Sharjah Deputy Ruler attends UAE National Day celebrations at AUS

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Salem Al Qassimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, recently attended celebrations held at American University of Sharjah (AUS) to commemorate the country’s 43rd National Day. The festivities marked the beginning of a three-day series of events organized by students of the university’s Emirati Cultural Club as well as the AUS Office of Student Affairs. The event featured various aspects of the rich Emirati culture and heritage.

The opening was also attended by Sheikh Salem Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Salem Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Ruler’s Office, as well as AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve and other senior university officials.

The university’s main plaza played host to an Emirati heritage village, which consisted of a photo gallery that featured paintings of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan as the driving force behind the success and development of the UAE. The heritage village also included a display of traditional artifacts such as perfumes and jewelry, local cuisine, traditional clothing, and live music performances.

AUS athletes win 22 medals at EuroComillas Madrid 2014


The AUS swimmers won in the men’s category and placed third in the women’s category. The AUS swimmers won a total of 10 gold and nine silver medals. AUS swimmer Talmir Ishmukhametov bagged three gold medals in the men’s 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, and 200m freestyle events.

The AUS track and field team also performed well, with several athletes setting personal bests and qualifying for the final round. The AUS basketball team also participated in the tournament, with its star player making a remarkable contribution to the team’s success.

The AUS table tennis team also made a strong showing, with several players reaching the semi-finals. The AUS badminton team also performed well, with several players reaching the final round.

For more information, please visit the AUS website or contact the Office of Student Affairs.

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and on-stage performances that included singers, poets, and traditional dances.

The plaza was decorated with Emirati flags and light beams representing the colors of the UAE flag, as Emirati songs played in the background.

“The celebrations on campus dedicated to UAE National Day have grown bigger and better year after year,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Last year, the Emirati Cultural Club won the UAE National Day Outstanding Club Celebrations Award for the Educational Institution Category awarded by the UAE General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare. This year, our students are working hard to retain the title and to promote the university’s support towards the nationwide celebrations for this auspicious occasion. I thank the Emirati Cultural Club and the OSA staff for their efforts and contributions towards the success of our celebrations on campus.

Hamad Al Ketbi, President of the Emirati Cultural Club, said: “We, the Emirati Cultural Club, are here to celebrate the 43rd UAE National Day with love, loyalty and patriotism. The event is spread over three days this year in an effort to promote our national identity to the more than 90 nationalities present at AUS.”

“I think it is a great event,” said Hamda Rashid, a sophomore majoring in Design Management. “We love the idea and it is a big step especially after last year’s recognition of the Emirati Cultural Club.”
43rd National Day Celebrations at AUS
The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted a week-long orientation to welcome new students registered for the Academic Year 2014–2015. The activities that started on Friday, September 5, were designed to help new students transition into the AUS community, become aware of the university’s extracurricular offerings and learn to adapt to life at the university.

Among the orientation activities were information sessions, fun and intellectual games, educational and entertaining trips, and a dinner reception. The week’s events began with OSA staff welcoming new students and their parents. More than 800 orientation packets containing information on the services offered by AUS were distributed to students.

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 200 students joined the Sharjah tour and 300 joined the Dubai trip.

A freshman reception dinner was also organized and attended by more than 700 students in the presence of Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Munketh Taha, Director of the Student Development and Organizations Department, and other senior OSA officials. Addressing the students on the occasion, Dr. Al Shehhi said, “We are glad that so many students have joined us in this gathering. This is the first time I saw this hall full of students and we are happy with the increasing student interest in extracurricular activities. We know that you’ve all had a long day of lectures and presentations; this is now your time to have some fun. I warmly welcome you all to AUS and wish you all a productive academic year ahead.”

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 musical and cultural dance performances by students belonging to the Emirati, Egyptian and Palestinian cultural clubs.
AUS athletes win 22 medals... continued from page 1

individual gold medals, followed by Amr Mohamed with two and Taher Amr Hassan with one. These swimmers and teammate Tareef Tamim Al Bassam won the gold medal in 4 x 50 meter freestyle relay.

In the table tennis competition, AUS women’s players Tahani Nasir placed second and Shahdan Barakat placed third, while the men’s team placed fourth. The AUS men’s basketball team thrilled the spectators with their extraordinary performance in the preliminary, quarter and semifinal matches to reach the finals against the Serbian team. Though it was a close final, due to the injury of its key players AUS came in second. The AUS soccer players fought brilliantly and reached the semifinals of the tournament but were unable to defeat the hosts on their home ground.

The AUS team was accompanied by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation Department; and four coaches.

Dr. Al Shehhi, congratulated the athletes and said, “I appreciate our AUS Leopards who made remarkable contributions at EuroComillas 2014. They displayed great sportsmanship while competing with highly talented teams in tough conditions. Our athletes made notable progress, and gained valuable experience not only in their sport discipline but also in exchanging ideas and culture.”

