BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES NEW MASTER’S IN URBAN PLANNING

The American University of Sharjah (AUS) has been notified that its initial, multi-year self-study plan has been accepted by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the United States. "This important milestone brings AUS closer to full U.S. accreditation," said AUS Chancellor Dr. Winfred L. Thompson. "The accepted plan titled ‘Educational Premise’ in the Arab Gulf: An Assessment of Progress’ outlines how the university will analyze its policies and procedures, make recommendations for improvement, and will show how the institution meets the U.S. standards for accreditation," he said.

In June 2002, the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association voted to admit AUS to candidacy for accreditation, indicating that the Commission’s preliminary review of AUS found the institution eligible for accreditation, the AUS Chancellor said. Chancellor Thompson said that this achievement reflected a commitment by the founder of AUS, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, to create a university that would not only match American standards in its academic programs but would also be organized according to American university principles. He added, "This news is a tribute to the dedicated work of hundreds of faculty, staff and students over the last five years. Attaining full accreditation will be an overarching priority of the university during the coming months.’

Members of the Board reviewed financial statements for the previous fiscal year, and examined operating budget experience so far in the current fiscal year. A modification in the fiscal year was approved to coordinate better the fiscal and academic processes at the university. His Highness expressed satisfaction that the university has operated within the budget projections and continues to attract increasing numbers of well-qualified students from throughout the Emirates and the region.

Finally, the Board approved multi-year contracts for faculty members who have maintained exceptionally high standards in their work. His Highness expressed his appreciation for their contribution to the university. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be scheduled in February or March 2003.

AUS Accreditation Self-Study Plan Accepted

Dr. Sallie Sheppard and Dr. Amer Moustafa, co-chairs of the Self-Study, expressed pride over the favorable comments of the Middle States Commission. "We are proud that AUS was chosen to host the first ERF annual conference ever to be held in the UAE,” stated Salem Youssef Al Qaser, Assistant to the AUS Chancellor for Public Affairs. Other members present were Sir Alec Broers, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge; Mr. Arthur T. Downey, Vice President for Government Affairs of Baker-Hughes International, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Thomas Foley, Chief Executive Officer of Golden Pyramids Plaza, Cairo; Dr. Roderick S. French, Former Chancellor of AUS, now residing in Washington D.C.; Mr. Hamid D. Jafar, Chairman and CEO of Crescent Petroleum Company, Sharjah; Dr. Benjamin Latner, President of American University, Washington D.C.; Mr. Richard Morrison, President BP Venezuela Holdings, Ltd., Caracas; Hon. John R. Petty, Chairman, TECSEC, Vienna, Virginia; and Dr. Winfred L. Thompson, Chancellor of AUS.

AUS HOSTS 9TH ANNUAL ERF CONFERENCE

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, the Ninth Annual Conference of the Economic and Research Forum (ERF) from 26th – 28th October, 2002. The international conference, which was held at the University City Hall in the University City, was attended by over 250 distinguished participants from all around the globe.

"We are proud that AUS was chosen to host the first ERF annual conference ever to be held in the UAE,” stated Salem Youssef Al Qaser, Assistant to the AUS Chancellor for Public Affairs. His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi delivered the opening speech at the ERF Conference, which had presentations and papers on a wide variety of topics such as labour issues, trade issues, finance issues, sectoral and environment issues and macroeconomic issues, delivered throughout its duration.
The aim of the conference was among others.

Sheikh Nahyan, UAE Minister of the Crown Prince of Sharjah, Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, attended the conference titled “A Collective City Professional Network (UCPN) held its first Supreme Council Member and Mohammad Al Qassimi, UAE Minister of Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan was addressing members of the newly elected AUS Student Council who came to greet him on the occasion of their elections. The meeting was attended by the Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, senior Sheikhs and officials. Also present at the meeting were AUS Chancellor Dr. Winfred Thompson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Amr Abdel Hamid, Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Affairs Mr. Salem Yousof Al Qassemi and Dr. Mosa Al Shehi, Dean of Students. Welcoming the students, Sheikh Nahyan stressed the academic and scientific reputation that AUS has acquired worldwide as a result of its uncompromised academic standards as well as its magnificent academic and non-academic facilities, including advanced labs, library, classrooms, sports and other facilities.

Student Council President Mohammed Abdullah Al Thani thanked the AUS President on behalf of the students for his keen interest and support in providing the young generation with quality education and a healthy environment.

The opening ceremony of the conference was held in the University City Hall. The opening ceremony of the conference was also attended by His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Deputy Ruler and Crown Prince of Sharjah, Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as well as Chancellors and faculty members of the University City institutions among others. The aim of the conference was to establish partnerships across local and global interest groups in order to promote research and training for national, regional and international knowledge communities within and outside the Sharjah University City institutions. The event had the active participation of all University City institutions such as the American University of Sharjah, the University of Sharjah, the Higher Colleges of Technology – Sharjah Men’s and Women’s Colleges – and the Police Academy of Science.

