



ALMA COLLEGE

## Education Department Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

Dear friends and alumni,

Once again, educators have risen and shown how flexible their knowledge and skills are. We have seen educators all around quickly switching to being teachers in distance, online, and hybrid learning environments without much time to prepare for such changes. Our profession is truly one of the best.

This semester we would like to specially thank all our clinical experience partners. Our continued partnership with schools during this pandemic has meant so much to us. Thank you for having our students in your schools and classrooms and continuing to support teacher education.

We think your plate may be unusually full this semester. We have decided to cancel our Fall professional development that we announced in Winter. We are also cancelling the meetings for the Education Department and alumni that we were having in different cities. We will miss these coffee shop meetings and look forward to when we can safely meet again.

We are thinking of you, the sacrifices you are making and the impact you have on the future. More than ever we are grateful that you chose the education profession. Please make time to care of your physical, mental, and spiritual needs.

With gratitude,



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

### Alumni Giving

A special *thank you* to **Susan Hillman '81**, **Jonathan Parlow '84**, **Benjamin Thomas '70** 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 Dr. Peggy Thelen



And she lived to tell the tale...

Some of my fondest memories are of the international trips I have taken with students during spring term. I hope that they are as enriching for the students as are for me.

## Faculty Activities

**Brian Hancock '05** - In June Dr. Brian Hancock successfully defended his dissertation through Michigan State University and is a chapter co-author in a new Harvard Education Publishing book titled *Preparing Science Teachers Through Practice-Based Teacher Education*.

**Dr. Peggy Yates '92** recently published an article with colleagues in the journal *Intervention School and Clinic* on the topic of working with paraeducator in the classroom. Training and materials were presented in February at the Council for Exceptional Children 2020 Conference in Portland, Oregon and the 57th International Learning Disabilities Association Conference in Orlando, Florida.

## Student Experiences



Given the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, all off-campus spring term courses in 2020 were cancelled or shifted to an alternative (online) format. In response, Dr. Hancock shifted the traditional classroom placement for EDC 130/103 (Introduction to Secondary Education) to run entirely online. As part of this shift, Dr. Hancock welcomed eight outstanding teachers from across the United States to join virtually into Friday afternoon panel discussions, and he looks forward to including similar experiences for our AC students in the coming terms.

## Alumni Spotlight

Cheryl McClure graduated from Alma College with a Biology major in 1989 and currently teaches middle school science at the **International School** in Bellevue, Washington. She is a self-declared geek about science education, technology, as well as soccer and sailing.

They are truly life changing, even for an old professor like me...we never stop learning! (Yes, I retired from category 5 white water rafting after this trip!)

### 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 Dr. 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!

### 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 November 20 will be entered into a drawing for Alma College Education Department swag, and we'll announce the winner in the next newsletter!



Cheryl McClure  
'89

Cheryl is passionate about incorporating computational thinking, real world science connections, STEM, and utilizing technology to assist the "ah-ha" moments of discovery and understanding with her students.

Person #1: I studied abroad in both Ecuador and Mexico...who am I?

Person #2: I sang in the choir for twelve years...who am I?

In our February newsletter, Brian Hancock met his wife Kristie (Gehrs; '03) in the Alma College Library, and Karla Carrite met Kid Rock while playing pool!

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## Future Teacher Scholarship

In the spring we were happy to award 12 competitive \$1,500 scholarships to prospective students 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. Of those 12 awardees, 10 enrolled this fall. Please continue to recommend Alma College to students considering a career in education, share those students names with the college through the **Refer-A-Scot** program and the encourage them to apply for the Future Teacher Scholarship if it is a good fit!

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