



قالت فألهن

She Leads

Success Stories of Emirati AUS Alumnae

Emirati Women's Day 2025

“The story of Emirati women is one of resilience, selfless contribution and boundless inspiration. It’s a story that resonates not just within our region but also around the world, highlighting women who are deeply rooted in their traditions while boldly embracing the future.

Thanks to the UAE leadership’s support, Emirati women have been playing a key role in our nation’s progress—from government to education, and from business to technology. Their contributions are shaping our world, and their influence extends far beyond our borders as they continue to break new ground and set the stage for the future.

As we celebrate Emirati Women’s Day, we honor their achievements and look forward to a future where their contributions continue to inspire and elevate society, laying a strong foundation for generations to come.”

HE Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, President
and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of AUS





On Emirati Women's Day, we celebrate the strength, vision and remarkable achievements of our alumnae who are making an impact in every corner of society. Each one of them carries forward the values of AUS—excellence, integrity and innovation—while blazing new trails and inspiring those who follow.

It is a privilege for us at the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs to witness your journeys and share your stories. You remind us that success is not only measured by what we achieve, but also by how we uplift others and create lasting change.

May this day be a reminder of your power, your purpose and the difference you make—today and every day. We wish you continued success in all your endeavors and encourage you to stay connected with the AUS alumni network, where together, we can continue to inspire, support and shape the future.

Happy Emirati Women's Day!

Reem Bardan
Executive Director
Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs





Meet the Leaders of Tomorrow



Lamia Fahad Abdalla

**Computer Engineer, Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority |
Founder, Fashion Boutique**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, College of Engineering

With a bold blend of creativity and technical skill, Lamia Fahad Abdalla is charting an innovative course that integrates fashion with public service. The computer engineering graduate is poised to begin her career at Sharjah's Roads and Transport Authority, where she will leverage her analytical acumen to drive innovation in public service. In parallel with her government role, Lamia is the founder of a burgeoning fashion boutique that reflects her entrepreneurial spirit and refined sense of style. Drawing inspiration from her global travels, she curates her collections in her boutique while providing a collaborative space and platform for emerging and small businesses. By offering rental spaces and managing operations—including employee management, advertising and customer engagement—Lamia's boutique helps other entrepreneurs minimize overhead costs and bring their ideas to life.

Lamia actively contributes to Sharjah's entrepreneurial ecosystem through Ruwad—the Sharjah Foundation to Support Pioneering Entrepreneurs—and regularly engages in community pop-ups and fashion events, uplifting others through creativity, collaboration and meaningful engagement.

“You will become what you believe.”

- Oprah Winfrey

“Her strength makes me unstoppable.”

- Lamia Abdalla about her mother

Azza Aboualam

Assistant Professor, Zayed University

Bachelor of Architecture, College of Architecture, Art and Design

Azza Aboualam is an architect, educator and curator. She is the first Emirati woman to curate the National Pavilion UAE at the Venice Architecture Biennale. She advanced her expertise by completing a master's degree at the Yale School of Architecture. Early in her career, she managed the design and construction of the Aga Khan Award-winning Wasit Wetland Center while at Sharjah's Department of Public Works. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Zayed University and Co-founding Principal of Holesum Studio.

Alongside her academic role, she actively mentors the next generation and leads research that intersects food security, architecture and the documentation of the UAE's evolving built environment.

Azza's writing appears in *In Search of Spaces of Coexistence: An Architect's Journey* in (2019). In 2025, she was named one of the visionary women shaping the architectural scene in the Arab world. Her journey is a reflection of cultural leadership, academic excellence and the power of representation on a global stage.





