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A Message from the President

Dear friends of AURAK,

It is my honor to dedicate this annual report to each of you. The achievements outlined herein are the result of your commitment to making AURAK one of the leading universities in the region. This academic year AURAK has made a positive difference, not only in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, but also in the United Arab Emirates as a whole.

I thank our many supporters: the Board of Trustees, the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) from the Ministry of Higher Education, our faculty, staff, students, and other partners, for helping AURAK contribute to the community of which we are all a part. AURAK’s continued success cannot be achieved without your tremendous enthusiasm, your endless optimism and your tireless commitment to serving and to improving our University.

Our achievements over the 2015-2014 academic year are varied, including, but not limited to:

• Full accreditation of the Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering and Bachelor of Business Administration programs by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
• Student enrollment increased by approximately twenty percent (20%).
• Learning resources, including laboratories, IT equipment and the library, were upgraded and expanded significantly.
• Memoranda of Understanding signed with several international institutions of higher education, including Virginia State University, Appalachian State University, and Bowling Green State University.
• Memoranda of Understanding with local governmental and private/public industrial sectors increased by 13%.
• Study abroad opportunities are now being provided to our students.
• Seventy-six students graduated - an increase of 25% - and included our first batch of master’s degree students.
• Our faculty continue to undertake research and are featured in respected international publications.
• The Center for Continuing Education provided a total of 51 professional development programs to people in the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report 2014-2015 which provides comprehensive details. I ask that you do not hesitate to give us feedback so that we can continue to benefit from your suggestions and make AURAK an even stronger, more successful university with each passing year.

Sincerely,

Prof. Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim
President
American University of Ras Al Khaimah
Board of Trustees

Mr. Mohammad Omran Al Shamsi
Chairman

Prof. Abdelrahman Al Sharhan
Member

Mr. Salem Ali Al Sharhan
Member

Dr. Mohamed Khalifa
Member

Prof. Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim
Ex-Officio Member

Dr. Naceur Jabnoun
Member

Dr. Ateeq Jaka
Member
About AURAK

Nestled between the picturesque Hajar mountain range and the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf, AURAK is an independent, co-educational, state-owned institution of higher education that provides an integrated North American-style, undergraduate and graduate education, with a strong focus on the local indigenous culture. The North American model of higher education not only emphasizes the cultivation of specific skills in a variety of academic fields, but promotes general education courses through which students encounter new ideas and are encouraged to think critically about local and global issues.

AURAK has emerged as a prestigious institution of higher learning in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The University offers eighteen undergraduate programs and four graduate programs - a total of twenty-two programs – and enrolls a total of 724 students. All programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the UAE’s Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR).

History

With the support of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah (previously the Crown Prince), the University was initially established as George Mason University, Ras Al Khaimah campus (GMU-RAK) in 2005. After George Mason University decided to discontinue its operations in Ras Al Khaimah in 2009, the Crown Prince decreed the establishment of the American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) in the same location. Students who had enrolled in GMU-RAK were given the opportunity to continue at AURAK, transfer to GMU’s main campus in Virginia, USA, or transfer to another institution.

Following the short-term presidencies of Professor Sharon Siverts (2009-10) and Dr. Shaukat Mirza (2010-11), AURAK’s board of trustees appointed Professor Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim as vice chancellor. Subsequent changes in organizational structure saw Professor Al Alkim named as President in 2014. Over the past three years, the University has developed new academic programs, attracted new faculty and staff, and significantly increased its student enrollment. This rapid change has required an adaptable organizational structure to accommodate the effective and efficient delivery of programs and services. Consequently, in 2013, vice president positions were added. As part of the same process, the Office of International Programs, the Teaching and Learning Center, the Development Office, and the Center for Continuing Education were all established. The new organizational structure also included the creation of four academic schools: the School of Arts and Science, the School of Engineering, the School of Business, and the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Today, AURAK’s strategy is to focus its efforts on cultivating excellence within existing curricular offerings while improving policies and procedures across the institution. Student enrollment is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 35% over the next five years. It is also expected that, with an increasingly strong global economy, AURAK will capture the attention of educators, economists, business entrepreneurs and other professionals who want to take advantage of the programs and services the institution offers, meeting national and regional workforce needs and earning the University regional and global recognition.
**Vision**

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) will be a leading institution of higher education through the impact of its education and research on the region.

