SLP students take part in the One Young World Summit 2013 in South Africa

Students from the Student Leadership Program at AUS took part in the One Young World (OYW) Summit held October 2–5, 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The One Young World was founded in 2009 with an aim to gather young people from around the world and help them network to create positive change. The summit allows young delegates to work with OYW counselors, as well as debate and formulate solutions.

Record number of clubs participate in AUS Club Fair

American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Center was a flurry of activity as students convened at the Fall 2013 Club Fair, held on October 7-8. The two-day event, held each semester, gives new students a chance to sign up for the many cultural and common interest clubs at the university. With 72 ethnic and interest-oriented clubs and eight departments from the Office of Student Affairs participating in the fair this semester, the level of student excitement...
Approximately 840 new students attended the workshop on adjusting to university life organized by the Student Learning and Counseling Center. The OSA Freshman Reception was an enjoyable event that brought new and returning students together developing good social relationships. Activities organized for new freshmen roused their curiosity in extracurricular programs. The week of OSA orientation programs and services awareness activities made new students comfortable at AUS.

A step further was engaging students into meaningful out-of-class activities. There were 570 new students who completed the Student Affairs survey expressing the likelihood of participating in extracurricular activities in 13 areas. Based on students’ desired interest they have already been integrated into sports and fitness programs, Student Clubs and Organizations, Student Multicultural Learning programs, Peer Mediation Training, the Let’s Talk Program, Leadership Programs, Community Services and Residential Life Activities. A survey will be sent to this sample group at the end of the semester and the results will be made public showing how effective OSA-oriented activities are, the most popular student involvement area, and how well these students are performing academically.

Avenues of socialization provided by extracurricular participation are not only enriching student life experiences but building their personality and making them happy. The expansion of Student Affairs-initiated activities and the rising student participation ratio cannot be questioned as it is visible through facts and figures. I feel extremely happy to see the enthusiasm and curiosity of new students wanting to engage in every possible activity as well as the continuous involvement of existing students in multiple out-of-class activities. The university community life engagement avenues are also defined in a policy that will make volunteerism highly interactive for AUS students.

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (1990) well said, “When we engage in an activity that we enjoy and that gives enough challenge to our skills, we become absorbed in that activity and reach the state of flow. Flow is the key to optimal enjoyment of any activity leading to fulfilling life.”

The student-run Saudi Cultural Club at American University of Sharjah (AUS) celebrated the 83rd National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a special gathering held September 23 at the university’s Student Center. The celebration featured Saudi cuisine, music and a display of traditional artifacts.

Addressing the students, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs said, “I congratulate the leaders and the people of Saudi Arabia on this special occasion. I thank our Saudi students for their enthusiasm in organizing the event and promoting unity among the student body.”

The event was attended by officials from the Office of Student Affairs, and a good number of students joined the festivities and expressed their best wishes on the occasion.
SLP students take part in... continued from page 1

for major issues concerning our world today.

Statistics show that more than one million people have been affected by the positive work derived from OYW ambassadors, with more than 130 projects operating in a total of 100 countries. OYW focuses on multiple disciplines emphasizing on the importance of transparency in business, engineering, government and the impact of climate change, global health and hunger relief.

“To be successful in the community, we have to consider any problem we face and establish a creative solution. During the One Young World Summit 2013, I was inspired by the creativity of the youth around the world and their abilities to overcome the obstacles they face. Education, human rights, environmental sustainability are some of many topics we discussed in the OYW summit, which are certainly very essential issues in any human’s life. Being part of the OYW-2013 in Johannesburg was an absolutely pleasure for me to be able to represent the UAE, especially AUS, and I am looking forward to being at the OYW-2014-Dublin,” said architecture student Hanin Hazeem.

“The OYW summit was an incredible learning experience for our students. With an aim to nurture civic responsibility in the youth, the summit was in line with the objectives of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) in promoting and instilling civic leadership and social responsibility. The influence of inspiring individuals who have served their communities such as Mrs. Mandela, Sir Richard Branson, Professor Muhammad Yunus and Kofi Anan and much more had a very positive impact on our students. OSA will continue to participate in the OYW summit to encourage our youth to contribute to their communities for the common good and develop solutions to battle global issues that are impacting our lives,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) held a series of student forums for the fall semester for representatives of student groups actively engaged in extracurricular activities. The forums were held on four occasions during the month of October in the university’s Student Center.

Attended by Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Acting Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; Haifa Ismail, Director of the Student Leadership Program; Juliet Coutinho, Director of Judicial Affairs; Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Athletics; Atif Ehsan, Director of Residential Halls; Dr. Muna El Tom, Senior Student Counselor; and Aisha Ali, Community Services Manager, the OSA team met with more than 300 students from the Student Council, members of the leadership program, club representatives, sports teams representatives, student volunteers and members of the peer mediation program.

