

AUS campus community celebrates UAE Flag Day



American University of Sharjah (AUS) held a special ceremony on campus on November 2, as part of the countrywide celebrations to mark UAE Flag Day. The national event celebrates and demonstrates national unity and loyalty to Emirati culture.

The flag-raising ceremony, hosted by

the Office of Student Affairs and the Emirati Cultural Club, was attended by senior university officials as well as by a large crowd of students and members of the campus community.

Commenting on the significance of the national event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said:

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"I am thankful that as the nation celebrates Flag Day, the AUS campus community joins in the celebrations by expressing its full support and attending the flag hoisting ceremony on campus. The UAE Flag Day is an opportunity for Emiratis and residents to express unity and loyalty to the UAE

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AUS students participate in IYLC held in South Africa



Four students from the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) participated in the International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC) held September 24–29, 2017, in Cape Town, South Africa. Anas Kamlani, Iman Al-Ali, Nada Nassereddin and Omar Rashwan represented AUS at the conference.

The IYLC is a forum on world politics, international relations and justice with a special focus on different issues related to the African continent. The

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Dean of Students' Column



Dream to reach a goal, work with determination, and success will be yours. AUS students have the best opportunities that nurture both academic and extracurricular advancement. Students that persevered, accepted challenges, managed time and pushed to excel academically as well as engage in student life made it to success.

Our students Reem Al Nuaimi and Alia Al Huzami were elected to serve on the Emirates Youth Council. What an amazing accomplishment and experience! I encourage students to visit circles.youth.gov.ae to understand the opportunities they have to contribute to the progress of

the UAE in Dubai and Sharjah. Our two young leaders have made us proud. Ahmed Azari, a student with strong leadership skills, was selected from an international pool of candidates to join the National Model United Nations (NMUN) staff. He will be the first AUS student to work at NMUN.

From the very beginning of your time at AUS, engage in the activities that interest you. We ask you to fill in a survey to discover your interests. I can assure you that your opportunity for engagement in meaningful activities here at AUS is something that few universities in the region provide. Apply your classroom learning to real activities. Leadership skills advance when you attend a seminar, a workshop, a debate, a sport, run an activity, run an organization or club, work with a team or become a student voice on the Student Council.

You don't need a position to become a leader; leadership qualities are visible through your participation in class or beyond. I would like to see every student participating in student activities. Look around for announcements about activities, approach staff, speak about your ideas, discuss your expectations, know what we offer. Time flies, so don't wait until your senior year to learn about out-of-class programs, events and activities that lie in store for you. Your extracurricular track record will lead to a wonderful out-of-class participation portfolio if you begin early, and you will also have your own success story to share with your peers, family and future employer. Think and act towards a better student life experience and extracurricular portfolio for your personal development.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi
Dean of Students

Students raise awareness about breast cancer

To raise awareness about breast cancer, the AUS Student Council in collaboration with the Community Services Division, the Photography Club and Power Hit Radio, organized a special event, the proceeds of which went to support research.

The three-day event was held in the atrium of the Student Center from October 16 to 18 and included several activities such as a bake sale, a photo booth, henna and games. On the second day, the Indian Cultural Club performed a musical which attracted many students and encouraged them to donate to the cause. A breast cancer survivor, Amira Hussein, also shared her cancer journey with the crowd.



The event proved a big success with its intended outcomes met, awareness raised and financial support provided to the intended charitable organization.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "Awareness campaigns are very

beneficial to our students and it is a good platform to reach out to young people and send an important message across to them. I am sure that many of our students have benefitted from the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign not just in terms of health but also in learning the importance of being socially involved and responsible towards the community."

Commenting on the event, Sameed Khaled, a mechanical engineering major, said: "This week taught us how important it is to spread awareness about breast cancer. This informative week helped the AUS community to get to know more about the effects of breast cancer and how they can be tackled."

From the Provost



Three months ago, I arrived at AUS from the George Washington University Law School, where I had been the Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies. Since then, it has been a whirlwind. No day is typical, except one aspect is constant: attending meetings and activities, including many student-initiated events.

Why AUS? Two factors guided me: the university's reputation for

academic excellence and the diversity of the AUS student body and faculty.

What has surprised me? The students, faculty and staff are devoted to AUS beyond their regular roles or responsibilities. For example, I recently participated in the Relay for Life. Hundreds of members of the AUS community will have made that possible. Earlier that same day, I was at CAAD and saw how two faculty members devoted their Friday to work with students on using scrap wood to build new products. One has to experience the intensity of the energy level at AUS to appreciate it.