**Mission Statement**

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) is an independent, public, state-owned, non-profit, coeducational institution that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. AURAK is an institution of higher education that provides comprehensive academic programs based on the North American model and the cultural characteristics of the gulf region. Its undergraduate programs combine a strong grounding in the major subject with a broad general education, and its graduate programs prepare students for the demands of professional life.

AURAK is committed to the highest standards of teaching, research, ethics, and service to the community, and its graduates are prepared to be knowledgeable, thoughtful, creative, and responsible individuals.

**Strategic Goals**

- Develop innovative, challenging and high quality academic programs that are relevant, demand-driven and set the University at the forefront of education in the UAE and the region.
- Build a student-centered learning environment that promotes advanced critical thinking skills, fosters creativity, and instills a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Create an environment that values diversity, promotes cultural understanding and fosters civic responsibility.
- Maintain a student life program that focuses on students’ needs; one that renders them capable of adapting professionally to multicultural, global environments and of becoming responsible citizens.
- Support and promote the personal and professional development of faculty and staff to realize their potential and contribute to the mission of the University.
- Establish linkages and liaisons with regional and international businesses and educational institutions to meet mutually beneficial needs and respond to emerging trends.
- Develop the capacity to advance knowledge and create sustainable environments through relevant research that serves the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, the greater region, and the world.
- Develop and maintain a quality assurance and institutional effectiveness system that engages the University in ongoing, integrated, institution-wide, research-based activities which result in the improvement of institutional quality and demonstrate the effective accomplishment of the University’s mission through its strategic goals.
- Promote dynamic professional development for clients and community service to meet the needs of business, government, and schools in Ras Al Khaimah and the Emirati community.
The 2014 -2015 academic year has been a year of implementing new programs, incorporating a large number of new faculty, continued student growth, and facing new challenges due to accreditation and the continuing maturation of our degree programs. Thirty-one new full-time faculty joined the University over the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters, increasing the full-time faculty to 75.

Four new undergraduate programs were initiated this year; the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) was offered for the first time, and two degree programs received reaccreditation from the UAE’s Commission for Academic Accreditation. This year saw the opening of the Center for Teaching and Learning as well as the creation of the AURAK Faculty Senate. The faculty continues to be active in scholarship and research, with 10 books and 52 scholarly papers and book chapters published, as well as 58 presentations at conferences around the world.

AURAK is fast developing a reputation as a prominent university in the UAE, and a national and regional leader in higher education. With its growing number of programs, students, and faculty, AURAK will continue to contribute to the well-being of its students, Ras Al Khaimah, and the region.

Professor John Ryder
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success
American University of Ras Al Khaimah
AURAK continues to grow steadily and now consists of four schools which offer a total of 22 academic programs.

**School of Arts and Science**
- BS in Biotechnology
- BA in Mass Communication
- BA in English Language

**School of Business**
- BS in Accounting
- BS in Business Administration
- BS in Finance
- BS in Marketing
- BS in Human Resources Management

**School of Engineering**
- Bachelor of Architecture
- BS in Chemical Engineering
- BS in Civil and Infrastructure Engineering
- BS in Computer Engineering
- BS in Computer Science
- BS in Electrical Engineering
- BS in Electronics and Communications Engineering
- BS in Industrial Engineering
- BS in Mechanical Engineering
- BS in Petroleum Engineering

**School of Graduate Studies and Research**
- Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)
- Master of Education in Educational Leadership (MEEL)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Engineering Project Management (MEPM)
Faculty Achievements

Key Statistics

- Ten books published
- 52 papers and book chapters published
- 58 conference presentations
- Four conferences organized
- 15 AURAK seed grants
- Two external research grants submitted
- Nine faculty members on editorial boards

AURAK is committed to providing full-time, highly-credentialed and experienced faculty to teach in our academic programs, as teaching is the primary focus of the university. Through teaching, advisement, and mentoring, AURAK faculty guide students not only in their studies but in their post-graduation planning.

