day Creative Idea Award (Corner): Iraqi Cultural Club

Global Day Teamwork Award (Corner): Bangladeshi Cultural Club

Club of the Year: Emirati Cultural Club

Also present at the awards ceremony were Salem Al Qaseer, AUS Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; Ali Shuhaimy, AUS Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management; AUS deans and other senior officials; faculty, staff and students.
Debate Club wins BITS Debate Championship

American University of Sharjah (AUS) debate team members Mamour Ahmad, Tuqa Khalid and Sabira Manji brought home a victory from the Parliamentary Debate Competition hosted by BITS Pilani University in Dubai on April 8, 2013.

The competition brought in eight universities across the country to engage in a parliamentary style debate with two preliminary rounds. Among the universities participating in the championship were American University in Dubai, Preston University, Canadian University of Dubai and Middlesex University, which the AUS Debate Club had a dynamic final against. The debate was judged by professional judges from the organization Toastmasters.

As AUS emerged victorious, team member Mamour Ahmad said, “We thank the AUS Debate Club and AUS for bringing us opportunities to exceed expectations and represent our university in the academia of UAE.”

AUS celebrates Arab World Orphan Day

The Office of Students Affairs (OSA), Community Services Department, in association with Human Appeal International (Ajman), held an entertaining trip for orphans in celebration of the Arab World Orphan Day on April 2, 2013.

Twenty Community Services volunteers from American University of Sharjah joined 14 orphans from the Human Appeal in Ras Alkhaimah in a whole day trip to Banyan Tree Al Wadi Resort, Ras Al Khaimah. Each orphan was accompanied by at least two volunteers who helped them enjoy their day.

The orphans enjoyed playing in the Kids Club area with the students and other activities in the resort, such as camel riding and archery. They also visited the Falcon View, where they attended an informative lecture about the different types of falcons and hawks.

“This project is hugely popular with our students. The time they spent with the orphans is a contribution to community service that makes us all proud of our students,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Identity–is it a crisis?

Identity crisis: This is a term which almost all of us are familiar with. Does something called “identity crisis” actually exist? Do many students face this problem? Is it quite common?

Yes, it does exist and it is common, too.

An identity crisis is considered one of the most important conflicts people face during development. Its presence is felt more during the teenage period, a period where different ways are used to explore and understand oneself. Though you may feel lost, eventually you pass this stage and move on to a sense of identity achievement, where you make a commitment towards an identity.

Studies have found that people who make a commitment towards an identity tend to live a happy life. Though developing an identity is very important, being too dependent on it could turn harmful. For example, if you tend to identify yourself as an engineer, or a business executive, or an artist, what will happen if ever you lose that title?

It is very important to find a balance. You should be able to identify yourself with other roles you play in life. You could be a good daughter, a good son, a good friend, a good brother or sister. These could bring more strength to your identity than just labeling yourself with one title.

Tips to keep in mind to have a well-balanced identity:

• Try to develop a well-balanced identity that could be of help to you and others.
• Your identity is not defined by what you do or what you have.
• Never be dependent on just one option; if ever it fails, you should have another to move on.

Student Learning Counseling Services
First Floor
AUS Student Center
For appointments, call ext. 2767.
Government and private organizations helped raise awareness at American University of Sharjah (AUS) on February 26, 2013. The Annual AUS Awareness Day is held to spread awareness of health, social, safety and environmental issues among students and the general public and featured participation of prominent government and private organizations.

According to Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, “AUS Awareness Day is continuously gaining popularity among the public and private sector. Many high school institutions take advantage of the event and organize trips for their students to gain valuable knowledge about the many issues that affect daily life. Organizations have also become equally interested in seizing the opportunity to reach out to young people and send their messages across. I am sure that many of our students have benefitted from the various health, social, charitable, environmental and safety campaigns brought together in one location.”

Participating organizations included Sharjah Police; Sharjah City Municipality; Sharjah Sports Council; Sharjah Government, Social Care Center; Sharjah Youth Voluntary Group; Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services; Sharjah Medical District, Preventative Medicine Department; Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Sharjah; Sharjah Oral Health Project; Society for Consumer Protection, Sharjah; Health Promotion, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Breast Feeding Friends, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Friends of Kidney Patients, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Friends of Diabetes Patients, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Friends of Arthritis Patients, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Friends of Cancer Patients, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah; Noor Dubai Foundation; Dubai Police, General Department of Human Rights; Dubai Police, Information on Cyber Crime; Dubai Volunteering Center; Dubai Blood Donation Center; Abbott Nutrition, Dubai; Al Sharif Eye Center, Dubai; Right Bite, Dubai; Al Ihsan Charity Center, Ajman; and Human Appeal International, Ajman.