The second surprise is the beauty of the campus. I walk to and from work. I cherish the moments as

invariably I meet students and faculty in a more casual environment. I take photos and post them on my Facebook page, so my friends around the world can enjoy the uniqueness of AUS.

My closing words: His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah gave us AUS, a very special place. We are stewards of it. Each day I leave my office for a few minutes and go to a common space. I do my small part to ensure that it is clean. I hope you will join me in respecting the precious gift we hold so dear.

Dr. Susan Karamanian
*Provost and
Chief Academic Officer*

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different sessions of the conference included simulations of the African Union, African Court of Justice and Human Rights, and the South African Parliament in which students played different roles to represent African countries, court representatives and South African political parties to discuss current political and social crises.

During their visit, the students also visited the Castle of Good Hope and



District Six Museum to learn about the colonial history of South Africa and the apartheid government era.

Speaking about his experience, Omar Rashwan, a sophomore finance major, said: "I found the IYLC to be an invigorating experience, not only in terms of the content offered by the conference, but also through the interactions I had with the other delegates, facilitators, guest speakers, and even those outside the

conference. There was never a dull moment; in fact, I found myself almost exhausted at the end of every day from the sheer amount of activities. But I can't think of anything I'd have foregone to have some time off. Overall, the conference was extremely engaging, and the memories we created will be something I will always cherish. I feel that I've also made lasting friendships with my fellow delegates."

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, appreciated the importance of SLP activities and said: "The Student Leadership Program aims to provide students with an extensive knowledge on various political, economic and social issues in the world. IYLC gave students an insight into the African perspective with simulations of various African organizations. Students also learned about the diverse cultures and rich history of Africa generally and South Africa specifically."

OSA organizes weeklong orientation activities to introduce freshmen to campus life

To help freshmen in their transition from high school to university life, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) organized an exciting week of orientation activities for new students from August 18 to 24. The wide-ranging activities helped students get acquainted with various aspects of university life.

Information sessions, off-campus trips to Sharjah and Dubai, an open-house at the Student Center, games and movie nights were part of the many activities held during the weeklong orientation to introduce students to campus life and to answer any questions they might have as they begin their academic journey. New students were also “adopted” by student Peer Leaders who acted as their mentors and guides to help them in their transition.

The new students also got a chance to



meet with many of the university's senior officials including Dr. Susan Karamanian, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, at a welcome dinner which included entertaining cultural performances by the Palestinian, Jordanian and Indian Cultural Clubs, a raffle draw and games.

Welcoming the freshmen to Sharjah and to AUS, Dr. Al Shehhi said:

“We are delighted to have you at AUS. We are proud of our multicultural campus environment. I am certain you will benefit greatly from it. Take advantage of all the extracurricular opportunities offered at AUS. Please remember that you must complement your academic learning with the extracurricular opportunities available to you. We, at OSA, are here to help you realize your full potential so that you may become successful, well-rounded individuals.”

Toy Stories Initiative helps bring smiles to children

The fifth Toy Stories Initiative workshop was held by the Office of Student Affairs' Community Services Division October 24-25. In the workshop, volunteers sewed stuffed toys to be donated to underprivileged children in and outside the UAE. The two-day workshop was attended by more than 150 volunteers who hand-stitched more than 72 toys.

Multiple workshops are held each semester, and this was the first workshop of this semester. This initiative requires no previous sewing experience, as organizing volunteers teach everyone to stitch and help them throughout the process. Volunteers noted that they look forward to the workshop because it is fun to stitch toys with their friends,



and it helps them do something good for underprivileged children.

Volunteer Tehreem Raza said, “Despite knowing how to stitch, I never enjoyed stitching the way I did for Toy Stories. Whether it was the joy of reliving my childhood or the satisfaction of doing

it for a good cause, either way it was a wonderful experience.”

Toy Stories has become a flagship initiative of the Community Services division and its participants aim to continue putting a smile on the faces of children, one toy at a time.

AUS student diversity highlighted at 2017 Club Fair



The multicultural diversity and extracurricular activities for which American University of Sharjah (AUS) is renowned were celebrated at the AUS Fall 2017 Club Fair, held September 18 and 19 at the university's Student Center. The opening of the two-day event drew a large number of students from all across the campus and was attended by AUS Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve, along with other senior university officials.

