Sheikh Sultan visits AUS student council election

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), visited the university’s Student Council elections on May 14, 2014 and observed students as they voted to elect their new Student Council Board for 2014-2015. The election this year had an unprecedented turnout of almost 2,000 voters.

He praised the well-organized elections and the well-structured campaigns and expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the university conducts the Student Council elections. He thanked the outgoing Student Council president for his efforts throughout the year and expressed his best wishes for this year’s candidates.

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AUS students honored at Annual Student Appreciation Awards

Around 600 students from various student organizations, volunteer groups, university leadership programs and sports teams at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were honored at a special ceremony held on May 13, 2014 at Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Center in Sharjah.

Speaking at the ceremony, former AUS Acting Chancellor Dr. Thomas Hochstettler congratulated the students for their efforts and thanked the Office of Student Affairs for supporting individual students and student activities.

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Spring 2014 began with a resolution to sustain and broaden avenues for student extracurricular participation. A brainstorming session included officials from the Office of Student Affairs and focused on popular programs and activities listings, student council and student forum feedback, survey responses and student requests and provided a strong base for decision making. We looked at student repeat requests in leadership, sports, student organizations, multicultural learning and many other specific fields for student extracurricular development.

The Office of Student Affairs offered students multiple international travel opportunities during Spring 2014 as well as varied extracurricular programs for gaining knowledge, skill building, leadership growth, sports competitions, cultural learning, self-improvement and developing the potential to compete internationally with students from other countries. Academically, our students have carved a niche at an international level in engineering, business, architecture and design and in many other majors.

We believe that expanding international avenues will challenge our students to become internationally competitive. Trips organized by the Multicultural Learning Program developed students’ self-confidence, knowledge, communication and cultural learning while allowing them to bond with the group and socialize while sightseeing. Students support and help each other during these trips. We took a large group of 40 to 50 students during the breaks to Japan, Singapore, the USA and Kuwait.

Of late, it is becoming difficult to shortlist from among a pool of highly able candidates for the Student Leadership Program’s six-week program to Al Maktoum College in the UK. There is always fierce competition to secure a place in this academically creditable program. The National Model United Nations in New York where we secured an honorable mention, the Climate Leadership Conference in San Diego and the Global Village for Future Leaders in Pennsylvania are other opportunities we offer our students.

Student athletes participated in women’s and men’s basketball, volleyball and soccer in Italy, cricket in Malaysia and also attended the Qatar Athletics Forum.

Community Services projects continue to serve needy and humanitarian causes and volunteerism ingrained in our students is helping expand the scope of our voluntary projects. AUS won the 2013 Sharjah Award for Voluntary Work in the Educational Institutions Category in February 2014 as a result of the industrious efforts of our student volunteers.

Student Residential Life improved student life by strengthening inter-dormitory sports competitions, similar interest groups, exhibitions, graduation ceremonies and student social gatherings. Students’ tolerance of others irrespective of cultural differences continues to build a strong living and learning campus community.

The Student Learning and Counseling Center supported students in their personal development through the “Let’s talk program,” psychometric testing, counseling and expanding training and workshop topics. More students were seen availing these free services.

As students believe in peaceful resolution of conflicts, the popularity and interest in mediation training did not diminish. Rather the response from students expanded the number of candidates from 10 to 15 in a batch. So far, 105 students have been trained in conflict management from the inception of this training.

The challenge that the Office of Student Affairs now faces is in accommodating students’ extracurricular needs with existing personnel while trying to make our programs optimally effective and student learning-based. So far we have managed and are hopeful that we will continue to improve. We bank on our university resources, our wonderful student body and our dedicated staff who make extracurricular participation enjoyable, unique and truly worthwhile.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The Student Council serves as a voice for the student body and works directly with the university administration. 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.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs thanked His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah for visiting the Student Council during the elections and congratulated AUS student Saud Mohammad Saud Al Qassimi for winning the election and becoming the new President of the AUS Student Council for this year.