“This tournament allowed our student-athletes to compete with relatively higher-level competitors in a different climatic condition and to renew their athletic goals. I am very proud of our student-athletes who kept the AUS flag flying in the international sports arena, too,” added Dr. Al Shehhi.
The Student Athletics and Recreation Department (SARD) of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) held the New Student Athletics Orientation for Fall 2014 on September 9 at the Sports Complex. The more than 350 students who attended learned about use of the sports facilities, how to join the athletic teams, training programs and scholarships.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, urged the students to make use of the various athletic programs and highlighted the importance of balancing extra-curricular activities and studies in a student’s life.

Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of SARD, briefed the new students about the sports and fitness programs offered at AUS, in addition to the variety of sports facilities. Dr. Helal also introduced the new Full Athletic Scholarship recipients and Dr. Al Shehhi provided them their first AUS team uniforms.

The newly recruited scholarship recipients displayed their acrobatic and technical skills, followed by a freestyle soccer demonstration that enthralled the audience.

Over 350 new students attend Athletics Orientation

The Peer Leaders Training is an essential part of the Peer Leaders Program. It is during the training that students are prepared to understand their role during orientation of guiding new students. Our aim is that through this program we can enhance students’ leadership abilities and instill in them civic leadership responsibilities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
The American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Center was bustling with activity as students convened at the Fall 2014 Club Fair on September 29. The two-day event gave new students a chance to sign up for the many cultural and common interest clubs on the AUS campus.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs, the Club Fair was inaugurated by Dr. Björn Kjerfve, Chancellor; Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor; Kevin Mitchel, Interim Provost; and other senior officials, and featured 33 ethnic clubs, 34 interest-oriented clubs and eight departments from the Office of Student Affairs participating this semester. The two newly established clubs joining the Club Fair this semester were the Romanian Cultural Club and the Google Students Club.

“With the high quality of extracurricular programs and services offered by the university, many students are coming up with new innovative ideas to promote their interests and express their passion,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi. “It is our role to support these student initiatives and provide them with resources and tools to help them realize their ideas and concepts. Club Fair complements these ideas and resources by serving as a practice field for our students to hone their skills through various activities and practical learning experiences before, during and after the event. Club Fair is more than just a membership drive; it is a colorful expression of our students’ cultural backgrounds and interests.”

The event not only introduced freshmen to the student-led organizations at AUS but it also highlighted campus diversity. The student leaders of the clubs got the chance to promote their organizations and spread awareness about their ideas and activities.

“This is my first time attending the Club Fair and the idea of learning so much about different countries and cultures is fascinating. It’s a great opportunity to meet and interact with new people,” said freshman Lara Yaseen. “I never thought that the Student Center could be transformed as much as it has.”
AUS participates in UAE Flag Day

American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the country-wide celebration of the UAE Flag Day. Led by AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve, accompanied by senior university officials as well as crowd of students, the AUS Flag Day Ceremony was held on November 3, at the AUS main entrance. The event was hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and the Emirati Cultural Club.

“We are proud and honored to celebrate this auspicious occasion. We pay tribute to the UAE flag as it symbolizes our unity and loyalty to our great leaders and for the love of our country. I thank the AUS Emirati Cultural Club that represents the youth and the next generation of this country for their initiative in commemorating this event on campus. I congratulate our great leaders and the people of UAE and wish them all a Happy UAE Flag Day,” said Dr. Al Shehhi.

“It is an important day for UAE because we are representing the national spirit. AUS is a well-known university and I am really happy that we are playing our role in promoting our culture and national traditions,” added Saud Al Qassimi, President of the AUS Student Council.

According to Mohammad Al Ketbi, President of the Emirati Cultural Club at AUS, “UAE Flag Day commemorates our loyalty to the country and I am happy to be a part of the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. This ceremony represents our appreciation of the country and I am delighted to participate in this gathering.”

The UAE Flag Day, celebrated by public and private institutions across the country wherein the UAE flag is raised simultaneously at noon, provides Emiratis the opportunity to show their devotion and love towards their country and their culture.

Peer Leaders adopt freshmen during orientation

The Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) took an active role during new student orientation held on Friday, September 5, 2014. Peer Leaders adopted freshmen and continued to orient them throughout the semester.

One of the main roles of the Peer Leaders during the orientation was to ease the transition of incoming students into university life. In addition, each peer leader adopted three to five freshmen and mentored them on coping up with university life. Not only does this program help the peer leaders to develop and enhance their leadership skills, but also provides opportunities to freshmen and encourages them to join the Emerging Leaders Program.

“New Students Orientation was a great experience. It motivated me to be a good listener and communicator. SLP has given me a platform to meet new people and this is what I always yearned for. I have learned skills for understanding skills and for solving critical circumstances, in return,” said Sana Ramzan, a junior student majoring in business administration (finance).

