



# The Werklund Wire

December 2018 Edition

## Congratulations!

Undergraduate Programs in Education and the Education Students' Association would like to Congratulate Taylor Rajbar for winning the "Name that Newsletter" contest. Enjoy your Werklund Sweatshirt!



## Education Students' Association – President's Corner

Hi Everyone!

My name is Sam Sirianni, and I am the president of the ESA this year! Thank you for tuning into our first official newsletter in conjunction with the UPE office! I am so excited that this project is getting off the ground, and I hope you are all excited about it, too!

Our PDs have wrapped up for the year, but will be up and running again starting in January. Did you know we host the most PD sessions of any ESA in Alberta?! Remember that sign-up is online, and opens the first of each month! Not in your education years? That's okay! You can still come to PDs!

We were also lucky enough to have 4 school boards come and speak to our members about their boards and how to apply to them! We have held two of our three sold out ASIST sessions, and our First Aid session. Grad is coming up soon, so graduating students, remember to book your grad photos [here](#). Keep your eye out this semester for more details about our graduation event!

It is a busy time of the year for everyone at the university and your mental health is so important. Please remember to take care of yourselves headed into finals and the last leg of Field III. There are lots of resources around campus if you need someone to reach out to, starting with our great [Wellness Centre](#).

If you are ever unsure of what is going on you can head to our [website](#) for all our information! Make sure that you keep up to date with us on our social media pages: facebook/esaucalgary; Instagram: @esaucalgary. And, of course, stop by our office during office hours to pick up your membership!

Until next month!

## Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the Werklund Wire!

Dr. Amy Burns

In this, the first edition of the *Werklund Wire*, I would like to start with a story. In my teaching career, I have had the honour of teaching a wide range of subjects to a wide range of learners, in schools that would be called very rural. In my first year of teaching, I taught grade 3, despite the fact that I completed a degree in secondary Drama Education. My class was in a school with only a couple of hundred students, in a town with less than 500 people. Many of the students lived on ranches and traveled an hour or more each way to school. In that time, they would often read: they loved to imagine the worlds that books gave them entrance to, to visualize for themselves that castle or that mountain or that character looking for something they desperately wanted. In short, they imagined for at least 2 hours a day, and that is what I hope you are able to do also. It is true that teaching is a busy career, but it is one that allows you to spend time with young people, engaging in the act of imagining. So take a moment simply to imagine that castle or that mountain, and be sure to tell stories to your students so they can see you hard at work imagining also. Here's a quote from one of my favourite books to start with...

*"Long ago there were no colors in the world at all. Almost everything was grey and what was not grey was black or white. It was a time that was called The Great Greyness.*

*Every morning a Wizard who lived during the time of The Great Greyness would open his window to look out at the wide land. 'Something is very wrong with the world,' he would say. 'It is hard to tell when the rainy days stop and the sunny days begin.'"*

*The Great Blueness by Arnold Lobel (pp. 1-2)*

You'll need to seek out the book to see what happens next!

## Werklund Student Participates in the Calgary Interprofessional Challenge.

Gursharan Gill

4 people you have never met before. 1 challenge. 48 hours...

For a person as shy as me, the Calgary Interprofessional Challenge (CIC) was definitely an out-of-the-box and eye-opening experience. Walking into that lecture hall, I was amazed by the number of students, ranging from first year undergrads to those in second year Med School. Right away, we were thrown into clinics and workshops, tasked to come up with solutions to the question: "How do we create the next generation of healthy and sustainable learning spaces at the University of Calgary?" At the end of this, we were to pitch our final idea to a panel of judges in the hopes that it would make enough of an impact for us to 'win'.

Our 48 hours ran fast! Working through late nights and early mornings, my team, otherwise notoriously known as #TeamMidas, spoke and collaborated with mentors, making our brainstorm into a reality. We were able to collaborate with professionals from fields such as environmental design, business, health, law, architecture, and even video game designing! It really went to show how many resources are genuinely needed in order to make a difference.