Dr. Hochstettler attended the forum with the Student Council and shared his views about the issues raised by the Student Council. He also advised the students on how to perform their roles reasonably and he encouraged them to trust the administration just as how the administration trusts the Student Council.

Dr. Al Shehhi chaired the forums and explained the roles and functions of OSA in student life and to providing quality student services and activity facilities. “These forums aim to strengthen dialogues between OSA and students; to discuss issues affecting student life; and further extracurricular activities in the university,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

Students addressed their concerns about events and activities, improvement of university services and facilities among others. The forums aim to provide a platform for dialog between OSA and students to discuss issues affecting student life and concerns about extracurricular activities in the university. OSA encourages students to take advantage of the forums to ask questions, make suggestions, express opinions and share their thoughts and viewpoints about OSA’s services.
Active students at AUS awarded scholarships

Nine outstanding American University of Sharjah students were awarded Active Student Scholarship awards on October 23, at a special ceremony held in the AUS Chancellor’s office.

The Active Student Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students who display excellence in extracurricular activities including community service projects, clubs and participate in the Student Leadership Program. The awards were presented by AUS Acting Chancellor, Dr. Thomas Hochstettler. Also in attendance were Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and other senior officials.

“On-campus extra-and-co-curricular pursuits are an important part of a full diverse university experience,” said Dr. Hochstettler. “I would like to congratulate all the winners of this scholarship.”

Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated the awards winners and said, “Highly active students have increased dramatically and we are proud of these talented students who are able to manage and balance their time and effort between academic obligations and extracurricular activities.”

Seventeen AUS students receive athletic scholarships

Seventeen outstanding student-athletes at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were awarded athletic scholarships for Fall 2013 at a special ceremony held at the AUS Chancellor’s Office on October 23.

Dr. Thomas Hochstettler, Acting Chancellor of AUS, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, congratulated the students on their achievements. Also present at the ceremony were other senior AUS officials.

“Sports are an essential part of university life,” said Dr. Hochstettler. “It is an honor for a student-athlete to represent his or her university and I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the winners of the scholarships.”

“I am very delighted to know that more and more student-athletes are benefiting from the AUS Athletic Scholarship program,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “The Student Athletics and Recreation Department is dedicated to provide maximum possible assistance to the deserving students for attainment of their athletic goals while pursuing the selected academic branches,” she added.

The recipients this semester are Bassel Khanafer, Hakeem Al Hashash and Ahmed Ewaida for men’s soccer; Yousef Mousa Shatat for men’s basketball; Rehan Ali Ifikhar, Musaab Khalid Khan and Muhammad Anwar Khan Nasir for cricket; Vahid Farbod and Shadi Hamati for men’s volleyball; Samer Hijazi for men’s badminton; Shady Gomaa for men’s swimming; Ashley Ann Mansour and Doha Tantawy for women’s basketball; Sarah Aldosary and Noor Chehayber for women’s volleyball; Shahdan Barakat for women’s table tennis; and Jannah Al-Salim for women’s swimming.

The scholarship program aims to encourage, improve and develop sports at the university and 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 recourses and who demonstrate athletic excellence as well as outstanding sports qualities.
AUS commemorates International Day for the Elderly

American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted on campus a group of elderly people from the Sharjah Old People’s Home on September 24. AUS Community Services and the Emirati Cultural Club welcomed the guests in a special gathering held in commemoration of the International Day for the Elderly, which falls on October 1.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said, “Hosting the elderly on campus is one way of showing how we honor and respect them. It is from them we seek advice and guidance, and we benefit from their wisdom and experience. It is heartwarming to see our young students care for the elderly.”

Student volunteers distributed gifts to the elderly as Emirati Club members served them a traditional Emirati breakfast. The Palestinian Cultural Club also welcomed the elderly by performing the famous Palestinian dabkeh dance. The guests expressed their appreciations to the students for their warm welcome and for giving them the opportunity to break their daily routines.

AUS holds breast cancer awareness campaign

Coinciding with the global Breast Cancer Awareness Month, American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted the Pink Caravan breast cancer awareness campaign on campus. The event was held on October 22 at the university’s Student Center and was organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the university’s student-run Emirati Cultural Club.

The campaign started with an introduction about the Pink Caravan and presentations on the celebrations held around the world to mark the occasion. Informational materials were distributed to raise awareness about breast cancer, how to conduct self-tests and the importance of early detection.