“I am pleased to see the number of students in the Peer Leaders Program increase year after year. With more than 80 Peer Leaders, I am confident that new students will be assisted and guided to positively impact their transition into university. Congratulations to all the Peer Leaders for being selected to be part of this important program, and I look forward to working with them this year,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
The Student Athletic and Recreation Department (SARD) of the Office of Student Affairs at American University of Sharjah (AUS) held its National Day Sports Festival on November 26. Sports tournaments were conducted in men’s and women’s three-on-three basketball and volleyball, and in men’s cricket and soccer. As a tribute to the nation, AUS student-athletes flocked to the Sports Complex and outdoor fields to celebrate the 43rd UAE National Day and to participate in a series of sports tournaments and fitness challenges.

The soccer field was transformed into an elaborate fitness obstacle course where students had to complete a series of daunting tasks, such as the tire pull, the water jug carry, and a potato sack race that required participants to carry a 5kg medicine ball.

In an act of allegiance and pride to the UAE, the gathered students and staff paraded towards the Sports Complex waving and wearing the nation’s flag in a sea of red, green, white and black. The parade was led by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of Student Athletics and Recreation.

During the sports festival award ceremony, Dr. Al Shehhi congratulated the AUS athletes who participated in and won medals for AUS in the EuroComillas Madrid 2014 Sports Tournament in Spain. “We dedicate these achievements to 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 AUS, and to the people of UAE and also to the AUS management for making the EuroComillas participation possible,” Dr. Al Shehhi said.
Eight students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) were part of the UAE delegation at the 10th Annual Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (BUMUN), held in Al Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, November 28–29, 2014 and sponsored by the UAE’s General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare. The AUS delegation secured an Honorable Mention and a Diplomacy Award at BUMUN.

BUMUN is a Model United Nations for university students in the GCC. This simulation activity focuses on civics, communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. By participating, students gained a better understanding of world affairs, diplomacy and negotiation. Being part of BUMUN enabled AUS students to enhance their communication and influencing skills as well as meet with an array of students and representatives from the region.

“BUMUN taught me about the crises and issues that are occurring in the world today, and the effect of them on each country and region,” said Amna Banialnajjar, a senior student majoring in chemical engineering. “The MUN made me realize how important teamwork, negotiation and friendly debates can be when saving the lives of hundreds of thousands. It definitely taught me that there are bigger problems in the real world to worry about, and that even as a student, I can make a difference and change people’s lives. Representing UAE at the conference was definitely an honor and overall, this was an unforgettable experience.”

According to Hessah Al Samahi, a junior student majoring in international studies, “It was just a great experience filled. Our short trip to Bahrain wasn’t only about meeting new people, but it was about showing our leadership skills, making the right decisions, acting quickly, performing well and working as a team.”

“Our students made us proud again. Winning the Diplomacy Award and receiving an Honorable Mention exemplifies their commitment and leadership abilities. By taking part in BUMUN, they got an opportunity to network and meet people from all over the region. I congratulate our students on a job well done,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Office of Student Affairs (OSA) hosted a used book sale at the beginning of fall semester to raise funds for its charity events and activities. More than 1,000 books were offered on sale at the university’s Student Center September 14–18, 2014.

More than 20 student volunteers from OSA’s Community Services assisted in organizing, selling and collecting book donations. Most books on sale were donated by the student residential halls, the library and by the AUS community.

“We host the book sale at the beginning of semesters when there is a high student demand for books. This boosts the sale of books and consequently the funds needed for our charity initiatives,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Through this event, we aim to instill the value of giving to our students while at the same time help them save some money on books” she added.

The event successfully generated a good amount of cash, which will be used to fund charity events in the community. Most books were sold and the remaining books will be donated to Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services for further charity use.
More than 1,200 participants from private and public schools, universities and colleges from Sharjah and Dubai, including people with special needs and members of the general public, took part in the 13th Charity Mini-Marathon held by American University of Sharjah (AUS) on Saturday, November 29, 2014.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Community Services Office, the marathon was held as part of the UAE’s 43rd National Day celebrations. Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, expressed her gratitude to Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the UAE, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS, for his support and mentioned that without his directives the marathon wouldn’t have turned into a substantial charitable annual event. “It is overwhelming to witness the devotion among our students towards humanitarian work and volunteering. This year’s marathon is also dedicated to the 43rd UAE National Day celebrations. I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to all the great leaders of our nation, its citizens and residents on this occasion,” she said.

Funds generated from the event were used to support various charity initiatives at AUS.
Student volunteers from American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Saudi Cultural Club recently renovated the home of an orphan under the care of Human Appeal International, Ajman. More than 30 members of the AUS Saudi Cultural Club volunteered for the project under the supervision of the AUS Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Community Services, in partnership with Human Appeal International, which recommended the home of one of the orphans under its care. The funding for the project was mainly provided by sponsors.