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, AURAK faculty are heavily involved in research and scholarship. Support is available from the School of Graduate Studies and Research through its Seed Grant Program. In April 2015, Dr. Maxime Merheb from the Biotechnology Department, along with his research team, received an externally funded project grant from the Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy and Research for his research on 'Biofuel Exploration from Soil Microorganisms in the Ras Al Khaimah Mangroves'.

AURAK’s ranking in SCOPUS and presence on Google Scholar have risen considerably, reflecting the increasing number and strength of published works. The faculty continue to participate in prominent conferences around the world, receiving invitations from prestigious universities to speak and to deliver guest lectures in North America, Europe, Asia, and within the MENA region.
RAK Research and Innovation Center (RAKRIC)

is a state-of-the-art research and development center specializing in sustainable system solutions. This center is the offshoot of a research platform developed by the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM) in 2007 when the Government of Ras Al Khaimah allocated CSEM-UAE 87,000 m² of land in the industrial zone to build world-class research and development facilities for researching solar energy. RAKRIC also works in consultation with leading academic, technological and industrial development centers. The center recently became one of AURAK’s major research facilities.

The facility is currently involved in a number of research activities which deal with the development of sustainable sources of energy and the analysis of domestic, waste and drinking water. Several research papers based on research undertaken at RAKRIC have been published. Research has been published in areas such as solar thermal poly-generation, cooling and desalination, solar co-generation of pure water, membrane distillation, and solar insulation.

The center provides energy auditing and consultation services, and has signed a number of agreements with RAK-based institutions in this regard: AIC Steel Structures, RAK Academy School, Arab Private School, Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries (Julphar), Saqr Hospital, Union Cement, and Saverglass LCC. In addition to this, RAKRIC provides training programs on behalf of the University.

RAKRIC also has a number of partners, having signed Memoranda of Understanding with RAK Chamber, Emirates GBC, Enerwhere, Flamcogroup, Lambda, Hilti, KTH, and ETA Max.
Campus Improvement

As AURAK continues to grow, the campus has undergone a number of changes in order to increase capacity to accommodate the steady influx of new students and faculty. More green spaces have been created, making the campus more attractive, and a new building is under construction, which is due to open in the Spring 2016 semester.

Infrastructure Development

The infrastructure has undergone significant development: new roads and walkways have been built, a new car park has been constructed, and modifications to the campus now ensure all areas are wheelchair accessible. All student support services were also transferred to Building D.

Laboratories

With its newest programs having moved into their second year, AURAK has established new laboratories to meet student needs. The recently constructed Al Ain Media and Communication Laboratory (AMC Lab) contains the latest Apple iMacs, professional lighting, and video recording equipment, as well as advanced image and video editing software. The Voice of AURAK – AURAK’s student newspaper – is produced by Mass Communication majors using the technology in the AMC lab.

All departments within the School of Engineering have inaugurated new laboratories and invested in the latest equipment and accompanying software. Stevin Rock LLC, an industry partner, supplied the equipment for all Civil and Infrastructure Engineering labs.
Saqr Library

Saqr Library has expanded, increasing holdings to satisfy the rising demand by students and faculty. Subscriptions to ProQuest, EBSCO Publishing and Euromonitor International give faculty and students access to an enormous collection of books, journals and periodicals which can also be accessed remotely.

The library also operates a Document Delivery Service (DDS) for unavailable research and study papers, and an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). For unavailable library resources, Saqr Library has entered into an Inter-Library Loan (ILL) agreement with the RAK Medical and Health Sciences University library, and has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RAK Public Library.

The library provides training sessions geared towards improving students’ skills in using library resources to satisfy their research and other informational needs, as well as interactive lectures for high school students in the local community.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

International Partnerships

AURAK students have more opportunities than ever before to expand their horizons and experience other cultures, as the University has added five outstanding universities to its list of international partners.

• Appalachian State University (North Carolina, USA).

The agreement allows for exchange of students in terms of tuition and housing, encourages the hosting of short-term study abroad programs, as well as exchange of faculty and staff, and joint academic and research programs. The signatories were Dr. Stan Aeschleman, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of Appalachian State University and Professor Hassan Al Alkim, President of AURAK.

• Bowling Green State University (Ohio, USA)

The Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions encourages the exchange of students and faculty members, planning and implementation of cooperative research projects and educational programs, and the exchange of materials including reports on research and education. The signatories were Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, President of BGSU, and Professor Hassan Al Alkim.

