



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE
School of Education and
Human Development

Adult & Higher Education Program

Anne Cardale

Hailing from England, Anne began her career as a freelance photographer. While still in art school, she had an opportunity to teach classes and was quite surprised to learn how gratifying it was to share her knowledge with others and see them grow through the process. So began Anne's journey into adult education.

Learning about USM's Adult and Higher Education program through a friend, she applied and was interviewed by phone. Once accepted, she made the decision to leave England and embark on a new course.

More than a career change, adult education has been a journey into self-awareness that Anne sees as paramount to helping others become self-aware and self-empowered. USM's Adult and Higher Education program felt like art school to Anne, not in a technical way, but more in recognizing the art of how adults learn. "Education helps you express yourself and also calls upon your creative self," Anne states, adding that, "understanding your own learning while also understanding the role that our imaginations play, seems essential to self-empowerment." USM's program introduced her to such legendary adult educators as, John Dewey, Stephen Brookfield and Carl Rogers.



She was introduced to the concept of "experiential learning" or the process whereby knowledge and transformation occur through experience. She continues her own experiential learning, and as a result of the skills and insights the program provided, she can "now pass it on to her students."

Anne has completed both her Master's degree and Certificate of Advance Study (CAS) in Adult and Higher Education at USM. Prior to completing her CAS, Anne returned to England to work for Refugee Action, a program that assists asylum seekers in the UK. She also worked here in Maine for Women, Work and Community, an organization that helps Maine women and men improve their economic lives. Anne provided workplace communication skills training as well as intensive career exploration classes.

For the last three years, since earning her CAS, Anne has been enjoying her work with the National Resource Center of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) network as well as the Maine Senior College Network (MSCN) housed at the Wishcamper Center on USM's campus. The aim of both the OLLI network and MSCN is to meet the needs of older learners who want to learn simply for the joy of learning and personal fulfillment. Anne is Director of Communications for both networks and assists 117 nationwide OLLI institutes and 17 Maine Senior Colleges. The OLLI National Resource Center plays a lead role in disseminating information on effective educational programming for older learners. In addition, Anne also teaches technology courses for OLLI USM students including Picasa and Second Life where she enjoys creating a learning environment in which fun helps facilitate learning.

When Anne began the Adult and Higher Education program, it was not the online program it is today. Anne recalls that her "first application was written with a fountain pen." However, she fully embraces the online format of the program today and looks forward to how learning communities will be constructed virtually in the future.

Anne feels USM's program has made a significant difference in both her personal and professional life. She credits the program and faculty for her success at USM, in particular, Mike Brady's encouragement to journal and use this particular device to reflect upon daily learning experiences, a tool she employs to this day. Anne recommends this program to anyone who senses the creative potential of education to enrich and improve the lives of adult learners.

For more information about the USM Adult and Higher Education program please contact Graduate Admission at (207) 780-4386 or visit usm.maine.edu/adult-education