“Our students’ interest in expressing their thoughts about student life has grown steadily year after year. This resulted in an unprecedented turnout of almost 2,000 voters this year. Competition for Student Council posts has become more stringent, with our students using new and creative methods of campaigning to gain their peers’ support. The fact that we have more students who are willing to take up leadership roles is an indication that the Office of Student Affairs’ vision of shaping future leaders is unfolding. I congratulate all the winners, and, most of all, I thank His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan for visiting us during the elections,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Mechanical engineering student Fazal Afzal said, “The Student Council acts like a bridge between the students and the management; thus by voting and selecting a committee, we can voice our opinions with the belief that it will be heard and some action might be taken.” Journalism major Noor Al-Badrawi said, “If someone can voice our concerns in a better way or better manner, then why not take the opportunity to have our voices heard?”

The Student Council election, organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs, was the culmination of week-long electoral activities in which candidates canvassed for votes. The 14 students elected to the Student Council for the 2014-2015 academic year are:

- President: Saud Mohammad Saud Al Qassimi
- Vice President: Mina Najib Zuberi
- Vice President for Public Relations: Doaa Salim Samhan Al Kathiri
- Executive Secretary and Office Director: Doaa’a Mousa Nassar
- Treasurer: Muhammad Aqdas Muzaffar
- Events and Activities Coordinator: AbdulRahman Marwan Asaad
- Athletics and Sports Coordinator: Hakeem Jamil Al-Hashash
- Communication and Media Coordinator: Munirah A.E. Alshami
- Student Organizations and Campus Services Coordinator: Mariam Mohamed Kamel
- College of Architecture, Art and Design Representative: Ibrahim Ibrahim
- College of Arts and Sciences Representative: Ashley Ann Mansour
- College of Engineering Representative: AbdulSamad Mohammad Zahir
- School of Business Administration Representative: Hana Hamad AlShamsi
- Achievement Academy Bridge Program Representative: Abdul Bari Nijrabi
His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, welcomed nearly 120 Emirati female students who completed their leadership training courses at Al-Maktoum College in Dundee, Scotland. Nine Emirati students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) attended the meeting held at Sheikh Hamdan’s palace in Dubai on March 19, 2014.

Sheikh Hamdan was briefed by the students on their experiences dealing with various foreign cultures as well as their visits to government departments and other places in Scotland and the UK. Students also expressed their deep gratitude to Sheikh Hamdan for the support they received which helped enrich their culture and academic knowledge. “The Office of Student Affairs extends its sincere appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his continuous support and encouragement to our youth,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “With his support our students take part in Al-Maktoum College Training Programs biannually. This is a unique opportunity for our students to explore their leadership potential in a multicultural setting. With courses, debates, presentations and lectures as part of the program, students are motivated to learn and understand leadership, diversity and tolerance while also getting a chance to visit various significant cultural and historical sites in Scotland,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.

“It was an honor to meet His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashed Al Maktoum at his palace in Zabeel,” said Amna Fikri, a recent graduate in international studies. “I am pleased to say that every successful program is the result of collective effort and that special meeting gave us a chance to express our gratitude to His Highness. His vision to enhance greater cross-cultural understanding and appreciation between communities has been our aim. We appreciate his endless support to empower the role of Emirati women in leadership at a global level. We were there as ambassadors of our country and we promise to carry on Sheikh Hamdan’s vision,” she added.

Maha AlShehhi, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, said: “I was honored to have met His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. I was also honored to have given a speech on behalf of my fellow AUS students to thank His Highness for the opportunity to participate in Al-Maktoum College’s summer program in Scotland. The meeting with His Highness made me proud to be a graduate of Al-Maktoum College, and it made me proud to be an active student in the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP),” she said.
“AUS is about so much more than sitting in the classroom. It’s a live experience and I hope that as you go into the world after your days at AUS, you will always remember times like this and the time you spent together as colleagues and friends under the great umbrella of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS,” said Dr. Hochstettler.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, also thanked the students and staff for their efforts. She said, “Your participation keeps us connected to you, to know your challenges and walk with you to support you, to fortify you so that you succeed. Keep going, never give up and give us occasions to celebrate and appreciate your success.”