• Virginia State University (Virginia, USA)

VSU sent a student on study abroad to AURAK for the Spring 2015 semester, meaning the Memorandum of Understanding signed in August was a natural outcome of this growing relationship. Dr. Pamela Hammond, President of VSU and Professor Hassan Al Alkim signed the partnership agreement. The partnership encourages the exchange of students, research, staff, and library materials.

• St. Francis Xavier University (Nova Scotia, Canada)

StFX became AURAK’s first Canadian partner in July 2015. The signatories were Dr. Leslie MacLaren, Academic Vice President and Provost of St. Francis Xavier University, and Professor Hassan Al Alkim. The partnership is an exchange agreement which focuses on academic linkages in order to enrich cultural understanding between the two countries. The goal is mutual understanding and academic collaboration.

• University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Warsaw, Poland).

This agreement was signed in February 2015 by the Polish institution’s Vice Rector for International Cooperation, Professor Teresa Gardoka, and Professor Hassan Al Alkim. The main goals of this Memorandum of Understanding are to facilitate student and faculty exchange, and to further develop research cooperation and collaboration.

The Office of International Programs (OIP) is involved in the creation of study abroad and exchange opportunities, the development of international university partnerships, and the support of efforts to raise the institutional profile of AURAK, in order for the University to be more readily recognized in international higher education circles.
Study Abroad

As a direct consequence of developing new international partnerships, study abroad opportunities have opened to AURAK students for the very first time since its inception. In the spring of 2015, AURAK welcomed its first study abroad students, both of whom were from partner institutions in the United States and studied in the Mass Communication program.

A cultural excursion program helps study abroad students experience the culture of the UAE through trips around Ras Al Khaimah, as well as to Dubai and Abu Dhabi. An International Student Handbook and an orientation session were developed to help visiting students assimilate.
Local Partnerships

As AURAK continues to grow, its increasing influence on a national level is clear. In keeping with its strategic goal of promoting dynamic professional development, the 2014-2015 academic year saw increased collaboration with local partners; a number of Memoranda of Understanding were signed with public and private entities throughout the country, further cementing the University’s place in terms of importance in the local community.

Ras Al Khaimah Human Resources Department. In March 2015, AURAK and the Human Resources Department of Ras Al Khaimah (HRD) signed an agreement by which the two entities became official partners in terms of training and development, education, and the use of facilities. Professor Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim and Dr. Mohamed Abdullatif Khalifa, General Director of the HRD, signed the agreement. Since then, the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) at AURAK has provided a number of professional development courses have been provided for government employees, such as courses in accounting, statistics and graphical analysis.

Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital. AURAK and Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital (SKSH) signed an agreement by which the University’s Center for Continuing Education (CCE) provides Arabic language training for the hospital’s staff, most of whom are from South Korea. The agreement was signed by Professor Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim, President of the University, and Sojung Jane Kim, Education and Training Manager at SKSH.

Public Works and Services Department. AURAK and the Public Works and Services Department of Ras Al Khaimah (PWSD), signed an agreement by which the PWSD maintains the green spaces within the University campus. Professor Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim and Engineer Ahmed Mohammed Al Hammadi, General Director
Dubai Islamic Bank. AURAK and Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) signed an agreement under which the University’s Center for Continuing Education (CCE) provides English language courses for the bank’s employees.

Testing centers. AURAK’s Center for Continuing Education registers candidates for IELTS examination on behalf of English World Ras Al Khaimah, while an agreement with AMIDEAST (America – Mideast Educational and Training Services) assists the University in the delivery of English language testing.
Student Achievements

Research & Presentations

With the support of faculty and staff, AURAK students are becoming increasingly active in research, featuring in academic presentations and published papers throughout the 2014/15 academic year. Students, alongside their professors, presented at conferences on global warming and food security, and had research published on topics such as herbal medicine, government policy and trade relations.

Commencement 2015

AURAK celebrated its 4th Annual Commencement Ceremony on June 11th, 2015, an event which truly emphasized the great strides the University has made in recent years; just five years ago, there were a total of 92 students enrolled. At the 2015 Commencement ceremony, 76 students graduated.