The Club Fair is held every semester, introducing students, especially freshmen, to the university's diverse ethnic and interest-oriented clubs. The event provides students with an opportunity to pride in the cultural heritage of the many nationalities represented on campus. Known internationally for its diversity, AUS has students from more than 90 nationalities currently enrolled.

Organized by the Office of Student

Affairs (OSA), the Club Fair also allows students to pursue their personal interests outside the classroom, as well as build leadership skills. This semester 29 ethnic clubs, 33 interest-oriented clubs, seven OSA associations and the Student Council participated in the event. This year marked the debut of the Canadian Cultural Club and the Philippine Cultural Club.

Appreciating the students' enthusiasm and hard work in helping organize a successful event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "The colorful and lively atmosphere that you see in the Student Center today is a result of our students' creativity and their enthusiasm to promote their interests. The Club Fair is a pioneer event, attended and supported by a large majority of our student population as it serves as a platform for them to share their interests, socialize with friends and network with their peers. As part of the OSA's efforts to promote

sustainable events, this semester's Club Fair encouraged students to focus on the efficient use of resources. I am delighted to say we attained that goal by keeping costs to a minimum without compromising on the quality of our events in any way. I encourage our students to visit the Club Fair, register with their favorite clubs, and take advantage of the extracurricular opportunities offered by the university."

Baraa El Gamal, a senior student chemical engineering major and the President of the Palestinian Cultural Club, said: "The Club Fair provides us with an opportunity to showcase our different cultures and interests to the AUS community. We are excited to introduce the clubs to new students as we believe that such extracurricular activities are vital to enjoying and benefitting from a full university experience, especially here at AUS."

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and its great leaders. The occasion also provides a platform for all residents to show their feelings towards the flag through the various activities organized across the country on this special day. I thank students from the Emirati Cultural Club for supporting and initiating Flag Day activities on campus."

Speaking on the occasion, Mariam Abdullah, Vice President of Emirati Cultural Club at AUS, said: "UAE Flag Day is a special event celebrated by all Emiratis and other nationalities to show appreciation of Emirati culture and traditions as well as represent our national spirit and pride."

AUS trains 70 students as Peer Leaders



New students enrolling at AUS for the fall semester will benefit from the guidance of 70 carefully selected Peer Leaders, a group of existing students who have undergone the university's Student Leadership Program.

The main role of the Peer Leaders is to make the transition from high school to university easier for incoming AUS students. The leaders are tasked with providing guidance, mentorship and friendship to freshmen, and introducing them to AUS campus life. The program is based on the belief that students benefit from positive role models who demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors necessary for an enjoyable and productive university experience.

The university's Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is responsible for the Student Leadership Program (SLP),

training participants in their responsibilities as leaders throughout the 2017-18 academic year. The training took place on August 17. It emphasized the characteristics the leaders will need to positively influence incoming students. The leaders received a "Welcome Kit" along with words of advice from former Peer Leaders.

Moutaz Slim, a senior student majoring in civil engineering at AUS who undertook the training, said: "Attending both the Peer Leaders Training and orientation was fun and useful experience for me. During the orientation, we had the chance to meet with freshmen and their families, talk to them and answer their questions about the university. This program made me feel more responsible and mature. That's why I highly recommend it to everyone."

Uzma Ahmed Din, a senior AUS student majoring in electrical engineering, said: "It was a great experience as it allowed me to exchange my views and some university success tips to freshmen. Also, I explained the different activities at AUS and how those activities and events can benefit them. They were really excited about everything. I feel very satisfied to be working as a Peer Leader as I was able to help freshmen to give them proper tips for a smooth transition from high school to university life."

AUS prides itself on its diverse, welcoming community, built over its 20-year history. The Peer Leaders Program helps to foster the university's sense of community, and build graduates who are not only academic leaders, but who actively contribute to their wider community.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, AUS Dean of Students, said of the training: "The Peer Leaders Training is a vital aspect of the Peer Leaders Program as it highlights students' responsibilities and goals and allows them to understand the importance of their duties for the entire year. I wish the Peer Leaders batch for AY 2017-18 all the best and I am confident that this is a step forward for them in becoming active members of the AUS community."