The event included a blood donation campaign, blood sugar and blood pressure checks, and the distribution of handouts explaining social and cultural issues.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Al Shehhi; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and senior university officials.
AUS exhibits art by autistic children

American University of Sharjah (AUS) in collaboration with the Sharjah Autism Center (SAC) held an exhibition of artwork created by the center’s children April 15-16 at the university’s Student Center.

Held for the first time at AUS, the exhibition was organized by the Community Services Division of the university’s Office of Student Affairs and was designed to increase the community’s awareness about autism.

“The exhibition is aimed at enlightening students and the public about various aspects of autism, especially highlighting the positive and bright side of those having autism, such as distinguished innovative talents. Do you know that 10 percent of those with autism have innovative potential that can be developed, and deserve to be highlighted and receive due attention?” asked Mona Bagh, the center’s manager. She noted the importance of supporting such innovative talents, as failure to do might suppress an important talent that may add success and distinction not only to the student, but also to the family and society.

During the event, the children had a chance to display their skills, their creative abilities and their interests. Some of their artworks were displayed around the Student Center’s lobby. Ten of the 34 children attending SAC were at the event to interact with exhibition visitors.

“The message of this exhibition is to highlight the beauty of these talents and to emphasize the importance of developing autism talents as one of the basic human rights of the autism student and the family,” Bagh said.

The Sharjah Autism Center officials expressed the center’s gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah, for his generous support of the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services and its students and activities, including students with autism. They also expressed their thanks to Sheikha Jamilah Bint Mohammad Al Qassimi, Director General of the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, for her support for the Sharjah Autism Center. The center also thanked AUS for supporting their activities and strengthening cooperation with the center.

According to SAC, autism is a developmental disorder of neurobiological origin that begins in early childhood and it occurs in all parts of the world, affecting all ethnic groups and all socioeconomic levels. Recent studies indicate that phantom autism occurs at a ratio of 1 in every 150 children. Even though there is no known cure for autism, some researchers suggest that the best therapy is intensive early intervention, focusing on communication and presenting children with role models to further promote their development.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, AUS Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said that AUS hosted the exhibition as per the Agreement of Cooperation between the university and the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services. “AUS is keenly interested in providing all possible support to those with autism and to encourage volunteer students to help humanitarian institutions,” she said. Dr. Al Shehhi emphasized the vital role this exhibition played in highlighting the talents of those with autism and creating awareness among AUS students.
American University of Sharjah (AUS) and Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services (SCHS) jointly worked on a social project to improve the homes of people with special needs. Entitled the Hand in Hand project, the initiative yielded the renovation of four homes since its launch two years ago. The most recent project was that of a family with a child with special needs. The renovated home was returned to its residents on April 25, 2013 in special ceremony attended by officials from both organizations.

SCHS chose the home of one of the children under its care and recommended it for the project. AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services mobilized its student volunteers and resources to ensure the project’s success. In collaboration with the Islamic Cultural Club, a month-long fund raising campaign was held at the university to generate funds for the project. Sharjah Islamic Bank contributed generously in support of such a noble cause.

More than 40 student volunteers took turns over one week helping in the renovation project by cleaning, painting and decorating the house. In addition to the renovation, basic home furnishings were provided to replace the old and damaged ones. “It was a great experience,” said Aisha Buhari, an accounting major who volunteered for the project. “It made me feel great that I was able to help those in need. The smiles on their faces were immeasurable,” she added.

The family expressed their joy and satisfaction upon seeing the improvements in their house and thanked AUS and SCHS for their efforts and for supporting them and for considering the welfare of their child with special needs.

“Many students turned out to volunteer for this project; we had to make shifts to accommodate most of them,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, AUS Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, during the handover ceremony. “This is a very good indication that many of our students have become increasingly interested in serving and helping others. The Hand in Hand project is one of our pioneer projects in partnership with governmental organizations to promote a stronger society and to engage the youth in meaningful activities,” she added.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; AUS and SCHS officials; as well as student volunteers and members of the Islamic Cultural Club.
SLP students participate in Alleem Leadership Congress

Twenty-two students from the Student Leadership Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the Fourth Alleem Leadership Congress on January 22, 2013 at Radisson BLU Hotel in Sharjah. The conference was organized by Alleem Knowledge Center in Sharjah.