What had previously been a modest, intimate affair, had become a grand occasion. His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, attending for the first time, was the Guest of Honor. The auditorium was filled to capacity with dignitaries, faculty, staff, proud family members, and of course, the graduates. The University’s official mace was delivered to the stage by AURAK faculty member and marshal, Dr. Maen Takruri, selected in recognition of his scholarly pursuits.

Professor Hassan Hamdan Al Alkim, President of AURAK, welcomed the honored guests, graduates, and their families, and thanked everyone for their continued support, before Professor Sultan Abu-Orabi, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, delivered the keynote speech, congratulating the graduates, but challenging them to pursue further education, to contribute to scholarship and research in the region, and to use their knowledge to advance the Middle East.

Eóin Brown gave the valedictorian speech, which reflected on the vibrant multiculturalism which makes AURAK a special place to study.

The 76-strong class of ’15, AURAK’s largest-ever graduating class, were invited to the stage, where H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi presented them with their degrees. The 2015 commencement ceremony saw another first, as the University conferred its first master’s degrees.

The ceremony represented the climax of another successful year for the young University as it visibly advances towards being recognized as one of the elite educational institutions in the region.
AURAK provides a variety of student support programs, services and activities, consistent with its mission, which promote student learning and enhance their development.

Admissions

The admissions staff represented AURAK at 16 educational exhibitions in the UAE over the last year, and visited 60 high schools all over the country. Between Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, a total of 351 new students enrolled in the University. The latest class of students means a total of 42 nationalities from five continents are represented within the University’s student body.

Student Life Office

In addition to offering personal counseling and organizing student activities, the Student Life Office (SLO) also manages student organizations, and acts as a liaison with the EDRAK Residential Halls, where many AURAK students reside.

The SLO was central in organizing a number of activities throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, including:

- The 2nd AURAK Talent Search Competition. Students showcased their talents in singing, playing musical instruments, performance arts, artwork, photography and poetry recitation.
- UAE Flag Day. A celebration program was prepared, beginning with the raising of the UAE Flag by Professor Hassan Al Alkim.
- RAK Start-Up Idea Seminar. Students brainstormed their innovative business ideas and how to implement them in the future.
- Vision Screening. In collaboration with RAK Eye Care Center, students, staff and faculty were given a free screening, with the aim of raising awareness of detecting preventable blindness.
- 43rd UAE National Day. Celebratory program prepared. Traditional performances took place around campus, showcasing various aspects of Emirati culture.
- Guinness World Record for the World’s Largest Sugar-Free Dessert Party. AURAK faculty, staff and students took part, as both volunteers and participants, as the record was successfully broken at Mina Al Arab.
- 4th AURAK Global Day. The annual event which celebrates AURAK’s diversity was a huge success, with students, faculty and staff from 15 different countries showcasing aspects of their respective cultures.

Calendar of Activities 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Sport Activities 2014 / 2015</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Student Orientation</td>
<td>Thursday, August 28, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Government Elections</td>
<td>Sunday, September 21, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip to GITEX, Dubai</td>
<td>Thursday, October 02, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbecue on the Beach</td>
<td>Friday, October 17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd AURAK Talent Search Competition</td>
<td>Thursday, October 23, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE Flag Day</td>
<td>Monday, November 03, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip to Sharjah Museum and Dubai Mall</td>
<td>Friday, November 07, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography Competition for National Day</td>
<td>Sunday, November 23, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE National Day Celebrations</td>
<td>Friday, November 27, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Barbecue with Live Music</td>
<td>Thursday, February 26, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Safari Trip</td>
<td>Friday, March 06, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Day</td>
<td>Thursday, March 19, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Ceremony</td>
<td>Thursday, June 11, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
43rd UAE National Day

3rd AURAK Global Day

Student Recognition Ceremony
• Sports and Athletics

• AURAK’s various teams, covering sports including football, basketball, cricket, table-tennis and chess, had a typically busy calendar in 2014/15, competing in several tournaments up and down the country.

• Corporate football, basketball and cricket tournaments, hosted by AURAK. The teams won 1st (second consecutive year), 3rd and 4th places respectively.