The renovation was carried out over a period of one week, with student volunteers working alongside a contractor in cleaning, painting and decorating the house. In addition, basic home furnishings were provided to replace old and damaged items. “This project was just a small gesture to show our love for the UAE, which we consider our second home. The UAE taught us what it means to be united and here we are united with passion, hand in hand, for a good deed,” said Balquees Basalom, president of AUS Saudi Cultural Club and team leader of the volunteers in this project.

“I thank the Saudi Club for their enthusiasm in extending help to the needy. With their hard work and efforts, they have improved the shelter and living conditions of an orphan. I also wish to thank the sponsors for providing the necessary funding to complete this humanitarian project,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. This is the seventh renovation project under the “Hand in Hand” initiative, an award-winning project organized by OSA Community Services. The project received the Sharjah Award for Voluntary Work in 2010 and in 2013. The initiative is aimed at improving the lives of the needy to promote a stronger society while at the same time promoting volunteerism among the youth so that they may engage in meaningful activities for society.

Also present in the handover ceremony were representatives from the Saudi Embassy Cultural Attaché and Saudi Arabia’s Fly Nas Airlines, as well as officials from AUS and Human Appeal International, Ajman.
American University of Sharjah (AUS) held a Breast Cancer Awareness campaign on campus in October on the occasion of the Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event was organized by the AUS Office of Student Affairs’ Community Service Office and the Student Council.

The week-long campaign started with members of the Pink Caravan distributing informational material to raise awareness about breast cancer, providing instructions on how to conduct self-tests and highlighting the importance of early detection. A bake sale was held and various student-sponsored ethnic clubs supported the fundraising effort by offering traditional foods in the event. Among the participating clubs were the Emirati, Saudi, Bahraini, Qatari, Palestinian, Jordanian, Turkish, Tunisian, Korean, Armenian and Lebanese cultural clubs.

Other fundraising efforts included the sale of pink t-shirts and ribbons, henna painting and a traditional food fest hosted by Office of Student Affairs’ Student Multicultural Learning Program. On the entertainment side, a special dabke performance was presented by students of the Palestinian Club. All proceeds of the campaign were donated to Pink Caravan to support breast cancer research and for the treatment of breast cancer patients.

“We organize this campaign every year to spread awareness about this disease among AUS students and to highlight the importance of timely screening to detect the disease at its early stages,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
SLP students take part in Global Village for Future Leaders

A merican University of Sharjah (AUS) students Omar Al Bastaki and Athbeh Al Shehhi attended the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry at Iacocca Institute in Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA, during Summer 2014.

The five-week program provides students the opportunity to gain knowledge about leadership and entrepreneurship and introduces them to a powerful global network through courses, panel discussions, consulting projects and networking sessions. Experts within industry shared their success stories and offered guidance, and the students visited places such as the New York Stock Exchange, United Nations, the World Bank and The Pentagon. 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.

Athbeh AlShehhi, an electrical engineering senior, said, “I learned and lived among a culturally diverse group of more than 100 people from more than 40 different countries. I learned how those diverse cultures could come together, both on a business and on a personal level. It was an enriching experience that helped me develop a perceptive view of our world today, its people, cultures and religions. I went into the program on my own, but I left knowing I have a home everywhere I go in the world.”

Omar Al Bastaki, a business administration junior, said, “I went to the Global Village with certain goals but I came out fulfilling goals I didn’t even know I had. The program helped me become a better-rounded person both professionally and personally.”

Both students are active members of the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at AUS.

“We are confident that the Global Village is truly an excellent leadership development experience that focuses on motivating students and allows them to network with a diverse group of people. Students can testify that after completing the program they improved their business knowledge and cultural understanding. We encourage more students to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that the Student Leadership Program is offering,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs.

SLP student participates in Net Impact Conference in Minnesota

M aged Shoman, an active student in the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS), participated in the Net Impact Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 6-8, 2014.

The Net Impact Conference is a leading conference for students and professionals who want to address social and environmental problems, focusing on forward thinking and exploring creative solutions to transform the world.

“It was a great honor and privilege for me to participate in the conference. Besides the engagement in discussions that tackled real-world social and environmental problems, it strongly contributed towards developing our leadership skills, diplomacy techniques and methods for tackling the toughest problems creatively,” said Shoman, a senior student majoring in civil engineering. “The three-day conference left me inspired, motivated and more passionate about contributing a positive change in my community. Now, I am honored to be a member of the Global Net Impact family. I thank the Student Leadership Program for their encouragement and support with such fruitful opportunities.”

“Our world is facing many challenges ahead and we have faith that our students are going to work for a sustainable future. The Net Impact Conference inspired Maged through the networking sessions, interactive panels and workshops. He came back ready to make a difference and we in the Office of Student Affairs will support student ideas that have positive outcomes,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
Six students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) attended a training program organized by Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland from August 7 to September 7, 2014.

