



March 12, 2014

The field of mathematics was celebrated at American University of Sharjah (AUS) today, March 12, 2014, with over 50 top local high school students convening to participate in a special MathFest. The event was organized exclusively for students from the university's Sharakah partner schools and was a testament to the strong ties AUS shares with the academic community all over UAE.

The day-long event comprised individual and team competitions for students as well as a team competition for high school math teachers. The Mathfest included a 75-minute test that consisted of multiple choice and written questions that each participating student solved individually. The test covered standard math topics from the schools' curricula of up to grade 11, including logic, analytic and plane geometry, and basic algebra.

Ali Shuhaimy, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management at AUS, welcomed the students to the event. "I am very pleased to be working so closely with our partner schools. MathFest today is a testimony of our partnership at its best. As a university we are constantly building channels and connecting with local high schools and by organizing such events and competitions, we continue to maintain an ongoing relationship with the schools," he said.

Dr. Mahmoud Anabtawi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, also welcomed the students and teachers. He commended the students for taking up the challenge of participating in MathFest and said the event would be an acknowledgement and reward of their abilities in mathematics.

Participating schools in the MathFest included Al Nahda National School for Boys, Al Nahda National School for Girls, Al Rawafed Private School, Liwa International School, Madar International School, International School of Arts & Sciences, Al Ma'arifa International Private School, Al Shoula Private School, Sharjah American International School-Sharjah, and Sharjah American International School-Dubai.

Dr. Abdul Salam Jarrah, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics and Chair of MathFest, noted the event was a great initiative to engage with the local community. He said that

it provided a great opportunity to identify the best students and to encourage their math skills and to get them interested in perhaps seeking a future in the discipline and hoped that it would turn into an annual event.

Hussien Hatem of Al Nahda National School placed first and won a laptop whilst Yingjuan Li and Hebah Soudan of Sharjah American International School-Sharjah placed second and third respectively. Both students won smart phones.

The winning school with the highest average was Al Nahda National School.

Teachers also competed to solve a 75-minute test. Each question was to be solved using standard math techniques from the high school math curricula. The winning team of teachers were from Sharjah American International School-Sharjah, comprising Fadi Saifi, Hisham AlKhalili and Hussein AlKindi who all won laptops.

The event was held as part of the Sharakah program under which AUS has signed Memorandums of Understanding with 12 secondary schools in the UAE whereby the university will offer workshops to teachers and students; offer patronage of selected research, cultural, social and sporting activities and events organized by the Sharakah partner school; award partial scholarships to deserving students selected from lists provided by the schools; and offer university preparation courses, including SAT and TOEFL preparation courses, as well as recruitment of outstanding students from varied sociocultural and economic backgrounds to AUS.