



## Education Department Newsletter September 2019



ALMA COLLEGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

### ENGAGING STRUGGLING LEARNERS

September 20, 2019

2:00pm-5:00pm

Upper Dow Lobby

### RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

COST: FREE

THE DISTRICT REIMBURSEMENT FOR A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AVAILABLE

Session:  
Best Year Ever!



Bill Cecil  
Speaker/Author/Consultant  
Michigan Teacher of the Year (2003-2004)

Session:  
Gamifying the Classroom



Kymberli Wregglesworth  
Michigan Council for the Social Studies  
High School Teacher of the Year (2015)



### Student Spotlight Julia Neuvirth '20



This summer I worked with Dr. Store to statistically evaluate the political engagement of individuals ages 11-22. The goal of my study was to determine students' level of political engagement and how their teachers are preparing them. I extended the study further to see how future educators plan to integrate world events and political education into their classrooms, regardless of whether they are social studies or history teachers. The hope is to take the information gained through my research to come up with new methods of integrating these concepts into the classroom to create more politically engaged students and citizens.

### Message from the Chair

Dear friends and alumni,

Welcome back to a new school year! In this edition of our biannual newsletter, we're excited to share updates from recent graduates and highlights from our work on campus. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have something you'd like us to share!

In our winter newsletter edition, we shared that our Teacher Education Program was going through re-accreditation. It went very well, and we received excellent feedback. We are very

### Alumni Giving

We would like to give a special thank you to **Dawn K. Friend, '72**, for her generous donation to the Alma College Education Department. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Gifts to the Education Department

grateful to Dr. Nicola Findley and Karla Cartrite for their leadership in this work. We are also very grateful to our teaching alumni for their positive feedback and to our partners in different school buildings. Together we are doing an outstanding job of preparing future teachers. Thank you!

Speaking of being one of best education programs, please continue recommending us to your family members, neighbors, and students who have a heart of service to become licensed teachers or pursue Educational Studies with us. There is always room to grow our Alma Education family. You can become an Alma Ambassador® by [clicking here](#) .

Lastly, do not miss our September 20, 2019 **Teaching Alumni PD** for an opportunity to learn from Bill Cecil and Kimberli Wregglesworth '97 about engaging struggling readers. Paid substitute teachers, strolling the Alma College campus, SCECHs, friendship, food, Professional Learning Network, and Homecoming Weekend...What can be better than that?

Best regards,



Dr. Jessie Store  
Department Chair  
[storejc@alma.edu](mailto:storejc@alma.edu)

## Faculty Scholarship



Dr. Peggy Yates '92 will be representing the Alma College Education Department as she shares her expertise on training special education in-service and pre-service teachers to effectively work with paraprofessionals in the classroom. She will present at the Council for Exceptional

Children Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference in November (2019) in New Orleans, LA and in February (2020) at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Portland, Oregon.

## Accreditation

We are currently at the final stage of pursuing the renewal of our national accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. We submitted our report in July 2018 and welcomed the site visit team to campus for three days in early April 2019. While here, they interviewed a variety of people who are knowledgeable about our program, including alumni. We are grateful to all who met with them. It was a highlight of their visit to hear the positive comments about our program and their time at Alma College. We enjoyed the chance to chat with you too! The site team was positive about their visit, and we were pleased with the initial report they shared with us

can made online at any time.

[www.alma.edu/giving](http://www.alma.edu/giving)

Just type Education Department in the specific designation line.

## Alumni Spotlight

We are happy to share two recent updates from Alma College Education department alumni.

First, congratulations to **Kelsee**



**Brinklow '17** on being named a WGVC Cool Teacher in November! Kelsee is currently teaching at

Zeeland East High School. Check out this YouTube video highlighting some of Kelsee's work.

Second, **Amy Plackowski '02** was recently published in a book



titled *Teaching Language Variation in the Classroom: Strategies and Models from*

*Teachers and Linguists*. According to Amy, her time at Alma sparked her interest in linguistics and teaching about language. Lesson plans and activities are included throughout the text, and many additional resources are available for download. To access more information visit the **Routledge website**.

If you would like to get in touch with Amy, e-mail here at

[amyplackowski@yahoo.com](mailto:amyplackowski@yahoo.com) or [aplackowski@hudson.k12.ma.us](mailto:aplackowski@hudson.k12.ma.us).

On behalf of the Alma College education department, thank you for your commitment to the profession and your continued work with students!

## Faculty/Staff Highlight

and with the CAEP organization. The final step takes place on October 19, when we will join members of the CAEP Council on a conference call to review the recommendations given to them. Within a month of that call, we will receive the Council's final decision on our accreditation status. We look forward to sharing good news with you all soon. Meanwhile, we continue to work on ways to improve our program, and we continue to welcome your thoughts.

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## Future Teacher Scholarship

In partnership with the Alma College Admissions department we will soon be offering a limited number of \$1,500 scholarships to recruit future teachers

who intend to pursue teacher certification in a shortage area (e.g., mathematics, science, and special education) or are members of underrepresented groups in the current teaching workforce.

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## Kappa Delta Pi



Jessica Hatcher  
'20 Vice President

Kappa Delta Pi has had a very successful year thanks to the help of our dedicated members. KDP participated alongside the Education Club in a number of events, many of which focused on raising money for local schools. Recently, our chapter has been busy with the process of turning over our Executive board. The new board has many ideas and exciting activities planned to help benefit our local community and further our educational attainment. We can't wait to work together to build a better world for the children of the future!

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## We Want to Hear From You!

Do you know an Alma College Education Department graduate you feel should be highlighted in our newsletter? Do you have a new teaching/education position (or other good news!) we can share with our alumni community? Will you be on campus in the coming weeks or months? Feel free to e-mail Professor Brian Hancock ([hancockb@alma.edu](mailto:hancockb@alma.edu)) or Dr. Jessie Store ([storejc@alma.edu](mailto:storejc@alma.edu)) - we want to hear from you!



Congratulations to Kathy Paul! Kathy received the Teacher of the Year from the Alma College Phi Sigma Sigma sorority in late March.

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## Upcoming Events

**Professional Development Day-**  
September 20, 2019

**Homecoming** is September 21, 2019 - we'd love to see you in the alumni and faculty reception tent after the game!

Please join us at the upcoming alumni events (following DARTEP meetings):

October 4, Big Rapids area,  
location TBD

February 7, Ann Arbor area,  
location TBD

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## Fun Facts!

Do you think you know which two people these fun facts pertain to? If so, e-mail Dr. Peggy Thelen ([thelen@alma.edu](mailto:thelen@alma.edu)) with your guesses! All entries received by October 15th will be entered into a drawing for Alma College Education Department swag, and we'll announce the winner in the next newsletter!

**Person #1: I dated an actor on the hit TV show, The Office...who am I?**

**Person #2: I crashed a Segway in front of the White House...who am I?**

In our last newsletter, Dr. Nicola Findley was the one who played lacrosse for seven years in school, and Kathy Paul is one of 14 children with no twins!

Scots on Social Media

AC Education Facebook



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