Eight students received the Most Outstanding Active Student Award for their contribution and dedication during the 2013–2014 academic year. The winners were Adji Ndiaye, Rajbir Kaur Ghatoura and Mohamad Khalil Ibrahim for their contribution in athletics; Hera Munir Malik, Muhammad Badar Raza and Hussam Riad Hussein for their involvement in activities; Maryam Khansaheb for her involvement with the Student Leadership Program; and Merna El Madany for her exceptional contribution in community services.

The winner of the Global Day Best Performance was the Indian Cultural Club; the Bangladeshi Cultural Club and the Lebanese Cultural Club won second and third place, respectively.

The Global Day Creative Idea Award (corner) went to the Iraqi Cultural Club and the Global Day Teamwork Award (corner) was won by the Palestinian Cultural Club.

The awards ceremony also included student performances by the Bangladeshi, Indian, Syrian, Nigerian and Lebanese cultural clubs. The evening concluded with a buffet dinner.
Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), the university held its annual Awareness Day on April 22. The day-long event is aimed to spread awareness among students and the general public on health, social, environmental and safety matters. The event featured the participation of prominent government and private organizations.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Salem Al Qaseer, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs; along with other senior university officials.

“This year we have 30 organizations supporting our special campaign on campus, aiming to educate the youth about various issues,” said Dr. Al Shehhi. “Awareness Day is a platform that strengthens and expands our partnerships with governmental and private entities. A good number of our student volunteers are attending various training sessions offered by some of the organizations present here. This initiative is supportive in equipping volunteers with requisite skills and promoting volunteerism in the country. I thank our student volunteers for their enthusiasm in making a difference in all that they do for the society,” she added.

Participating organizations included Al Hemam Center, Al Ihsan Charity Center, Al Qassimi Hospital, Al Thiqqa Club for the Handicapped, Big Heart, Breastfeeding Friends, Dubai Blood Donation Center, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Dubai Police, Economic Development Department – Consumer Protection, Emirates Foundation For Youth Development – SANID, Environment and Protected Areas Authority, Family Development Administration, Friends of Arthritis Patients, Friends of Diabetes Patients, Friends of Kidney Patients, Human Appeal International, Ajman, Maternal and Child Health Care Center, Ministry of Social Affairs, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, Sharjah City Municipality, Sharjah Civil Defense, Sharjah Medical District, Sharjah Museums Department, Sharjah Police, Sharjah Project for Oral and Dental Health, Sharjah Sports Council, Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Health Promotion), Abbott Nutrition and Right Bite.

All the participating organizations distributed handouts and informed the attendees about social and cultural issues. The event, organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services division at AUS, attracted a large number of students, faculty and staff. Students from local high schools also attended the event.
Eight students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) secured Honorable Mentions at the National Model United Nations (NMUN 2014) in New York City, held April 13–17, 2014. The award was announced at the closing ceremony, which was held in the United Nations Headquarters.

The NMUN is a unique opportunity for over 5,000 university students from around the world to meet and discuss current political, social and economic crises. Its mission is to provide educational experience, engage in dialogues and debates, and work collectively to find resolutions for world’s most complex issues.

The AUS delegation represented Georgia in eight different committees, including the first, second, third and fourth general assembly; the commission on the status of women; the UN environment program; the UN industrial development organization; and organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons.

“My aspiration of reaching the United Nations Headquarters in New York City has finally come true. The NMUN has given me the opportunity to fulfill not only one of my academic but also personal goals. My NMUN experience is one I will never forget,” said Tamara Khamis Al-Gunaid, junior student majoring in international relations.