Maryam Mudhaffar Ahli

Manager of Museums' Collection, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority

Bachelor of Architecture with a Minor in Design Management,
College of Architecture, Art and Design

Maryam Ahli is an architect and architectural historian whose career bridges design, research and heritage preservation. With a foundation shaped by her undergraduate studies and a Master's in Architectural History and Criticism from the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, she brings technical and cultural insight to her role as Manager of Museums' Collection at Dubai Culture. She has successfully led the bid for Dubai to host the International Council of Museums 2025 General Conference, marking a first for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region. She currently serves as project manager for the rehabilitation of Al Fahidi Fort, the oldest standing structure in Dubai, overseeing its transformation into a renewed museum experience.

Maryam has presented and published extensively on Modernism and Modern Heritage in Dubai, contributing to policy and design discussions focused on adaptive reuse. Her work integrates both academic insight and practical application, aiming to balance the modern and the traditional in shaping the urban narrative of the UAE. She has mentored architecture and interior design interns from AUS and Zayed University, completed the Institute of Director's Women as Board Members course in the UK, and continues to collaborate closely with community members to document oral histories and preserve the cultural memory of place. Her journey reflects a dedication to empowering future generations while protecting the stories and spaces that define Dubai.

“In the UAE, the modern and the traditional are threads of the same fabric—my role as an architect and historian is to weave them into spaces that endure change, celebrate place-based memories and narrate the evolving stories of our cities' urban fabric.”

- Maryam Ahli

Waad AlAbdulla

Senior Electrical Engineer | Co-Founder of Lili Floral Boutique

Bachelor of Sciences in Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering

Waad AlAbdulla seamlessly bridged the worlds of engineering and entrepreneurship. As a Senior Electrical Engineer, she has built a strong professional foundation, while pursuing her creative passion as co-founder of Lili Floral Boutique—a Dubai-based flower studio known for its artistic styling, brand collaborations and meaningful storytelling.

Since launching the boutique, Waad has turned it into a vibrant space that celebrates community, creativity and culture. Through curated exhibitions and pop-ups, she actively uplifts women-led businesses and creates platforms for connection and inspiration. With over a decade of experience analyzing digital trends, she also leads her brand's marketing strategy, ensuring that every interaction reflects authenticity and purpose.

Waad's ability to thrive in both technical and creative fields sets an inspiring example for women navigating multi-dimensional careers.

**“Never rush anything.
What's destined for you
will always find you.”**





Nour Saleh Jasim Alblooshi

Emirati Culture Ambassador, COP28

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Nour Alblooshi is a rising leader whose journey blends diplomacy, youth advocacy and public engagement. As an Emirati Culture Ambassador at COP28, she represented UAE values on the global climate stage, engaging with international leaders and youth to promote sustainability and heritage. Nour's powerful voice also resonated as a keynote speaker at Expo 2020's World Children's Day Conference, held in partnership with UNICEF, where she championed youth empowerment and children's rights.

Her dedication to national development is reflected in her service in the Emirati Children's Parliament, Sharjah Youth Parliament and the AUS Student Council. Nour has participated in over 68 youth forums, chaired numerous MUN conferences and represented the UAE in leadership programs across the UK, Denmark and the region. A certified personal development trainer and passionate volunteer, she has earned more than 95 awards and certifications, reflecting her continuous commitment to learning, leadership and community.

Nour's story is one of purpose and pride—a young Emirati woman paving the way for future generations through advocacy, action and global representation.

“Consistency creates meaningful impact.”

- Nour Alblooshi

قالت فاطمة



Wafa Al Falahi

Founder of Sorbe Studios | Alumna of the Salama Bint Hamdan Foundation for Emerging Artists

Bachelor of Interior Design, College of Architecture, Art and Design

Wafa Al Falahi is a multidisciplinary designer whose work has been showcased at Dubai Design Week, Maison et Objet and the Cultural Foundation Abu Dhabi. Her practice focuses on material innovation and sustainability, most notably developing a henna-based bioplastic through the Tanween Program. She has completed residencies at Tashkeel and the Cultural Foundation and is the founder of Sorbe Studios, a multidisciplinary practice exploring interiors, objects and experimental materials.