In conjunction with the conference, the School of Business and Management (SBM) hosted a panel discussion on “Trust and Privacy in eBusiness” on November 3, in Lecture Hall A of the Main Building. Dr. Zeinab Shalhoub, Associate Dean, SBM, moderated the panel discussions which included presentations by faculty members of AUS, Higher Colleges of Technology, and the University of Sharjah. Meanwhile, another UCPN panel discussion, “Sustainable Cultural Development in the UAE,” was hosted by the School of Architecture and Design (SA&D) in Lecture Hall A1-102 on the same day. Dr. Samia Rab was the AUS contact person appointed for this event. Presentations at the event included those given by University City faculty members as well as Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Mussallam, Director of Heritage, Sharjah.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the University City Professional Network (UCPN) held its first conference titled ‘A Collective Mind for a Collective Future’ at the University City Hall.

The opening ceremony of the conference was also attended by His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Deputy Ruler and Crown Prince of Sharjah, Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as well as Chancellors and faculty members of the University City institutions among others. The aim of the conference was to establish partnerships across local and global interest groups in order to promote research and training for national, regional and international knowledge communities within and outside the Sharjah University City institutions. The event had the active participation of all University City institutions such as the American University of Sharjah, the University of Sharjah, the Higher Colleges of Technology – Sharjah Men’s and Women’s Colleges – and the Police Academy of Science.

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The American University of Sharjah successfully hosted a conference entitled "Intellectual Property and Developing Technology" on September 30 and October 1, 2002, in the Main Auditorium on campus. Sheikh Tarig Bin Faisal Al Qassemi, Chairman of the Sharjah Economic Development Department, addressed the conference on the opening day. The two-day event was the first of its kind ever to be held in the emirate.

The Conference focused on how patents, trademarks and copyrights (collectively referred to as “intellectual property” in law) are developed as part of a business’s assets and how these assets are protected and licensed, both locally and internationally, among other related topics. Distinguished international as well as local industry and civic leaders, from renowned international and regional organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Business Software Alliance, the Licensing Executive Society, the Pharmaceutical Research Industry Group of Companies – Gulf (PhRMAG), and the Arabian Anti-Piracy Alliance, Al Tamimi & Company and AUS, addressed these issues at the Conference.

The AUS Physics Department conducted a training workshop for all the Physics supervisors and head teachers from the Ministry of Education (MOE). The workshop was held in the Main Building between 8 and 10 October. The opening session of the workshop was attended by Dr. Obaid Al-Muhairi, head of the MOE Center of Curricula and Instructional Materials Development as well as by Dr. Robert Cook, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Sheikh Saif Al Shamesi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Programmes and Curricula, attended the closing session of the workshop.

About 30 participants attended the presentations and discussion sessions held during the three-day workshop, which was the result of a nine-month long collaboration between the AUS Physics Department and the MOE to produce the textbook and instructor’s manual for the new Physics curriculum of the Grade-11 literary system. Part One, of both the textbook and the instructor’s manual, has been produced and is being used in all public schools since September 2002. The workshop was deemed necessary because of the novelty and originality of this new curriculum, and due to the non-traditional approach adopted in the textbook.

During the workshop, all aspects of the curriculum were reviewed, explained and discussed by all parties participating in its implementation. Participants also received additional materials, filled out questionnaires, and provided feedback and recommendations regarding the subsequent completion of the project.

The AUS team on this collaborative project consisted of Dr. Nidhal Guessoum (Chair of the Physics Department, AUS, as well as of the joint commission), Dr. Said Sakhi, and Pr. Ira Siry.

Sudanese Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Mubarak Al Majdoob, hailed the efforts exerted by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member, Ruler of Sharjah and President of the American University of Sharjah (AUS) towards the development of education in the country.

"It is not only the marvelous AUS facilities that deserve praise but also the most advanced equipment, teaching aids and laboratories that AUS is equipped with," he said during his visit to AUS in October. Mr. Salem Yousef Al Qassemi, Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Affairs, said the visiting Sudanese Minister of Higher Education, met with AUS Chancellor Dr. Winfred Thompson, and toured the campus.

"Dr. Thompson briefed the Sudanese Minister on the developments at the university such as the increase in numbers of students, faculty and staff and expansions in facilities, equipment and teaching aids," Mr. Al Qassemi said.

The Sudanese Minister was accompanied by a team comprising Mr. Yousif Eld-Kordofani, the Sudanese Consul in the UAE and Dr. Osman Taha Mohammad, the Dean of the College of Medicine at Al Jazirah University in Sudan.
AUS ENROLLS LARGEST FRESHMEN CLASS IN HISTORY

Dr. Winfred Thompson, Chancellor of AUS, held a press conference on September 3rd, to brief members of the media about the new Fall enrollment figures. The press conference was held in the Faculty Senate room in the Main Building. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Amr Abdel-Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Mr. Salem Al Qaseer, Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Affairs, Dr. Moosa Al Shehhi, Dean of Student Affairs, and Mr. Ali Shuhaimy, Director of Admissions.