“The NMUN NY Conference not only enhances your leadership skills, but also enables you to improve your communication, debate and diplomacy skills. I feel that this experience has enabled me to gain new political aspirations. The determination and professionalism during the conference motivated me further. I recommend this conference to all eligible students as it’s a well-rounded experience – I’ve gained academically, professionally and personally.”

“Our students did exceptionally well and we are proud of their achievement in securing an Honorable Mention. NMUN gave our students a better understanding of the United Nations and the dynamics of multilateral diplomacy and international relations. We encourage more students to take advantage of the programs offered by the Student Leadership Program,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
AUS cricketers win sixth Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament

Organized by the Student Athletics and Recreation Department of the Office of Student Affairs, the sixth edition of the prestigious AUS Intercollegiate T20 Cricket Tournament concluded with another victory for the Leopards when they defeated arch rivals BITS Pilani, Dubai, by seven wickets on April 7, 2014 at the AUS Cricket ground. The tournament was originally scheduled from March 20 – 26 but the final was shifted to April 7 due to bad weather conditions.

The competition was played on a knock-out basis with the participation of eight major universities from across the UAE. AUS met University of Wollongon in Dubai (UOWD) in the semifinal and restricted them to a score of 82 with Rehan Ali, Musaab Khalid, Muhammad Nasir, Mohsin Imran and Muhammad Aqdas sharing the wickets for AUS. In reply AUS batsman Rehan Ali (53) led the run chase and achieved the target in 15 overs to reach the finals.

In the much awaited final, BITS Pilani Dubai scored 141 runs with some powerful batting in their allotted 20 overs. Mohsin Imran, Muhammad Nasir and Hussam Badi shared the wickets for the Leopards. AUS lost their opener Rehan Ali in the early overs but Umar Shaikh and Hammad Hussain steadied the innings with some spectacular batting display followed by Ahsan Aftab and Musaab Khalid to reach the target in the 17 over and claiming the trophy for AUS.

In the post-match ceremony, Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, gave away trophies and medals to the winners. Umar Shaikh of AUS received the Man of the Match award while Nagarjuna Hegde and Manish Bansal from BITS Pilani Dubai were adjudged the best batsman and best bowler of the tournament respectively.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, thanked all the participants and congratulated the Leopards on their victory. She stressed the importance of such tournaments in building strong partnerships with other educational institutions. She also promised that AUS will take additional measures to encourage and develop sports among the students by facilitating more sports tournaments on campus.
Over 400 students participated in the AUS Student Athletics and Recreation Department’s annual Sports Day on April 30. The day marked the final events for the men’s and women’s intramural competitions and interschool tournaments and culminated in an awards ceremony.

The School of Business Administration placed first in men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball, second in cricket and third in soccer. The College of Engineering won first place in cricket and soccer, second place in both men’s and women’s basketball, and third place in women’s volleyball. The College of Architecture, Art and Design were runners-up in men’s and women’s volleyball. The College of Arts and Sciences placed second in soccer and third in men’s volleyball, cricket and men’s and women’s basketball.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, along with the Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, and Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of Student Development and Organizations, awarded the winners of the intramural and interschool sports tournaments of Spring 2014.

Dr. Al Shehhi stressed the importance of extracurricular sports activities in the life of students to be successful in their careers and thanked them for their participation and contributions in such activities.
Forty-four students from the Student Multicultural Learning Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) went on a cultural visit to Japan, June 9–15, 2014. This was the program’s second trip to Japan, due to student demand and interest in Japanese culture. The students represented 10 nationalities.

During the trip, the students were oriented with basic Japanese language, its various forms of writing and simple counting. Popular Japanese foods were also discussed and explained. A panoramic bus tour familiarized students with Metropolitan Tokyo, its neighborhoods and the city’s lively lifestyle.