Wafa actively contributes to the creative community through mentorship, curatorial work and public programming. As curator of *Memory Box* for Tasmeem 2024, she created a platform for designers to reflect on memory and experimental practice. She has participated in public events such as Sikka and Dubai Design Week, offering talks, open studios and collaborative critiques. As a fellow of the Salama Bint Hamdan Foundation for Emerging Artists and a Tanween designer, she has supported fellow creatives through resource sharing, constructive feedback and knowledge exchange.

Her work is guided by a dedication to innovation, sustainability and impactful design experiences. Through Sorbe Studios, she transforms ideas into spaces, objects and platforms that encourage interaction and spark dialogue. By combining research-driven design with hands-on making, she delivers outcomes that balance concept and practicality, while mentoring and collaborating with emerging talent across disciplines.

**“ I create so that stories can be felt,
not just told. ”**



وفا الفلاحي



Fatima Ali Alhammadi

Administrative Assistant, School of Business Administration, AUS
Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences

A passionate communicator and advocate for education, English language and literature alumna Fatima Ali Alhammadi taught Arabic as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant alumna at Northwestern University. During her time in the US, Fatima assisted faculty at the Program of Middle Eastern and North African Languages, where she promoted cross-cultural exchange, tutored underserved students through the Books & Breakfast program and supported event management initiatives that fostered academic and cultural engagement.

Currently pursuing her Master in Communication while working full-time at the AUS School of Business Administration, Fatima continues to balance academic excellence with professional growth. Her leadership journey began on campus as a Department Fellow and Editor for *Asrar: Dialogues from the Diaspora* within the Department of English at AUS, where she spearheaded student engagement initiatives. She further expanded her leadership on a global scale through programs like Soliya, earning an Advanced Facilitation Certification that refined her skills in dialogue leadership, group dynamics and cross-cultural communication.

Fatima's journey reflects a deep commitment to learning, dialogue and service, which are values that continue to shape her impact both locally and globally.

“Bold steps build real stories.”

Jawahir Alharmoodi

Financial Risk Analyst, Sharjah Finance Department

Master of Science in Accounting, School of Business Administration

Jawahir Abdalla Alharmoodi is a driven finance professional who started her career at BNP Paribas and later joined the Sharjah Finance Department in 2021, playing a key role in strengthening financial systems and enhancing public sector efficiency.

Her dedication to excellence earned her the Distinguished Financial Employee Award and she came third in The Idea competition in her department. Jawahir's work is fueled by a passion for innovation and continuous improvement in government finance.

Beyond her official role, she offers free tutoring to university students and actively mentors young professionals in finance and accounting. She also supports financial literacy workshops in collaboration with local organizations, exemplifying her commitment to service, education and meaningful community engagement.

**“Do the right thing, even
when no one's watching.”**





Sara Humaid Aljarwan

**Chief Engineer, Roads and Transport Authority—Dubai |
Global Award-Winning Transport Specialist**

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a Minor in
Transportation Systems, College of Engineering

Sara Humaid Aljarwan is a civil engineer driving urban transformation through transport planning and sustainable mobility. She played a key role in major projects, including the public transport operations for EXPO 2020, before advancing her expertise with a Master's in Transport from Imperial College London, where she graduated with high distinction.

Her research on transport and urban integration in the UAE earned her a prestigious international award and media recognition. Today, she serves as Chief Engineer at Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority, contributing to infrastructure and urban planning strategies that enhance quality of life.

Sara has also contributed to projects in London and Sierra Leone, bringing global experience to local impact. With over 550 volunteer hours in the UAE and abroad, she is also a youth mentor, event host and an advocate for walkable, people-centered cities that reflect the UAE's future vision.

**“Excellence is my habit...
not my goal.”**

Aljawhara Sultan Aljuwaied

Community Volunteer | NAMA Women Advancement

Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication majoring in public relations and a Minor in International Studies and Environmental Policies, College of Arts and Sciences

Aljawhara Sultan Aljuwaied is a passionate advocate for community service and women's empowerment. Her volunteer journey began before her university years and continues to make a lasting impact through her current role at NAMA Women Advancement.