Pink Caravan is part of the Friends of Cancer Patients Society (FOCP), a charitable, volunteer-based foundation operating under the umbrella of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Sharjah. FOCP was established in late 1999 in accordance with the directives and under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qassimi, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and Wife of the Ruler of Sharjah and Federal Supreme Council Member His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi.

“This campaign has a significant impact on the health and wellness of community members” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “This disease affects many people and it is important to provide as much information to our young students to learn the facts and myths about this disease,” she added.

Fatima AlWari, a junior mass communication student, said, “I was pleased to be a part of this event where we had the opportunity to contribute in supporting this cause. Raising awareness of breast cancer made me realize the seriousness of this disease and the importance of being strong and never losing faith.”

“I enjoyed working as a volunteer at this event. I would like to thank the university for continuously providing us with meaningful volunteering opportunities,” said Ahmed Alqasim, a sophomore mechanical engineering student.
and involvement was more than ever before.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the fair highlights campus diversity and introduces new students to the student-led organizations on campus. During the fair, the AUS Student Center is divided into segments with corners for Asia, Africa, the Middle East, as well as other parts of the globe, interest-oriented clubs and departments from the Office of Student Affairs. Students enjoy the two-day event taking the time to interact with their peers form different majors.

The Club Fair was inaugurated by Dr. R. Malcolm Richards, Acting Provost, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, in the presence of other senior university officials.

The four newly established clubs this semester are the Design Management Club, Engineers Without Borders Club, Industrial Engineering Club and the International Studies Club.

“This is a promising academic year for extracurricular activities as we started the semester with a positive student turnout in most of our programs and activities. This Club Fair alone witnessed the participation of 72 student-sponsored clubs and organizations, up by 33 percent from previous years,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

“This is a direct result of the increase in the number of students and commensurate with their interest in engaging in extracurricular activities. I am glad to know that many of our students now understand the importance and benefits of out-of-classroom learning experiences in complementing their academic endeavors. Although it will be a challenging year ahead for Student Affairs, our team is well-prepared to accommodate student demands while optimizing whatever university resources are available to satisfy our students’ needs for activities,” she added.

The fair concluded on the second day with traditional dance performances and the best stalls created by the ethnic and interest-oriented clubs were awarded with prizes.

How am I supposed to gain experience when all jobs require experience?

A common question that many fresh graduates often ask is, “How am I supposed to get a job when all the jobs in the market require a certain level of experience?” It is therefore, very important that students utilize their time during their course of study at AUS and try to accumulate as much experience as possible. Having an internationally recognized education is not enough for today’s job market. Therefore, everyone needs to find an edge that differentiates them from others.

Experience can be acquired in the form of extracurricular activities or part-time jobs. AUS students are privileged because they have an opportunity to gain experience by maintaining a part-time job that does not compromise their education. The Office of Student Employment is solely responsible for helping students find suitable part-time jobs on campus. Job vacancies are listed on Banner and any time you visit the “Student Employment Request” link you will find more than one vacancy to apply for.

There are many advantages to being a student employee at AUS. The greatest advantage of working on campus is that the job works its way around your schedule not the other way around. There is a lot to be gained from working on campus. First, it drives you to improve your CV and cover letter writing skills. Second, the interviews for these vacancies are an example of what interviews for your full-time job as a graduate will be like. Third, being part of a working team and carrying out the tasks of the job itself will add value to you as a person and as a professional, as there is a lot that cannot be learned inside a classroom.

It is absolutely crucial to start planning and deciding on what career you want to pursue. It is also equally crucial to start being proactive and taking charge by beginning to accumulate experience from now.

To check for on-campus student employment opportunities, log on to banner.aus.edu and click on the student employment menu or visit the Student Employment Office in room A223, first floor, Student Center.
American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Office of Student Affairs (OSA), in collaboration with the AUS Student Council, hosted a special gathering in honor of the university’s cleaning staff from Cleanco Cleaning Services and Building Maintenance on October 31 at the university’s Student Center.

Prior to the event, OSA’s Community Services launched the “Spread a Smile Campaign,” which ran for three weeks to raise funds for the event. Student volunteers collected donations from across campus and received overwhelming support from students, faculty and staff.

Addressing the more than 160 cleaners and their supervisors, English and Hindi speaking emcees from the Student Council welcomed the crowd and conveyed their appreciation on behalf of the student body. Dressed in red t-shirts with a smiley face, the Cleanco staff enjoyed the games, activities and prizes prepared for them. The event also included a singing and dancing segment wherein some of the Cleanco staff displayed their talents on stage.