The cultural program focused on practical learning while providing opportunities for students to visit iconic spots and famous landmarks in Japan. The students visited the Asakusa Kannon Temple, Meiji Shrine and Imperial Palace Plaza in Tokyo and the Toshugu Shrine in Nikko. Scenic spots visited included the Mt. Fuji 5th station, Tokyo Skytree, Lake Chezunji and Kegon Waterfalls in Nikko, Lake Ashinoko and Komagatake Mountain in Hakone.

On the entertainment front, the students were offered a day-long visit to Tokyo Disney Sea. The students also had shopping experiences on one of the oldest shopping streets, Nakamise; the upper-class shopping district of Omotesando; and the famous Takeshita Dori in Harajuku, which is well-known for teenage fashion shopping.

“I am very pleased and satisfied with the trip to Japan. I have discovered many new exciting things. I have realized how organized and systematic the Japanese people are and how they promote their culture and uphold their values. These experiences are so worth sharing that I called home each day to share my experiences with my mom,” said Ammara Shahid, a Spring 2014 graduate in chemical engineering.

“Japan is a very interesting cultural destination. There is a good balance of culture and technology in the Japanese society. Students enjoy both aspects, which are truly educational and memorable. I am glad our students are very satisfied with their experiences that will help them get accustomed to other cultures, improve their social skills and augment their perception about cultural diversity,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
The Iraqi cultural clubs from American University of Sharjah (AUS), Gulf Medical College and University of Sharjah teamed up to host the second annual Iraqi Night on May 2, 2014 in the AUS Main Auditorium. The event featured prominent Iraqi artists including famous qanoun player Furat Qaddouri, oud player Abdul Nour, and poet Shahad AlRawi, along with other talented Iraqi student performers. The night included folkloric dances in addition to a fashion show representing traditional clothes from different regions in Iraq.

The event was made successful due to the effort of Iraqi cultural clubs and the support of several important Iraqi sponsors.
Leopards excel at AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament

The AUS Intercollegiate Racket Tournament witnessed exciting competition from 23 men’s teams and 13 women’s teams in its ninth edition held April 13–16, 2014 on campus.

Badminton, table tennis and tennis competitions were conducted for both male and female players while the squash tournament was organized for men only. In the men’s category, AUS placed first in squash and second in badminton, table tennis and tennis. The AUS women’s teams placed first in tennis and third in badminton. The closing ceremony and prize distribution were held on April 16, and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department, awarded the trophies and medals to the winners.

Participating teams included the University of Wollongong in Dubai, Middlesex University, BITS-Pilani Dubai, Manipal University, Skyline University College, Canadian University, Emirates Aviation College, Ajman University of Science and Technology, International College of Law Business Administration and Technology, Gulf Medical University Ajman and University of Sharjah, along with AUS. The tournament was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Athletics and Recreation Department.

Congratulating the winners, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, expressed her happiness in the increase in participation this year. She added that the tournament is a stepping stone for budding players to exhibit their skills and AUS will take all necessary measures for further expansion and development of this tournament to spot young talent in the university arena.
Hind Al Ali, an active participant in the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS), was selected by the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi to participate in the Active Citizen Summit held in Chicago and Washington, DC, March 26–April 16, 2014.

This prestigious 22-day summit offered professional training and open discussions with business, community and government leaders. The summit aimed to develop action plans for the future and sustainable initiatives that would strengthen entrepreneurial and business opportunities in communities. Importantly, the students had to complete the Entrepreneurship Project Description and throughout the summit, they participated in professional training, internships, and one-on-one mentoring focused on further developing and revising their project plan with an eye toward transforming it into action.

According to Al Ali, “Participating in the Active Citizen Summit gave me a great chance to gain international exposure to the entrepreneurship world, starting from being a member of a diversified group of 18 active nationals and entrepreneurs each representing a country from MENA region. The program focused on building entrepreneur technical skills such as fund raising and networking through internship and strengthens the soft skills through workshops and sessions at DePaul University. I got the chance to meet successful business owners and powerful politicians to learn from their success stories. It was a fruitful trip that made me more independent, active in the community and focused on my future goals and plans.” Al Ali is a Master of Business Administration student at AUS.