Chancellor Thompson informed the gathering that this Fall AUS had enrolled the largest freshman class in its history, while increasing its student selectivity criteria. Approximately 900 new students started classes this semester, compared to 780 last Fall. The total student body at the university this Fall, including graduate students, is 3,133. The new undergraduate students comprise of 60% men and 40% women while the student body as a whole is composed of approximately 45% women and 55% men.

The qualifications of incoming students also continued to be very strong. Almost one third of the new students had high school averages of 90% and above. Seventy three per cent of the new students achieved the required TOEFL score for matriculation. This is significantly better than last year’s figure of approximately 66%.

Of the total new students, 124 are Emirati nationals. The biggest increase this Fall was in the number of students coming directly from other countries to study at AUS. These students now constitute 37% of the student body. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the largest sources of new students from other countries.

There are approximately 1,410 students in residence on campus in the dormitories as compared to 1,080 last Fall. New dormitories have been added to accommodate this large increase. This year over 44% of the students are receiving some form of financial assistance either from university funds or from external sponsors.

The number of authorized full time faculty positions for this academic year has also increased to 207 as compared to 180 last year. “The development of the campus facilities, the assembly of outstanding faculty and staff, and the recruitment of such a promising student body are remarkable, almost unprecedented achievements in such a short period of time,” said Dr. Thompson.

“It was the original vision of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi that a fine university on the American model would both serve the educational requirements of young people in the Emirates and attract bright students from abroad. His vision is now a reality,” he added. AUS now boasts students from 62 countries.

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR INAUGURATES ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT

A fascinating exhibition entitled “Transforming, Interpreting & Dwelling in Place: Contemporary Architecture in Australia” was inaugurated by His Excellency Noel Campbell, the Australian Ambassador to the UAE, at the Main Gallery of the School of Architecture and Design (SAD), on November 2.

The exhibition was curated by Dr. Samia Rab, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Heritage Management. Dr. Winfred Thompson, Chancellor of AUS, and Dr. Martin Giurgola, Dean of SAD, along with other senior officials of the university, students, staff, and members of the public were present on the occasion.

The exhibition drew upon four contemporary architectural projects from Australia by architects Gregory Burgess, Glenn Murcutt, and Ronald Giurgola. Representative images and drawings of four architectural projects were selected for the exhibit. These were the Uluru Kata-Tjuta Cultural Center near Ayers Rock, the Brumbuk Cultural Center in Western Victoria, the Parliament Building in Canberra, and the Arthur Boyd Art Education Center in Riversdale, near the town of Nowra, on the coast of New South Wales.

These buildings constitute examples from Australia of thoughtful and imaginatively creative attempts to understand the motivations for the varied local characteristics of architecture. The exhibit also portrayed the selected projects under three themes: Interpreting Place, Transforming Place, and Dwelling in Place.

The exhibition aimed at exploring the critical role of memory in the interaction of an individual, a group, or a nation to particular sites. The projects displayed were a reflection of a multi-faceted and diverse state of a nation. They celebrated the knowledge of the Aboriginals, the acceptance of Australia’s colonial history, as well as the challenge faced in assimilating within the indigenous natural environment.

Dr. Samia Rab had earlier delivered the Curator’s Lecture on October 29, as a precursor to the exhibition.

The exhibition was held in cooperation with the Australian Embassy, Abu Dhabi, and the Heritage Management Program at AUS. It was sponsored by the Faculty Research Grant Award 2003 at AUS and by the Kenneth F. Brown Award Program 1995-2000, School of Architecture at the University of Hawaii.

AUS APPOINTS NEW HR DIRECTOR

The American University of Sharjah has appointed Mr. Ronald B. McNeill as the new Director of its Human Resource Services Department.

Mr. McNeill brings a strong leadership and management background and extensive work experience in Human Resources Management that were developed through two decades of human resources experience, seven of which in the Gulf region.

Welcoming the appointment, Mr. George DeBin, AUS Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs said, “It is a sign of the growing reputation of AUS that a man of this caliber has accepted an appointment to our staff.”

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. McNeill said, “Our Human Resources team will strive to be an integral participant in the University’s implementation of its strategies and objectives.

Mr. McNeill has an MBA from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He graduated with a BS degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

AUS CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

A successful blood donation campaign was conducted on campus on October 15, eliciting a good response from students, faculty and staff.

The campaign, the fifth regular conducted, was organized by the AUS Health Center, Student Affairs in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Health.

Previous campaigns on campus were so successful that AUS was selected to be among a group of distinguished organizations that have been honored for their efforts in this field.