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority Director General Dr. Rashid Alleem shared his best leadership philosophies with the participants with a deep analysis of the current economic, environmental and social status in the world. The conference aimed to create an interactive platform for corporate and government decision-makers, senior managers, project developers and civic leaders and students. The event also gathered top Sharjah government, semi-government and private officials and key business decision makers who listened to experts discuss the latest trends and best practices in leadership and management.

Leen Barqawi, a design management student, said, “The congress was an interesting one where I was able to see how different people dealt with and defined leadership differently. Some put it as laying out your goals and being focused on them, while others put it as the positive energy within each one of us that motivates us to be more productive. This has made me more aware of some of the leadership characteristics within me and has encouraged me to define my wants and aims in life more accurately.”

Chemical engineering student Reem Al-Naaimi said, “Participating in the Fourth Alleem Leadership Congress was a great experience. I learned from the conference that leaders read the word impossible, as ‘I am possible.’ We need to build a clear picture of our dreams, and understand that if our dream does not scare us, then it is not big enough.”

“The Student Leadership Program involves students in numerous local events that aim to develop their leadership skills and help them better understand and evaluate what the community is doing in terms of social and business structure. Through their participation, students get a chance to network and meet people from various disciplines, share knowledge, discuss best practices and unleash their potential,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

This event was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program.

SLP students attend Al Maktoum College Academic Training Program

Seven students from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) attended the Academic Training Program in Multiculturalism and Leadership at the Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland, held February 11-March 8, 2013.

The four-week program focused on enlightening students in key areas such as multiculturalism and Muslim society, leadership and management, and civilization dialogue.

Participating students included interior design students Noora Abdulaziz Lootah and Azza Alaaeldin Aboualam, international studies students Maysoun Hassan Al Dah and Alya Al Mansoori, international relations student Aisha Jasim Almidfa, finance student Alya Ali Mawaleed and business student Arwa Mohamed Almuaini.

A total of 48 female students from universities across the UAE and Qatar were selected to participate in this annual program. The program included comprehensive course lectures, tutorials and debates that allowed the students to explore elements of leadership, diversity and a multicultural society in more depth.

In addition to participating in the intensive training program, the students visited cultural and historical sites. According to Aisha Al Midfaa, a Junior II, international studies major, the program was one every international studies major should undertake.

“The Student Leadership Program (SLP) at the Office of Student Affairs is pleased to hear students say that the experience was life changing. Our role is to provide students with opportunities that aid in their development, hoping that they will become effective and efficient members of society. I recommend more students to take advantage of these opportunities and contact SLP to find out more about what we offer. We thank Al Maktoum College for their hospitality and suburb organization and look forward to future collaborations,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid meets AUS students

His Excellency Sheikh Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates, and patron and sponsor of Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland, met AUS students at his palace in Dubai on April 8, 2013. The students had completed a training program in Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland.

The meeting was attended by the seven AUS students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at the Office of Student Affairs who have recently completed an intensive academic training program in multiculturalism and leadership, organized by Al Maktoum College. Present at the meeting were Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Yousef Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; and Haifa Ismail, Director of the Student Leadership Program.

Sheikh Hamdan discussed with the students their experience and the benefits they gained during their participation in this prestigious program in Al Maktoum College. The AUS students were among a total of 48 students from universities across UAE and Qatar who were selected to participate in this annual program. Al Maktoum College in Scotland provided an ideal setting for a multicultural learning environment.

The program gave students an opportunity to be able to develop and explore their leadership potential in a multicultural society, as well as familiarized the people of Dundee with the Middle Eastern culture. The program was designed with a combination of comprehensive course lectures, tutorials and debates, which allowed the students to explore elements of leadership, diversity and a multicultural society in more depth.

The students engaged in different structured activities that allowed them to explore their own strengths and work to develop their leadership skills. Along with an intensive training program, the students were also able to visit cultural and historical sites.

Dr. Al Shehhi thanked Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid for his generosity and hospitality. “Our students benefited greatly from this program. AUS mission is to develop students’ leadership capacity and engage them in programs like this. This program goes a long way in the development of students’ communication skills as well as social and cultural awareness. We look forward to future collaboration with Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland,” she added.

