

## Professional & Community Life in the Education Department

**2024-25**

| <b>Fall Semester 2024</b>         |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| August                            | Yosemite Retreat                          | For the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the Department as a whole drove to Yosemite and spent three nights in the Berghold cabin, getting candidates oriented to the demands of the semester ahead; and participating in a bit of hands-on math, science, social studies and literacy.   |
| September and throughout the year | President's Committee on Trust-building   | Heather was selected to be the Staff Representative on the special <i>ad hoc</i> committee for Strengthening Trust and Communication across the college. Out of that work came the College's first Staff Council, for which she is now a member of the Steering Committee. (Heather continues to be an active part of the college community-at-large, having attended for example the Diversi-Tea in October; and having participated in a Microinclusions workshop in November). |
|                                   | Faculty Committee Work                    | Carolyn served on the Program Review Committee. Andrew began service on the Faculty Personnel Committee, and as of April took over FPC chair duties, planning for the following (2025-26) academic year.  |
|                                   | Student Clubs                             | Carolyn continues to serve as the Education Club's advisor (also 2025-26). Andrew continues to serve as the Garden Club advisor (also 2025-26), in addition to advising/involvement with two other student clubs. He is part of the Westmont Community Garden faculty/staff council, in addition to being active in the garden itself.  |
|                                   | Local Advisory Boards                     | Carolyn continues to serve on several education-related local boards, most notably the Partners in Education and San Marcos Education Pathways boards   |
| October                           | CCTE Conference                           | Carolyn <b>attended and presented at</b> the California Council for Teacher Education conference in San Diego. This event held special significance this year, as a chance conversation led eventually to our hiring of Dr. Sally Hawkins as the third full-time member of our faculty.   |
|                                   | Breakfast with the Authors                | Andrew continues to interface with local and nationally-recognized writers for pre-school through Grade 12 at the SBCOE's annual <i>Breakfast w/ the Authors</i> .  |
|                                   | Certification of expertise in supervision | As part of our departmental effort to comply with CTC program standards for formal training in teacher-supervision, Andrew completed the ten-hour professional development modules offered by the SDCOE.  |
| November                          | Theatre discussion                        | Andrew served as one of two discussion facilitators for the Theatre Department's production of <i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> , reflecting on dilemmas faced by schools—and society in general—in celebrating holidays and cultural traditions in an increasingly diverse and even polarized society.   |
|                                   | Credential analyst conference             | Heather attended the CCAC annual conference, networking with peers at sister institutions and continuing to gather resources for advising candidates and prospective candidates.  |
| December                          | Recommended for Tenure                    | The faculty personnel committee recommended Carolyn for tenure ( approved by the Board of Trustees in May)!!!   |

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|  | Coastline Christian Academy                                     | For the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year in a row, Kris Severson and the entire school community at Coastline provided a half-day of professional development for our elementary candidates. This resulted indirectly and eventually in the hiring of two new teachers (Hannah Hutton in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade; Chloe Harber in 5 <sup>th</sup> ), and represents part of an ongoing unofficial partnership with Coastline that has involved professional development for teachers and faculty guest-roles in multiple classes. |
| <b>Spring/Summer 2025</b>                      |   |   |
| February                                       | Presentation  | Carolyn presented a paper: “Developing Preservice Teacher’ Formative Assessment Practices through Microteaching Lesson Study” at the Spring Conference of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators.   |
|  | Faculty Development/<br>Wayfinders                              | Andrew served as one of three panelists for new Westmont faculty, reflecting on what it means to integrate the Christian faith into teaching—at the college level or K-12.  |
| March  | CTC Accreditation Site Visit                                    | As a longstanding member of the CTC Board of Institutional Review, Andrew served as part of a CTC Accreditation Team Visit for the third consecutive year.  |
|  | Earth Day   | As part of a campus-wide/community-wide celebration of Earth Day, Andrew led a bird hike and manned a related booth. (In parallel fashion, he has led either bird-focused or more general nature-oriented hikes as part of Faculty Retreat the last three years.)   |
| April  | Successful Hire   | After two years of the department being short-staffed, Dr. Sally Hawkins accepted a position as the third member of the Education Faculty.  |
|  | Celebration of Teaching   | A highlight of the year continues to be our candidates’ reflection on their growth of teachers—our 21 <sup>st</sup> celebration   |
| May & previous                                 | Approval of the new CTC Literacy Standards for program sponsors | After monumental levels of effort on the part of Dr. Mitten and others, the CTC approved our plan for preparing candidates in the newly adopted (SB 488) Teacher Preparation Literacy standards.  |
| July   | Book chapter  | Carolyn published a chapter on “Reframing Teachers’ Negative Experiences with Assessment” in the <i>Handbook of Mental Wellness Strategies for Educators: Research-Based Best Practices</i> .   |
|  | Local history   | Andrew continues to work on local history relevant to his roots in Eastern Canada, conducting oral history interviews, leading tours and children’s activities, and organizing archival material for a small museum.  |
| August   | Jobs  | As of this month, 12 of the 13 credential candidates from 2024-25 have received job offers, while the 13 <sup>th</sup> was planning to sub.   |
| Summer—and much of the preceding Academic Year | Accreditation work for the CTC                                  | Carolyn continues to lead efforts to prepare for our CTC Accreditation Site Visit in April of 2026.   |

The full-time faculty and staff of Westmont's Education Department is part of a larger team.

We want to acknowledge up front the contributions of our partner (part-time) professors for 2024-25

- Melissa Ewart (SBUSD) **ED 171: Secondary Literacy**
- Alex Wilson (SBUSD) **ED 130: Special Education**
- Allison Heiduk (HSD) **ED 100/101 Explorations in Teaching**
- Jill Wolf **KNS 155: Fundamentals of Movement**
- Holly Gil (SBUSD) **ENG 106: Language Acquisition**
- Ali Fisher [*WC Credential, 2014*] Bogatz (SBUSD) **ED 120-series: Subject-specific Pedagogy**
- Rhonda DuPar (formerly of SBUSD) **Student Teaching Supervision**
- Ryan Ethington **ART 180: Art for Children**
- Laura Walters **MU 180: Music for Children**

Westmont Education continues to expand its social media presence through its Instagram account. Follow us @westmont\_education to learn more about our Department events!