Used Book Sale to support charity initiatives

The Fall 2017 Charity Used Book Sale was held by the Community Services division September 5-11. This initiative was started as a means of raising funds for charitable events while simultaneously helping students by selling second-hand books for AED 20 each. Over the semesters, this initiative has gained in popularity and support from students and faculty alike. Books on many subjects were available,

including business, engineering, language, arts and sciences, and design and architecture. More and more volunteers helped out each day of the sale, by either setting up and categorizing the books, or by helping other students find the books they required. The funds raised will be used to support our Hand in Hand initiative, where students rebuild and renovate houses of underprivileged families.



Engineering student represents AUS at the “Young Leaders Sustainable Development Program 2017” at UN Headquarters

Abdulla Albanna, an electrical Engineering major and an active member of the Student Leadership Program (SLP) at American University of Sharjah (AUS), gained first-hand knowledge of how global issues are addressed by leading international organizations when he represented AUS at the Young Leaders Sustainable Development Program held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York August 9-16, 2017. Organized by Sharjah Tatweer Forum, the framework of the program was based on the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

As part of the program, Albanna got a chance to visit and meet with officials from UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee, the World Youth Congress, the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, and Engineers Without Borders and learn from them how international organizations respond to global issues.

Speaking about the enriching experience, Albanna said: “This was a life-changing experience for me and



made me look at the world from a completely new perspective. During the program, we attended the Youth Assembly in the United Nations where the Sustainable Development Goals were addressed. We also had the opportunity to meet with several organizations like UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee and Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, among others. We also attended a dinner hosted by the UAE Mission to the UN and the UAE Consulate. It was great to see first-hand how global issues are addressed and then relating them to the UAE's agenda.”

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, said: “At AUS, we are committed to providing our students with opportunities that broaden their horizons. This program was a wonderful opportunity for Abdulla to network and learn from the very best in the field of sustainable development. The experience had a great impact on him, giving him a better understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN. We are grateful to Sharjah Tatweer Forum for providing our students with this opportunity and look forward to collaborating with them again in the future.”

Volunteers distribute water to municipality workers

The semi-annual water distribution campaign to help the Sharjah Municipality workers of University City beat the heat has become an event AUS student volunteers look forward to. On September 13, in collaboration with the Red Crescent, 35 motivated AUS volunteers rushed to the AUS bus stop to load boxes of 600 water bottles and AUS bags that would be given to the workers who help maintain the greenery of the campus.

At first, the volunteers gave out water and bags to all workers on campus, but they later moved on to University



City workers as well. This gesture of gratitude helped the AUS volunteers bond with all of the workers, from gardeners and cleaners to taxi drivers. The recipients were thankful and happy for the small act of kindness

that AUS volunteers showed towards them in such harsh weather. Over all, it was an eventful day, ending with smiles and laughs between the volunteers and the Sharjah municipality workers.

SLP students take part in Emirates Foundation Youth Summit 2017

Seven students from the AUS Student Leadership Program (SLP) took part in the Emirates Foundation Youth Summit 2017, held on October 31 and November 1 at the Ras Al-Khaimah Exhibition Center.

The Youth Summit was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. The summit, held under the theme, Guide-Empower-Future Leaders, aimed to create a knowledge-sharing platform and an opportunity to learn about the latest thinking in youth empowerment and development. The two-day event consisted of various discussion panels, interview sessions, interactive workshops, and entrepreneurship and volunteering opportunities.

Speaking about the importance of leadership and the role of SLP, Dr.



Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "The significance of this summit emerges from the UAE government's initiative to invest in the youth and develop its leadership skills. Our Student Leadership Program aims to empower students to be future leaders by engaging them in various areas such as innovation, creative science and social entrepreneurship."

Commenting on the experience,

Maryam Ghadi, a design management major, said: "The Youth Summit was an interesting experience that presented young adults with opportunities for internships and how to get involved in the community. It is probably one of the best feelings to know that you have put a smile on the face of a person in need and that's what I hope to be doing in the future."

AUS hosts Al Thiqah Sports Day



The AUS Al Thiqah Sports Day was organized by the Community Services division in collaboration with Al Thiqah Club for Handicapped on October 31.

Volunteers were enthusiastic to play alongside the members of Al Thiqah Club for Handicapped in sports such as table tennis, basketball and football. The players from AUS and Al Thiqah were mixed and divided into two teams, the Red Eagles and the White Lions, and the two teams played

against each other in different sports.

It was exciting to watch the students of AUS and Al Thiqah play together, side by side. The volunteers constantly cheered for the players, and they all had a good time. The football match was also truly memorable. The AUS volunteers and players from Al Thiqah were very happy by the end of the games and celebrated the spirit of sportsmanship together. The event ended with an awards ceremony.

