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A newsletter for AHE current students and alumni
Adult & Higher Education

Program Greetings

The Adult & Higher Education (AHE) program is housed in the Department of Health & Community Studies, Woodring College of Education at Western Washington University.

We are pleased to provide this newsletter to keep you informed about work and activities of our faculty, our students and our alumni. We are located on the fourth floor of Miller Hall.

Dean of Woodring College
Dr. Horacio Walker

Chair, Health & Community Studies
Dr. Raine Dozier

AHE Program Director
Dr. Sondra Cuban

AHE Fall Faculty
Sondra Cuban, Stan Goto, Paula Dagnon, Shevell Thibou, and Gail Goulet

Program Coordinator
Sherry Haskins

Contact
360.650.3190

Website
https://wce.wwu.edu/ahe/adult-and-higher-education
CONGRADULATIONS & WELCOME!

CONGRATULATIONS SUMMER & FALL 2018 GRADUATES:

Cynthia Beatty, Jacqueline Gbalipre, Kitty Kitnikone
Karen Peila, Desiree (Monique) Stefens, Elizabeth Stuart
   Alisa Sweet

Chelsea Good, Emily Ruzzamenti, Carey Schroyer

WELCOME FALL 2018 STUDENTS

Alan Alatorre-Barajas, Catherine Allen, Jasmine Balasa
Brent Bode, Katherine Bryant, Roxanne Garzon
Mary Hall, Jonathan Kim, Kari Lutcavich
Caitlin Marsh, Marina Melnik, Cindy Monger
Brien Reed, Hadia Rezai, Kirsten Rinker
Allison Stephens, Rachael Wright
GSAC is an organization of Adult & Higher Education graduate students dedicated to enhancing the program’s graduate student experience at Western Washington University. The GSAC will meet once a month and discuss planning for the Spring 2019 Retreat, creating a mentorship program, and other topics of interest.

The GSAC meets once each month via teleconferencing throughout the academic year. Meeting dates and times are to be announced (TBA). Monthly meetings include planning for our annual spring retreat and organizing events for AHE students. This year we will be taking part in the Graduate Student Symposium here at Western. The committee also hopes to start a mentorship program for AHE.

If you’re interested in joining or have questions about the committee you can visit https://wp.wwu.edu/ahegsac/ or contact Jasmine Balasa at balasaj@wwu.edu. Please don’t let distance keep you from getting involved! GSAC is set up to be able to have members attend meetings through online teleconferencing.
Last June I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the town Nova Campina in São Paulo, Brazil to teach in a two-week Project English Summer Camp with students aged 11-18. The town which consists of less than 10,000 people is located in the rural south closest to the city of Itapeva. I stayed with my generous host and cooperating teacher, Ivanete, who worked tirelessly to make this camp possible along with Vicki Harmon who started the first camp in 2016.

The camp was impactful for the students in many ways, some more visible than others. While the language exchange itself was valuable, one thing that Ivanete emphasized was that many of the students wanted to learn English for job skills in a bigger city. The students constantly expressed their desire to visit the United States and felt that being able to speak English was a major milestone to reaching that goal. Being directly exposed to North American culture through the teaching experience played a part in expanding their worldview.

The Nova Campina community gave so much, I felt more like family than a visitor. I’m looking forward to visiting again in June 2019 for a third camp which will be structured differently than the past. If you would like to learn more about the 2019 English Summer Camp or how you could participate, email me at balasaj@wwu.edu

Written by Jasmine Balasa
Alan Alatorre-Barajas on the start of his AHE experience

When I was a student at Whatcom Community College, I had the opportunity to serve in the Office of Student Life. I spent most of my time working with the school advisors, clubs, and in the intercultural center. I admired the advisors and was inspired by them based on how the education was taught. I wasn’t sitting in a room being told what to do, instead, everything was student-led and student-run. The advisors were there to provide resources and connections rather than telling us how to run a program. The advisors provided connections to resources within the county and state to support our programs. For example, the advisors from the Latinx Leadership Club were able to connect us with departments at University of Washington and Western Washington University. This allowed us to better support undocumented students with scholarships and conferences throughout the state.

I chose the AHE program at Western Washington University because it will provide me with the support that I need to continue working in this field. I believe that adults can build better connections with children in schools and in homes by better understanding themselves. Although I didn’t come into this program with a specific focus, my goal is to create trainings focused on adults that would lead to better supporting children and creating stronger connections with one another. There are a few challenges that come with this goal in taking it from research to reality. In order to have the drive to complete my goals it would be best to find a mentor and someone who has the time.

I am excited for the courses in the AHE program that will help implement my end goal such as Teaching and Instructional Design.
Hi, I’m Emily and this is my last quarter in AHE. I started the program in the Fall of 2017 with the goal of completing two courses at a time including Summer term and I’m almost there! There are a few reasons I decided to move through the program quickly and why that decision worked for me. The first is that I am a new mom. When I started AHE my son was 6 months old and I had the remarkable opportunity to stay home with him. Using the time I had while baby was napping and that I was not working, I was able to get much of my school work completed.