“On behalf of the AUS community, I wish to thank the Cleanco staff for their hard work in keeping our campus tidy and making it a better place for all of us. This special gathering is a token of our appreciation for all of you and this is in recognition of your services and all the good work you do at AUS,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“Special thanks to the student volunteers for all their efforts in making this event meaningful and to all those who contributed and supported this event in many ways,” she added.

“It is tiring work to put the event together, but it is worthwhile when we see smiles on all their faces for being appreciated for their hard work all year round,” said Shanzeh Shafiq, a senior mass communication student who worked as a volunteer for the event.

The event concluded with a lunch and the distribution of appreciation certificates and gift bags.

“We thank AUS for this very thoughtful gesture. Our staff expresses their joy and happiness knowing that the AUS community appreciates their hard work,” said Renganathan Mohan, Operations Manager of Cleanco, who attended the event.

The event was also attended by senior OSA officials and members of the AUS community.
Members of the American University of Sharjah (AUS) community gave the gift of life at an on-campus blood donation drive held on October 20-21.

Commenting on the drive, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said, “I wish to thank all the donors of this blood drive for sharing the gracious gift of life. Their kind gesture will surely benefit someone in need. Many thanks as well to our student volunteers and to the Emirati Club for their time and effort in supporting this campaign.”

Mohammed Althani, a senior civil engineering student who volunteered in the campaign said, “It was such a successful event. We really enjoyed helping the students understand how important blood donation is to them and to others. We also made sure to promote the concept of ‘donate a little, save a lot,’ to encourage as many students as possible to donate and help those in need.”

Donating blood was a first for Maryam Al Saleh, a finance student. She revealed that she has always wanted to donate blood and advised other students to donate their blood because blood donation is a form of charity.

The campaign was held in conjunction with the Community Services Division of the Office of Student Affairs and the Dubai Blood Donation Center.

OSA holds charity book sale to support orphan education

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) organized a used book sale to raise funds to support the education of orphans. The event was held at the university’s Student Center from September 15 to 23.

Prior to the campaign, OSA’s Community Services volunteers collected more than 1000 books donated by the AUS community. The volunteers helped in categorizing, displaying and selling the books at the Student Center. A good amount of donations was generated from the book sale, which is mainly from students who were enthusiastic to buy the books at a very reasonable price. The proceeds were directed to the Orphan Education Fund.

Faisal Abdel Malak, a junior management information systems student who volunteered throughout the campaign, said, “The book sale this year was very successful; I personally enjoyed helping the students find the books they needed and it is very rewarding to know that my efforts will help support an orphan in need.”

“The student turnout for the book sale is very positive. A good thing about the book sale is the multifaceted benefits we gain. Through the book sale, we are able to perform charity work by supporting an orphan’s education, we help save the environment by reusing books and students are able to save some money for their textbooks. We are so thankful and proud of our student volunteers who are behind the success of this campaign,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
New student athletics orientation garners great response

The Student Athletics and Recreation Department (SARD) of the Office of Student Affairs held the New Student Athletics Orientation for Fall 2013 in the Sports Complex on September 10. Over 400 students participated.

After welcoming the new students, Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of the Student Athletics and Recreation Department, gave a brief description of the various sports and fitness programs, available training sessions, and the procedures for joining the sports teams and gaining athletic scholarships. Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organization, also welcomed the new students.

Three new students, who joined AUS this semester on athletic scholarships, were presented with AUS team jerseys by Dr. Helal and Dr. Taha. The new recruits then enthralled the crowd by demonstrating their technical skill in basketball.

The new students participated in the fun with great enthusiasm and later enrolled for tryouts for the various teams and fitness programs. The students were later given a tour of the sports facilities and the rules were explained.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said in her message that she wished the students, in particular the Leopards, a very successful year. She also encouraged the new students to benefit from the athletic environment in the Sports Complex during their free time. Dr. Moza also expressed her happiness in introducing the full athletic scholarship for elite athletes, which will boost the quality of AUS teams and bolster its athletic achievements.

AUS holds successful intramural sports tournament

The AUS Intramural Sports Tournament kicked off earlier in October with the participation of more than 650 students in various disciplines. Individual and team games were conducted at various indoor and outdoor sports venues on campus. A large number of enthusiastic freshmen joined and participated in the tournament this time. The competition culminated in a colorful award-giving ceremony held at the Sports Complex. Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, along with other officials, gave away the prizes to the winners.

Competitions were held in men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, badminton and fitness while soccer, cricket, squash and chess competitions were held for men only.

“Intramural competitions provide an opportunity for students to test and display their abilities in the sports they enjoy,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. She also congratulated the winners on their achievement and urged all participants to play an active role in such activities.
Peer Leaders from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) took an active role in helping new students during the Fall 2013 orientation, by “adopting” freshmen and helping them adjust to university life.

