Season's Greetings from IXO!
As we approach the end of 2018, the IXO Team extends Season's Greetings to the AUS Community, and all the very best in the New Year.

IXO Calendar

December 15 - 22
Final Examination Period

January 1, 2019
Happy New Year!

January 2
IXO turns nine years old!

January 17
Incoming Spring 2018
Arrive to Dorms

January 27
First Day of Classes

Student Opportunities

Testimonial - John Cabot University
Saif Abueida is a senior mechanical engineering major who studied abroad at John Cabot University (JCU) in Rome, Italy during Summer 2018. He enrolled in a three credit course for four weeks to fulfill the Culture in a Critical Perspective requirement at AUS. He mentioned that 70 percent of the students who attended JCU in the summer were study abroad students from countries all over the world. During orientation week, he was introduced to Rome, the local culture and practical information. Saif was also able to visit the Amalfi Coast, the Pantheon, Capri, Pompei and Venice. He enthusiastically recommends this program to other AUS students because it is a perfect chance to explore Rome and its surroundings while fulfilling the university's general requirements.

Saif Abueida and friends at the Pantheon, Rome
**IXO Events**

**Tolerance Day 2018**

On the International Day for Tolerance, IXO collaborated with the Student Council for a trip around the globe. The event brought together students and faculty members from different cultures. Dr. Maher Bahloul, Department of English, gave an interesting talk about accepting and embracing others. Attendees also shared their experiences and perspectives. The event featured several activities including traditional games, painting, karaoke and the sharing of cultural artifacts.

**How to Market Your Study Abroad Experience**

Rose Armour, the Director of Sustainability, recently delivered our regular IXO workshop “How to Market Your Study Abroad Experience to Potential Employers.” The event helps students to turn their study abroad experience into a significant asset as they move into a job search. Studying abroad has an overall positive impact on the development of a wide range of job skills, all highly valued by potential employers, including cognitive competencies such as confidence, problem solving and language skills, as well as interpersonal competencies such as communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

**BBQ in Al Ain**

Study abroad students spent a day in Mubazzara Park just below Jabel Hafeet Mountain in Al Ain. They enjoyed the cool weather, the hot springs and a special Arabic BBQ for lunch.

**Thanksgiving and Farewell Dinner**

IXO hosted a farewell Thanksgiving dinner at the Centro Hotel in Sharjah, an official event to say goodbye to the students who studied at AUS this Fall 2018. We wish our fall cohort a safe return journey and request that they stay in touch.
Sankar Narayanan, Friend of IXO
Sankar Narayanan paid us a visit this month. Sankar graduated from AUS’s computer science program in Fall 2016 and recently graduated with his Master’s Degree in Software Engineering from University of Melbourne in Australia. It is so good to catch up with him and hear about his adventures abroad.

Study Tours

CAAD - Morocco Study Tour
The Department of Architecture is planning a study tour for the students during the winter break to Casablanca and Marrakesh, Morocco. Students will be able to experience the original mid-century modern architecture, as well as a combination of both traditionalist and orientalist architecture and urban design. The students will be chaperoned by Dr. Faysal Tabbarah and Ms. Zaina Al Khayyat.

IISE - Italy Study Tour
The Department of Industrial Engineering is planning a study tour for the students during the winter break to Rome, Florence and Venice, Italy. Students will visit leading universities and industries in their respective fields. The students will be chaperoned by Dr. Abdulrahim Shamayleh and Ms. Melanie Walter.

Additional Study Tours Planned
During Spring Break, Finance Executives (FiEx) will visit Paris, France and Frankfurt, Germany with Dr. Narjess Boubakri and Dr. Kimberly Gleason. Another study tour, led by Dr. Igor Peraza, Department of Architecture, will visit Shanghai. In summer, additional faculty-led study tours are planned to Italy, Brussels, Spain and Thailand.
IXO Calendar

December 21
Fall 2017 IXO Students
Depart AUS for Home Universities

January 11
Incoming Spring 2018 Students
Arrive to Dorms

January 12 to 20
Incoming Spring 2018 Orientation

Winter Program in South Korea
Konkuk University in Seoul, South Korea

Vive Vocal Concert
Several very talented study abroad students participated actively in the Vive Vocal Concert this fall, including Lindsay Walsh, Tamia Wallace, Iina Honkakoski and Lydia Shepherd. We love to see our students becoming so actively involved in the Performing Arts Program.

Cirkus
Cirkus is a production that was developed as a collaborative effort among performing arts students. It began with story-circles in which the students shared personal stories about themselves, and these stories eventually evolved into a series of esoteric poems. We enjoyed cheering on our student Roxanne Alvarado, who played a key role as the trapeze artist in this wonderful production.

Happy Birthday IXO!
Our office will turn nine years old on January 2, 2019.

Outgoing Spring 2019 Students
Twenty students from AUS have been placed in 15 universities across the US, and in the UK, Netherlands and South Korea, to study abroad in Spring 2019. We wish them well, and we hope they make the most out of this wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in studying abroad in Spring 2020, visit our office (MG50) or contact us at ixo@aus.edu.

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Guests and Delegations

Salzburg University of Applied Sciences
A group of design management students from Salzburg University of Applied Sciences came from Austria to spend a week at American University of Sharjah to work with Dr. Kathryn Best, Associate Professor of Art and Design, and her design management students in the College of Architecture, Art and Design. The group was able to spend some time exploring the UAE. IXO was delighted to assist with a cultural orientation and a campus tour.