

SPRING 2023

AHE Newsletter



AHE FACULTY AND STAFF

Dean, Woodring College of Education
Dr. Kevin Roxas

Chair, Health & Community Studies
Dr. John Korsmo

AHE Program Director
Dr. Sondra Cuban

AHE Faculty
Dr. Shevell Thibou, Dr. George Zhao, Matthew Santos,
Dr. Kunbi Ajiboye, and Christina Van Wingerden

AHE Program Coordinator
Sherry Haskins

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Celebrating**

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Welcoming + Celebrating AHE Students



SPRING GRADUATE

Molly Baumann

NEW STUDENTS

Cierra Johnson

Keenan Kaemingk

Yalda Naimzadeh

Heather Purcell

Emran Rezai

Hadia Rezai

Yuliana Romagosa

Kelly Ryan

Christine Shannon

Shelby Traeger

Allison Ward

Rika Winquist





BRITTA AND FAMILY AHE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BRITTA ESCHETE

Britta Eschete is YOUR newly elected Senator representing Graduate School Students! (hint: there are vacancies that will be open Fall Quarter!). I look forward to learning about how I can be a liaison for interests between WWU Leadership and YOU!

There are lots of interesting things to tell but perhaps one that some readers will identify with is that as an undergraduate at WWU I really struggled as a student to balance full-time classes, two jobs (Sehome Haggen Deli, Ivars at Bellis Fair Mall), an internship (Whatcom Museum inventorying their entire clothing collection) and a work study position in the Western Gallery along with primarily being a single parent of a 2-year old. Fast forward to today, while Noelle is 28, there are still younger youth in my life in that I have two 4-year-old grand-daughters, Reina and Davina and they all spend a significant amount of time at my house. But my role as a grandparent offers more flexibility (generally) than my youthful days of being a mother. For the last few decades community volunteering with different organizations (primarily the Lincoln Theatre, Celtic Arts Foundation, RiverSong Farm and several boards -- The Skagit Poetry Foundation, Skagit Valley Food Co-op as well as being a representative with one of the classified staff unions on campus (WFSE)), continue as coveted community activities.



BRITTA'S FAMILY

It took at least a decade of working at WWU, to imagine how I might use this degree -I'd see the M.Ed referenced in the signature line of WWU colleagues and think "that could be interesting" and then I happened to take a few classes during COVID, via Zoom and found these REALLY INTERESTING and realized that I actually missed being a student. What surprised me to some extent was that many of the issues I struggled with as an undergraduate are still challenges that remain for students who are attempting to balance multiple obligations. However, fast forward to the option in modalities, testimonials and encouragement from WWU colleagues, I cautiously enrolled and here I am, at 49, having just completed Quarter #2.

From Day 1, I have found applications for AHE in my current role at WWU working in the Career Services Center and working with classified staff, and in board volunteer work. I greatly enjoy it. I feel I am gaining a better understanding and application of identifying and validating research, survey and research methods and analysis. My primary interest relates to how universities can better define and report out on career success subjectively. I have appreciated the opportunities to continue learning from the present generation of students -though as humans we should all be lifelong learners and look forward to opportunities to advocate for state employees utilizing their tuition waiver to support their current work, pursue new opportunities and expand their knowledge!

Our faculty and staff were excited to spend Saturday May 6 with AHE students for the AHE Reboot event! We spent the afternoon in community, sharing food and using our creativity to dream big for higher education through a Shark Tank exercise. This activity provided an opportunity for students to build connections and consider ways to innovate and improve higher education and accessibility.

As the program shifts to the hybrid and Saturday residential program, we are eager to have more opportunities to engage as a learning community in both formal and informal ways.



AHE REBOOT: A SHIFT TO SATURDAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM



Upcoming Conferences



SCCE: Higher Education Compliance Conference

