When I returned to Salisbury to pursue a degree in elementary education, I had no idea that one day I would end up teaching overseas. But here I am, in Riyadh. What an adventure it has been teaching in the Middle East, Southern Asia and Africa over the last 11 years. My teaching career overseas has offered me many professional opportunities, including the ability to travel and the pleasure of working with so many amazing people from all over the world. While overseas, I have been able to finish a master’s degree in curriculum, instruction and assessment; present at international conferences in Greece and South Africa; and hold professional development opportunities on various topics at schools where I have worked.

Currently, I am a middle school learning coach at the American International School of Riyadh. As one of three coaches in our school, I work with teachers to enhance student learning and achievement. Our coaching follows cycles where we work with teachers over a period of time toward a long-term goal such as technology integration, assessment, student engagement, etc.

My middle school coaching cycles focus on supporting teachers in a variety of ways. During our iPad cycles, we are developing innovative ways to use technology as a learning tool as we implement a 1:World Program with our grade 6 students. During assessment coaching cycles, we are looking at ways to move toward a standards-based learning system. Together we work on unit development focusing on how we assess learning and the best ways to communicate this to students and parents.

I enjoy the collaboration of working with such competent teachers, where we are constantly learning together and from one another. Student learning is at the heart of what we do, and that brings me full circle, back to my studies at Salisbury University. I always felt that my professors had my best interest in mind and because of that I grew as a student, an educator and as a person.