• Five-a-side Red Bull Soccer Tournament. Eight AURAK teams participated in the regional play-offs, with one named champions of Ras Al Khaimah. The team progressed to the national championships, where they finished 4th overall.

• BITS Pilani and Skyline Festivals. Football, basketball and table tennis teams competed at the 12th BITS Pilani Sports Festival 2014 and the Skyline Sports Festival 2015, both in Dubai.

• The 1st HCT RAK Football Tournament. AURAK won 3rd place.

• Gulf Medical Sports Festival 2015. The football team finished runners-up in Ajman.

• RAK Medical Mini Marathon 2015. For the first time, AURAK sent a 10-member athletic team to compete. An AURAK student finished 5th place in the marathon.

• 4th AURAK Mini-Marathon. The annual event took place on national day with over 600 participants from all over Ras Al Khaimah.

• There were also several internal tournaments and competitions for AURAK students, including: the Biggest Weight Loss Challenge, the annual football, table-tennis, pool and chess championships, PS4 tournament, bench press competition.

• AURAK students also held basketball and football training sessions and tournaments for high school students.
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• Gulf Medical Sports Festival 2015. The football team finished runners-up in Ajman.

• RAK Medical Mini Marathon 2015. For the first time, AURAK sent a 10-member athletic team to compete. An AURAK student finished 5th place in the marathon.

• 4th AURAK Mini-Marathon. The annual event took place on national day with over 600 participants from all over Ras Al Khaimah.

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• AURAK students also held basketball and football training sessions and tournaments for high school students.
Volunteering/Community Engagement

In keeping with the University’s goal of civic responsibility, AURAK is heavily involved in volunteering and community engagement. Faculty, staff and students, as always, were enthusiastic in contributing their time to worthy causes.

- Donation campaign. In cooperation with the Red Crescent, money raised for those affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria.
- The ‘Pink Dreams Shop’. A group of students sold various items on campus. The initiative aims to raise breast cancer awareness, with all proceeds donated to support breast cancer research through the Pink Caravan, UAE.
- Party in Pink ‘Zumbathon’. A charity event organized in collaboration with Zumba Fitness, which featured a Zumba dance session with a licensed instructor. The funds raised were donated towards the prevention of breast cancer worldwide.
- Annual visit to Obaidallah Elderly Hospital. A group of students visited the elderly residents, interacting with them and presenting gifts.
- Blood donation campaign. As always, AURAK students and staff were quick to volunteer to donate blood when the Ministry of Health visited the campus in October, 2014.
- RAK Half Marathon 2015 and RAK Bike Ride Race. Students and staff volunteered as marshals and officials, assisting in organization and supplying water to participants.

AURAK’s Office of International Programs (OIP) was also involved in volunteering and community engagement events; The Annual Volunteer Fair. Held in February, 2015, two local non-profits organizations came to campus – the Special Needs Center for Children, RAK, and the Ras Al Khaimah Animal Welfare Centre (RAKAWC) – to meet students and discuss potential volunteering opportunities.

- The Annual Volunteer Fair. Held in February, 2015, two local non-profits organizations came to campus – the Special Needs Center for Children, RAK, and the Ras Al Khaimah Animal Welfare Centre (RAKAWC) – to meet students and discuss potential volunteering opportunities.
- Volunteering at RAKAWC. Over a period of several months a group of students assisted RAKAWC in caring for the animals at the shelter.
- Dinner fundraiser at Banyan Tree Bedouin camp. Faculty, staff and students attended the event, raising money which was donated to the Special Needs Center for Children and the RAKAWC.
Awards & Scholarships

AURAK is always keen to recognize students who excel in academics and sport. The 3rd annual AURAK Recognition Ceremony, held in May 2015, saw a number of students awarded for outstanding performance.

A number of public and private sector entities also provide financial aid to a large number of students (195 in total), significantly reducing the cost of pursuing higher education. The table below shows a full list of organizations who support AURAK students in this capacity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor Name</th>
<th>Total No. of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheikh Saqr Program for Government Excellence</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAK Charity Association</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications Regulatory Authority TRA</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAK Department of Economic Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheikh Saqr Foundation for Policy Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julphar</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADNOC</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAK Bank</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAK Gas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>195</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Affairs

Student Government Association (SGA)

The SGA was active throughout the year, working with the students to resolve problems, communicating with administration, and providing assistance to student clubs, allowing them to remain active. The four existing clubs are the Sport Club, the Engineering Club, the Biotechnology Club, and the Business Club. Five further clubs were established over the last year.
Internship, Career Development, and Alumni Affairs

The Career Development Office (CDO) was established at AURAK in early February 2012. It provides career preparation, individual career counseling and assessment, workshops, job and internship listings, interview preparation, and career fairs.