Another reason that I wanted to move quickly through AHE was that my area of interest is also changing rapidly. I have a background in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and would like to continue working with international students when I complete AHE. The field of TESOL is growing and changing and I am ready to jump in! The final reason is that I was excited. I am a first generation student meaning that none of my family members have pursued higher education. I feel incredibly fortunate for the educational opportunities I have had and my time in AHE. This program is tough, reflective, transformative and rewarding and it has actually been a lot of fun too! When I’m not working on AHE I am outside with my husband, toddler and 2-year-old rescue dog looking for adventure.

Wishing everyone a great quarter!

Thank you for sharing your delightful story with us Emily! If you are interested in learning more about the TESOL certificate more information can be found here:

https://wce.wwu.edu/tesol/teaching-english-speakers-other-languages
What gets me through winter is daydreaming about planting my garden in the spring and the new buds transforming the barren ground into a lovely patch of paradise. I recently attended the Lummi Peacemaking Circle and realized now is the perfect time to sow seeds of peace. During the circle we passed a talking feather around, creating space for each person to share without fear of judgement. It became clear that while our experiences are unique our human need for love and belonging, health and wholeness and contribution are one. This created a feeling of acceptance in the room that was tremendously harmonizing and healing. This process demonstrated the power of listening with empathy and courage to speak our truth to unite and create a fertile atmosphere for working together. As adult educators we may find ourselves in a similar position to facilitate opening of hearts and minds and an expanded vision beyond our individual needs.

The Lummi Peacemaking Circle is open every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Written by Cathie Allen

Thank you for sharing your story with us Cathie! More information about the Lummi Peacemaking Circle can be found here:

www.facebook.com/lummiPeacemakingCircle
Have you visited the Career Services Center? The Career Services Center is located in Old Main Room 280. The service center can help you explore career options, gain experience in careers and make successful transitions after graduation, whether you are planning on continuing your education or entering the work force. They offer a number of different materials to help you navigate networking, interviewing, and résumé building both online and at the center.

Networking is one of the single most important things to work on while moving through the AHE Program. Building successful partnerships with community leaders is essential to finding new employment. Start with preparing a thirty-second “elevator speech” and conducting informational interviews. It’s all about who you know. Some other materials students have found to be helpful are located on the “how to be successful” page of the website. You can also find skill assessments, mock interview assistance, and Résumé building assistance on the optimal resume page. Career counselors have a wealth of information that’s not found on the website and will sit side by side with you to show you the resources. Make your appointment today. Don’t wait until you’re graduating to take advantage of these powerful tools. Start now!

Location: Old Main, Room 280 Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday except for holidays.
Telephone: 360.650.3240 Email Address: careers@wwu.edu

Website: http://www.wwu.edu/careers

Many more resources can be found here at the WWU Resource Center: https://wp.wwu.edu/sos/campus-resources/
Upcoming Conferences 2019

Hawaii International Conference on Education
January 5-8 Honolulu, HA
http://hiceducation.org/

Conference on Meaningful Living and Learning in a Digital World 2019
February 4-6, 2019 Savannah, GA
http://meaningful.mozello.com/

New Foundations Charter School
April 14-16, 2019 Philadelphia, P.A.
https://nylc.org/conference/

Association for Nontraditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE)
April 4-6, 2019 Orlando, FL,
https://www.myantshe.org/2018Conference

Modern Language Association
January 3-6 Chicago, IL
https://www.mla.org/Convention/MLA-2019

American Adult Association for Continuing Education (AAACE)
October 8-11 St. Louis, MO
https://www.aaace.org/default.aspx

Adult Education Research Conference (AERC)
June 6-9, 2019 Buffalo, New York
https://newprairiepress.org/aerc/conference_events.html

Global Conference on Education and Research
May 21-24, 2019 Sarasota, FL
http://glocer.org/call-for-papers/
Call for Papers

Fourteenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Mexico City, Mexico July 10-12 2019
Proposal due date: April 10-June 10, 2019
https://thesocialsciences.com/2019-conference/call-for-papers
Proposals can include paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, virtual lightning talks, virtual posters, or colloquia and should fall into one of the seven themes:
1: SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY STUDIES
2: CIVIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES
3: CULTURAL STUDIES
4: GLOBAL STUDIES
5: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
6: ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES
7: EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
8: COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Twenty-sixth International Conference on Learning
Belfast, UK
24–26 July 2019
Proposal due date: December 17, 2018
https://thelearner.com/2019-conference/call-for-papers
Themes for this conference include:
1: PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM
2: ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
3: EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP
4: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING
5: LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION
6: ADULT, COMMUNITY, AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
7: LEARNER DIVERSITY AND IDENTITIES
8: TECHNOLOGIES IN LEARNING
9: LITERACIES LEARNING
10: SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY LEARNING
Wishing You All a Wonderful Winter Quarter!