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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.

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AHE Community
Let's Welcome Our New 2017-18 AHE Graduate Assistant Jo Ann!
Here is what Jo Ann has to say:

My undergraduate studies are in History with a minor in English. I'm married and have three wonderful sons. I'm an Army veteran, and am currently in AHE and the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program.

I was fortunate enough to work as the Coordinator for Workforce and Economic Development at a community college in Texas. This experience is what led me to AHE. I found the work fulfilling and useful. Working with students, helping them navigate acceptance into programs, working on grants, and working with the local community were rewarding aspects of the position. After moving back to Bellingham, I discovered that I was not qualified for the same position in this job market. I needed to be more competitive if I was going to be able to do the same kind of work again. I also enjoy teaching, and was able to teach developmental English courses. Working with ESL and refugee students was an eye opening experience. I discovered I could offer something to these students that they desired and sometimes needed. This is the reason I am also pursuing TESOL. AHE is a perfect extension of my undergraduate studies as well. History is a research focused area of study and many of the skills I learned during my undergraduate studies have been a foundation for what I am learning in AHE.

I hope that after graduation I can help students that are interested in working towards their own higher education. If I am able to do this by teaching or through an administrative position, I feel that I will have done something useful with the skills that I already have or am currently learning.

Thank you,
Jo Ann
AHE Community

A Little About Our AHE Friend Becky:

My family and friends are the most important things in my life. My husband and I have been married for almost 32 years; we are currently rebuilding our relationship after a two-year separation. My daughter is almost 25, and my son is almost 20. They are both very good people with compassion and concern for others and for the planet. When I reflect on my accomplishments, guiding them through childhood is at the top of my list! I love teaching and have taught in one way or another for my entire adult life. I’m currently a preschool teacher and have been teaching since 1985. After all these years, I am still delighted, challenged and excited by young children. Every day, one of them surprises me with their wisdom, their creativity or their cleverness.

I’ve also had my own gardening and landscape design business, directed the Religious Education program at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, and taught nutrition and gardening to adults and their children at Lydia Place. I’ve had some out-of-the-ordinary jobs: I worked in fish canneries in Alaska and I worked at the Mt. Baker Ski Area in the food service. I’m ecologically minded; I try to minimize my “footprint” by conserving as many resources as possible. I believe the key to saving the earth is to save the soil as it’s the biggest carbon sink.

I’m very interested in supporting parents with young children which I think is done poorly in our country. I decided that I wanted to take a side step from early childhood education into parent education/support and family engagement in the next phase of my career, and wanted to be better equipped to do that work. Also, I frequently have student interns and less experienced teachers placed in my room, and felt the need to enhance my mentoring and coaching skills.

I want to become a well-equipped teacher, mentor and coach of adults, whether they are parents, students or other teachers who are spending time in my preschool classroom. I also want to increase my earning potential. Ideally, I will remain at Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center and combine teaching preschool with coordinating the Parent Education Program. I created this program last quarter in the Program Development course and hope to implement it this coming fall; I love working there! I would also enjoy teaching Parent Education classes through BTC, WCC, or privately.
This year's Spring Retreat highlighted the important issues of inequalities and discrimination against groups of people and the profound impact this has on their daily lives. The retreat was led by student workshops and guest speakers around these activism themes:

1) Activism, identity, and voice in adult & community education
2) Justice, duty, movements, and rights in adult & community education
3) Education, literacy, programs, and policies in adult & community ed
4) Art and Philosophy in adult & community education

Thank you students for an inspiring, informative, and educational experience at this year's Spring Retreat!
Congratulations!

2017 Winter Graduates:

Natasha Frey, Christine Griffin, Juliet Holzknecht, Khore Phoenix

2017 Spring Graduates:

Matthew Bryant, Stevona Burks, Kaimi Deardorff, Sydney Donaldson, Susan Holman, Laura Jensen, Kristyn Joy, Caren Kongshaug, Matthew Santos
Upcoming Conferences

Call for Proposals
Commission of Professors of Adult Education Conference
Special Interest Group (SIG) Sessions
November 2-3, 2017

http://www.aaace.org/event/id/955995/Call-for-Proposals-CPAE-Special-Interest-Groups-SIG-Sessions.htm
Thank you from the AHE Graduate Assistant Team!