Speaking on the occasion, AUS student Alya Al Mansoori, an international studies major, expressed her sincere thanks to Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid for availing this opportunity to AUS students. “We learned how to become independent, managed our time and we developed essential leadership skills. On behalf of all my friends and AUS, thank you your highness for granting us this memorable and life changing experience. We hope that we will be able to pressure the next level of this training to further develop our skills,” she said.
A seven-student delegation from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) secured an Honorable Mention Award at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) held in New York from March 24-29, 2013.

NMUN is considered to be the most prestigious model UN conferences in the world where students from more than 5,000 universities all across the world participate in a simulation of the various UN Committees to debate and resolve pressing world issues. The theme of this year’s conference was “Change Your World” and the AUS delegation represented Singapore in seven different committees such as the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping.

The closing ceremony was held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where universities were honored for their hard work and commitment over the course of the conference. “It has been an honor to represent American University of Sharjah as the delegation of Singapore at the 2013 National Model United Nations. In this era of globalization, learning about the world around us is of a much importance especially when understood and learned from other countries’ points of view than your own home country. NMUN is the best environment that enables students of different professions and majors to learn more about the numerous problems facing the world, to identify the complexities in trying to find suitable solutions, and to highlight the role of the United Nations in solving such issues as the world’s peace promoting agency. NMUN also offers a significant opportunity to interact with students from all over the world with their cultural diversities and various backgrounds in order to share our views, experiences, and learn from each other. By looking back on my experience at the NMUN, I could conclude that the NMUN has provided an excellent, unique, safe, and well-structured environment for me to develop my leadership, researching, public speaking, writing, negotiating, and team-working skills. I would highly recommend NMUN to any student who wants to gain a better understanding of the world of diplomacy, the international affairs, and the work of the UN,” said Amna Fikri, senior student majoring in international relations.

“NMUN was a life-changing event that introduced you to amazing people from all over the world. The interaction with delegates about pressing international issues, and the spirit of unity that we shared to reach compromises enriched my life greatly and also enabled me to view the world from a different perspective. The experience and memories gained from participating in this event will be cherished for many years to come,” said Cicily Roy, senior student majoring in international studies.

“I am so thankful to the SLP for giving me this opportunity. It has always been my dream to work for the United Nations, and SLP allowed me to experience that through NMUN. I have learned a lot about diplomacy, dispute resolution and public speaking through NMUN, and I feel like I have emerged a much better version of myself after this conference,” said Arfah Siddiqi, a junior student majoring in journalism and international studies who said NMUN reinforced her ambition of working for the United Nations, and said that the entire experience was immensely motivating.

“The experience of the National Model United Nations in New York is very valuable to our students as it enables them to interact with students from colleges and universities around the world. It gives first-hand experience that aids in the development of various skills such as communication, art of negotiation, research and understanding of global issues. It is a prestigious distinction for AUS, one of the smallest delegations in NMUN, to secure the Honorable Mention Award. Our students prepared well, did excellent research, and exhibited full dedication for this event to eventually achieve this award,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
The opening of the conference was attended by Sheikh Khalid Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Public Works Department, as well as senior AUS officials.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Acting AUS Chancellor Dr. Thomas Hochstettler welcomed the guests and the delegates to the conference, and discussed various aspects of leadership. “By coming together here today to participate in the AUS Student Leadership Conference of 2013, you, our students have a wonderful opportunity to expand and deepen your understanding of the true meaning of leadership in the highest sense of that word, namely, civic leadership,” said Dr. Thomas Hochstettler. “Civic leadership entails cultivating in oneself a certain generosity of spirit and imposes upon those of us who have the privilege of an advanced education the imperative of giving back to our community. During the course of this conference, you will hear from experts and practitioners who have demonstrated their generosity of spirit and in whose lives we witness superb examples of how to respond to that imperative to give back,” he added.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, AUS Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, also spoke at the opening ceremony. “The Office of Student Affairs organizes the AUS Student Leadership Conference biennially with the motive to inspire and educate students about crucial aspects of leadership,” she said. “This year the conference theme is focused on civic leadership and social responsibility with the intention to create a sense of the importance to giving back to our communities. We believe true satisfaction in life comes when one can positively affect and make a difference. We are confident that today’s speakers have greatly benefited AUS students and conference attendees to lead better communities and become active global citizens,” she added.