The focus of the program was to challenge and expand participants’ intellectual skills and approaches to provide them with the knowledge and skills required for active leadership for the 21st century.

The participating students included electrical engineering students Nada Ali Obaid, Al Anoud Al Adwan and Aisha Al Mansoori; chemical engineering students Hamda Al Qemzi and Meerah Al Mulla; and environmental sciences student Ayesha Al Hemeiri.

“When the program first started, I was timid to participate and found Scotland and the company quite overwhelming. But as time went on, I realized that I was in a welcoming environment, one where I could share my thoughts and mingle with peers from other universities confidently. To me, the whole experience was very rich and packed with valuable lessons and morals, and learning did not only come as a result of the lectures given in the Al Maktoum College. Every day was an opportunity to learn something new, whether it was about time management, or how to socialize and expand your circle of friends. Moreover, the field trips and tours provided us with information and practical knowledge that could not be taught in a lecture hall. Overall, this experience has really broadened my horizons in terms of knowledge and practical experience, but on a personal level, I feel like I know myself better as a person now than I did a month ago,” said Ayesha Al Hemeiri, a fresh graduate of environmental sciences.

“Focusing on women’s leadership, the Al Maktoum College Summer Program challenged students to better understand leadership and active citizenship. We are pleased with the outcomes of the program and have received rave reviews from attendees. Thanks to Al Maktoum College for their efforts and we look forward to future collaboration with them,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
SLP students attend One Young World Summit in Dublin

Students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) took part in the One Young World Summit (OYW), which was held October 15–19, 2014 in Dublin, Ireland. The aim of the summit was to debate, formulate and share innovative solutions for the issues the world is currently facing.

One Young World is an annual summit that brings together the brightest young leaders from global and national companies, NGOs, universities and other progressive organizations. The summit allows youth to work with OYW counselors to debate and formulate solutions for major issues concerning our world today. 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.

“The summit was an eye opener to the radical global issues such as education, peace and conflict, climate change, and human rights. This triggered me to question how I could contribute to change the world. I learned to network with multinational delegates by asking them about their interests and passions, rather than their nationality or beliefs, which is what unites youth together and excludes what society labels us,” said Mina Mazin, a sophomore majoring in economics.

“The OYW 2014 summit was a positive and an eye-opening experience for our students. Tackling issues concerning socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, the conference presented inspiring speakers that promoted civic leadership and urged youth to become active citizens within their communities. We are confident that our students are empowered to further reach out to advocate and end the cycle of poverty around the world. SLP continues to offer many exciting opportunities and we encourage more students to take advantage of them,” said Dr. Moza, Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
300 students attend OSA forum

More than 300 students representing various student groups attended a series of forums organized by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS). The forums were held in four sessions from September 28 to October 1, 2014 at the university’s Student Center. Students representing the Student Council, Student Leadership Program, various clubs and organizations, sports teams, Community Services, and the Peer Mediation Program participated in the forum.

AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, along with various other AUS senior officials, attended the forum. In his opening remarks, Dr. Kjerfve expressed his full support towards extracurricular activities and assured the students of joining them for the upcoming scheduled events.

Addressing the students, Dr. Al Shehhi stated that OSA holds the forums at the beginning of semesters to promote active and healthy communications between administrators and students, which will help strengthen their bond and understand each other's concerns. “It is through these forums that we identify new student demands, adopt their creative ideas and attend to all their valid concerns. We also gauge our programs and services through direct student feedback during these forums,” she said.

The students raised various concerns including facilities improvements and operating hours, transportation issues, additional equipment, new programs and services, among others. OSA assured the students that their concerns have been noted and will be reviewed and studied. Students also expressed their appreciations to AUS and OSA for providing them with meaningful activities and extracurricular opportunities in various fields of interest.

Student Leadership Program conducts DISC Analysis Workshop

Thirty AUS students attended the DISC analysis workshop conducted by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Leadership Program (SLP) on November 10, 2014 as a part of the Student Training and Workshop Series. The widely used DISC Behavioral Style Model focuses on understanding and communicating and provides students with training opportunities that sharpen and develop their skills as well as prepare them for successful leadership.

“Attending the DISC Analysis Workshop gave me a great opportunity to understand people’s personalities around me and especially understand my own. The workshop was an event that gathered some AUS students from different backgrounds, different majors, and different academic levels to discuss personalities and how to deal with each personality effectively.

I believe that the information I got from the workshop will definitely help me in my studies, designs and my future career as an interior designer. It is important to be able to predict others’ behaviors and understand their needs, which will make my communication skills effective,” added Hanin Hazeem, a senior majoring in interior design.

