

EDUCATION & CULTURE

UAE UNIVERSITY FORGES PARTNERSHIP WITH CUNY CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

- Monique Holtzhausen

Helen Wheelock and Steve Elm, two senior Teaching Artists at Creative Arts Team (CAT) which is in residence at the City University of New York's (CUNY) Office of Academic Affairs, will venture farther afield than their usual venues to bring CAT training to a group of undergraduate education students at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in the city of Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates.

From October 6th to 15th, in addition to class time, the teaching artists will hold meetings and demonstrations for government agencies, schools, and community groups. Like CUNY, which is the largest urban public university in the nation, UAEU is a top public educational institution in its region.

Ms. Wheelock and Mr. Elm are among 50 professionals who, under CAT's banner, use interactive drama to strengthen the academic and life skills of New York City students. CAT was founded in 1974.

Typically, Ms. Wheelock and Mr. Elm work in public schools and preschools in the five boroughs. They split their time between working directly with kids and training teachers to use CAT's proven approach and methods. Teacher training is especially rewarding, said Ms. Wheelock, who also serves as CAT's director of early childhood programs.

"CAT's residency at UAEU will allow our students to gain a unique academic and artistic experience and help our students learn to use the arts as a catalyst to learning," said Dr. James Mirrione, an UAEU faculty member at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and one of CAT's cofounders



Helen & Steve show with UAEU students

who arranged the residency.

The residency will serve as a pilot for future CUNY partnerships with UAEU, said John

Mogulescu, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the School of Professional Studies. "We at CUNY are delighted that CAT is partnering with a leading public university in the Middle East. We hope this is the foundation for a long and productive partnership between the two institutions."

Ms. Wheelock and Mr. Elm are already making

their packing lists.

In their luggage will be clothing, personal items, specially chosen storybooks, and an armful of puppets. However, the most significant item will not take up any space, says Ms. Wheelock.

"Our passion is for the power of CAT's work and this wonderful opportunity to introduce it to a new group of people. That's when I feel most proud of what I do."

For more information, please visit www.fhss.uaeu.ac.ae or CAT's website: www.cuny.edu/creativeartsteam for further information.



Helen teaches students about puppets

Alliance Française Al Ain

The Alliance Française of Al Ain will be opening on 5 October, on French School premises:



Al-Markhaniya, 16th street, Villa 4.

Scheduled activities

French, Arabic and English language courses for adults.

French language course for children.

Each course lasts 21 hours, spread out over 5 weeks.

Classes for new session starts 10 November, 2008

Please register now.

French language courses

Level « Beginners A »

Option 1 : Sunday - Tuesday

Classes for ladies: 11h - 13h

Mixed classes: 18h-20h

Option 2 : Monday - Wednesday

Classes for ladies: 11h - 13h

Mixed classes: 19h-21h

Level « Elementary A »

Option 1 : Sunday - Tuesday

Mixed classes: 18h-20h

Option 2: Monday - Wednesday

Mixed classes : 19h-21h

Level « Advanced » (introduction to French literature)

Sunday - Tuesday

Mixed classes: 18h-20h

French Language Courses for Children

Level « Beginners A »

Monday - Wednesday: 16h -18h

Registration fees : 1300 Dhs

Books (textbook and exercise book) will be charged 170 Dhs, not included in registration fees.

English course

Level « Intermediate »

Sunday - Tuesday: 10h - 12h

Registration fees: 1300 Dhs

Arabic course

Level « Beginners »

Monday - Wednesday: 18h -20h

Registration fees : 1300 Dhs

Contact

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(from 2pm onwards)

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