Tanay Nair, an active volunteer who

came up with the idea for this event, shared his experience: "Having the athletes of Al Thiqah come to AUS and play sports is nothing short of a blessing to all of us who had the pleasure of meeting and playing with them. Spending even a few minutes with the wonderful members of Al Thiqah really changes one's perspective of life; they were a pleasure to be with. Such small acts when multiplied by the many students of AUS can really create something beautiful. Let's continue working together to create

AUS holds Happiness Lab to prepare students for future workplace



The Student Leadership Program at American University of Sharjah (AUS) hosted the Happiness Lab on campus, to introduce and prepare students to the opportunities and challenges of the workplace environment, on October 9.

In collaboration with Dubai Silicon Oasis, a total of 65 AUS students from different majors registered to the Happiness Lab to help understand the workplace environment better and learn how to shape their own future.

The Happiness Lab took AUS students through a design thinking process that had five dimensions to it and included, empathizing to understand a situation, defining the needs and problems that need to be resolved,

coming up with ideas on how to do that, solve the issue through a prototype to see the challenges in day to day basis, and sharing with everybody else what they come up with.

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students at AUS, commented on the event and said, "Our students enjoyed the interactive Happiness Lab workshop and were able to express their views on how they foresee future work environments. It was a great opportunity for students to work in teams and present their ideas to the rest of the groups. We thank Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority for bringing this wonderful workshop to AUS and look forward to future collaboration with them.

Huda Al Abbar, Senior Manager- Happiness, Dubai Silicon Oasis, said, "The whole idea is to see how the next generation in university oversee their future work place. The current generation has a different mentality than those who are already employed and today, we try to give the opportunity to understand the most suitable workplace environment for them. For Dubai Silicon Oasis, we aim by 2021 to become the employer of choice and in the top five great places to work for among free zones. In order to achieve that, we need to enhance the environment so we can attract employees."

Nada Nassereddin, an international relations major at AUS and a program participant, said, "The Happiness Lab was an intriguing experience that allowed students and involved members to exchange ideas and thoughts through different activities to better understand the workplace environment. Personally, I really felt that the workshop cultivated my abilities in creativity, leadership and teamwork. Not only did it prove to be intellectually fruitful, but it was socially engaging as well."

Student volunteers help improve spoken Arabic



The Community Services division is conducting weekly sessions called Tips on Arabic Communication—Speaking. Seventeen volunteers are a part of these sessions, which seek to

educate non-Arabic speakers on the Arabic language to teach them basic Arabic phrases. The volunteers of this project have different tasks in the workshop, which include organizing,

content making and teaching, as well as managing media. The organizers are responsible for scheduling the sessions and meetings based on the availability of volunteers and the non-Arabic speakers. Content makers prepare the subject and the content of the week. The volunteers are Arabic-speaking students.

According to Marah Halloum, a junior in finance, "Sharing some knowledge of our language with the people who don't know it is a fun and enriching experience."

AUS Student Council holds Desi Night on campus



The AUS Student Council, in collaboration with the Indian, Pakistani, Drama and Photography Clubs as well as Power Hit Radio, organized Desi Night at the AUS Main Plaza on October 31, 2017. The purpose of this event was to increase

awareness about South Asian cultures among AUS students and the campus community.

Reflecting a Pakistani and Indian bazaar (market) theme, the event had over 500 students in attendance, dressed in traditional attire. It was an

evening of cultural performances, traditional food, games and other activities. Each cultural club decorated its stall as per its own country's traditions.

Commenting on the event, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "The overall enthusiasm was overwhelming and the unity between students from multicultural backgrounds was evident, which was the purpose of such an event."

Qasim Ali, a senior mechanical engineering student and President of the Student Council, said: "The efforts put in by the Student Council members and the volunteers paid off with the event being a resounding success."

AUS hosts Japanese calligraphy artist

Sixty-five students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) attended the second Japanese calligraphy event hosted on campus on October 29 by Maki Egawa, an internationally renowned Japanese calligrapher and artist. The students were able to get a close look at Egawa's work and see calligraphy with authentic Japanese calligraphy tools.

Japanese Consul General Dr. Akima Umezawa attended the event and thanked AUS for collaborating on this event. He spoke to the students about the importance of such experiences and their role in helping develop students' personalities. He also spoke about the popularity of calligraphy in Japanese history as well as in modern art.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "Through the Student Multicultural Learning Program, we offer our students rich, cultural learning



experiences, both on and off campus. A similar event was conducted last year and proved highly successful. We are keen to organize and promote such cultural engagements for our students."