Prior to the orientation, the Student Leadership Program conducted a training session for the new batch of Peer Leaders, which provided students with various ideas about building and developing their leadership skills. The leaders were encouraged to be patient, flexible and open to change and to take the first step while approaching new students.

During the orientation, the AUS Peer Leaders were around to ensure that freshmen felt welcomed and were taken care of by their mentors. They gave individualized attention to their adoptees and made plans to meet with them on a one-to-one basis during the first week of classes to ensure that they settled in smoothly. As part of the Peer Leaders’ duties to adopt freshmen, they also encouraged new students to begin thinking about their leadership opportunities at AUS by enrolling in the Emerging Leaders Program.

According to Mina Mazin Mustafa, a Peer Leader and sophomore majoring in environmental sciences, “The most important thing that I tried to maintain in the orientation was being friendly to everyone. Although this experience was a bit challenging in the beginning, I cannot deny that I learned that it is very essential to always take the first step. This means we have to approach people in order to get the answers for all our doubts. I believe that I am more confident right now than ever before.”

“I am impressed by our Peer Leaders for their willingness to go the extra mile and assist our new students. Year after year, we are witnessing an increase in student interest in the Peer Leaders Program. The duties of Peer Leaders are not easy, but they have proven to have the power to utilize their leadership skills and make an impact in others. Congratulations to all the Peer Leaders and keep up the good work,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
During the AUS Fall 2013 Orientation, the long queue of parents and students set the tone for the beginning of the semester. It conveyed to the Student Residential Life Department (SRLD) that they would have the highest occupancy during the semester and this is what happened when 2,300 new students were accommodated in the 12 dormitories. The need for more campus accommodation was noted, especially in the women’s dormitories, and the AUS administration is looking into this.

Among the improvements was the completion of the Wi-Fi project at the beginning of the semester. Students can now connect multiple devices to the AUS network and the Internet. Students can also take advantage of the Pharos network printing via their laptops from their rooms. Over 600 student room refrigerators will be replaced with new ones and some common area facilities in the men’s dormitories have been upgraded.

All the dormitories organized individual events to make the new students feel at home. This was in addition to the two main orientations carried out in the men’s and women’s dorms for new residents.

Thirty students attended the DISC analysis workshop conducted by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program on September 30 as a part of the Student Training and Workshop Series. The widely used DISC Behavioral Style Model focuses on understanding, communicating and appreciating the four primary behavioral styles.

“The DISC workshop is a good platform for individuals to discover their behavioral and personality dynamics. The ideas shared during the workshop will serve as an aid for a better interaction with the community and other people,” said Bilal Marouf, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering.

“Through the workshop, I’ve learned a lot about the differences in people’s personalities, and my own. I believe this will be especially helpful in my future career, in which I will be in touch with people most of the time,” added Razan Al Obaidi, a junior majoring in finance.

“Our Student Leadership Program will continue to provide students training under the Student Training and Workshop Series to enhance student learning with professional guidance. The DISC workshop has proven popular among students, and it is one we repeat yearly because understanding how to deal with personalities is a trick that students need to master to become effective future leaders within a diverse community,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Bilal Ahmed Maarouf, a Team Leader from the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP), attended the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry at Iacocca Institute in Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA during Summer 2013.

The Global Village is a five-week intensive program on the Lehigh University campus. Interns gain the opportunity to learn and live among a culturally diverse group of over a hundred peers from more than 45 countries.

The Global Village is an applied leadership, management, and cross-cultural industry and training program. It is designed for experienced young professionals and advanced students who share the dream of building a career in business and industry and who want to form an active and lasting global network. The program aims to increase knowledge of business and industry and teaches participants to enhance and apply leadership skills, develop entrepreneurial thought and action, build and nurture powerful global networks, develop and focus career path objectives and explore and leverage diverse environments.

Maarouf, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, said, “It’s hard to decide where to begin; just let me say, other than my own siblings, I currently have 107 brothers and sisters from 52 countries! The Global Village cannot be effectively explained, it has to be experienced. The campus, lifestyle, panels, projects and trips are integral elements that created the publicity to the program. Yet, the people are the true essence behind the Global Village.”

“The entire experience was about collaboration, education, culture, fun, and most importantly love. These elements made us change from complete strangers into a tightly knit family. Before I traveled to the Global Village campus, I thought I’d learn about creating my own business and such; well I did, but to tell you the truth I ended up learning a lot about myself! To create our connections and networks, we need to start with ourselves; only then we acquire true leadership,” added Maarouf.