During her time at AUS, she led multiple service efforts including organizing enriching and inclusive outings for orphaned children, providing joyful experiences and safe spaces for engagement. Through AUS' Hand in Hand initiative, she spearheaded the renovation of several orphan homes, improving living conditions and mobilizing volunteer teams to bring about meaningful, lasting change. She was recognized with the Active Volunteer Award for the Academic Year 2017–2018 and received several community service appreciation certificates throughout her years at AUS. Aljawhara played a vital role in campus life, volunteering with the AUS Community Service and Outreach, getting involved with the Student Leadership Program and serving as a board member in numerous student organizations. She also represented AUS in national and international conferences and MUNs in Bahrain, UAE and the UK.

After completing her undergraduate studies at AUS, she pursued her passion for global affairs by earning a Master's in International Relations from the University of Wollongong. Today, Aljawhara continues to build on this strong foundation of service and leadership through her work at NAMA Women Advancement, where she remains deeply committed to creating inclusive spaces, empowering women and fostering a culture of social responsibility and impact.

“ Give with heart, act with empathy and uplift with love. ”



الجوهرة السليمة



Maryam Ebrahim Al Mansoori

Deputy Managing Director, Azza Ebrahim Hasan Al Mulla Advocates and Legal Consultants

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering

Maryam Ebrahim Al Mansoori is a distinguished engineer and executive whose journey reflects the evolving strength, ambition and leadership of Emirati women. Her academic journey was defined by innovation and excellence, highlighted by award-winning research in antenna design and environmental monitoring—early milestones that laid the foundation for a career rooted in impact. From managing major projects in the events industry to leading transformative initiatives in safety; security; Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG); and sustainability at Mashreq as Assistant Vice President—Safety and Security, Maryam’s work has spanned critical sectors. She has contributed to national efforts and major milestones such as Expo 2020 and raised safety and sustainability standards across both government and private institutions. Currently, Maryam leads strategy, project management and consultancy initiatives focused on sustainable growth, operational excellence and national development.

She was also selected for the Nafis Leadership Program under the UAE Prime Minister’s Office—an elite national initiative designed to equip high-potential Emiratis with the skills to lead the country’s future. Through this program, she refined her expertise in leadership, strategy and governance.

Beyond the boardroom, she actively volunteers with Emirates Red Crescent and Takatof, and leads initiatives in sustainability and animal welfare—reflecting a leadership style grounded in compassion, integrity and service.

“With vision I lead, with grace I love and with soul I empower.”



مريم المنصوري



Mahra Almarri

Alumni Advancement Officer at AUS | Youth Ambassador

Master of Business Administration student; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, School of Business Administration

With a passion for connection, creativity and community impact, Mahra Almarri works on strategic alumni engagement as an Alumni Advancement Officer in the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs at AUS. She plays a key role in reunions, fundraising events and scholarship campaigns, while also serving as Mentorship and Marketing Manager for the AUS Alumni Mentorship Program—building bridges between alumni and recent graduates. Additionally, she contributes to the Space Management Committee, improving campus efficiency, and is an IT Change Champion supporting university-wide initiatives.

As an MBA student, Mahra served as the SBA Representative on the Graduate Student Association Board (2024–2025), advocating for graduate interests. She is passionate about management and marketing research, having contributed to several projects—including leading her MBA team to win first place for an AI-powered campaign for a major brand. Beyond AUS, she is a Youth Ambassador with the Together We Empower (+twe) platform, empowering young people through mentorship and events.