“By participating in this workshop, students became self-aware and got a better perception of their own personality. They learned that individuals are different but can easily be predicted. We know the importance of understanding the personality of others in eliminating conflicts, therefore, our aim is to ensure that students have the knowledge and information to make better and more realistic future decisions,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
SLP student and Google Ambassador lectures on how to lead using technology

Marwa Al Jarkas, a Student Leadership Program (SLP) team leader and Google ambassador, gave the informative lecture “How to Lead Using Technology” at AUS on November 12, 2014. Organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ SLP, the lecture was part of the AUS Student Lecture Series and demonstrated how technology can make a student’s life easier and how it can help them lead in a better way. The audience learned about new tools and technologies available on different Google applications.

A senior student majoring in advertising and public relations, Al Jarkas is president of Google Students Club at AUS.

“This lecture was very beneficial to me and will help me a lot in my future plans and events. I have constantly faced obstacles when it comes to technology due to its rapid development. However, this lecture helped me explore lots of features and options that I was not aware of, that will help me manage my plans more smoothly and easily,” said Sarah Abdelbary, a senior student majoring in English.

“Sharing information and passing on knowledge to others is a key leadership characteristic that we want students to practice. The AUS Student Lecture Series allows students to educate and inspire others through mutual discussions. We encourage more students to take part in the AUS Student Lecture Series and share with us their achievements, and contributions within their communities,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

AUS hosts and wins inaugural Men’s Bench Press Competition

Athletes from AUS took first place in the inaugural AUS Men’s Bench Press Competition held December 7 at the Sports Complex, competing against 50 participants from five universities.

The nine-member AUS team won the competition after a closely fought encounter with the University of Sharjah (UOS) team. AUS secured 89 points, while UOS had 87 points, and UAE University came in third. The AUS powerlifting team won four gold, three silver and two bronze medals in the various categories.

Participating universities were University of Sharjah, UAE University, Emirates Aviation University, Dubai Men’s College and AUS. The competition had four senior referees from the Powerlifting Association, and the assistance of AUS coaches. Dr. Mohamed Helal, Director of the Student Athletics and Recreation Department (SARD), awarded trophies and medals to the winners.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, congratulated all winners and thanked SARD for organizing this inaugural competition. “I’ve noticed that this event attracts a lot of youngsters who look for a common platform to express their talents, and I am happy to encourage them by conducting such competitions at AUS in the future also.”
SRLD activities during November 2014

The Student Residential Life Department (SRLD) Activities Program during November 2014 was event-filled, as has become tradition.

IJ Men’s Dorm hosted a successful International Night that featured a wide variety of activities. Sudanese students presented a rich mix of cultural shows, including songs and dances, as did the Pakistani, Palestinian and Syrian students, with the latter two staging dabke performances.

Also, the Senegalese students and other African students staged very exciting cultural dances. Additional items lined up for the event were puzzles, a tug-of-war and ball juggling skills, among many others, making the evening a joyous and heartwarming occasion.

On November 18, EF Men’s Dorm hosted a social gathering that was also very successful. The highlight included a lively talk by an American exchange student, Shane Lineham, who compared life at AUS with that at his college in the US.

There was also an interesting game presented by Mustafa Ahmed in which he sketched images of actors and scenes in popular movies and then asked the audience to guess which movies they were. Not to be outdone, Anas Altrash did amazing acrobatic tricks with his monocycle, while Ammar Marashi dazzled the audience doing magic tricks with playing cards.

The 43rd UAE National Day was commemorated in a special way in AB Women’s Dorm with a variety of activities for a 20-day period from November 24 to December 6. An Emirati corner was set-up featuring a traditional lounge, with the surrounding area decorated in the distinctive colors of the national flag. Commemorative activities over the 20 days involved students trying out Emirati traditional clothing displayed in the Emirati corner and being photographed in national colors. Also, Emirati tea, coffee and snacks were a permanent feature in the corner, allowing students to sample traditional flavors throughout the period.

Meanwhile, the usual sports and recreational activities have continued from the beginning of the semester, with large numbers of students from all the dorms involved in the elimination stages of the inter-dorm tournament.

The disciplines involved included table tennis, billiards, chess and video games. Outdoor competitions included squash, badminton, basketball and seven-aside soccer. The awards ceremony was held on January 7, 2015.

In all, Fall Semester 2014 was event-packed, exciting and highly inspiring for the resident students.

Successful blood donation drive at AUS

American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Office of Student Affairs (OSA) successfully held a blood donation drive on September 22, 2014 at the university’s Student Center. The blood drive, themed “Be the Initiator,” was held with the support of student volunteers from OSA’s Community Services Office.

The campaign received a positive turnout from students, faculty and staff with over 100 donors supporting the initiative. Held in collaboration with Dubai Blood Donation Center and Sharjah Social Services Department, the medical team was equipped with the latest medical equipment and supplies to ensure the success of the campaign.

