



عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

## Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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### ABP Students Attend Northwestern University Lecture

***Doha, November 17, 2014 –Over 80 students from Qatar Foundation’s Academic Bridge Program (ABP) recently attended a lecture on how to read, understand, and appreciate the text of a play. “Bringing Fiction to Life: Reading Drama as Performance” was presented by Professor Ann Woodworth who works in the Communications Department at Northwestern University in Qatar (NUQ). The venue for the workshop was NUQ’s Black Box Theater.***

During the lecture, Professor Woodworth offered ABP students a unique opportunity to learn how to read a play in an analytical and meaningful way. The lecture invited active audience participation in reading excerpts from two famous works, *A Doll’s House* (Ibsen) and *Our Town* (Wilder). These are plays that the ABP students study in their Academic Literature classes.

Professor Woodworth encouraged the students to look closely into characters’ motivations and desires, the very things that drive their actions. She explained that, in a play, “the drama lies in what is not said” and told her audience to pay attention to visual details of stage settings, language nuances, and characters’ movements and actions.

For most of the students, it was their first lecture at a university and their responses to the experience were quite positive.

“I really enjoyed the lecture,” said Hissa Al-Mannai. “Professor Woodworth was very entertaining and she really got us engaged. She used methods of performance, dialogue tasks, stories and even singing to get her message across. Her use of humor was very effective as it helped cement ideas of how to deliver good play performances.” Al-Mannai listed several of Woodworth’s examples, like using body language, being vocal, stage directions, getting into character, and how drama has changed over the years.



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“Professor Ann added so much to my learning,” commented Sarah Al-Khuzaei. “She pointed out all the ways to analyze a play, like the tone and language of the characters and the way it is used in dialogue to imply a hidden meaning.”

Shahad Abdulla noted that attending the lecture was extremely motivational for her. “The moment I entered the studio,” she said, “I felt that it was the place I wanted to be next year, and it’s the place where I want to create a new production of my own.”

Such collaborations are just one of the many ways that the ABP and NUQ work together. Another example is cross-registration classes. This semester, for instance, 25 ABP students are taking one of their classes at NUQ.

*Keywords: ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM, ABP, QATAR FOUNDATION, EDUCATION CITY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY-QATAR, LITERATURE LECTURE, CROSS-REGISTRATION*

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## **About the Academic Bridge Program**

The [Academic Bridge Program](#) (ABP) is a center of [Qatar Foundation](#). The mission of the ABP is to provide high school graduates of Qatari high schools (and other similar schools) who meet the admission requirements with the academic and personal skills for success in reputable English language universities around the world, with special emphasis on preparing students for the universities at Qatar Foundation. Since the launch of the ABP in 2001, the program has developed a model curriculum including English, math, science, and computer skills, combined with a wide range of other activities such as debate, Model United Nations, robotics, sports teams, and student government experience. The ABP is fully accredited by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier for ABP graduates to fast track into universities in the United States without a university foundation year.