



## Education Department Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

Dear friends and alumni,

The beautiful Michigan winter and the critical educator shortage our nation faces have given us more thinking time about how grateful we are for our graduates. We are so lucky to have the Alma College experience to use in the education profession to serve others. Thank you for choosing a life of service and for all you are doing for the children and our world. There are unlimited reasons to celebrate the education profession.

Many education alumni gave gifts to the college and the Education Department during the past year. Many of you recommended your students and family members to join us and study education at Alma College. You show up to be guest speakers in our courses, you host prospective teachers in your classrooms, and you think of our program when there are job openings in your school or district. We love to hear about your professional adventures when you visit campus. Your accomplishments are our pride. Our Alma College Education family thanks you and celebrates you.

With gratitude,



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

### Faculty Activities

**Brian Hancock '05** will be sharing recent research on supporting high school biology students' science literacy, and how secondary science teachers navigated new standards and pedagogies while mentoring student teachers. He will present at the National Association of Research on Science Teaching international conference in Portland,

### Alumni Giving

A special *thank you* to **Susan Hillman '81**, **Jonathan Parlow '84**, and **William '81 and Jeanne Westerhof** for their generous donations to the Alma College Education Department. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Gifts to the Education Department can be made online at any time. [www.alma.edu/giving](http://www.alma.edu/giving) Just type Education Department in the specific designation line.

### Faculty/Staff Highlight



We are happy to introduce Cindy Wendzel as our new departmental administrative assistant. Cindy has been with Alma College for 10 years and is a welcome addition to the Education bay.

Oregon. Brian is also leading a summer Ambitious Science Teaching professional development program, where elementary and secondary science teachers earn a stipend and money for classroom resources. More information is available [here](#).

**Dr. Peggy Yates** continues her scholarship activity on working with paraprofessionals. She recently published with collaborators, *Preparing Teachers for Effective Paraeducator Supervision* for the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division. In 2020, she will present this research at the Learning Disabilities Association's (LDA) 57th Annual International Conference in Orlando, FL and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference in Portland, OR.

**Dr. Peggy Thelen** is taking students to Argentina for Spring Term. Students will visit a variety of schools in Buenos Aires and travel to Iguazu Falls (Look it up! Wow!) and Patagonia. Look for photos in the next newsletter.

**Dr. Jessie Store** is taking her spring term course to Costa Rica to learn in San Jose, Tortuguero, Arenal Region and Guanacaste. She is also looking forward to working with teachers this summer through an e-STEM 4-week online Professional Development program she is conducting at Alma. In the program, teachers earn money for classroom resources, a stipend, and SCHECHs to work on their proposed technology projects. Spaces are limited, apply as soon as possible. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## Accreditation

We are pleased to give one final update on our accreditation through the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP.) Following our submitted report in July 2018 and our site visit in April 2019, the visit team shared their recommendation with the CAEP Council. On October 19, we joined members of the Council on a conference call. Shortly thereafter we received notification that the Education Department at Alma College has been granted full accreditation from Fall 2019 to Fall 2026. We were particularly pleased that there were no identified areas for improvement or stipulations in the report. Our thanks to all who participated in any way through this process.

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## Student Experiences

## Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for an announcement about our next alumni PD, which is tentatively scheduled for the Friday of Homecoming weekend (October 9) - we'd love to see you!

Please join us on **Friday, February 7** for our Education alumni event at the Applebee's Grill and Bar in Ann Arbor (1005 W. Eisenhower Pkwy) from 4:30-6 p.m. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

## 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!

## Future Teacher Scholarship

In partnership with the Alma College Admissions Office we are excited to now offer competitive \$1,500 scholarships to



As part of Professor Hancock's EDC 361 (elementary science methods) last fall, Alma College students visited Forest Hill Nature Area and worked with local students as they explored a nature-based educational program.

## Education Club



Lauren Sandtveit '21,  
President

The Education Club had an exciting and enjoyable fall semester. Our club grew to 52 members and we had successful events with the Head Start program on campus, including a Halloween-themed a trunk or treat and haunted "dorm" house! We are looking forward to the winter semester and are planning events for "March is Reading Month." Many club members will also volunteer with Special Olympics.

## Alumni Spotlight



Congratulations to Dr. David Simpson '03, principal of Northern Hills Middle School in the Forest Hills Schools District, Grand Rapids, MI. David was recognized by the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association as Region 9 Principal of the Year. David majored in secondary education and teaching at Alma before earning his master's and doctoral degrees in K-12 administration at Michigan State University.

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. Please continue to recommend Alma College to students considering a career in teaching. Also, don't forget to use the **Refer-a-Scot** site to refer those students and any others you think would be successful at Alma.

### 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 March 15<sup>th</sup> 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 met my spouse in the Alma College library...who am I?

**Person #2:** I met Kid Rock while playing pool...who am I?

In our last newsletter, Dr. Peggy Thelen was the one who dated an actor on the hit TV show, *The Office*, and Dr. Peggy Yates crashed a Segway in front of the White House!

Congratulations to Justina Moreno '19 and Kelsey

Merz '11 for correctly  
guessing our faculty fun  
facts!

### Scots on Social Media

### AC Education Facebook



### Alma College Links



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