Overall, one of the biggest takeaways I learned from this challenge is the idea that everyone, regardless of the faculty they are from, can come together to do pretty much anything. I was fortunate enough to be put on a team with students from the faculties of Arts, Engineering, Kinesiology and Science. I especially loved how during our brainstorm, we used many facets of our identity - taking bits and pieces from our personal lives and amplifying that with our faculty backgrounds.

I would definitely recommend all students to participate in any future CIC's because at the end of the day, who doesn't like free food, swag, AND new friends?

## That's a Wrap!

Dr. Katherine Mueller

Fall 2018 has been an exciting and busy time for Werklund students! Those of you in Year One had your first practicum experience, visiting two schools over the course of two weeks. Your feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. You've talked about seeing young students engaged in their learning, being inspired by passionate teachers, and witnessing exciting classroom initiatives. Many of you have shared with me that your classroom experiences have confirmed your decision to be a teacher, and that you're seeing the links between what you're learning in your courses and classroom practice.

Those of you in Year Two are now almost done your Field III experience. You're learning how to juggle the demands of planning, organization, building relationships with students, and maintaining collaborative relationships with colleagues. You're discovering the satisfying feeling of a long and busy day in the classroom, knowing that you've inspired your students, even in a small way, and that they've learned something new each day.

One of our Werklund pre-service teachers is teaching her young students how to knit, so that each child can knit a unique square. The squares will be joined to form a blanket to demonstrate to the students the theme "We are all connected". The blanket will then be donated to the Mustard Seed. What a great example of a simple learning activity that will have long-lasting impact!

You're well on your way! Our best wishes to all of you as you complete your semester!

## KEY DATES

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam Period

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: TAB Application Deadline

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-2:30pm: UPE Office Closed

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>: University Closed: Winter Break

Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>-Jan.19<sup>th</sup>: Add/Drop/Swap Deadlines for 400s and 500 EDUCs

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: EDUC 551 Begins

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>: Winter term courses begin (Except EDUC 551)

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>: Career Workshops

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>: Drop Deadline (non-Ed courses)

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>: Career Fair

## Showcase: Interdisciplinary Learning

Verena Roberts & Barbara Brown

On October 31, 2018, over 400 students in their final year of the Bachelor of Education program came together to showcase their Interdisciplinary learning projects. These pre-service teachers collaborated with their peers across the course *EDUC 520: Interdisciplinary Learning* to design units of study, and presented research, practice and community-informed posters, and prototypes. Community-Based students were also represented through a multi-modal learning experience in collaboration with the Taylor Institute, where their recorded digital presentations were presented through the [OpenEDUC520 Course Blog](#).



The K-12 topics included big ideas inspired from current issues facing communities and connected to the [ABEd Program of Studies](#) and [ABEd competencies](#). The projects demonstrated authentic design and understanding of meaningful use of technology, differentiated learning, Indigenous world views, and inclusive learning.



Guests from our Partner Research Schools also attended the showcase. The students described how they connected the curriculum from different disciplines through project-based learning opportunities. The projects also included prototypes with plans for formative and summative assessment to ensure that future teachers could clearly understand the context and expectations of their project designs.

The event concluded with panelists from the Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic Schools, and Rocky View Schools sharing insights about their district priorities, and the value of working in collaboration with colleagues and designing interdisciplinary ways.

## Werklund Wire Mandate

The Werklund Wire is designed to promote engagement between the students of our faculty, and the administration. It is meant to disseminate good news, and highlight the incredible positives of the teaching profession. It also serves to unify the student body by including students from all Pathways in the Bachelor of Education!

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*The Werklund Wire* is an Education Students' Association and Undergraduate Programs in Education joint initiative. This means that it pertains to all things YOU! Student submissions are highly encouraged! Send us ideas for upcoming stories, or write one yourself! Memes, comics, and articles are also all considered! Send them to [upe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:upe@ucalgary.ca)