“This humanitarian initiative plays a significant role in spreading awareness to our students in extending help to those in need. I thank the student volunteers for helping out and especially the blood donors for coming forward to support this initiative,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “The blood drive is one of OSA’s many initiatives that promote student volunteerism and community outreach,” she added.
A group of students from American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Student Multicultural Learning Program (SMLP) took part in the World Tourism Day 2014 hosted by the Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority at Khorfakkan, Sharjah, on September 24, 2014.

The event began with a tourism conference held at the Oceanic Khorfakkan Resort and Spa followed by a visit to a local family house for a first-hand experience of Emirati culture and traditions. The students then visited the Khorfakkan Heritage Museum where they saw a wide range of local antiquities and furniture as well as ancient weaponry.

The tour ended with students visiting the port of Khorfakkan, where they took a cruise and learned about the traditional and modern methods of fishing and diving.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said, “Through cultural visits, we promote UAE’s exciting tourism destinations and rich cultural heritage among the young generation. I encourage our students to explore more about our country’s history and its developments throughout the years.”

The fun event allowed students to enjoy a variety of traditional events that reflected the social, cultural, and touristic development of the east coast of the United Arab Emirates. Also, these traditional activities highlighted the major achievements of Sharjah that led towards it becoming the Islamic Cultural Capital of the Arab Region for 2014.
AUS students implement Lab on Wheels

Forty students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) volunteered to implement Lab on Wheels at six private and public schools across Sharjah during the fall semester. In this project, simple yet informative mobile laboratory experiments were performed by school students at their school premises. Student volunteers from AUS Community Services visited schools with all materials required to perform the experiments, and helped students in conducting them. Lab on Wheels is an interactive approach that combines teamwork, learning by doing, and fun learning. More than 180 school students benefitted from the project. Lab on Wheels aims to boost cultural confidence by introducing experiments related to Arab and Muslim scientists, improves hands-on skills for students by building experiments from scratch, develops and improves teamwork and problem-solving skills, and promotes voluntary work. The experiments performed included the “Camera” experiment developed by Al Hassan bin Al Haitham and the “Dry Ice” experiment by Jaber bin Hayyan, who developed alchemy into an experimental science.

The idea was initiated by Dr. Mohammad Nazzal, Visiting Associate Professor in the AUS Department of Mechanical Engineering, and was supported by the Office of Student Affairs. The project will continue with school visits in the future to fulfill the demands from a long waiting list of schools and volunteers that are interested in the project.

“This cooperation between the Office of Student Affairs and an academic department results in meaningful activities that appeal to students and encourage them to participate in out-of-class learning experiences. We encourage such initiatives that promote mutually productive relations with the external community,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. “Our appreciations to Dr. Nazzal for his efforts and for sharing his ideas and time on this project.” she added.

Personality Assessment and Disorder Workshop

Students attended a successful workshop on personality assessment, run by the Student Learning and Counseling Services (SLCS). The workshop looked at the different type of personality disorders, including borderline, narcissistic, avoidant, dependent, passive-aggressive, obsessive-compulsive, paranoid and anti-social disorders, among others. The students participated in a case study and were invited to visit the SLCS to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®), a well-known personality inventory. Since the workshop, a majority of the participants have scheduled a session to take the MBTI® to get to know themselves better in order to achieve more success in their academic pursuits.
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.

Talmir Ishmukhametov, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering
I gained rich experience in the swimming competitions and was extremely happy to win three individual gold medals and a gold in relay, too. It was a combined effort with my fellow swimmers, who produced great results by winning many medals for AUS. I am extremely happy with such high-caliber participation, and it will prepare us for future competitions. The whole squad enjoyed the tournament, and it helped us to know more about the diverse cultures of participants from different countries.

Aleksandar Milanovic, Freshman, Business Management
The trip to Madrid and participation in EuroComillas was a great experience for the whole group. It helped us to grow as a basketball team, and compete at an international level, and also gave us a chance to meet other students from all around the world and learn more about different cultures.

Sally Masoud, Senior, Visual Communication
EuroComillas Madrid 2014 was a success and the women’s team did an amazing job in the swimming competition. The Student Athletics and Recreation Department gave me and my team the opportunity to compete with swimmers from different universities, and such a professional experience was one not to be forgotten. In the end we all emerged as winners. Thank you AUS management for the great effort.

Shahdan Barakat, Sophomore, Visual Communication
I am really honored that I was one of the students chosen to represent the university in the EuroComillas Madrid 2014 tournament in Spain. It was a great experience and I was able to win third place in table tennis. Overall, two awards in women’s table tennis have been brought to AUS with silver and bronze medals. The Student Athletics and Recreation Department always supports the different sports disciplines, and I would like to thank everyone who worked really hard to get us there.

Mohamad Khalil Ibrahim, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
For the first time at AUS, an intercollegiate bench press competition was held and four students from AUS won first place in their weight categories. The rest placed second and third place in their weight categories. The judges announced AUS as overall champions after the calculating the points.