“The Global Village for Future Leaders is one of the successful programs within the Student Leadership Program; this is because of the exposure and duration of the program. During the five weeks, students get the chance to learn from qualified facilitators and come across business trends and best practices experienced in the global marketplace. We have received excellent reviews from students who completed the Global Village program and therefore encourage others to take advantage of the opportunities provided by SLP,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Student Leadership Program holds FISH! workshop

The Student Leadership Program (SLP) of the Office of Student Affairs, in collaboration with Human Capital Management Solutions (HCMS), held the FISH! Workshop on October 28. The workshop was organized as part of the Student Training and Workshop Series. Fifteen AUS students attended the event.

The FISH! Workshop helps unleash passion and potential by getting students to understand the four basic interconnected practices: Be There, Play, Make their Day and Choose Your Attitude. It also demonstrates how students can have a powerful impact in the way they communicate, grow and build relationships at their places of study, work and in their personal lives. The workshop allows the students to experience and take-away a revived approach on being better holistic individuals and leaders of the future. With thousands of organizations worldwide having brought FISH! into their work culture, this will give the students an advantage after graduation.

“The FISH! Workshop comes under the SLP’s Student Training and Workshop Series which aims to improve students’ interpersonal and communication skills,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Integration of theoretical learning with practical experience is very essential for students. Practical training increases students’ understanding of theoretical knowledge, retention and their motivation to study. Training workshops prepare students to be credible, creative and proficient, which eventually produces accomplished graduates.”

The workshop was delivered by a certified US-based Charthouse Learning facilitator-trainer, Mudassir Nagaria, an AUS alumnus and former active member of the Student Leadership Program.

Christian Momah, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, said, “The FISH! workshop presented an old idea in a fascinating way. It is a principle which when made a practice can change the whole way a person or an organization operates. After the FISH! workshop, I vowed to be a more proactive person.”

Successful workshop on communication skills

A workshop for students on communication skills was held on October 3 by Student Learning and Counseling Services. The workshop was attended by 61 students, who were given certificates for participation.

The objective of the workshop was to define and understand the communication process and give important tips on improving verbal and non-verbal communication. The workshop explained different types of communication, the role of perception in communication, the importance of listening and other essential aspects that improve the quality of conversation.

To make the communication process easy:

• use simple words and phrases that are understood by everybody
• increase your knowledge on all subjects you are required to talk about
• speak clearly and audibly
• check twice with the listener to see whether you have been understood accurately or not
• in case of an interruption, always recap what has been already said
• always pay undivided attention to the speaker while listening
• always think ahead about what you are going to say
• always ask for clarification if you have failed to grasp the other’s point of view

For appointments, call extension 2767, or visit Student Learning and Counseling Services in the Student Center.
Five students from the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) completed a training program in multiculturalism and leadership organized by Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland from August 11 to September 9, 2013. The main focus of the four-week summer program was to develop students in terms of multiculturalism and religion, leadership, management and civilization dialogue.

Designed for female Emirati students, the program provided them an opportunity to explore their leadership potential in a multicultural society. The training was designed with a combination of comprehensive course lectures, tutorials and debates that 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, they were also able to visit cultural and historical sites.

The students networked with other participants from across the UAE at the Al Maktoum College in Scotland, which provided an ideal setting for a multicultural learning environment. In addition, the students attended the inauguration of Al Maktoum Mosque in Dundee, Scotland, which is located near Al Maktoum College campus. The mosque was built under the patronage and generous collaboration of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashed al Maktoum. Along with the scientific, intellectual and non-faith based activities of Al Maktoum College, the mosque adds more presence to the cultural and religious landscape.

“It was an enriching experience made even more so by great company and a caring staff from Al Maktoum College. It allowed me to grow more as a person and I have become more confident, independent and social. Furthermore, through learning about the different methods of leadership I am more aware and certain about the kind of leader I would like to be in the future,” said Maryam Khansaheb, majoring in chemical engineering.

“Offering a well-established program such as the Al Maktoum College Leadership and Multiculturalism Training Program has been very beneficial for our students. The program gives them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, see a different perspective on world issues, network and gain the necessary knowledge for the future ahead. I must say that I am proud of our delegation; they did exceptionally well and made us proud. We thank Al Maktoum College for their organization and support,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs.
The AUS Office of Student Affairs (OSA) welcomed new students on campus with a week of fun, entertaining and informative orientation sessions aimed at helping new students adjust to university life. The week-long open house activities held from September 6 to 12 included information sessions, games, trips, movies and a dinner reception.

The Office of Student Affairs welcomed new students and their parents on the first day of orientation, and answered their questions through its main student information desk. More than 700 orientation packets containing information on the services offered by AUS were distributed on the day.