Her academic journey includes the Social Entrepreneurship Programme at Oxford Saïd Business School, Technology Entrepreneurship from HarvardX, a Project Management certificate from IBM and the Kubicle Data Booster Programme. As an undergraduate, she was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma for High Scholastic Achievement, earned the Dean's List Award and graduated magna cum laude, also serving as commencement speaker for her class. Recognized for her dynamic presence and creative vision, she is an accomplished master of ceremony and public speaker, valued for bringing energy and authenticity to her stage engagements.

“ **Success is the reward of stepping into the unknown.** ”

“ **Believe in yourself—no dream is too far.** ” - Mahra Almarri

Moza AlMarri

Senior Specialist, Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Dubai

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in finance, School of Business Administration

Playing a pivotal role in leading commercial transformation initiatives in the government sector, Moza AlMarri has overseen the strategic governance and operational transition of several key carve-out entities in RTA, including Salik, Parkin, Mada Media and DTC, ensuring alignment with the organization's long-term objectives and public policies.

With a background in finance, Moza combines analytical precision with forward-thinking innovation. Her concept for hologram advertisements in the Dubai Metro was personally presented to His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, reflecting her strategic mindset and vision for enhancing public experiences.

In addition to her technical accomplishments, Moza led RTA's Happiness Team for several years, earning multiple awards for her efforts in promoting employee well-being and engagement. Known for mentoring junior colleagues and fostering a collaborative culture, she exemplifies a leadership style grounded in empathy, excellence and national pride.

**“ In a world where
you can be anything,
be kind. ”**



موزا المري



Alya AlMatrooshi

Author | Strategy Consultant at McKinsey | Founder of Laya Cosmetics

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering

Alya AlMatrooshi is a dynamic force across strategy, entrepreneurship and creative expression. She is the author of *Ego: The Thread That Slowly Kills You*, an introspective book exploring identity, ambition and self-awareness.

Alya currently works as a consultant at McKinsey, where she supports national projects in strategy transformations, business building and economic development. She is also the founder of Laya, a bodycare brand that empowers individuals to personalize their skincare based on their skin needs.

Alya's voice extends beyond the boardrooms, she regularly mentors youth, leads workshops and has spoken on national stages including COP28, championing purpose-driven leadership. Whether through business, writing or public speaking, she continues to leave a lasting impact on her generation.

“All growth starts at the end of your comfort zone.”

- Tony Robbins

Reem Al Mheiri

Administrator, Sharjah Private Education Authority |

Researcher in Education and National Identity

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies; Master of Arts in International Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Reem Al Mheiri is an accomplished academic with a strong passion for research and education. Graduating magna cum laude at the undergraduate level, she went on to join the inaugural cohort of AUS' Master of Arts in International Studies program, where she earned the highest distinction.

During her graduate studies, she was awarded two Graduate Research Assistantships and co-authored a book chapter with her principal investigators. Her academic work centers on education and national identity in the UAE, a topic she explored deeply through her thesis and research contributions. As President of the Master of Arts in International Studies Student Committee at AUS, she led initiatives to build a dynamic and engaged graduate community and effectively advocated for student interests. Currently, Reem serves as an Administrator at the Sharjah Private Education Authority, where she continues to champion excellence in education.

“The first duty of a revolutionary is to be educated”

- Ernesto 'Che' Guevara



ريما المهيري

فیاض بصیرتہا نجمہا





هند المطوع

Hind Al Mutawa

Senior Manager, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority

PhD Candidate; Masters of Science in Engineering System Management; Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, College of Engineering

A significant figure in the UAE's energy sector, Hind Al Mutawa has more than two decades of impactful experience across both federal and local government roles. She has held senior leadership positions, including director, acting undersecretary assistant and chief innovation officer. Currently, she leads strategic initiatives at Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, including key projects within the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. Hind is also Anwar Gargash Executive Program in International Diplomacy alumna and one of 27 selected from hundreds of applicants in the Government of Dubai for the fifth cohort of the prestigious Impactful Leaders Program under the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development. She has represented the UAE internationally in diplomatic venues, earned multiple excellence awards and continues to contribute thought leadership by moderating panels at high-level forums. She has also earned executive certificates in innovation in the government sector and artificial intelligence.