A wide spectrum of AUS community members could be seen at the Health Center parking lot, participating in the campaign. A strong sense of genuine goodwill and commitment to the drive could be seen throughout the crowd assembled there.

“When no one, by any means, can afford to see someone need to donate blood for me, so I feel I must do all I can do to help them today,” said a student donor.

PRESENTATION ON KABUL CITY

Professor Medhi Sabet focused on some of the crucial planning and re-construction issues in Afghanistan during his engaging presentation entitled ‘Kabul…City after Shock’. The presentation, which was held on November 5th in the SAD building, was based on Professor Sabet’s recent trip to Afghanistan.
AUS holds 5th Annual Honors Convocation

The Fifth Annual Honors Convocation, one of the most prestigious and important events on the AUS calendar, was held on October 30, in the Main Auditorium of the Main Building.

The ceremony saw 254 outstanding AUS students being honored at the event. These students were on the Dean’s List during either the Fall or Spring semesters of the 2001-2002 academic year. All the students had a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher and were in the top 10% of their College/School.

Also at the Convocation, the names of the winners of the National Bank of Sharjah Student Research Awards were announced. These were:

- **1st Place**: Salam Sobhi Abdullah, Civil Engineering. Project title: Potential Use of Recycled Concrete in the UAE.
- **2nd Place**: Mohammed Tayeb Gha, Electrical Engineering. Project title: Microwave Far-Field Detection and Evaluation of Disbonds and Cracks in Concrete Structures.
- **3rd Place**: Abdulla Al-Shamsi and Amin Al-Saden, Architecture. Project title: Restoring and Re-presenting the CW Fort.

Mr. Hamdi A. Osman, Vice President Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Sub-Sahara Africa, Federal Express International Inc., gave the Convocation address on the occasion.

The well-attended ceremony was a glittering event that celebrated the successes and achievements of the students.

AUS Launches Its Latest Graduate Program

AUS has launched its latest graduate degree program, the Master of Arts Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA TESOL). This program is organized and run by the Department of English, Mass Communications and Translation, in the College of Arts and Sciences, and commences classes this coming spring semester, starting in January 2003.

The aim of the MA TESOL is to provide a comprehensive program of study and practical opportunities at an advanced level to both experienced and novice English language teachers in the Emirates and beyond.

The program’s mission is to provide English language graduates and teachers with practical, theoretical, and critical knowledge of language learning models and teaching methodologies at different levels for English instruction, primarily for schools throughout the Gulf region. The core courses of the program are designed to lead to a comprehensive understanding of the forms and functions of English and relate pedagogical theories to English language teaching.

This goal is reinforced by supervised teaching practice in real world classrooms.

With the MA TESOL program all set to welcome its first batch of students in January next year, AUS has added another popular and much required program to its growing roster of graduate programs in various disciplines.

AUS holds its latest Mesm2002 Symposium on Simulation and Modelling (MESM2002) from September 28-30. The three-day event was held in the Main Auditorium on campus.

Starting with MESM’99 which was held in Jordan, the event has gone from strength to strength over the following years. One of the main goals of the symposium was to bring people from various parts of the Middle East in contact with colleagues working in modeling and simulation from around the world. The other aim was to establish a local chapter of the SIMS in the Middle East.

This year’s conference was sponsored by De Montfort University (UK) as well as by IEEE UKRI-SPC.
At the invitation of Guangzhou University, Professor Basil Hatim read a plenary paper at the International Conference on Discourse and the Translator: Prospects & Challenges, held in Guangzhou, China, earlier this summer. Dr. Hatim was also invited to give a plenary presentation at a conference held at Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece. The conference, on ‘Translation in the XXI Century’, was organized by the Greek Applied Linguistics Association. From October 16-18, Professor Hatim gave a plenary presentation at Bilkent University’s International Conference on Translation Studies in the New Millennium, in Ankara, Turkey.

Dr. Mohamed Zayani, Associate Professor at the Department of English, Mass Communication and Translation, presented a paper entitled “The Aberration of Language” at the 22nd Congress of the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, hosted by Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference was held from 18-23 August, 2002, and had “Re-Imagining Language and Literature for the Twenty First Century” as its theme.

More recently, Dr. Zayani, gave a talk at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES). The event was hosted by the University of Mainz in Germany. Dr. Zayani’s talk came as a result of an invitation extended to him by the Social Science Research Council. The panel was on the theme of “Re-conceptualizing the Public Sphere in the Middle East and North Africa.”

The Congress, which is held every five years, was attended by close to 2000 scholars and had about 1100 individual presentations, panels, workshops, symposia, and exhibitions. The climax of the WOCMES was the holding of a special award celebration for Edward W. Said for his outstanding contribution to Middle Eastern studies. Last month, Dr. Mohamed Zayani was invited by the University of Cambridge to participate in a conference entitled “The Arab Satellite Broadcasting in the Age of Globalization: Furthering Integration or Enhancing Fragmentation in the Arab World.” The conference was hosted by the Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge, England.