The Student Council, including a group of returning active students, comprised the orientation team who worked alongside the OSA staff during the orientation period. City tours to Sharjah and Dubai familiarized new students with the neighboring areas and points of interest. Around 300 students joined the Sharjah tour and 400 joined the Dubai trip.

The freshman reception dinner was attended by around 550 students in the presence of Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations; senior OSA officials; and the Student Council board headed by Sheikh Mohammed Al Qassimi. Dr. Taha addressed the new students on behalf of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and emphasized the rich and active student life at AUS. The gathering provided an opportunity for OSA administrators to interact with new students and introduce them to the non-academic services offered by the department. The evening program included many entertaining games and performances, including the Palestinian Club’s dabke performance. The students enjoyed the treasure hunt, which familiarized participants with the different campus buildings and locations in a fun way.

“I welcome all new and returning students this year. The strong student participation in the OSA orientation is a good indication that many students will avail of the extracurricular opportunities offered by the university. I do wish that our new students will continue in this momentum so that they may benefit from out-of-classroom experiences that complement their academic life,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Act of Congress entertains at AUS

Act of Congress, voted one of the “must see” acts of Alabama, performed live at the AUS Student Center on October 3. The four-member band, with its organic sound that combines hook-laden melodies, compelling songwriting and intelligent acoustic instrumentation, is rapidly gathering attention throughout the US. The band was featured in the prestigious 2011 Year of Alabama Music.

The event was organized by the Student Multicultural Learning Program of the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the US Embassy and Consulate General, Dubai. A huge success, the band performed a mix of pop and acoustic rock for the enthusiastic students and members of the AUS community.

AUS introduces full scholarship for gifted athletes

The Student Athletics and Recreation Department of the Office of Student Affairs recently launched the Full Athletic Scholarships scheme whereby talented and deserving student-athletes will be granted full tuition-wavers along with free medical insurance coverage and accommodation. In addition, advanced coaching by professional trainers will be provided to these athletes to enhance and further hone their skills and talent.

“AUS has always encouraged and assisted sportsmen and sportswomen in the pursuit of their careers and offered partial athletic scholarships (50 per cent tuition remission) to deserving athletes,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Now with the induction of athletes under the Full Athletic Scholarship scheme, the sports teams will be vitalized and other athletes will be motivated to perform better,” she added.

The winners of this scholarship were announced recently. They are: Peter Mayuen, Mahmoud Trab, Petar Milutin, and Arol Pan Mading.

The aim of this scholarship program is to give talented young students the opportunity to develop their sports career by providing them with the highest standard in coaching, training, nutrition, and strength advice while they complete their chosen course of study. These scholarships are intended for persons of outstanding athletic ability geared towards the pursuit of excellence which is part of the mission of American University of Sharjah.

Over the past few years, AUS has made a strong impact in international sporting events in Lebanon, Greece, Egypt, Belgium, Sri Lanka and Turkey.
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.

**Echoes**

**Arfah Siddiqi, Senior, International Studies and Mass Communications**
I am so thankful to the Student Leadership Program and the Office of Student Affairs for awarding me with the Active Student Scholarship. It's a wonderful feeling to know that my efforts have been recognized, and it encourages me to work even harder. I am honored to be part of the OSA family, and I admire the genuine love and support that they give to students.

**Ekram Thiab, Senior, Management Information Systems**
The Active Student Scholarship award was a great success in terms of promoting skill building and helping students gain self-respect and confidence. This award motivated me to put all my skills to work and fulfill high expectations. With this award, I feel that it is my duty and responsibility to encourage my peers to become high achievers and create a positive impact to the society.

**Halimat Akangbe, Sophomore, International Studies**
I feel honored to be a recipient of this award. It sets the beginning of a more active involvement in community services. As Mother Teresa said, “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received or how much money we have made. Rather we will be judged by: I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me.”

**Mennat Allah Khalil, Sophomore, International Studies**
Ever since joining AUS, I have been an active member of the Student Leadership Program, participating in various varying activities ranging from being a Peer Leader, to representing AUS at the Bahrain Model United Nations, to being on the board of the Youth Leadership Training Program and more. I believe that AUS maintains an active, competitive and friendly environment.

**Moataz Khaled, Junior, Chemical Engineering**
Being an active student doesn’t necessarily mean that you have to sacrifice many things in life. The secret behind active participation in extracurricular activities is your ability to manage your time. Don’t hesitate to participate in university activities; every step you take and every opportunity you seize will definitely count towards your future.