Hind serves as an Advisory Board Member for the College of Engineering. She is also a writer and advocate for empowering women in engineering. Her dedication extends beyond academia to the community, where she volunteers across humanitarian, educational and national initiatives, including mentorship on Sustainable Development Goals.

“ Being an Emirati woman means carrying the honor of serving the nation with pride, rooted in the heritage of UAE while leading the path to a boundless future. ”

Maha Abdelrahman Mohamed Alnahal

Emiratization Associate, Chalhoub Group

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies,
College of Arts and Sciences

Maha Abdelrahman Mohamed Alnahal is passionate about creating meaningful career pathways for Emirati youth. Through her work with Chalhoub Group, she has helped bridge students from diverse academic backgrounds to real-world opportunities through job shadowing programs, career-focused podcast episodes and mentorship frameworks.

Her passion for youth empowerment extends beyond the corporate world. Maha has represented the UAE in cultural spaces like the Venice Biennale and Art Dubai, promoting inclusivity and creative dialogue. At AUS, she served as a peer advisor and program coordinator at the International Study and Exchange Office, while also contributing to the College of Arts and Sciences' Student Team and the International Studies Association..

Maha's work is rooted in purpose and community. From building platforms that elevate young voices to reimagining how students engage with professional and cultural spaces, her journey reflects a strong commitment to collaboration, innovation and impact.

“Every young voice holds a story worth hearing. The real work is building the stage where it can be told.”





ريم القمزي

Reem Al Qamzi

Architect and Founder, Rqitects Design Studio

Bachelor of Architecture, College of Architecture, Art and Design

Reem Al Qamzi is an architect and the founder of Rqitects, a Dubai-based design studio established in 2014. With a deep commitment to cultural authenticity and contemporary relevance, she has led award-nominated projects across the UAE, including high-end residences, civic buildings and large-scale mixed-use developments. Her work has been recognized through a nomination for the Identity Design Awards, and one of her landmark projects achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accreditation, reflecting her dedication to sustainable and community-centered design.

Reem's architectural journey began in the public sector and evolved into a leadership role where she champions both heritage and innovation. In 2025, she proudly represented Emirati women architects at the Osaka Expo, highlighting the intersection of cultural identity, gender and creative entrepreneurship in the built environment. She has also contributed to national design initiatives, helping shape Dubai's evolving visual language and enhancing everyday experiences through thoughtful spatial design.

Within her studio, Reem fosters a collaborative culture where design is approached with purpose and shared responsibility. Her work reflects the values of family, privacy and belonging, which are core principles in Emirati society.

“Create with purpose, live with intent.”

“Move with grace, not noise.” - Reem Al Qamzi

Shamma Saeed AlRamsi

Engineer, Streetlight Section, Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering

An electrical engineer specializing in street lighting networks, Shamma Saeed AlRamsi has led the design and implementation of the Nakheel Oasis Project in Al Majaz, where her team introduced custom palm tree-inspired street lighting poles that blend with the area's natural and cultural aesthetics, transforming the park into an iconic urban landmark.

Recognized as one of the Most Outstanding Employees in Fieldwork across the organization, Shamma is the only female engineer to receive this honor. She also works on several high-profile projects for Sharjah Government, contributing to civic advancement at scale.

Shamma was invited to present her innovative work during the UAE Innovates 2025 program at the Sharjah Research, Innovation and Technology Park, showcasing her leadership in engineering and urban development. Committed to community wellbeing, she actively engages with residents and supervises lighting installations across Sharjah to enhance safety and livability. Her work reflects the power of Emirati women in engineering to create impact and inspire future generations.

