

## The Education Chapter 2: “A Strong Education: the sum of all parts.”

What a great opportunity for Students Representatives Association (SRA) to attend (TEC). This year, ECAE was the partnership for a two-day seminar. Teachers, principles, librarians and student-teachers attended different workshops and lectures by ECAE faculty.

I attended four great workshops about different learning spaces, play-based curriculum, education characters and teaching vocabulary. Also, I attended a lecture by Rob Plevin, who runs a “Behavior Needs” project that trains teachers how to deal with difficult classroom behaviors. He talked about many methods like having a relationship with students, giving them positive attitudes and involving them in interesting class activities. I really enjoyed being in workshops with other local and foreign teachers who work in government and private schools.

### The Book Fair

In the break between the sessions of (TEC), my peers and I were really excited to go to the book fair. We didn't expect that the fair would be so large. We didn't know how to scan all the booths, so we simply started at one end and walked all the way to the other end of the big hall. We were interested in the international booths from UK, Germany, Algeria and India. I was really surprised when I visited the Antiquarian section where you can see unique and old books from UK, Germany France and others. I also was lucky to see the author of the “Ask Ali” column in the National “M” Saturday Magazine. He had a booth to introduce the UAE culture and traditions. Anyway, I was walking past many interesting booths, but what I wanted to buy was Islamic books, political books about issues in the Middle East and novels. I was really careful about which I should buy. I saw a great section for teachers' books in a booth, so I bought a book about managing classroom behaviors. I think other teachers bought all the education books for the primary level because I didn't find them. After that I bought an Arabic novel by Amna Al Mansori, a famous Emirati author. The book is about a life experience of an Emirati girl. Also, I bought the famous book by Dan Brown, “The Lost Symbol” because I was really excited to know the story behind the symbols that he introduced in his book. I was impressed when I saw a book about interpreting Quranic verses to find scientific facts, so I couldn't put it down and I bought it. The final book I bought was by an Emirati psychologist Abdulla Al Azazi. His book is about ways to achieve your life goals. Overall, it was an amazing experience for all the students to explore the book fair and absorb all the possible advantages to develop our knowledge and widen our view of this world. I'm waiting for the next year to see what will the book fair 2011 have in store for us!

Layla