“The Student Leadership Program continues to provide students with international leadership development exposure and we are happy to hear that Hind benefited from her participation in the Active Citizen Summit. Most importantly, she came back with wonderful ideas and a better understanding of how to implement her project in an effective way. We thank the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi for its support and look forward to future collaborations,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Orphans enjoy open day at AUS

Thirty orphans under the care of Human Appeal International, Ajman, spent an open day at American University of Sharjah (AUS), organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services Office on April 28, 2014. Prior to the event, a two-week fund raising campaign was successfully held on campus to generate funds to support the event.

The day started by welcoming the orphans with a variety of activities including games, cake decorating and gifts. Representatives from Human Appeal International expressed their appreciation to the student volunteers and staff for the wonderful experience that the orphans enjoyed. The event was concluded with dinner.

Mariam Khansaheb, a student volunteer and a senior in chemical engineering said, “The open day was a wonderful experience and a good break from my academic responsibilities. The opportunity of serving the orphans was a heartwarming and rewarding experience.”

“I thank the AUS community for supporting this event for orphans. Our student volunteers’ support ensured yet another successful event, and I am grateful for their efforts. This event is one of our many community-related activities that promote and strengthen mutually beneficial external partnerships,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The event was held in collaboration with the AUS Petroleum Engineering Club.
United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communication and Public Information Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal met with students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) on May 6, 2014.

The SLP students have participated in various Model United Nations (MUN) regionally and internationally. The Under-Secretary-General’s informative visit gave them a better understanding of the UN’s stand on various global issues and elaborated on the importance of the youth and their contributions for the development of better communities. Also present was Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

According to Bilal Marouf, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, “The Under-Secretary-General gave rather transparent answers to our commonly held questions about the UN and our contributions in the MUN field. The meeting enabled us to establish a good connection for possible future networking.”

“Our meeting with Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal was a fulfilling experience. He clarified some misunderstandings about the UN in terms of procedures and reputation. His words clearly illustrated his willingness to help develop and improve the world,” said Yazen Kashlan, a sophomore majoring in civil engineering.

“We are pleased that Mr. Launsky-Tieffenthal had an opportunity to visit with our students. The discussion was fruitful and students benefited greatly from learning more about the UN role in certain global issues. UN Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015 was a high topic, and students expressed how their participation in the MUN program encouraged them to become active members in society and even for some to consider pursuing careers with the UN. The Student Leadership Program will continue to involve students in UN-related projects to further develop their leadership skills and build a sense of civic and social responsibility,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.
A group of 20 students from the Student Multicultural Learning Program (SMLP) at American University of Sharjah visited the 12th edition of Sharjah Heritage Days, themed “Islamic Heritage is One Tent,” on April 22, 2014. The visit was part of SMLP’s initiative to boost student learning about the rich cultural heritage of the UAE.

Organized by Sharjah’s Department of Culture and Information, Sharjah Heritage Days was held in the Heart of Sharjah, and included traditional markets and as well as folkloric shows presented by bands from the UAE and other Islamic countries.

The students enjoyed a variety of traditional events that reflected the social and cultural development of life in the Emirate of Sharjah. These traditional activities highlighted the major achievements of Sharjah that led it to become the Islamic Culture Capital of the Arab Region for 2014.

Students toured traditional houses and learned about the Bedouin way of life through exhibits on cooking, making handicrafts, and methods of agriculture and fishing. The exhibits and detailed portrayal of UAE life in the past fascinated the students, from the nature of the homes and living conditions to the exercise of certain professions, art, rituals and traditions.

“Through cultural visits, we promote the UAE’s rich cultural heritage among the young generation. I encourage our students to explore more about our country’s history and its developments in a short span of time,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, who headed the group visit.
Students attend Alleem Business Congress

Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah dispatched 10 active students to participate in Alleem Business Congress which was held on Tuesday, April 22 at Radisson Blu Hotel in Sharjah.