**“Focus on improving yourself,
not proving yourself.”**



شما الرامسي



Alya Ahmed Malek All Malek Alshehhi

Technical Expert, Dubai Airports | Vice President of the Dubai Airports Youth Council

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering,
College of Engineering

Alya Ahmed Malek All Malek Alshehhi is a computer engineering professional who has always been active in volunteering and extracurricular initiatives. At AUS, she was inducted into Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society that recognizes academic excellence and integrity. Alya began her career at Dubai Airports as a graduate trainee and currently works as a Technical Expert, applying her technical expertise to drive innovation and operational excellence.

Alongside her professional role, Alya serves as Vice President of the Dubai Airports Youth Council, where she leads impactful, community-focused initiatives. These include the Summer Peak Initiative, which supports passengers during the busiest travel season with warm smiles and gift cards; the Summer Camp Initiative, delivering school workshops in partnership with a local Emirati company; and the Hajj Welcome Initiative, which greets returning pilgrims with hospitality and care. She also spearheaded Bringing the Future Faces Together, an initiative designed to foster creativity, collaboration and open dialogue among youth employees.

Her commitment to technical excellence has been recognized by the General Directorate of Identity and Foreigners Affairs (GDIFA) for her work on the INAD project—a key web application streamlining operations for GDIFA, airlines and Dubai Airports staff. Alya has also represented Dubai Airports as a panelist in high-profile events such as “The Next Generation at Work” session during Learning Week and the Dubai 2030 panel at the Technology and Infrastructure End-of-Year Event, exhibited at GITEX, and volunteered at the World Government Summit 2025.

“ If someone else did it, you can do it! ”

- Alya Alshehhi



Fatima Salim Al Shuweih

Director, Jithoor Center | Head of Cultural Guidance—Heart of Sharjah, Shurooq

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in accounting and finance

Executive Master of Business Administration, School of Business Administration

A cultural leader whose work preserves, reimagines and promotes Emirati heritage locally and internationally. As Sharjah's first certified tour guide between both genders, she has trained over 380 Emirati guides, helping establish Sharjah as the UAE's top Emirate for certified tour guides. Fatima has pioneered numerous heritage-driven programs under Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq), including limited Heart of Sharjah postcards in collaboration with Emirates Post Group and immersive Emirati cooking experiences using locally organic sourced ingredients in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock. Her creativity bridges past and present, engaging diverse audiences with stories of tradition and innovation.

With over 11 years of public speaking experience, Fatima launched Smile You're in Sharjah, a widely followed cultural radio program. She also led the Committee of Narrators that documented over 200 historic homes, contributing to Heart of Sharjah's successful nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage shortlist. A certified life coach and an AUS Sharjah Leadership Program alumna, Fatima continues to inspire through every initiative she leads, driven by passion, cultural pride and a deep-rooted sense of responsibility to her community.

“إلي ماله ماضي، ماله حاضر ولا مستقبل”
- المغفور له الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان، طيب الله ثراه



فاطمة
الشويهي



Shaikha Alagroobi Alsuwaidi

Junior Analyst at Group AMANA

Bachelor of Science in Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Shaikha Alagroobi Alsuwaidi overcame thyroid cancer and chronic hemiplegic migraines to complete her studies at AUS with cum laude honors. She was named to the Dean's List four times and the Chancellor's List once, received the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Grant and presented her research on the Ghaf tree at the Sharjah International Conference in Biotechnology.

Within two months of graduating, she joined Group AMANA as a Junior Analyst in Strategy and Transformation, where she currently plays a key role in corporate strategy and ESG initiatives. Shaikha also led the company's UAE Eid Al Etihad celebrations, organizing large-scale events for more than 600 employees, including visits to the Etihad Museum, volunteer engagements with the elderly and heritage-driven initiatives like Ghaf tree planting.

Dedicated to service, Shaikha has completed over 240 hours of certified community volunteer work, leading efforts at the UAE COVID-19 vaccine campaign and the Dubai Club for People of Determination. Her journey reflects strength, purpose and an unwavering commitment to giving back, embodying the essence of what it means to lead with impact.