Mohammad Adnan Tayih, Senior, Civil Engineering
The EuroComillas international sports tournament in Madrid was incredibly successful by all standards. I would like to thank the AUS teams for their endless efforts and discipline on and off the courts. This international tournament helped all the athletes as well as the staff and coaches expand their horizons and also helped create a bond between one another, which in turn had a positive impact on the whole AUS delegation that made us look like one big happy family.

Ashley Ann Mansour, Senior, Biology
As a member of the AUS women’s basketball team, I am delighted to have had the chance to participate in the international tournament EuroComillas in Madrid, Spain. The tournament was very intense where many different universities from around the world took part in a very high level of play. The AUS women’s basketball team fought their hearts out in every game. Our participation in EuroComillas was a great experience, gave us the opportunity to compete among the best university teams.
Marawan Adham El-Bardicy, Freshman, Electrical Engineering
I participated in the AUS National Day Sports Festival and competed in the volleyball competition. The event was held in the outdoor courts in celebration of the UAE National Day. On this occasion I would like to wish UAE continued glory. It was fun and competitive and allowed us as athletes to get to know each other better.

Nadwa Alsawan, Freshman, International Studies
I really enjoyed the National Day Sports Festival, as it was filled with different activities for all students. It was nice to play different sports and interact with different students and teams. My favorite part was the volleyball game that was held outdoors. Also, the parade after the volleyball game was a great way to end the day since it was filled with spirit and joy.

Fadi Yaghmour, Sophomore, Biology and Environmental Science
I am very grateful for the American University of Sharjah Student Leadership Program for making this exciting and educational opportunity possible for students.

Sarah Abdelbary, Senior, English Language and Translation
This experience gave me much more than I expected. Not only did it bring out the best in me, I noticed that I had the ability to bring out the best in people I met as well. My leadership and communication skills were enhanced, my knowledge about problems I was not aware of were this severe were enriched, and I had the great honor of carrying the UAE flag during the opening ceremony.

Fatma Al Yousuf, Senior, Computer Engineer and Biology
One Young World is a conference that engaging young people into trending human rights, climate change, innovation and freedom of speech. Thankfully, I was lucky enough to be part of it where I did not only meet and experience new people and cultures but also learned about problems and amazing people who took upon themselves to build a better world for future generations.

Omar Al Mutawa, Junior, International Studies
I am extremely proud of OSA-SLP’s strong commitment to NMUN. Discussing the conference with my friends studying in New York City, I learned that AUS has built an excellent reputation at the conference over the past 3 years. Leading a team of 8 for 2015, I am positive that we will make AUS and the UAE proud this March as we represent the Republic of Yemen in various committees.

Najla Al Zarooni, Senior, International Relations
The experience at BUMUN was fruitful. Through this simulation I implanted what I studied as INS student regarding different economic and political controversial issues. Through representing the United Kingdom at the International Atomic Energy Agency, I came up with two resolutions of my interest, allowing me to win the diplomacy award.
AUS students attend Korean Food Festival

Twenty-two students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) Student Multicultural Learning Program, Korean Cultural Club and Gastronomy Club participated in the Korean Food Festival held November 3, 2014 at The Address Dubai Marina.

Organized by the Consulate General of Korea in Dubai, the festival was aimed at introducing Korean culture and food to the UAE community. More than eight famous Korean restaurants took part in the event providing food samples to visitors, including signature Korean foods such as kimchi, bulgogi, bibimbap and many others.

The festival also featured a cooking class wherein different Korean dishes were taught to participants. The cooking class focused on the ingredients and spices that go into Korean food. The cooking class also demonstrated cooking techniques unique to Korean cuisine. The students learned to make their own gimbap (seaweed rice rolls) and rice cakes under the supervision of well-known Korean chefs.

“The Korean Food Festival is one of many culturally-rich events that we aim for our students to experience. Cultural events enlighten our students about the different cultures around them and satisfy their curiosity through practical learning experiences,” said Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

“We have more cultural exchange activities on and off campus which are all focused towards equipping our students with the requisite skills to succeed in a global society,” she added.

“We live in a multicultural world where the importance of tolerance and understanding of different cultures is crucial. The Korean Food Festival is a great experience for us students to learn, appreciate and have an open mind about other cultures around us,” said Maria Samer Hakim, a junior in environmental science.

Raghad Hassan El Assi, a mass communication junior said, “The festival was interesting because not only did we learn how delicious Korean cuisine is but we also learned how to cook basic Korean dishes. The Korean people are very nice in introducing the Korean culture through their food.” The students’ participation was organized by the Office of Student Affairs’ Student Multicultural Learning Program.

Insight is published by the Office of Student Affairs. For comments or suggestions, email osainsight@aus.edu