Alleem Business Congress is considered a unique forum that provides a wide platform where business leaders meet and work together to address survival strategies as well as economic, social and environmental challenges.

The congress shed light on various significant topics such as disaster risk management, women entrepreneurial leaders and leadership in sustainability.

“The conference in general was very varied and covered multiple aspects of leadership that concern different groups. Different speakers talked about the development of future leaders, how the definition of a leader in contrast to a manager has changed in the past decades and how it is expected to be in the close future. The main presenter, Rashid Alleem talked about how addressing sustainability and growth is very directly related to good leadership. Last but not least, one of the esteemed presenters discussed how women could surpass their current limitations and reach higher positions in the corporate ladder,” said Ahmed Taha, senior student in chemical engineering.

“SLP yearly participates in Alleem Business Congress as it covers significant subjects related to today’s topics. The congress is an exceptional platform which enables students to network with experts, professionals and peers. It also helps learn how technology, society, economy and environment are shaping the future,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Stress Management

Student Learning and Counseling Services conducted a workshop on Stress Management on May 8, 2014 for students. The workshop focused on the reasons for stress in adolescents, different types of stress, different stress management strategies and more.

What is stress?

• Stress is your mind and body’s response or reaction to a real or imagined threat, event or change.
• Some stress is good and helps you to stay alert to accomplish important tasks.
• Constant, unrelieved stress can lead to serious physical and mental difficulties.
• You cannot eliminate stress, but you can learn to manage it and prevent it from damaging your relationships, your work performance and your life in general.

Different strategies to manage stress:

• Keep your mind organized
• Keep up with your coursework
• Get involved with campus activities
• Maintain communication with your family
• Talk to someone about your problems (family member, friends, and/or student counselor)
• Learn to say no – know your limits and stick to them
• Avoid people who stress you out
• Express your feelings instead of bottling them up
• Be willing to compromise
• Be more assertive
• Don’t try to control the uncontrollable
• Learn to forgive

Student Learning and Counseling Services
First Floor, Student Center
Office A-208A
For appointments, call extn 2767
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.

Shubham Gandhe, Freshman, Mechanical Engineering
The AUS intercollegiate racket tournament is one of the most competitive tournaments at this level; it brings out the best of every athlete where each team gives its best to compete. The professional training that we had allowed my teammates and myself to win second place in the 9th AUS Men’s and Women’s Intercollegiate Racket Tournament 2014.

Abdel Rahman Rowaizak, Senior, Mechanical Engineering
It was a memorable event for all AUS athletes and sports lovers when we assembled in front of the Sports Complex to celebrate the annual AUS Sports Day on April 30. AUS Sports Day brings all athletes together and the celebration marks the unity and determination of various teams. Various prizewinners are awarded for their achievements and I am very happy to be a part of it as I earned medals in the intramural swimming competition. Thanks to the Athletic Department for organizing such motivating and memorable events.

Ashley Mansour, Junior, Biology
After a long year of hard practice, games and tournaments, there is nothing better to end the season than with Sports Day. It is an event that brings us athletes together to celebrate all the achievements that we have accomplished all year long. This year's Sports Day was a very successful one, where men and women from all disciplines participated and competed. By being a member of the AUS women’s basketball team, I have witnessed a high level of competition among the participating teams. The games were very tough and intense, as most of them ended with a close difference in score. This has proved that the women's basketball at AUS not only is improving year by year, but also looks promising in the years to come.

Shakia Watson, Exchange student from USA
Time is winding down and I will like to say that staying in EF dorms has been a wonderful and interesting experience. Back home, I have never been so interactive with the supervisors of my dorm. The positive attitude that they give off here just lightens my day even when I am in a bad mood. I am able to go to them about anything and they are there to listen. I appreciate them so much for not only doing their job but also for being like second moms to us girls. I would also like to point out that I am so thankful to the cleaning ladies that clean our rooms every week. Back home you have to clean your whole room by yourself and having someone to do it is such an amazing thing and I feel like some people here don’t appreciate that but they should. Everybody does not get this type of treatment especially, not in the States. I also like to just give a huge thank you to our EF supervisors for making this semester worth every minute. I have learned so much and appreciate so much more in life. I will greatly miss you guys and hope to come back and visit. This is just the beginning!