Dr. Zayani served as the main speaker for a panel on the impact of satellite broadcasting on regional politics. The conference saw the participation of such media scholars as Jon Alterman, Naomi Salek, Mohamed Ayish, and Abdulkader Tash and such journalists and media figures as Faisal Al Kasim, Jasim Al Azzawi, and Jihad Al Khater. The keynote speaker was Mr. Amer Moussa, the Secretary General of the Arab League. The contributions to this conference will be published in an edited volume early next year by Routledge.

Dr. Amer Moustafo, Associate Professor of Architecture, has been appointed as the Director of the new Institute for Urban and Regional Planning and Design (IURPD), which is jointly sponsored by the School of Architecture and Design and the School of Engineering. After several months of planning, the IURPD began offering graduate courses in Urban Planning in February this year. The development of offerings in the IURPD, which will move from certificate to Master’s degree, will merge the requirements of a quality graduate program with academic talent on hand and the planning needs of local governments. Dr. Moustafo has been involved with the IURPD since its inception, and will continue to provide the leadership necessary to move the program to the graduate level.

Dr. Nadia Alhasani, associate professor of architecture, delivered a keynote lecture entitled “Compressed Tension: Redefining Desert Living,” at the Design for Desert Living II Conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in the US. Dr. Alhasani had been invited by the American Institute of Architects (AIA)-Arizona Chapter.

The conference, which was sponsored by Arizona State University’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design, the American Institute of Architects, and the Graham Foundation, was held between August 21-24.

Dr. Alhasani also participated in delivering a student competition to design a Federal Museum in downtown Phoenix. Judging members included local and international practitioners.

Closer to home, Dr. Alhasani, was invited to present the opening remarks at a Seminar on the Effect of Using Thermal Insulation Materials & Systems on the Selection of Appropriate Air-Conditioning Equipment. The seminar, which was organized by Dubai Municipality, was held at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. She was also invited to deliver two presentations at an educational symposium sponsored by Ajman University at its Abu Dhabi Campus. The symposium focused on the Role of Academic Institutions in Reconciling Architectural Identity and Building Development in Light of the Global Reality. The first presentation discussed the need to move the program to the Architectural Profession.”

Dr. Zeinab Karake-Shalhoub, Assoc. Dean and Acting Chair of MIS, at the School of Business and Management (SBM), released this month a first of its kind book on E-Commerce. The book, entitled “Trust and Loyalty in Electronic Commerce – An Agency Theory Perspective” was published by Quorum Books on December 1, 2002. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to an institute of scientific research in the UAE.

In this, her latest publication, Dr. Karake-Shalhoub uses agency theory to ground her empirical analysis of more than 100 e-commerce firms. She identifies several trust-building measures including privacy statements, the existence of a chief privacy officer, and a trusted third-party seal of approval; companies are then evaluated based on an index of those trust builders. The timeliness of this study – the first of its kind – and its unique agency theory perspective allow for an analysis of the appropriateness of e-business moving from traditional applications to the new breed of integrated e-commerce architectures. Dr. Karake-Shalhoub answers these and other pressing questions for senior and mid-level managers and strategic planners, corporate executives charged with incorporating an e-commerce strategy into their long-range plans, chief privacy officers, regulatory policymakers, and students of e-commerce, customer relationship management and online marketing.

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The School of Architecture and Design recently received a generous donation of 26 films on contemporary architecture originating in Switzerland. The Architecture faculty has welcomed this new addition. In order to make the films accessible to a wider audience, a screening has been added to the University Library Collection.
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS

Dr. Ahmad Ali Hammad, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, spent 11 weeks this summer at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, doing research on studying and evaluating advanced treatment technologies for wastewater. His research work, conducted in tandem with Ryerson faculty members, is part of a growing collaborative relationship between AUS and Ryerson University.

Ryerson has donated pilot plant and bench scale equipment worth over US$60,000 to AUS as a first step towards conducting and expanding collaborative research in the future. Dr. Hammad was also able to utilize the US$55,000 research grant he received from Schlumberger last year to purchase a gas chromatograph with accessories and spares from AstraZeneca. Dr. Mohammad Fayad of Ryerson University assisted Dr. Hammad in the purchase of this equipment which is worth well over US$40,000. This equipment will be placed in the chemical environmental and process research laboratory that is currently under development in the Chemical Engineering program at AUS.

The AUS library was also fortunate to receive a donation from Pioneer Chemicals of Canada of a series of more than 20 important journals which will aid students and faculty in chemical and environmental research activities.

