

## Truth & Reconciliation Day

On September 30, the ESA and various faculty and staff collaborated on a new initiative for this year's Truth and Reconciliation day. In previous years, ESA handed out orange t-shirts to all who requested one for the former "Orange T-shirt Day." This year, the ESA Vice President of Events, Joty Das, thought to keep that tradition going. However, she wanted to create a more meaningful reason for getting these t-shirts and creating a more expressive way to learn through an Indigenous perspective. After collaborating with Werklund's Dr. Yvonne Poitras Pratt, and after careful consideration and thought, they came up with the idea of students, staff, and faculty writing positive intentions that future teachers would implement for indigenous education into their classrooms. Some of those intentions would then be shared on the national holiday with Ahstanskiaki Sandra Manyfeathers at the Medicine Wheel in Nose Hill Park.

We wish to give thanks for the generous funding of Drs. Poitras Pratt and Danyluk's research project, the grant from Rising Youth, and the people at Moonstone Creation who provided shirts for the event. The ESA was able to distribute t-shirts for people to wear to show their support for Truth and Reconciliation. Drs. Poitras Pratt and Danyluk's research is focused on videos the university community created as part of their study, to understand the community's beliefs around truth and reconciliation. This research tied in beautifully with the idea of sharing our intentions as future educators - not only with an indigenous community elder, but also with each other.

*In the coming days look for what some of our colleagues had to say about the positive intentions they came up with, on the television screens between the Education Block and Tower.*

At Nose Hill Park, Ahstanskiaki Sandra Manyfeathers led a land-based ceremony along with her sister Patricia. We observed and remembered all the children's bodies found this past summer and honoured those yet to be discovered. It was indeed a moment that one could not describe because in that instant, we saw the unity of folks from different races, ages, cultures, and beliefs - standing unified in a moment that can never be taken away. It will always be a day to remember. Especially for us pre-service teachers, it was a teachable moment that we can all reflect on when we step into our classrooms. As we advance in our program, not only was this an introduction, but an invitation to talk to our students, parents, partners, partner teachers, (and anyone) about why it is so important to share the burden, rather than place it upon our indigenous community alone.



To learn more about the project that Drs. Poitras Pratt and Danyluk are working on, visit: <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/about-ii-taapohtop/reconciliation-video-project>



## Undergraduate Research Awards

This past summer, 12 Werklund students were the recipients of undergraduate research awards, which allowed them to delve into research topics with the support of a supervising Werklund faculty member. **Thank-you to all Werklund School of Education faculty who supported undergrad students with their applications and research this past year!**

Our Summer 2021 recipients had this to say about their experiences this year:

*"I've already started incorporating my knowledge gained in this research into my course work... I am a better student, a better researcher, and am confident this experience will make me a better professional in my field."* – Justin Acton

*"The benefit [is] the ability to work under the mentorship of seasoned professors."* – Grace Bogowicz

*"My participation [...] has been extremely beneficial for my academic and personal growth. I was able to research areas [...] that I am passionate about and would like to specialize in."* – Lindsay Swartz

*"It expanded my knowledge of a specific topic outside of the classroom, as well as fostered my critical thinking and analytical skills"* – Raneem Elhowari

*"I am able to conduct research on any topic with a new level of understanding."* – Samantha Ruud

*"This project helped me make the switch from absorbing knowledge to generating it."* – Education Student

*"I had the opportunity to explore additional topics related to my course and overall feel better equipped going into the field."* – Jeanne Liendo

*"Participating in undergraduate research is an amazing experience. It provides you with an opportunity to explore topics you are interested in and develop practical and professional skills that you can bring with you into your future career."* – Claire Paton

*"The connections you are able to make within and outside of your own academic or professional community forces you out of your comfort zone which naturally activates a newly discovered state of awareness, and perspective that you'll absorb as a teacher and take with you into the classroom."* – Jason Valleau