Commenting on the event, Dhouriya Djabri, a design management major, said: "My prior interest in Japanese culture was enhanced by this particular event as I was able to experience authenticity of this art as demonstrated by a certified calligrapher. I appreciate how AUS

invests in promoting cultural diversity, allowing students to be involved in multicultural activities."

Rehan Jamil, a marketing student, said: "This event allowed me to experience and witness the very exciting and unique beauty of Japanese calligraphy."

The event was organized by the Student Multicultural Learning Program of the Office of Student Affairs and the Japanese Cultural Club in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Dubai.

AUS student volunteers renovate a house for an orphan family of nine



More than 200 students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) volunteered to provide help in renovating the house of an underprivileged family of nine. As part of the university's Hand in Hand initiative, the house, located in Sharjah, was renovated over the course of eight days, and handed over to the family on October 3. The project was an initiative of the Community Services division of the AUS Office of Student Affairs, in collaboration with Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation, and is the ninth renovation project completed under the Hand in Hand initiative.

The project was completed after a total of 668 shared hours of hard work

with the volunteers working daily shifts on the renovation of the house, which included renovating four rooms as well as the kitchen and backyard.

The volunteers were actively involved in breaking of the wall, peeling old paint, lining and painting the walls, scraping the windows, changing the false ceiling, selecting and buying furniture, and organization of the place. The volunteers created a playground for the orphans as they bought them games and swings, and put artificial grass.

The official hand-over of the house was attended by Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, who said: "The Hand-in-Hand Project is one of the most important voluntary initiatives by

the university's Community Service Division. This initiative was launched in 2010, targeting homes of orphans and underprivileged families. On September 2017, 200 student volunteers started renovating a house in Sharjah that belonged to an underprivileged family of nine members. The renovation job included painting, mending and plumbing, carpentry, furnishing and decorating the house over a period of eight days."

"The success of this initiative is due to the continuous increase in demand from AUS students to join these programs in addition to our strong partnerships with humanitarian and charitable institutions especially Sharjah Social Empowerment Foundation," added Al Shehhi.

"It is truly heartwarming when one makes a small difference that brings a big smile on not only one person but on a whole family, with just a little time, effort and passion to change the world little by little," said Salma Abdel Fattah, an environmental sciences student at AUS.

Takatof Training at AUS

Student volunteers enjoyed valuable training through the Takatof Volunteering Essentials event held at AUS on October 8, 16 and 24. Conducted by the Emirates Foundation, the sessions were entitled "Volunteering Essential Certificate," "Team Management Skills," and "Protocol and Etiquette."

A representative of the Emirates Foundation provided a two-hour program for each session, which looked at the variables involved in volunteering for any event and how to be as prepared as possible.



Each session was divided into five parts: volunteering basics, working with volunteers, creating a volunteer project plan, reflection (evaluation and assessment) and practical placement. During the interactive portion,

participants were given a project that had to be planned.

Volunteers learned the different concepts involved in volunteering, such as how to make a project successful through proper volunteering, how to manage volunteers through development of task lists and more.

These beneficial sessions are designed to help our volunteers develop their skills and methods to not only become better volunteers, but also a better part of the community.

AUS students hone leadership skills at Al Maktoum College summer program in Scotland

Four students from American University of Sharjah (AUS) successfully completed a four-week program that challenged and expanded their intellectual skills, developed their leadership abilities and provided them with a multicultural understanding. The popular Al Maktoum College Summer School Program, held at Al Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland, July 9 – August 9, provides Emirati women students with an opportunity to explore their leadership potential in a multicultural environment.

Speaking about the diverse



environment, Alreem Alammari, a graduate in management, said: "Al Maktoum College taught me how to work effectively with different people in a multicultural environment. Working with 61 people, each from a different background, was not easy. However, I believe that this was the

main reason I was able to develop and improve my collaboration and problem solving skills. Not only did we learn through the lectures provided but the living and social experience abroad was truly an unforgettable experience."

Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "Al Maktoum College Summer School Program is a great experience for AUS students to develop their leadership skills and cultural understanding. We are very pleased with the collaboration we have with Al Maktoum College and encourage more students to take advantage of such valuable programs."