SOE STUDENTS ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

Several outstanding students of the School of Engineering (SOE) have been recognized internationally for the quality of their work. The recognition comes in the form of international awards, scholarships, paper presentations and publications, and support from major governmental bodies.

Mohammed Al-Qedrah, a senior electrical engineering major at the SOE, is one of only eight students selected worldwide to receive an international research scholarship from the prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) in the United States. With this win, AUS becomes the only university to have won this award three years in a row (AUS students Wael Saleh andAws Khanfar having won it in 2000 and 2001 respectively). Mohammed’s proposal, titled “Analysis of the Near-Field Pattern including Higher-Order Modes of an Open Ended Rectangular Waveguide Developed for Microwave Imaging”, won over scores of entries submitted to the competition from around the world. He will be conducting his research under the guidance of Dr. Nasser Qaddouni, and won him an $800 cash honorarium and certificate, $500 cash honorarium for his Academic Department and a certificate, and $2000 to attend the 2002 Industry Applications Student Design Contest (IAS Conference) which was held in Pittsburgh, USA, from October 13-17, 2002.

Mohammed also teamed up with Dr. Nasser Qaddouni to present a paper at the 11th International Symposium on Nondestructive Characterization of Materials, held in Berlin, Germany, in June, 2002. The title of the publication was “Microwave Far-Field Detection and Evaluation of Disbonds and Cracks in Concrete Structures”.

Ramzi Al-Azeb, another senior electrical engineering student at AUS, has been granted a full M.Sc. Scholarship by Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Ramzi’s scholarship will commence from January 2003. His senior design project, supervised by Professor Mohamed El-Tarhuni, is titled “Combined OFDM and Smart Antennas for High Speed Wireless Communications”.

M.Sc. thesis will be done in a related topic under the supervision of Dr. Ali Ghareb.

AUS students Lamia Al Shamsi, Reem Al Zourini, and Mohammed Al-Shaikh, working on a multidisciplinary senior project with civil engineering, have received a strong pledge of support from the Sharjah Municipality for their project. In addition, their work has also been accepted for publication in Rebe 2002 Conference.

SOE HOLDS NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The School of Engineering (SOE) held its National Advisory Council meeting on October 29, in the Engineering Building.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Mike Cummings, Petrofac International, Mr. Wafi Asaya, Sun Construction, Mr. David Confer, Halliburton, Mr. David E. Mills, BP Amoco, Mr. Mahmoud Khalifa, Arch. Acad. Office, Mr. Obeid Al Tuniji, Sharjah Municipality (Planning and Survey) and senior members of AUS including Dr. Winfred Thompson, Chancellor, Dr. Amir Abdel-Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Leland Blank, Dean of the School of Engineering.

Activities and future plans of the School, along with a wide range of issues, were discussed during the meeting. The participants were informed that the current student and faculty strength of the SOE stood at 843 and 30 respectively; of the total number of students enrolled, 790 were undergraduate while 53 were graduate students.

Computer Engineering had the most enrollments with 310 students, followed by Electrical and Electronic Engineering with 210, Chemical Engineering with 192, Civil Engineering with 82, Mechanical Engineering with 83, and Mechanical Engineering with 78. Seventeen students were undecided and had not opted for a program as yet.

Forty one students were enrolled in the Graduate Programs in the School, with 27 studying Mechatronics Engineering and 14 enrolled in the Engineering Systems & Management (ESM) program.

Participants were also made aware of the new Memoranda of Understanding signed by the SOE with the UAE Contractor’s Association of Engineers, and the Texas A&M University System, in the USA, as well as of the School’s ongoing partnerships with prominent corporations and government organizations such as Cisco, Schlumberger, Petrofac, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Jebel Ali Port Authority, Sharjah Municipality, and Pro-Engineer Infocad.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNED

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the School of Engineering and the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University this summer.

This MOA is an expanded version of an earlier MOA signed between the two universities in 1998 and will have a duration of five years. The MOA is aimed at providing mutual benefit and co-operation between the two institutions in various fields as well as identifying special areas of exchange such as research and teaching programs as well as foster the exchange of qualified students in the other’s academic programs.

Dr. Leland Blank, Dean of the School of Engineering, has been assigned as the contact person from the AUS while Dr. Glen N. Williams, Assistant Dean, College of Engineering is the Texas A&M University representative.

AUS SIGNS MOU WITH UAE SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between AUS and the UAE Society of Engineers (SOE) on October 9 at the main meeting room on the ground floor of the Main Building.

The aim of the MOU is to recognize and promote closer relations between the two organizations in all fields of engineering and development. Under this MOU both SOE and AUS will take appropriate measures to increase the level of cooperation in all areas of engineering that are of common interest. The MOU has a duration of five years from the date of signing and may be extended upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Chancellor Winfred L. Thompson and Eng. Ahmad M. Al-Marzouei, Chairman of SOE, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations. Dr. Leland Blank, Dean of the School of Engineering, and Dr. Khalid Al-Hassani, Vice Chairman, SOE, have been designated as contact individuals for the co-operative activities and programs.
IEP STUDENTS GAIN HONOR RECOGNITION

Fifty one outstanding students of the Intensive English Program (IEP) were recognized at the Fall 2002 Honors Ceremony held in the Main Auditorium on October 29.