*"This was a pivotal opportunity for me... I was able to dip my toe into neuroscientific data collection and processing, make professional connections, and learn more about the iterative process of research."* – Veronica Rawnsley

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Applications for the Summer 2022 PURE Program & Werklund Undergraduate Research Awards open soon – deadline Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Check for further details: [werklund.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate-programs/current-students/awards/continuing-student-awards](http://werklund.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate-programs/current-students/awards/continuing-student-awards)

### Werklund Award Recipients:

**Raneem Elhowari:** *"An Exploration of Counter-Deficit Pedagogy with Refugee Families in the Context of Early STEM Education"*

**Claire Paton:** *"Students' Understandings and Experiences of Creativity and Risk in Science Learning"*

**Education Student:** *"An Annotated bibliography of geometric transformation games"*

### PURE Program Recipients:

**Justin Acton:** *"Infinite Habitat – Customized Gaming to Engage Diverse Youth"*

**Kristen Beechey:** *"Best Practices for Alberta Teachers Engaging with Citizen Science"*

**Lindsay Swartz:** *"Building Indigenous Identity Through Culturally Responsive Programming"*

**Samantha Ruud:** *"Exploring Student Assessments in an Online Learning Environment: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Normal"*

**Grace Bogowicz:** *"Experiences of LGBTQ+ youth with isolation and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic"*

**Madelyn Shuffler:** *"Affordances of Children's Nonfiction Picturebooks on Climate Change"*

**Jeanne Liendo:** *"The History of the Spanish Bilingual Program in Calgary"*

**Jason Valleau:** *"A lesson plan celebrating a collaboration with Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nation drumming that also recognizes the limitations and imposition of Eurocentric music theory systems."*

### Alberta Innovates Recipient:

**Veronica Rawnsley:** *"Optimizing the virtual reality experience through mindfulness"*



## Research Awards (cont.)

(...continued) For those that are considering applying for a research award for Summer 2022, recipients suggested that it's helpful to start planning and reach out to faculty supervisors early, and look for those whose research aligns with your interests as it can take time to develop a strong research proposal. Their other main suggestion was to make use of the resources available, such as staff and instructors, the Education Library, the Student Success Centre, etc. Here are some final thoughts our 2021 research award recipients shared, on preparing to apply:

***“Be flexible with your research topic – you might stumble onto a meaningful project and opportunities you never expected.”*** – Education Student

***“I learned so much and the process of development my own project was so valuable to me.... I felt that I didn't know where to begin and was intimidated by the process of developing a proposal, conducting the research and ultimately completing the project. However.... Learning is the point! I would encourage anyone with similar feelings to accept that discomfort & the risk of not knowing and pursue a research project anyway!”***  
– Madelyn Shuffler

## Student Experience: Wellness Check-in

*Submitted by*

-Umit Boz - Director, Student Experiences Community Based Program

-Cynthia Prasow - Director, Student Experiences On-Campus Program

The semester is going quickly and we want to wish every student the best as they continue to complete their studies. It is a very busy time and should you require any additional support, or have unexpected issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. Below are some suggested resources:

### Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre (SSC) provides services and programs to ensure you make the most of your time at university. Our advisors, learning support staff and writing support staff will help you enhance your skills and achieve your academic goals.

### Student Wellness Services

Wellbeing services for UCalgary students, from medical to mental health. Through single session counselling, you can explore concerns, gain insights, and co-create some strategies you can leave the appointment with. With appointments available from Monday to Friday, you'll usually be able to book a 75-minute appointment within a week. To access, call 403-210-9355 or [book a session online](#).

### Wellness Services for Off-Campus and Community-Based Students

Are you a student who is studying off campus, or are you unable to access our in-person mental health because you are in a community-based program? If so, we have a Distance Student Support Advisor who is available for you. They're here to help you with anything that may be preventing you from achieving personal or academic success. Issues they can help address include stress, anxiety, loneliness and isolation. To contact our Distance Student Support Advisor, please email at [distancesupport@ucalgary.ca](mailto:distancesupport@ucalgary.ca) and indicate the community in which you are studying.