Following the opening remarks, His Excellency Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Nuaimi, the Official Environmental Advisor to the Ajman Government, also known as “the Green Sheikh,” delivered one of four keynote addresses. His address was entitled “Young Leaders for Challenging Future.” “Always be different from others. Don’t mimic everybody,” said Sheikh Abdul Aziz, addressing the students. “You are not just a human being. You have a legacy to make. Sustainability is not about technology. It’s about your heritage and identity,” he added.

The second keynote speaker was Dr. Rashid Alleem, Director General of Sharjah Department of Seaports and Customs and Sharjah Free Zones Authority. His talk was entitled “Leading in Tomorrow’s World.” He also spoke about his projects, including the Alleem Foundation, which works with individuals and innovative organizations to improve social, economic and environmental living conditions worldwide.

The third keynote speaker was Richard Brandt, Director at the Iacocca Institute, with his talk entitled “Civic, Social Responsibility and Ethical Leadership.” Brandt discussed perceptions towards civic and social responsibility, in addition to the many business projects he has been involved in.

The fourth keynote speaker was Marwan Al Serkal, CEO, Sharjah Investment and Development Authority-Shurooq and CEO of Al Qasba Development Authority, with his talk entitled “Shurooq Support to Social Responsibility.” Al Serkal spoke on the nature of leadership. “Be authentic to yourself. Everyone has the qualities to become a leader,” he said. The talks were followed by a question and answer session.

In the afternoon, Richard Brandt held a workshop entitled “Ethical Issues in Six Countries,” followed by the Convey Leadership presentations, part of a competition where students were given the opportunity to demonstrate a concept of leadership through a structure, 3D illustration, poster, photograph, painting, sketch, video, or a case study analysis. The day concluded with the distribution of awards for the Convey Leadership Competition and a closing ceremony.

The conference was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program. The first student leadership conference was held in 2011 with the theme of ethical leadership and citizenship.
Six students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) attended the 16th World Business Dialogue at the University of Cologne, Germany held March 13-14, 2013.

The World Business Dialogue is considered one of the most important platforms for discussion in Europe. This year’s topic was “Next Generation Business Strategies: Finding New Business Strategies.” The dialogue touched on different aspects of the topic of social responsibility, leadership and innovation, e-mobility, entrepreneurship, Islamic finance and startups. The conference drew 300 students from over 66 countries, 300 corporate participants and top speakers representing the fields of economics, science and politics. The conference featured keynote speakers, interactive panels, executive sessions and workshops that enabled the students to obtain a balanced perspective of the new business strategies. The conference aimed to bring students and experts together to better understand the emerging business strategies and changing needs and expectations of the younger generation.

The participating students were Anam Shahid, majoring in management; Nadia Samir Alsafi, Nada Eyad Al Assi, Faisal Al Shehhi and Hessa Ali Al Ali, majoring in finance; and Mohammad Omar Hukan, majoring in electrical engineering.

"The World Business Dialogue was an amazing multicultural experience that made me see the world with different perspectives," said Al Ali.

According to Hukan, “Someone might wonder what an engineer is doing among a group of business students in a business conference. I myself had some doubts and worries about not being able to keep up with all the business terms and that I would be left out. On the contrary, this was one of the best, most useful and most interesting conferences I have ever attended. I really enjoyed the panels, the workshops and the executive sessions and didn’t feel like an outsider even for a second. I can honestly say that this was one of my best experiences with the Student Leadership Program, and I would like to thank them for providing me with such an amazing and fruitful opportunity.”

“The Office of Student Affairs encourages 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.
Students from American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Student Multicultural Learning Program recently returned from a cultural trip to the European cities of Geneva and Paris. Twenty-eight students representing 11 nationalities went on the May 31-June 7, 2013 trip, which was organized by the university’s Office of Student Affairs.

Arriving in Geneva for a four-day visit, the students visited the Patek Philip Watch Museum. Known for its high-quality precision watches, the students learned the history of Swiss watch making and how the local watch industry retained its craftsmanship amidst the presence of modern manufacturing practices. The students also saw the European headquarters of the United Nations, World Health Organizations, International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Labor Organization.

