

## From the Associate Dean

Welcome back to you all! I hope you have had an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate over the holidays and are ready to engage, to challenge yourself and to learn and work together. I understand that some of you may be disappointed that our 400 and 500 level courses are back online this semester but please know that this has been done to honour the condensed nature of those courses, to provide you and your instructors with continuity of experience, as well as to provide you all with a bit of a circuit-breaker prior to heading into field experiences as we know how important it is to everyone that our field experiences happen in person and in schools. And to those of you in a 200 and 300 level course that is planned to be on-campus, we are optimistic that you will be back on campus at the end of January. Regardless of whether you are online for 3 weeks or for the entire semester, please take time to consider how you can flourish in the online environment and really take time to recognize and observe the online teaching strategies that are used by your professors and instructors. After all, it may be that one day you find yourself teaching online too. Thank you very sincerely for your patience, your flexibility, and your desire to have a positive impact on all of those K-12 students who are just waiting to meet you. -Dr. Amy Burns, Associate Dean

## Going beyond service in the BC Floods

*Submitted by Astrid Kendrick, Director of Field (Community-based)*

One of our community partners, David Overgaard, sent a message regarding two Werklund pre-service teachers, Renée Hartwell and Pete Van Genne, supporting through the flooding in BC this fall:

"I was able to actually get to Princeton last Wednesday as the Secondary school was able to hold in-person classes for the first time in four weeks at the only functioning elementary school in the District. Pete and Renée were inspirational under very challenging conditions. Seeing the scope of the disaster first-hand, driving parts of the route that only days before had been under three to four meters of water, was shocking and made me appreciate even more the support Renée and Pete have provided their students over the past four weeks. [...] Pete spent the first week of the flooding as part of the search and rescue crews boating from residence to residence rescuing people. Renée every day was down early and prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner for rescuers, those [made] homeless, and volunteers. Then to watch them provide support and make deep connections and provide meaningful, relevant lessons to students was humbling for me to observe.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching all of the pre-service teachers, you have a very competent group of people who have done very well in their 540 practicums and will make wonderful additions to the teaching profession when they have completed their program!"



Left: Renée pictured second from the right in front



## ESA Update:

Happy January, Werklund students! We at the ESA hope that you had a joyful break and were able find ways to rest and recharge. This semester is shaping up to be a busy one already, and ESA has a lot of things planned, as well! Due to the continued uncertainty of the world, ESA events will be virtual until at least Reading Week - meaning students in all years and all stages of their program, Community or local, can participate! Keep an eye on the ESA section of the Werklund D2I shell, and member emails for information about dozens of practical and informative events throughout January & February.

Some highlights include a variety of PD sessions, events and socials dedicated to Black History Month (February), an ESA AGM, socials and mixers for all students to feel connected while online, Wellness events, and a series of panels dedicated to teachers who are neurodiverse or have chronic illnesses. For final year students, Teachers' Convention is happening virtually in February, and students have to be graduating and fully registered for both the ESA and ATA to attend. ESA is also supplementing the UPE's Career prep sessions with activities such as additional interview prep and resume info, school board information nights, and peer interview practice.

If you haven't joined the ESA yet but are wanting to take part in these activities, you can join using this link: [tinyurl.com/ESA-membership](https://tinyurl.com/ESA-membership)

*Want to get more involved? Join the 2022-2023 ESA Executive Council! Participating in the ESA is a fantastic way to gain leadership experience, develop skills and interest areas, work closely with and learn about the ATA and Werklund faculty, and represent the needs and wants of your peers!*

We hope that you have a great semester and hope to see you soon! All the best, - ESA Executive Team

## Fall Field Experience Snapshot:

### Field Experience I (EDUC 440)

Field Experience placements for Field Experience I were secured for 440 pre-service teachers, in 123 schools across 51 School Boards. 352 pre-service teachers were placed in Calgary and Area and 97 pre-service teachers were placed in a Rural and Remote School. Our Out of Area placements were in 67 towns and hamlets across Alberta, British Columbia, and Northwest Territories.

### Field Experience III (EDUC 540)

Field Experience placements for Field Experience III were secured for 449 pre-service teachers with 468 Partner Teachers, in 202 Schools, across 54 School Boards. 378 pre-service teachers were placed in Calgary and Area and 71 pre-service teachers were placed in a Rural and Remote Schools. Our Out of Area placements were in 54 towns and hamlets across Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Manitoba.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our Partner Teachers, Principals and Liaisons for their support and mentorship. We received an incredible amount of positive feedback about our pre-service teachers and partner teachers.

In appreciation - we would like to share some quotes from our Field Experience pre-service teachers and partner teachers:

**"I hadn't even been in the building for 20 minutes and the passionate energy was palpable. My spark of wanting to become a teacher grew immensely after my day today." – Pre-Service Teacher**

*(continued on next page)*



## STEM Showcase

*We were excited to welcome Westmount Charter Elementary students to the Doucette Library in December to check out some of our STEM students' fantastic projects.*



## Fall Field Snapshot (cont.):

"I had such a great two weeks in the high school English class. The teacher has such a great rapport with her students that it made being in the classroom such a fun experience." -Pre-Service Teacher

"From my experience I know that assessments can be stressful and cause detachment in the subject but I learned how by making the assessment more interesting/activity based, I can bring out what the child really knows/understood." -Pre-Service Teacher

"Mentoring a student teacher is an amazing extension of working with our own students. It is the best professional development a teacher can have as it causes you to be consciously aware of and to continuously reflect upon your own teaching practices. The collaboration between student teacher and mentor provides for increased teaching/learning outcomes for everyone involved." -Partner Teacher

"I loved having another teacher in my classroom as I was able to see how the students react from a different perspective. I was able to learn about my own practice by seeing the risks a new teacher was taking, and all of the new insight and resources they brought into my classroom. I have been able to integrate some of my pre-service teacher's ideas into my own practice, and have learned some new engagement techniques from them as well. They brought in great energy to the classroom, and the kids loved having two teachers they could find support from." -Partner Teacher

"Watching my student teacher walk into my classroom with no classroom experience due to COVID last year was amazing. He watched one of my Grade 5 students correcting math and he looked at me and said, "If he can do it so can I"! We worked together to find his strengths and to develop him into the type of teacher he wanted to be.... I look forward to hopefully getting lucky enough to getting another eager student teacher who wants to soar!" - Partner Teacher



## WESTCAST Conference

*Submitted by Cynthia Prasow, Director of Student Experience (On-campus)*

To Faculty and Students,

Please consider submitting a proposal and/or attending the Western Canadian Association for Student Teaching Conference (virtual) **February 23 - 25, 2022**

Visit: <https://conferences.usask.ca/westcast2022/index.php> for more conference information.

Proposal Deadline Changes to January 26th, 2022: <https://conferences.usask.ca/westcast2022/westcast-2022-proposal-form.php>

Registration – Open until Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: <https://conferences.usask.ca/westcast2022/register.php>

### Key Note Speakers:

- find speaker bios here: <https://conferences.usask.ca/westcast2022/speakers.php>

Wade Repta, BHSc(OT), BPE, CDMP

Kristen Tootosis, B.Ed., M.Ed., CCC., CCPA.

Shannon McJannet, B.A., B.S.W., Registered Social Worker