The event celebrated the achievements of those full-time students enrolled in the IEP who had achieved a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 or higher. These students also had no failing grades in any of their courses, no incomplete grades, and had no disciplinary action registered against them.

Speaking on the occasion, Chancellor Winfred L. Thompson congratulated the students on their performance and appreciated the dedication shown by them towards attaining honors. The “most important part of language learning is dedication on the part of the student,” he said. “I would like to congratulate all the students, and give special kudos to those who have achieved the highest GPA.”

The ceremony, which was conducted by Deborah Wilson of the IEP, was also attended by other senior AUS officials including Dr. Amer Abdel-Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Cook, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. John Shannon, Director of IEP, as well as by faculty members and students.

AUS STUDENTS ATTEND TOP GLOBAL MEET

Two students from the School of Business and Management (SBM) were among 77 students from 36 countries who participated in the annual Global Village for future leaders of Business and Industry, held at Lehigh University’s Iacocca Institute in the USA.

SBM students Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani and Anshul Siroya attended the six-week professional program conducted by top-level international businesses such as AT&T, Chase, General Electric, General Motors, Holiday Inn, Kraft, Lucent Technologies, MasterCard, Ernst & Young, Harley Davidson, Unisys, and America Online.

The program, hosted by Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, aimed at providing exceptional business students the opportunity to interact with their global peers and understand the rapidly changing global conditions that affect the business world.

For Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, the Global Village was the “best place to learn about other cultures and how they did business. I learned how difficult it is to communicate your ideas and how it varies depending on people’s cultural background.”

Anshul Siroya described his stint as an “eye-opening” experience to various business ethics and cultural values, customs and opportunities in different parts of the world.

LEOPARDS GIVE CHASE!

The AUS team basketball had won first place at the Inspotz Sports Festival held on September 26 in Dubai. The AUS table tennis team was declared the runner-up while the cricket team managed to reach the semi-final stage of the competition.

In the Skyline Cricket Cup, the Leopards achieved a creditable quarter final position.

As an active member of the Higher Education Sports Federation (HESF), the AUS takes an active part in all HESF tournaments. This semester too, the Leopards won laurels for their performances in many HESF competitions.

The Men’s team won first place in the Men’s swimming competition. In the Men’s Indoor Soccer Tournament, the AUS team was declared the runners-up after losing an exciting final to the Dubai Police Academy. The Leopards won second place in the Men’s track and field competition as well as in the women’s volleyball, table tennis, and chess tournaments. In the Men’s volleyball tournament, the AUS team reached the quarter final stage.

Meanwhile, the AUS Athletics Department was selected by the Government of Sharjah as its organizing partner in the Sharjah Ramadan Festival Intercollegiate Tournament. Mr. Samuel Al Qaseer was appointed Committee Chairman of Universities Sports Activities and Mr. Muneeb Taha, the General Convenor. The AUS teams participated in all three events at the tournament, namely, fencing, football and beach volleyball.

SA&D EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHTS TOP INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES

An exhibition entitled ‘In Pursuit of Excellence: Architecture and the Sustainability Challenge Competition’ was held at the School of Architecture and Design (SA&D) on September 24, 2002.

The exhibition, which was held in the Main Gallery of SA&D, comprised of the work of the winners and finalists of the First Sharjah Excellence in Architecture Competition held by AUS earlier this year. With a total of US$ 12,000 allocated as prize awards for the winners, the competition attracted over 140 entries from students of architecture spread across Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America.

The competition was intended to elicit architecture and urban design solutions for a growing community of 2000 to 5000 people and offered participants two site options. The first option had a fixed location in Sharjah: an urban block behind Sharjah’s Women’s Club between Corniche Road and Al-Ooraa Street. The second option was open so that participants could choose any site in their home country to design their housing community. The award prizes were split equally between the two options. One-third of the total entries chose to participate through the first option, the Sharjah site, and two-thirds opted for the open, second site option.

The winners of each of the two options were:

Option I (Sharjah, UAE site)

First Prize:
Carlos Abadia Suanchez-Carpengra and Ernesto Sierra Diaz from Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.

Second Prize:
Laura Ridgeway, Zack Spencer, and Lance Ott from Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA.

Third Prize:
Patty Flores, Sean Guess, Andrea Kauffman, and Justin Smith from Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA.

Option II (Open Site)

First Prize:
Jean-Louis Fabry and Cristelle Esperet from Ecole d’Architecture Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier, France.