The trip also included visits to other parts of Switzerland. The students toured the cheese and chocolate factories in the town of Gruyeres, where they learned about the history and process of Swiss chocolate and cheese making. In Montreux, the students enjoyed the beautiful natural setting with the backdrop of the snow-covered Alps. The tour also included a visit to the Alpine village of Les Diablerets, a village 1,200 meters above sea level and situated at the foot of a rocky massif topped by a glacier. The students ascended to the glacier at 3,000 meters where they enjoyed the snow and rides such as the snow chair lift and the snow bus. They also visited the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

Travelling on the TGV high-speed train from Geneva to Paris, the students continued their cultural expedition with a three-day visit to the capital of France. In Paris, the students embarked on a panoramic tour of the city and visited the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum. The trip ended with an entertaining visit to Disneyland Paris.

“It is very encouraging for us to learn that many nationalities have become increasingly interested in the Multicultural Learning Program. The diversity of our group alone provided a good cultural learning experience between you as peers. I thank all of you for your cooperation during the trip; this is one successful trip that we will all remember. We hope to see you again in our programs and should you have any concerns regarding extracurricular activities, our offices are always open to assist you,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, addressing the students on their way back to the UAE. “I wish to congratulate the graduates who are with us in this trip. I wish them continued success in whatever careers they may pursue and the best of luck in their future endeavors,” she added.

“I was with an amazing group of students and a very supportive Student Affairs team with a perfect blend of the cultural places we visited. Geneva and Paris are great cultural learning grounds as I discover the real beauty of both cities. I am really glad that I was given the opportunity to be a part of this, a perfect graduation gift from AUS,” said Anam Shahid, a graduating management student.

The AUS delegation was headed by Dr. Al Shehhi and accompanied by Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; and supervisors Virgilio Mateo Jr. and Raja Subramanya.
Thirty-two American University of Sharjah (AUS) students spent their spring break on a cultural visit to California, USA, from March 29 to April 5, 2013. The students are part of the Student Multicultural Learning Program of the AUS Office of Student Affairs (OSA).

The students began their trip with a bus tour of Los Angeles. The students were able to see the houses of around 40 celebrities such as Tom Cruise, Paris Hilton, Nicolas Cage, Courtney Cox and Jennifer Lopez, among others. The bus tour continued through Rodeo Drive, a shopping district known for its designer labels and high-end boutiques. Students also had the chance to take photos of the famous Hollywood sign, and the day's program was concluded with a visit to Venice Beach and the Walk of Fame.

The students then visited Universal Studios to learn more about the American film industry and movie production. During the visit, students learned about special effects and 3D animation featured in various shows in the theme park. Students also embarked on the Studio Tour where they explored city blocks, houses and buildings made especially for filming movies such as Fast and the Furious and Back to the Future, the TV series Desperate Housewives and many others.

Visiting the city of San Diego, the students learned about American marine life through the various exhibitions and presentations at San Diego Sea World. They also visited Disneyland, where they enjoyed the various rides and attractions of the theme park. The tour was concluded with a visit to the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, where the students took pictures with wax replicas of their favorite Hollywood stars.

“OSA’s Student Multicultural Learning Program organizes international trips based on student requests identified through surveys and direct student feedback. The program has become popular among students because it offers them a way to engage in multicultural learning through activities beyond their daily experiences on campus,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “This program promotes the strategic goals of OSA and AUS, and we are proud of our students for being good ambassadors of the university wherever they go,” she added.

“It was my first time to join the program and the trip to California was a truly memorable experience. We have had so much fun while at the same time learning and knowing more about the American culture and way of life. I am very thankful to Student Affairs for giving me the opportunity to travel with my peers and for being part of this cultural visit to America,” said Abdallah Al Mutawa, a senior public administration student.

The AUS delegation was headed by Dr. Al Shehhi and accompanied by Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations, and event supervisors Virgilio Mateo Jr. and Hussam Steitieh.
When it comes to life in residence, the foremost desire of every student is a safe, secure and peaceful environment, yet one that is vibrant, dynamic and full of excitement. SRLD’s programs and events in Spring 2013 more than fulfilled such expectations considering the wide array of activities that different dorms held, and even more that were organized in cooperation with other departments.