AUS volunteers participate in Adopt an Orphan for a Day initiative

The Community Services Division organized a special initiative entitled Adopt an Orphan for a Day on November 4. This initiative, which was started in Spring 2017, allows AUS volunteers to spend time with orphans, eat with them, entertain them, and put a smile on their faces. Through this initiative, volunteers spend a day with the children and take them out to a fun location, sharing a day of happiness and enjoyment together.

Sixty five AUS volunteers spent the day with 54 orphans from Sharjah Social Services Department and Human Appeal International at Ski Dubai in the Mall of the Emirates. The students and orphans were accompanied by 11 supervisors from AUS, Sharjah Social Services and Human Appeal International. The children and the volunteers met at AUS and went to the Mall of Emirates together. During the bus ride, the volunteers got to know the child they were assigned to mentor for the day and in no time, the volunteers and children had become



friends and were laughing together.

From helping them put on their thermal jackets at Ski Dubai to tying their shoe laces, the volunteers took care of the children. They went on rides, made snow castles and had snowball fights. The volunteers also gave gifts to the children.

Sharing her experience, Menaka Bhatia, a sophomore economics major and an active volunteer, said: "The day was full of smiles and excitement. After a long, hot summer, these children got to experience the chill at Ski Dubai. It filled my heart with immense joy when we built a snowman. We took the children for lunch and gave them presents. Adopt an Orphan is one of the greatest



experiences I've had since joining AUS. Some kids were very naughty, others were playful but the one thing that they had in common was that all of them were extremely happy throughout the day."

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students, said: "This humanitarian event is very popular among our students and we receive an overwhelming response from our volunteers to participate. We are proud of our students' thoughtfulness and their eagerness to express their love and care for less privileged children. This one-day event is very meaningful and full of fond memories both for our students and the children."

Student Residential Life enjoys an action-packed semester



Student Residential (SRL), working in collaboration with the Student Residential Life Association (SRLA), has had a hectic schedule in the first half of the 2017 fall semester.

There have been a range of activities—from awareness campaigns and orientation functions for freshmen to social and networking events and community service volunteer activities. These have ensured resident students and the wider student body are kept engaged and their varied interests are catered for.

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) orientations have traditionally served as a point of contact between new students and management. Those events targeting resident students were conducted at the beginning of the fall semester with 85 freshmen students involved. The main purpose was to help new students appreciate community living standards and other requirements, as well as to support

them in adapting to their new living environment.

In keeping with the OSA, SRL and SRLA's commitment to facilitate student engagement and development of social skills, promote health and fitness, engender compassion, and avail opportunities for leisure and recreation, a series of events has taken place:

- Six Special Interest Group (SIG) gatherings with themes ranging from food, hygiene and cooking and common majors were held in which 326 students were involved.
- There are ongoing aerobic sessions in the women's dorms regularly attended by some 20 students.
- The students and the Student Residential Life Association have organized several social gatherings and cultural nights.
- During the Eid holiday, a social

gathering was arranged for students who did not travel.

- Finally, a couple of truly exotic activities have also come up this semester, namely:

- an African night, which spotlighted African cultures and values
- the Chinese Culture and Moon Cake event organized by the Asian community and featuring music, Chinese food, henna, Chinese writing, as well as various Chinese traditions

The wide-ranging activities have seen the SRLA, resident assistants (RAs) and other student facilitators working flat out. Their leadership skills and organizing talent are, no doubt, being developed and refined in the process. The student body at large, including resident students, is being kept engaged in and focused on activities that benefit them in many respects.

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.



Salma Abdelfattah, Senior, Environmental Science

American Sign Language (ASL) is not just a language that is limited to the deaf culture, but it is a form of expression and creativity. As ASL requires constant practice, I tend to use it in cases where I can't really be heard, like when I have a sore throat and can't talk, when I am in a crowd or when signing to a friend across class. It doesn't necessarily have to be just between you and a deaf person but it can be for anyone and anywhere.



Al Jawhara Al Juwaied, Junior, International Relations

The experience we had at the Al Maktoum College Summer School was exceptional. We all learned and gained knowledge from the lectures and workshops offered. The program was based on multiculturalism, leadership and management; therefore, there was diversity in classes. Since the program was also offered in the United Kingdom, we were able to learn about the culture and customs.



Sultan Alturifi, Junior, Accounting

A country's flag is a code of independence and dignity. We aim to always see our flag fluttering high in the sky. The Flag Day is a day that unites everyone with pride to appreciate the country that offers a safe, peaceful and loving environment.