**Mohammad Zaid Hamzeh, Senior, Electrical Engineering**
It was one of the greatest achievements to get the award and I’m honored to be the recipient. However, it is not the only achievement; being a board member in multiple cultural clubs was for me like being enrolled in other major courses and not just only as an extra activity. It teaches, exhausts and benefits exactly like academic courses do but at the end of the day it pays off well. That’s an achievement.

**Omar Amer, Sophomore, Chemical Engineering**
It is great to be honored as one of the active students at AUS and it is certainly a good motivation towards furthering my involvement with university activities. I started out volunteering for recreation, but the further I engage, the more I understand the meaning behind helping people in need. It’s the smile and appreciations you receive from satisfied community members that keeps you going.

**Sarah Abdelbary, Junior, English Literature**
Getting awarded with the Active Student Scholarship is not only an honor or an achievement to me, but it is also proof that hard work does pay off. For me, extracurricular activities are as important as academics. Put effort into what you do, be a leader, be active, and you will be rewarded, sooner or later.

**Shahdan Barakat, Freshman, Visual Communication**
I am glad that I am in a university that values sports and recognizes athletic students and rewards them. I am honored to be one of the student-athletes who received the Partial Athletic Scholarship and I would like to thank everyone for supporting us.
Doha Tantawy, Senior, Accounting
I would like to extend my gratitude to AUS for granting me the Athletic Scholarship; it is indeed a major success for me as a member of the women's basketball team. This opportunity has encouraged me to improve my level in basketball. I would like to thank the Student Athletics and Recreational Department for providing our team, and the rest of the teams, with such great incentives to become better athletes.

Jannah Al Salim, Senior, Civil Engineering
There is more than one reason that a person would consider doing something to achieve specific goals of their desires. Self-satisfaction is one of the top reasons. In addition, we gain recognition, rewards and self-esteem for all the hard work. The athletic scholarship is a proof of my hard work and commitment. This will be an incentive for me to work harder to improve.

Noor Chehayber, Sophomore, Mass Communication
I feel honored to have received the athletic scholarship this semester and would like to thank everyone who makes this opportunity available for AUS students. I believe it is a responsibility as much as it is an honor, as we now have to live up to the reputable standards of the AUS teams. This motivates us to continuously improve our performance and encourage other students to lead an athletic life.

Petar Milutin, Freshman, Management
I love basketball and have been working hard all of my life to achieve my goal of receiving a full athletic scholarship to play at the university level. I want to thank AUS for giving me this opportunity and for giving me the chance to pursue my dreams.

Rehan Ali, Senior, Mechanical Engineering
Being awarded with the Partial Athletic Scholarship is a great honor and I am very grateful for the recognition given to me by AUS. Hard work and determination are key tools for success but true success comes with the help of Allah. It is a true honor and privilege to wear the AUS colors when taking the field of play.

Sarah Aldosary, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
I do not only feel proud for being an active student-athlete and being rewarded by AUS for it, but I also believe that this athletic scholarship is a great motivation for achieving even bigger goals.

Shadi Hamati, Sophomore, Chemical Engineering
Joining the AUS volleyball team has made me a more active and athletic individual. My time with the team has made me realize some of my weaknesses and helped me improve upon them. Finally, I would like to thank AUS for granting me the athletic scholarship and hope that I will courteously represent AUS in the future.
Twenty students from the Student Leadership Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) attended the Mubadalah Youth Forum in Abu Dhabi on September 24. Mubadalah Youth Forum is held annually and aims to raise awareness about the education and career pathways available to young Emiratis. The forum brings leading UAE figures together with youth, encouraging dialogue about the exciting fields and career paths available in the UAE.

Through a series of interactive sessions, students discovered marketplace insights and research that could help them with important decision making. From presentations involving personal anecdotes on the benefits and challenges associated with international experience, to fresh perspectives on unconventional professions, students gained more clarity about their future career path and received guidance to pursue their full potential.

“I was so lucky to have the opportunity to attend the Mubadala Youth Forum this year,” said Najla Al Moalla, a senior majoring in management. “The forum was very well organized. The speakers were very inspiring and gave me a hint about what I would like to do in the future. They emphasized that any person should have a dream and should work on pursuing it.”

“The forum was very interesting especially as it brings the leading UAE figures together with the youth. Their experiences were very encouraging and the discussions between different generations attracted my attention, especially the topics about the exciting fields and career paths available in the UAE,” said Najla Al-Zarouni, a junior majoring in international studies.

“The Office of Student Affairs shapes future leaders; through our programs we focus on providing students with engaging and enriching experiences that combine professional, educational and cultural development. Mubadalah Youth Forum highlighted significant opportunities for our students and guided them to recognize their full potential,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

SLP students inspired by renowned UAE leaders at Mubadalah Youth Forum