“Life is more than just making it through.”

- Julie Clinton

Fatima Mohammed Al Zaabi

Co-Founder and Managing Director, Studio D04

Bachelor of Architecture, College of Architecture, Art and Design

An architect and co-founder of Studio D04, Fatima Al Zaabi has led the award-winning practice since 2014, blending cultural heritage with contemporary design. Under her leadership, the studio received the People's Choice Award at the 2022 Identity Design Awards, was shortlisted in the Interior Design—Work Space category, and in 2025 was named among the UAE's ID50 most influential design voices.

Holding a Master's in Architecture Design and Research from the University of Michigan, Fatima integrates digital technologies with traditional craft. Notable works include the saddling boxes and viewing deck at Jebel Ali Race Course, reflecting her innovative approach. Internationally, she has represented Emirati design at Expo 2025 Osaka and in cultural programs in Italy.

Committed to nurturing the next generation, Fatima has built a long-standing program at Studio D04 that supports and mentors College of Architecture, Art and Design students, bridging the gap between academia and practice. Her ability to balance motherhood with leading a dynamic design studio reflects her resilience, vision and dedication to the spirit of Emirati Women's Day.

”هذا ما كان يحبه زايد“

- كلمات صاحب السمو الشيخ الدكتور سلطان بن محمد القاسمي، عضو المجلس الأعلى حاكم الشارقة





Shaima Bin Taliah

Vice Chancellor for Student Experience, American University of Sharjah

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in finance and marketing, School of Business Administration

Shaima Bin Taliah is the Vice Chancellor for Student Experience at AUS, where she leads initiatives spanning student engagement, leadership development, enrollment, career services, residential life, student conduct, events and athletics. With over 15 years of diverse experience, she has held leadership roles in entrepreneurship development at the Khalifa Fund, contributed to strategic projects at the Executive Office of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and worked in the telecommunications sector.

Shaima holds an Executive MBA from the University of Sharjah, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from AUS, a Diploma in Multiculturalism and Leadership from Al-Maktoum College in Scotland, as well as an executive education certificate from Harvard Business School.

Known for her visionary leadership and strategic acumen, she is dedicated to fostering growth, empowering teams and driving initiatives that inspire future leaders.

“A woman’s strength lies not in comparison, but in the quiet power of choosing a life that is fully her own.”

Hind Hassan Karam

Tax Policy Analyst at the Federal Tax

Authority | Entrepreneur

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in finance and economics, School of Business Administration

With a bold spirit and a strong sense of purpose, Hind Hassan Karam adeptly navigated two parallel paths: one in public service and the other in entrepreneurship. At the Federal Tax Authority, Hind plays an important part shaping national legislation through policy making, legislative assessment and economic analysis.

Driven by her entrepreneurial passion, she launched a women's salon in August 2023, overseeing all aspects of its operations, budgeting, marketing and customer service—while maintaining her full-time government role.

While at AUS, Hind served as Treasurer of the Gastronomy Club and Activities Coordinator for the Emirati Cultural Club. Today, she continues to uplift others through mentorship and creation of spaces that empower women in her community.

**“Move with purpose.
Speak with intention.
Stand with grace.”**





Looking Ahead with Pride

As we conclude this tribute, we honor the inspiring journeys of our distinguished Emirati alumnae from AUS. Their diverse achievements across multiple fields embody the leadership, resilience and community impact that define the university spirit. This remarkable group reflects just part of the wider tapestry of success woven by Emirati women in our alumni community, each making meaningful contributions in her own way.

On this special day, we celebrate their impact and the transformative power of education. We also look forward to witnessing the continued success of our alumni across all fields and communities.

Acknowledgments

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We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the creation of this booklet. Your collective efforts, dedication, and collaboration made this project possible.

These inspiring Emirati alumnae were featured following an open call for nominations—whether self-nominated or nominated by their peers—in recognition of their impact, achievements and contributions to the community.

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