Second Prize:
Roque Lopez Pantoja, Giuseppe Francesco Rociola, Mohamed Saidi, and Stefania Tatoe from Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy.

Third Prize:
Abdelazziz Sahab Al-Mazedi, Ali Naser Al-Qallaf, Hussain Nader Moussa, and Mohammed Bader Hassan from Kuwait University, Kuwait.

Honorable Mention:
Pham Thanh Tuan and Ha Tien Van from Hanoi Architectural University, Hanoi, Vietnam.

CEC HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

His Excellency Sheikh Tarq Bin Faisal Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Economic Development Department, attended the graduation ceremony of the Continuing Education Center (CEC), held on October 16 at Lecture Hall A in the Main Building.

The graduation ceremony, which was held especially for about 60 of CEC’s Professional Certificate and Executive Development Program graduates, was also attended by the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor, and other senior officials of AUS.

SEMINAR HELD ON AMERICAN EDUCATION

A seminar entitled “What is an American University – The American Model of Education in the Arab Region: Issues and Challenges” was held on November 4, in the Main Building.

The seminar highlighted important issues regarding implementation of the American model of education in the region. It was addressed by three guest speakers:

- Professor Yehia El Ezabi: Director of the English Language Institute, American University of Cairo, Egypt.
- Professor Larry Lee: Dean of the School of Information Systems, Zayed University, UAE.
- Professor Nadia Al-Hassani: Chair of Architecture, American University of Sharjah.

This seminar was held by the AUS in collaboration with AAUP@AUS, the AUS chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).
NEW FACULTY

A look at some of the new faculty members at AUS

SHOAIB NABI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DESIGN, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Professor Nabi worked as a Multimedia Graphic Designer for Microsoft in the San Francisco Bay Area, prior to joining the School of Architecture & Design at AUS. His primary responsibilities at Microsoft were to help define the look and feel for the MSN TV service, develop product branding and implement design standards throughout all MSN TV services.

In conjunction with his full time position at Microsoft, Professor Nabi was also adjunct faculty and thesis advisor for the graduate and undergraduate programs at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. He taught classes on Corporate Identity, Intercultural Design and initiated a program to bring non-profit organizations to work with graphic design students on design projects which became published portfolio pieces.

GISELA LOEHELIN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Dr. Gisela Loehlein received a PhD in Architecture from the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, in 2001 and a B.Eng. Hons in Architectural Engineering from the School of Architecture, University of Wales, in 1995. Dr. Loehlein taught at the Welsh School of Architecture in the UK between 1995-2000, where she led research seminars and colloquia. She also taught at the Schools of Architecture and Design at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand from 1998-1999 followed by a research fellowship in 2001 on modern New Zealand architecture. In 2002, Dr. Loehlein undertook research into new trends of building construction at the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany. Her focus lies in the integration and relationship of tectonics in architectural design.

JEAN BOISVERT, INSTRUCTOR OF MARKETING, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Mr. Boisvert holds a BBA in Marketing Management from the University of Quebec, and an M.Sc. in Marketing Research from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC-Montreal). He is currently a Ph.D candidate in Marketing, at Sherbrooke University in Canada.

He has extensive experience in marketing and research having spent 14 years as a marketing research analyst, manager, and then director in corporations and organizations such as Molson Breweries, Bombardier Inc., Export Development Corporation, among others.

Since 1989, he has taught over 76 marketing courses on Marketing Management, Marketing Research, Consumer Behavior, Market Analysis, and New Product Development at HEC-Montreal, Université de Sherbrooke, Bishop’s University in Lennoxville, Concordia University in Montreal, University of Quebec in Hull and Algonquin College in Ottawa. He has also been a guess speaker at more than 16 professional and academic conferences.

GHASSAN QADAH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Ghassan Qadah earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Ain-Shams University, Egypt, and a M.Sc. and Ph.D in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor, in 1977 and 1983 respectively.

Dr. Qadah served on the faculty of the Computer Engineering Department at Northwestern University from 1983-1991, as well as the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich from 1985 to 1986. He worked with AT&T and later with Lucent Technologies Bell Labs as a member of technical staff between 1991 and 1997.

From 1998 through till 2001, Dr. Qadah was deputed as a Senior Technology Advisor to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on a World Bank-supported program. He was responsible for planning, setting up and managing the information technology infrastructure of the Authority, including the registration and operation of the Palestinian Top-level domain (ps), the design and implementation of a Government-wide Intranet and the setup and operation of an IT training institute for the benefit of the Palestinian employees.

Dr. Qadah has extensive academic and industrial experience in information technology, serial/parallel database systems, software engineering and computer networks. He has supervised over 30 Master’s and Ph.D level students. Dr. Qadah holds a patent for his work in VOIP at Lucent’s Bell Labs. He has presented a number of tutorials worldwide and has published over 26 quality papers in prestigious computer science and engineering journals and conference proceedings.