



Alma College Department of Education



Alma College Education Department Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2021

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Although our hopes of starting this school year like we would have in the pre-COVID years have quickly vanished, I am confident that we will have an amazing year. We have already gone through the challenges the pandemic put in our way, we will do so again with more confidence and our new 'tried and true' strategies.

Here at Alma, we are excited to be launching our new elementary certification program. Starting this Fall, our elementary teacher candidates will pursue in PK-6 major to become certified teachers for preschool through grade 3 and grades 3-6. We are also continuing to offer additional endorsements in Integrated Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Special Education. We believe these program changes respond well to the classroom needs.

When you are attending events on campus or are wandering through the beautiful city of Alma, we are always appreciative of you coming home to the Education Department at Alma. Our offices have moved from the Kehrl Library Basement to the second floor of the Swanson Academic Center. We are looking forward to seeing you at our alumni professional development on Homecoming Friday. You are always welcome home.

I would like to specially thank those of you who join our classes to be guest speakers and mentor our students. I would also like to thank all of you who mentor our teacher candidates in your classrooms and provide internships for our Educational Studies majors. Your work as on-site teacher educators is important to our program, students, and many professions.

Alma #PlaidWorks. Go Scots!

Dr. Jessie Store (Department Chair)
storejc@alma.edu

Future Scots:

Do you know a future Scot who is interested in teaching? Please continue to recommend Alma College to students considering a career in education by participating in the Ambassador Program, and encourage students to apply for the Future Teacher Scholarship if it is a good fit!

EDC Club:

In April the EDC Club elected new officers who are looking forward to again serving our local communities and welcoming other education-curious students at Alma College into the fold.

EDC Club officers for the 2021-2022 academic year are:

President: Emily McDonald

Treasurer: Gary Carter

VP and Secretary: Raegan Stambaugh

Co-Event Coordinators: Keira Hatch and Josie Theut

KDP officers for the 2021-2022 academic year are:

President: Aubrey Root

Vice President: Kara Tredway

Treasurer: Raegan Stambaugh

Secretary: Stephanie Eckstrom

PR/Social Media: Alexandria Loonsfoot

Faculty Activities:

Dr. Brian Hancock presented his dissertation work titled *Investigating how pre-service teachers draw on their understanding of student ideas to elicit student thinking* at the 2021 NARST international conference, and co-presented a poster titled *What to do during whale-nami? Supporting preservice teachers' noticing and pedagogical reasoning during teaching rehearsals* at the 2021 AERA international conference.

Dr. Peggy Yates presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (CEC)-Live in March 2021. Her presentations *Teacher-Guided Professional Development for the Paraeducator* and *Paraeducator to Teacher Pathways: Creative Solutions to Alleviate Teacher Shortages*. This past summer she was invited to contribute her work to the CEC Paraeducator Webinar series. Her webinar, titled *Tools for Teachers: Delegating Instructional Tasks to Paraeducators* will be released by the CEC October 1, 2021.

Alumni Giving:

We would like to Neil Drzewiecki '01 of The Drzewiecki Agency in support of the Teacher's Professional Development Day (see below). Please consider making a donation by visiting **Give to Alma** and specifying "Education" in the notes box. This year's donations will be used to purchase Michigan Test for Teacher Certification vouchers which will be given to students based on their financial-aid need. Many students struggle to pay for the certification tests which are currently priced at \$129 per subject. Thank you for considering a gift that addresses the national teacher shortage by enabling teacher candidates to complete their certification requirements and start their teaching careers.

Faculty/Staff Update: Virginia Blandford

Virginia Blandford, formerly our Tk20 unit administrator, has recently accepted a new position in the Center for Student Opportunity at Alma College! Please join us in congratulating Virginia on this new opportunity – she will be missed in the department.

Professional Development Opportunity: October 1

The Alma College Education department is once again excited to provide a professional development opportunity for alumni and current education students. Please consider joining us this year on Friday, October 1, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. as we learn about social emotional learning from Amy Wassmann, Whole Child Programs Director at the Saginaw ISD, and Kim June, Fourth grade teacher and Teach Wonder Podcast presenter. This online offering is provided with support of **The Drzewiecki Agency, LLC**. Neil Drzewiecki is a 2001 graduate whose firm specializes in insurance for educators. Please register **HERE**.

Fun Facts!

Do you think you know who this fun fact pertains to? If so, e-mail Dr. Peggy Thelen **thelen@alma.edu** with your guess! All entries received by October 15 will be entered into a drawing for **Alma College Education Department** swag, and we'll announce the winner in the next newsletter!

Mystery person: I worked as a photographer for the university's Sports Information Office when I was earning my bachelor's degree...who am I?

In our February newsletter, Dr. Peggy Yates grew up in a funeral home, and Cindy Wendzel milked cows on their farm from age 8 to age 18!

Alumni Spotlight: Abbey Callard (Educational Studies, '18)



I am currently a Limited License Clinical Social Worker in my first

emphasis on exposure and response prevention (ERP) work, which is essentially having a patient expose themselves to whatever they might be fearful of in order to habituate the brain to the trigger.

I find this work to be extremely rewarding, as it allows me to help patients overcome pervasive worries/fears that can very much so disrupt their lives, and I would not be here had it not been for the guidance I received while at Alma! The Alma College Education Department was extremely

year of my Anxiety Fellowship in Michigan Medicine's Psychiatry Department, working specifically with anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders. This work consists primarily of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) treatment with a large

important in getting me to the position that I am in today, as they aided me in completing my 4th year internship and provided me with room to explore options outside of being a classroom teacher.

We want to hear from you!

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

AC Education Facebook



Meemic
INSURANCE FOR EDUCATORS

The Drzewiecki Agency