During the academic year, efforts were made to help students increase their employability, with several students submitting their resumes for critique. Students were given access to Resume Wizard available through TypeFocus Careers.

Student Work Placement

A policy for career development and student empowerment was established which allows students to work as part-time staff at the University in a number of different capacities, including: library assistant, lab assistant, admissions assistant, marketing assistant, and IT assistant. Students are paid by the hour
Internships

Summer internships were arranged for senior students. Biotechnology majors were placed at food testing labs in the Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah municipalities, RAK Hospital under the Arabian Healthcare Group, and the RAK Police Forensics Lab. Business students joined the RAK Chamber of Commerce, RAK Free Trade Zone, RAK Airport, Hilton Worldwide, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, HSBC Bank, Talal Abu Ghazaleh, RAK Precast, Al Fahad Smart Systems, and Edem Consulting. Engineering students completed internships at Etisalat, Dubai Airport, Techno Stream FZCO, Julphar Pharmaceuticals, Hilton Worldwide, Masdar Institute, Cove Rotana and RAK Airport.
Center for Continuing Education

Key Statistics

33 Training courses provided for corporate and governmental sectors:
20 in RAK, 10 in Abu Dhabi, 2 in Sharjah and 1 in Fujairah. In total, 692 people attended.

English preparatory courses for general public – 142 attendees.

The needs of the Ras Al Khaimah community are at the forefront of the outreach and training programs provided by the Center for Continuing Education (CCE). Through the CCE, AURAK works to meet professional development needs through the provision of quality training programs and testing services. During this year, the CCE offered courses in areas such as Human Resources, accounting and finance, IT, soft skills and personal development, and healthcare administration.

Activities & Achievements

• Professional Accounting Diploma. With the support of the RAK government, the CCE provided 125 hours of accounting coursework which resulted in a Professional Accounting Diploma. This program delivered the skills and knowledge needed to give participants an advantage in their on-going job search.
• Diploma in Statistics and Data Analysis. In collaboration with the Human Resources Department in Ras Al Khaimah and the Sheikh Saqr Program for Government Excellence, the CCE delivered the first complete program in Statistics and Data Analysis to jobseekers in Ras Al Khaimah.
• Innovation Diploma. The CCE delivered the first diploma of this kind in Ras Al Khaimah. The diploma focused on meeting the expressed needs of the client and cultivate a culture of innovation in its employees.
• IELTS Preparation. Working with the RAK Educational Zone, the CCE provided an IELTS preparation course to advance the skills of 12th grade students from RAK government schools. The preparation was crucial for their success on the IELTS exam and for admission into colleges and universities in the UAE and abroad.
• Diploma in Hospitality and Culinary Art. In partnership with the RAK Human Resources Department and the Sheikh Saqr Program for Government Excellence, McQueens’ Education, and the City of London College, the CCE offered female Emiratis an opportunity to learn hospitality and culinary skills over a six month period. Students were taught by professional chefs and learned culinary and hospitality, and were awarded the first diploma of its kind.
• Registered Training Provider. The CCE became a Registered Training Provider (RTP) for the Abu Dhabi Police GHQ and the Abu Dhabi Municipality. It has been initially registered as an RTP for the National Qualification Authority.
• Test center. The CCE is a now a registered test center for the TOEFL ITP and Pearson VUE tests.
As is the case with students, AURAK’s faculty and staff continues to grow in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for quality education.

The bar chart below provides data on the number of faculty in each school according to academic ranking.

As of Spring 2015, 82% of faculty members were holders of doctorate degrees, with the remaining 18% holding master’s degrees. The AURAK faculty also come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Faculty represent 18 nationalities. A total of 35% of the full-time faculty are from the United States and Canada. In terms of gender, the composition of full-time faculty stood at 77% male and 23% female.

