HD 497: Introduction to Professional Preparation Seminar

[Mary Wandschneider]: Welcome to Human Development HD 497, the professional preparation seminar. My name is Mary Wandschneider and I am the director of the WSU Human Development Internship Program. This is Elizabeth Greggain, and Elizabeth is the coordinator of the Distance Degree Human Development Internship Program. Elizabeth and I collaborated together to develop and produce the DDP version of HD 497, and you’re going to hear from both of us throughout the semester on this video, on these audio lectures and sometimes throughout the course as we help each other out if ones going to be out of town. So welcome to all of you.

Let me briefly introduce myself to you. In the 1970s I completed a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Occidental College. I went on to complete an elementary teaching credential from UCLA in Los Angeles, and then a Masters degree in Family and Child Science from Michigan State University. Every one of those programs required an internship or a field placement of some kind, and as a result of that I discovered firsthand the important value of internships. I then applied my knowledge from both those internships, and those courses, and 15 years of work in the field of early childhood education and family services in Africa, in California, and in Michigan, and then finally in Washington. The last job I had before coming to the University was as a case manager working with chronically mentally ill adults and my earlier work was in early childhood education.

Teaching children and teaching adults has always been a part of my work and in 1986 I joined the faculty in the Human Development department to direct our internship program. I have placed more than 700, 800, I am kind of loosing track now, interns over these years. Our majors have been required to do an internship since the 1970s. I have placed students mostly in Washington, but really across the US, and internationally as well.

In addition to directing the internship I teach on campus and do research. My research and teaching are both in the area of early childhood education, family services, and career development. On campus I teach this DDP course HD 497 as a campus version, and then I also teach a course on parent child relations and one on issues and trends in early childhood education.

My current research, I have 2 research projects that are ongoing. One is a 5 year evaluation of the Washington state childcare career and wage ladder pilot project; this has been conducted for the state of Washington Department of Social and Health Services division of childcare and early learning. And my other current project which is directly related to this course is a study of careers of our Human Development major. Students who’ve completed either a DDP, a distant degree Human Development degree, or a campus degree, and we’ve done interviews with those students, telephone interviews. And starting this fall you’ll see if you go to the Human Development department website you’ll be able to see ongoing revisions of the data from that career study. So I think that certainly should be of interest to you. So I would like to turn this over to Elizabeth now to talk about herself, and also to introduce the course more specifically.
[Elizabeth Greggain]: Thank you Mary. Well as Mary said I am Elizabeth Greggain. Welcome again all of you to Human Development 497, the professional preparation. Now throughout this course as Mary said you’ll hear from both of us, but I am most likely the person that you’ll have the most contact with through reviewing of the assignments and through emails. Also I will have a phone conversation with you during this course as well.

My background is I happen to be a Canadian. In the early 1970s I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon with a Bachelors of Science in Home Economics and Bachelors of Education. The home economics degree provided me with a broad sense of knowledge about families, consumer issues, nutrition, clothing and textiles, and interior design. As a home economist I’ve been concerned about whole families and the issues that affect their ability to function effectively at both the micro and the macro levels. My education degree prepared me to teach adults, and gave me practical training in how to deliver quality education. These two degrees open many doors for me and as I hope your Bachelors degree in Human Development will do for you. It has been very exciting for me to work with Mary in this program and even in the short time that I’ve been here to see the various areas that Human Development graduates work in.

Now throughout the years I’ve had many different jobs, most of which have had an educational and service component to them. Right after graduation I worked as a freelance home economist. I often traveled to small communities teaching classes and promoting various nutritional products. While my children were young, I was a substitute teacher from K-12. I taught home economics at a high school for a short time. Then I opened my own retail store and I sold fabric, crafts, and yarns. In order to be successful in that business I taught many classes in a variety of needle arts both in my store and through the local community college. I then relocated to the United States in the mid 1990s, and I was very, very happy to live close to Pullman, Washington so I could continue my education. I enrolled in the Masters of Arts program in Human Development here at Washington State University. I graduated in 1999. I then taught at Walla Walla Community College in Clarkston for a short while before joining the staff and faculty here as the Distant Degree Program Internship Coordinator. I feel that the variety of professional experiences in many settings that I’ve had has helped to develop my professional and organizational skills and I really enjoy working with students and encouraging them to find their own personal paths.

Upon the completion of this course, HD 497, I hope you will feel prepared to enter the professional world. During this course you will do a number of things including; evaluating your own kills and abilities, writing a resume, cover letters, learning about the variety of human service agency that employ Human Development graduates. You will set up and complete informational interviews with prospective internship organizations. You will decide upon your internship placement, create a learning agreement with a mentor at your chosen cite, and think about a number of professionalism issues that may affect you in the work place. Mary and I both know that former students have told us, this is one of the most useful courses they’ve ever taken at college, and we hope that you find the same.