Medhat Fares, Freshman, Undeclared Major

So far, I have been enjoying my time at American University of Sharjah. I reside in men's dorm AB, and it has played a pivotal role in my happiness here. Everyone, including students and staff, has made me feel welcomed and comfortable since the first day I arrived.



Syed Shah Mohiuddin Quadri, Senior, Civil Engineering

I joined AUS in Fall 2014. Since then, I've been waiting for a proper track and field pavilion. At last, we inaugurated a world-class track this fall semester. I had goosebumps during the entire inauguration ceremony. The love for sprinting has made track my second home. I cannot express the happiness AUS has provided me, with the inauguration of my second home.



Mera AbouYoussef, Junior, Accounting

I am glad that I participated in the Battle of Majors event; it was an entertaining experience where students from different majors had the opportunity to compete in various activities. These activities gave different students an overview about other majors in their college.



Anas Kamlani, Sophomore, Computer Science

The simulations of the International Youth Leadership Conference in Cape Town really make you aware of the current crisis in the world and help you think like a leader. This experience has made me realize that there is no one correct way of thinking or doing things; rather, each person thinks and acts differently in the same situation and it is the combined effort and exchange of ideas that brings about the best and long-lasting decision in most situations.



Xiaotian Wang, Freshman, Econometrics and Operation Research

I come from Maastricht University, the Netherlands, and am currently enjoying my exchange period at AUS. I am living in the CD dorm, and I like the atmosphere. People are very friendly, and we have all become good friends now.



Nadine Islam Mohamed, Junior, Electrical Engineering

One of the purposes of orientation week is to help new students form new friendships in a new environment. Being part of the orientation team was one of my greatest on-campus experiences. It gave us the opportunity to help new students adjust to this new phase of life by introducing them to the basic university tips, showing them around campus and participating in fun games.



Ahmad Noor, Senior, Accounting

When it was announced that the new pitch would be available this semester, everyone was excited to see what it would be like. The opening ceremony was very well carried out and many people came to show their support. The new pavilion exceeded expectations in every regard. We felt that this was a very good investment by the university, and we were very grateful.



Abdullah Abdeen, Junior, Electrical Engineering

The Japanese Calligraphy Experience was a one-of-a-kind experience; I felt I was drawing rather than writing letters. Japanese calligraphy is an interesting type of art, which never ceases to amaze me.



Hawazen Diab, Junior, Industrial Engineering

Taking part in the Happiness Lab was a great opportunity for me to share my insights on creating a happy workplace and interact with professionals in this field. It also provided me with a creative way to think about my future workplace as a happy and productive place.



Haroun El Mir, Junior, Mechanical Engineering

I am making sure I let off steam by volunteering and running, and I have had a truly blissful experience in the dorms, where any problems are solved right away and events are held every other week. I have received help from my dorm mates, as well as from the wonderful supervisors. The dorms provide a homey atmosphere, where one can relax and have a great time doing the things he loves most.



Abdul Rehman Muhammad Jawed, Freshman, International Relations

Desi Night was a platform for non-Desi AUS community members to come and learn more about Desi culture. The night was full of performances and delicious street food, along with activities and cultural parades. Non-Desi members of the Student Council had the enthusiasm and dedication to learn a mixture of Indian and Pakistani dances and dress traditionally.

The dream of an AUS Sports Pavilion finally realized



September 20 was a memorable day for the AUS sports community when Chancellor Dr. Björn Kjerfve inaugurated the new state-of-the-art Sports Pavilion in the presence of Dr. Susan Karamanian, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Dean of Students. A large number student athletes representing more than 24 sports teams, along with other sports fans, witnessed the prestigious opening ceremony.

Dr. Kjerfve thanked His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah and President of AUS,

for the realization of this long-cherished dream of the AUS community and providing this beautiful new facility.

Following this, the Leopard mascot and the AUS track and field team paraded along the new running track. Afterward, the AUS soccer team played a match in the new stadium against Kazma Sporting Club, Kuwait. AUS overpowered the visitors 3-0 in front of the packed gallery, and the enthusiastic crowd enjoyed every moment of the match.

Dr. Al Shehhi stated that the new Sports Pavilion will help athletes during training and will add a variety of

services to the AUS sports community. "This new facility will be an added attraction and advantage for students to sharpen their athletic skills on their own premises, without depending on off-campus clubs and grounds," she said.

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