As has become the tradition, the semester began with orientation sessions in both female and male dorms to acquaint new students with life in the dorms. Immediately after, a fast-paced stream of events followed:

- fire drills across all dorms
- the SRLD football league launched on February 18 and ended with finals on April 22
- a party in GH Women’s Dorm on February 18 and involving some 35 students, an up-to-the-challenge sports awareness event held in CD Women’s Dorm involving 25 students
- a cooking competition and a cooking class, under the Similar Interest Group (SIG) program, was held in EF and GH Women’s dorms, respectively
- Pakistani and Egyptian nights held in AB Women’s on February 19 and April 17, respectively
- a DEEP [Dorm Educational and Entertainment Program] event held in IJ Men’s on March 20 involving 65 students
- a business and management event, held under the SIG program, held in EF Women’s Dorm on April 15
- the Spring Semester Sports Day held on April 29 in cooperation with the Sports Department
- Importance of Electricity event held in AB Women’s Dorm involving some 150 students
- the male and female graduating students’ farewell events held on April 23 and 30, respectively, which attracted many students – both graduating and non-graduating

The list goes on and on, while the variety is truly overwhelming.

Remarkably, one common attribute that featured across all the events and activities was the passion. The students and staff at the center of each were totally engaged, putting in their best efforts in organization and participation. Two events deserve special mention for creativity and elegance of organization. These are the Arts and Craft competition and the MN Men’s SIG event.

The Arts and Crafts Competition was held from March 19 to 24 and involved some 35, mostly female, students from different dorms who created drawings that were exhibited in the Women’s Welcome Center Hall. The hall was a very convenient location allowing access to visitors passing through to view as they walked to their different destinations. Also, the high quality of the works made the whole exhibition appealing to viewers and fulfilling to the artists. The many students who were observed taking their time to view the art work is an indication that the show had a good deal to offer.

The other event was the SIG evening held in MN Men’s Dorm on May 12, which involved some 40 participants. What was particularly striking about this event was the elaborate planning and organization that were evident in elegant layout of the hall as well as the inclusive range of interests represented from entertainment, science, sports and computers to a general category that ensured everyone had a part to play. It was also obvious from the upbeat atmosphere that both spectators and those at the center of activities thoroughly enjoyed their time. Indeed this is typical of the events that the SIG initiative is intended to introduce.

In conclusion, residential life in Spring 2013 has been fully loaded with the kind of events that offered students opportunities to thrive physically, socially and culturally—a truly memorable semester.
Over 300 athletes from various sport disciplines gathered in front of the Sports Complex to mark the Annual AUS Sports Day on May 1, 2013. The event was organized by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department.

The enthusiastic athletes participated in various competitions including interschool tournaments in men’s and women’s volleyball and basketball and men’s cricket and soccer.

The College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) placed first in women’s basketball and were runners-up in volleyball, while in the men’s category, they won the volleyball competition and placed third in basketball. The School of Business and Management (SBM) won first place in women’s basketball and were runners-up in volleyball. In the men’s category, SBM won first place in basketball and cricket and placed third in volleyball and soccer.

The College of Arts and Sciences placed second in women’s volleyball and third in men’s cricket. The College of Engineering took the runners-up position in men’s cricket, basketball, volleyball and soccer and secured third place in women’s basketball.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and AUS Acting Chancellor Dr. Thomas Hochstettler awarded the winners of the Intramural and Interschool tournaments in the presence of senior staff and coaches. While congratulating the athletes, Dr. Al Shehhi thanked them for their efforts and dedication throughout the year for making the sports programs successful and for their valuable achievements.

A barbeque dinner was held for all participants after the awards ceremony.
Fifty AUS student-athletes representing eight sports teams participated in the first Friendship and Fellowship Games organized by Kirikkale University in Turkey held March 31-April 5, 2013.

AUS men’s teams participated in soccer, volleyball, swimming, table tennis and badminton. AUS women’s teams participated in basketball, swimming and table tennis. Matches were arranged in women’s basketball and men’s soccer and volleyball with the Middle East Technical University, which is the one of the leading universities in Turkey.

Exciting matches were held in soccer, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and badminton but the final results were not in favor of AUS due to the comparatively stronger teams of Kirikkale University, which has a major in physical education. The AUS women’s table tennis team made a clean sweep of the opponents with a 3-0 win.

The scene was different in the Olympic 50-meter pool in Ankara, where AUS women and men swimmers dominated the water with most of the titles. Four male and four female AUS swimmers excelled in individual and relay races.

Aside from the sporting experience, AUS students interacted with various students of different cultures and travelled to the ancient town of Cappadocia.

The opening ceremony of the games was held at Kirikkale University and the Rector Dr. Ekrem Yildiz inaugurated the Friendship Games in the presence of Mr. Khalid Khalifa Al-Mualla, Ambassador of the UAE to Turkey.