### Mental Health Resources During COVID-19

Access resources to normalize feelings of distress during the pandemic, as well as more UCalgary resources including webinars for wellbeing, mental health tips for working from home, and community resources for intimate-partner violence and substance abuse.

### Wellness FAQs section

A recently added FAQ section for students about a range of mental health-related questions.





## ***From the ESA President's Desk***

Hello Werklund students! I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself and some exciting things the ESA has been working on this year. My name is Kyle Corry and I am ecstatic to be your ESA President - getting to serve members from this role was something I quietly dreamed about since sitting in Mac Hall Ballroom at Orientation. If your semester has been anything like our own, I am sure that you are already exhausted and barely clinging on at this point! The ESA has had an equally rocky and exhilarating ride this year, as we look to expand far beyond the limits of what has been attempted before. Many exciting things are coming up, and details are frequently updated on our [website](#) or [social media](#).



### **New Member Representative roles - Voices for all!**

First off, I am beyond excited to introduce you to some new members of our team! As a 4-year student myself, I personally felt that even as somebody involved in the ESA Executive, Education students not in their 400/500 years often feel alone on an island. It was our hope to change that in a small way, so I would like to introduce to you our dedicated 2021 – 2022 Member Representatives! You can learn more about each of them at by [visiting our website](#).

**400-Level Representative:** Kevin Dang, [kevin.dang@ucalgary.ca](mailto:kevin.dang@ucalgary.ca)

**Community-based Representative:** Amanda Burke, [amanda.burke@ucalgary.ca](mailto:amanda.burke@ucalgary.ca)

**Concurrent Representatives:** Misgana Abraha (Natural Sciences), [misgana.abraha@ucalgary.ca](mailto:misgana.abraha@ucalgary.ca); Claire Gillis (Math), [claire.gillis1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:claire.gillis1@ucalgary.ca); and Elsa Stokes (French, Second Language) [elsa.stokes@ucalgary.ca](mailto:elsa.stokes@ucalgary.ca)

**4 – Year B.Ed. Representative:** Thalya Joorisity (German Second Language) [thalya.joorisity@ucalgary.ca](mailto:thalya.joorisity@ucalgary.ca)

Additionally, the ESA recognizes that our leadership team and faculty as a whole does not always represent the diverse identities of our students in Alberta. Students of all ages need to see themselves reflected in the perspectives and attitudes of their teachers. The ESA is working to introduce Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) goals into each of our positions, such as through diverse perspectives in professional development sessions and panels, increased surveys or engagement with members and students of Werklund School, and finding funding to support initiatives which cost may inhibit. Every executive is doing their best to diversify which voices are heard in their respective portfolios. While important and necessary, we recognize that these are small steps in the grand scale of things. For this reason, we plan to formally write a new role into our Constitution – a **Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**. This role will be voted on at our January AGM and if successful, will be active as of the 2022 – 2023 year. We would love to have many members joining us for that vote and sharing their thoughts! In the meantime, we have an acting member serving as a consultant for the creation of this role. If you would like to share your thoughts or concerns regarding this topic, please feel free to email either [esa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:esa@ucalgary.ca), or [esapresident@ucalgary.ca](mailto:esapresident@ucalgary.ca). If you would like to voice your opinion but would prefer to stay anonymous or do not feel comfortable discussing directly with the ESA, please feel free to contact [upe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:upe@ucalgary.ca), and they will action your concerns with us as needed.

These are but small steps that we as individuals can make, and we know that no team or organization can fully predict or understand all concerns of a diverse student body such as Werklund's. We deeply welcome the sharing of all concerns and perspectives – if something bothers you, you need support to lean on or you just need a social space to connect, the ESA is here for you!

## **Experiential Learning: Important Dates**

- Teaching Across Borders Fall 2022 application opens Nov. 15
- Winter 2022 Service-Learning application opens Nov. 22