AURAK also boasts a diverse body of professional staff. As in the case of faculty, staff represent 18 nationalities, with a gender composition of 58% male to 42% female. The diversity of AURAK’s staff, in terms of nationality and gender reflects the progressive hiring practices adopted by the University, international interest in AURAK, and reinforces one of AURAK’s strategic goals: to create an environment that values diversity, promotes cultural understanding and fosters civic responsibility.
Dignitary Visits

With students from such a diverse range of backgrounds, AURAK is always eager to develop and strengthen relations with official representatives from foreign nations. The Consul General of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Kairat Lama Sharif, and a Kuwaiti delegation consisting of Mr. Hani Khaled Alshayji, cultural attaché, and Mr. Hisham Al Nabtiti, academic advisor, visited AURAK during the 2014/15 academic year. Their visit to the campus focused on opportunities for collaboration between AURAK and institutions of higher education in Kazakhstan and Kuwait respectively.

In January, Prof. Hassan Al Alkim, visited the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to meet with Dr. Saleh Al Suhaibani, cultural attaché. The two parties discussed academic collaboration, strengthening relationships between AURAK and Saudi Arabia.
## School Advisory Boards

### School of Business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Khaled Al Khazraji</td>
<td>Chair of the Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Saeed Al Bahar</td>
<td>Etisalat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Hasan Al Sabab</td>
<td>RAK Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ahmed Obaid Al Tanaiji</td>
<td>RAK Department of Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ibrahim Al Zaabi</td>
<td>Commercial Bank of Dubai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Badr Matar Al Suwaidi</td>
<td>Dubai Islamic Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Saif Hamdan Al Alkim</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Ibrahimo</td>
<td>Gulf Cement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ahmed Ali Anoon</td>
<td>RAK Cement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rashed Al Khatry</td>
<td>RAK Properties</td>
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### School of Engineering

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<tr>
<td>Prof. Abdullah Ismael Al Zarouni</td>
<td>Chair of the Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Abdullah Mohammed Al Shamsi</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor of the British University of Dubai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Moosa Al Nuaimi</td>
<td>CEO, Turbain Services &amp; Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Eesa Bastaki</td>
<td>President of the University of Dubai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Rashid K. Alnaqbi</td>
<td>General Manager of Etisalat Information Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Omar Al Mahmoud, Acting CEO</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Abdullah Rashed Al Abdooli</td>
<td>Managing Director, Al Marjan Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jamal Bahamaish</td>
<td>Offshore Engineering Reservoir Division, ADNOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Taibah Al Hashemi,</td>
<td>Inshore Engineering Reservoir Division, ADNOC</td>
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### School of Arts & Science

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mohamed Bulhammam</td>
<td>Chair of the Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ahmed Al Shamsi</td>
<td>Chemistry, UAEU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hamad Sray</td>
<td>History, UAEU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ali Qassim Shuaibi</td>
<td>Mass Communication, Ajman University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Khaleda Yousef Ghareeb Al Mansoori</td>
<td>English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Habib Al Attar</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture, Youth &amp; Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Mohamed Al Asam</td>
<td>Former Director General, RAK Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Saud Musabah</td>
<td>Commercial Executive Manager, Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries</td>
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### Faculty Publications

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Details</th>
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### Student Collaboration with Faculty:
**Presentations and Publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Conference/Competition</th>
<th>Location/Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Zaabi, N., Yaseen, Z., The impact of government policies and regulations on the SMEs in the UAE</td>
<td>Third UAE Undergraduate Student Research Competition (UGSRC)</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi University, May 21, 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calangi, F. L., Lam, T.D., Trade Relations Between the UAE and Western Europe</td>
<td>Third UAE Undergraduate Student Research Competition (UGSRC)</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi University, May 21, 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imran, M., Ahmad, I., Effects of Carbon dioxide on Global Warming</td>
<td>Best Poster Presentation Award, The Third International Conference on Global Warming: Food Security</td>
<td>Al Hamra Conventional Centre, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, May 5-7, 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridwan, R., Ahmad, I., Relation between Petroleum and Global Warming</td>
<td>the Third International Conference on Global Warming: Food Security</td>
<td>Al Hamra Conventional Centre, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, May 5-7, 2015.</td>
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