The games concluded on April 4 with an official closing ceremony and awards. Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation and head of the AUS delegation, thanked the organizers for the well-conducted games and for the wealthy cultural exchange between the students.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, congratulated the athletes on their participation and emphasized the importance of such international participation. She advised the students to take part in more extracurricular activities and develop their talents.
AUS cricketers make debut in Sri Lanka

Fourteen AUS cricketers travelled to Sri Lanka to play at the International Invitational Tournament in Kandy on January 27 - the realization of a long-cherished dream following a successful year of victories in regional tournaments.

AUS played a 35-over match with St. Antony's College on their ground in Kandy on January 28, but the team was unable to chase the target set by the St. Antony's team due to a sudden change in weather conditions in Kandy.

Two T20 matches were played on the following day, one against Kandy Youth Cricket Club and the other against Trincomalee District team. Both teams were very competitive and exhibited a high level of excellence. AUS cricketers made a splendid effort in the match against the Kandy Youth team and pulled a last over victory in a thrilling finish by 7 wickets. In their last match against Trincomalee District, the AUS team could not chase the set target.

During its stay in Sri Lanka, the AUS team visited the historic Pallekalle Cricket Stadium and the famous Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. The cricketers enjoyed the natural beauty of Sri Lanka and explored the country's wildlife in its natural habitat.

Leopards win third consecutive AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament

The American University of Sharjah (AUS) cricket team registered a convincing seven-wicket victory over their archrivals Manipal University in the final match of the AUS Intercollegiate T20 tournament, winning the trophy for the third consecutive. The tournament was held April 11-17, 2013 at the AUS cricket field.

University of Sharjah, Ajman University of Science and Technology, Bits Pilani Dubai, Manipal University, Skyline University College and Canadian University took part in this knock-out tournament, which included day and night matches. Manipal University and AUS reached the finals by defeating Bits Pilani Dubai and Canadian University, respectively, in the semifinal stage.

In the much-awaited final, Manipal elected to bat after winning the toss. They only managed to score 128 runs, with Muhammad Nasir, Musaab Khalid khan, Sohaib Ali and Shahrukh Khan sharing the wickets for AUS.

In reply, the AUS opening pair of Rehan Ali and Mohammed Umer batted aggressively and scored numerous boundaries in their chase towards the total. However, close to the total, AUS lost Rehan Ali, Mohammed Umar and Ankur Gopal in quick succession. AUS skipper Sharukh Khan along Musaab Khan, checked the slide and guided the team to victory.

It was a spectacular performance by the AUS team, with their players doing exceedingly well with both the bat and the ball.

Rehan Ali of AUS was declared the Man of the Match while Mohammed Nasir from AUS was chosen as the Best Bowler of the Tournament. Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of the Student Athletics and Recreation Department, presented the trophies and medals to the winners and runners-up.

“I want to congratulate our cricket team for winning the fifth edition of this popular tournament,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “This tournament is becoming well-known among universities here. Many budding cricketers are attracted by our excellent facilities, and we are very happy to provide such opportunities for athletes to exhibit their talent,” she added.
American University of Sharjah held the Eighth Men's and Women's Intercollegiate Racket Tournament from April 21-24 with the participation of 14 universities from all over UAE. The tournament was held at the AUS Sports Complex and outdoor courts and was organized by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department of the Office of Student Affairs.

Two hundred and thirty five male and female competitors representing 47 teams competed in tennis, badminton and table tennis while the squash tournament was organized only for men.

Participating universities included AUS, University of Sharjah, Manipal University, American University in Dubai, Middlesex University, Canadian University of Dubai, BITS Pilani, University of Wollongong in Dubai, Emirates Aviation College, Preston University Ajman, Skyline University College, and Ajman University of Science & Technology.

The AUS men's squash team won the trophy, while the AUS badminton team claimed the runners-up prize and men's table tennis and tennis teams secured third place in their respective sports. In the women's category, the AUS women's team received runners-up positions in tennis and table tennis and placed third in badminton.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, felicitated the winners in her message and promised support in organizing more tournaments for budding players. "I am proud to see that AUS Racket Tournament is getting increasingly popular among universities with a substantial increase in the number of participants this year. Our aim is to provide a common platform for various universities with less opportunities of participation in such competitions," said Dr. Al Shehhi.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation, addressed the participants and gave away prizes to the winners.