Hamad Al Ansari, Spring 2014 graduate in Civil Engineering
The cultural trip to Japan was one of the most memorable trips I have ever had. Between making new friends and visiting new places, it was definitely an amazing experience. The trip was well organized and the supervisors made sure that everyone was comfortable and enjoyed their time.
Ayesha Alhemeiri, Senior, Environmental Sciences
After getting back, I could honestly say that I had learned so much, whether it was about socializing, reading maps to get from place to place or learning about myself and my responsibilities. The supervisors were very supportive, friendly, and helpful, and that also had a positive impact on the way the trip functioned. It was overall a very positive trip and I came back with many valuable skills.

Reem AlNuaimi, Sophomore, Electrical Engineering
A memorable trip that opened my eyes to a whole new culture that is so different from ours. I also met a lot of new people that I don’t think I would have had the chance of meeting if it wasn’t for this trip.

Maryam Khansaheb, Senior, Chemical Engineering
I have learned and grown more than I had expected from my experience with SLP. When I first entered AUS I thought I knew what I would be doing when I graduate and where I would be working. But as clichéd as this might sound, my experience with the SLP has helped me realize what I am passionate about and it has helped me set different goals for my future career which I am excited about fulfilling. Through my work with SLP, I got to attend a meeting with His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It was an honor to be able to meet with him and I felt proud to be an Emirati woman. It further fueled my motivation to work in this new path that I had created for myself.

Tamara Al Gunaid, Sophomore, International Studies
Meeting the UN Under Secretary-General of Communication and Public Information was truly a unique opportunity, I felt privileged to be a part of. Mr. Peter Launsky was able to discuss the United Nations, its processes and communication strategies with us effectively, enabling me to gain a deeper insight directly from the heart of the United Nations. I was very impressed by his cheerful manner, and realistic view on the United Nations. Launsky left us with inspiring motives, and encouraging remarks of the future ahead of us. I specifically liked the informality within the meeting, Mr. Launsky ensured a sense of collective community between himself, the SLP and the students. It was a great experience that helped bridge these various entities together.

Loay Farhat, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
The Dubai Peace Convention was an inspiring event that educated the public to accommodate peace in their hearts. It was an honor for me to attend such a great event especially after getting the chance to see important people such as Yusuf Estes and Mufti Ismail speaking live in front of all.
Around 20 students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah attended the Dubai International Peace Convention held April 17, 2014. The main purpose of the convention was to spread the true face of peace around the world on both a personal and global scale.

According to Maryam Khansaheb, a senior majoring in chemical engineering, “The peace convention was more than I had expected in terms of the size of the conference and the message it sent out. To see thousands of people from all over the world come together to pledge for peace was a heartwarming experience. The convention was a reminder for everyone that Islam is peace and it is our duty as Muslims to promote it.”

“My experience in the Dubai International Peace Convention was spectacular. I got to meet some of the well-respected scientists and researchers in the fields of science and religion. The convention influenced me to keep on researching and thinking about the world and people around me. The key aspects that I learned from the convention are to respect people, spread peace in homes and families, and live in harmony with neighbors no matter what beliefs and religion they follow. Moreover, the science exhibition in the convention, Signs of Science, was really special as it provided me with scientific information in a fun and interesting way through the big and colorful models,” said Hanin Hazeem, a junior majoring in interior design.

“In times where there is so much conflict in the world, the Dubai International Peace Convention addressed important issues to enlighten our students about the power of peace. We are glad our students benefited from the conference and hope they spread the message of peace within their communities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.