

# INSIDE MATH & SCIENCE TEACHING

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## NOYCE SCHOLARS IN THE CLASSROOM

Three Noyce Scholars graduated in May 2017 and began their teaching careers. All science majors, these three have started the year off with a variety of activities, labs, and problem solving experiences for their students.

**Alana Patterson**, above, teaches biology at Watauga High in Boone, NC. She is most excited to get to know her students and to "really be a part of the WHS community." Alana is especially appreciative to "give back to the school system that made me who I am today." Always brave herself, Alana advises others who are thinking about teaching to take the leap!

**Chris McCollum**, right, completed a Philosophy and Religion degree in 2005 at Appalachian but returned to complete his teaching degree in Physics this past spring. Having worked with students as a counselor, youth minister, and school bus driver, he knew he wanted to share his love of building and understanding how things work with others. Chris teaches physical science at Alexander Central High School and plans to build up the Physics program as well.

**Chris Kolischak**, back page, has a love of the [continued, p 3]



*Top: Alana Patterson in her Watauga High classroom. Above: Chris McCollum teaches physical science at Alexander Central High School.*

## FOCUS ON FACULTY: CAROL BABYAK

Carol Babyak has been teaching at Appalachian for about 13 years and taught previously as a teaching assistant in graduate school. She is a professor in the Department of Chemistry, with research interests in environmental monitoring and environmental analytical chemistry. Dr. Babyak has received several awards, including the Wachovia Environmental Research Award (2006) and Richard N. Henson Outstanding Advisor Award, and is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Academy of Outstanding Teachers. About teaching, she says, "I think deep down inside I had always wanted to be a teacher

When it was finally time to decide, teaching was all I could

imagine doing." Dr. Babyak says her high school math teacher, Ms. Gutt, stood out to her.



"I don't ever remember a class where she 'taught.' We were always solving problems or doing projects." As a program director for secondary education in Chemistry, Dr. Babyak advises pre-service Chemistry teachers, helps place them in field experiences, and teaches a variety of content courses.

When asked about the best advice she ever received, she points to a quote from *The Courage to Teach*: "We teach who we are," saying, "I never realized that,...but it's true.

And it makes me happy for some reason."

## Best Halloween Books for Middle/High School Students

- The Carnelian Crowe - by Colleen Gleason
- Library of Souls: Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children - by Ransom Riggs
- What Waits in the Woods - Kieran Scott
- The Girl from Rawblood - by Catriona Ward
- Under a Watchful Eye - by Adam Nevill
- The Thing in the Woods - by Matthew W. Quinn

List from [weareteachers.com](http://weareteachers.com)

## Opportunities for Outreach in Math & Science

Looking for activities in the community? Want to boost your resume with experiences? There are lots of opportunities for volunteering in our area, including collaborating with faculty members or with community organizations. For example, the Children's Playhouse in Boone sponsors an annual BuildFest for children. Sign up is happening now, so if you'd like to get involved, check your email for

more information. April is NC ScienceFest month, giving you lots of ways to be involved. Watch for dates for the annual STEAM Expo, the largest outreach event at ASU, with more than 2000 students from grades 6-12 visiting the campus.



## Get Connected!

 Appstate\_TEAMS @TMcSalinas

STEM Leadership Community (a facebook group) 

NC SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

NC COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

The TEAMS Noyce Scholarship program at Appalachian State University is funded by the National Science Foundation (DUE)



outdoors and realized he also had a passion to teach.

After majoring in Environmental Sciences, Chris used his TEAMS: Noyce Scholars funding to return to Appalachian for an alternative licensure program. Accepting a position at River City Academy in Soldotna, Alaska, Chris found an opportunity to teach in a small, performance based school located on the Kenai

Peninsula near the Kenai Wildlife Refuge. As the only science teacher at River City Academy, Chris teaches a variety of lessons and works with a small teaching staff.

Congratulations to all our recent Noyce graduates!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the common reasons for becoming a teacher that we hear from Noyce applicants is that they had an outstanding teacher who inspired them and challenged, them, and they want to be that person for others. Who was your teacher? For me, I can remember several. In 1st grade, Mrs. Pierce tolerated my insatiable need to stay busy and gave me projects. In high school, Mr. Hinton hooked me on history, and Ms. Johnson took me on my first trip to Ole Miss for a writing contest. In college, Dr. McShea encouraged me to add a major in mathematics to my history degree. Dr. Wheeler made me a better writer, and Dr. Noonkester made me think outside the box in instructional methods. Each one was an impactful teacher whose influence I can still trace into my teaching today.

What have you learned from your teachers? What will you take into the classroom and what will you give to others?

Share with us - and send a thanks to the teachers who have influenced you!

All our best as you work to #FirstTeach!

Tracie McLemore Salinas

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Want additional opportunities to interact with or learn about diverse students? There are several activities available on campus that allow you to expand your understanding for teaching diverse learners. Take a look!



On Monday evenings October 23 - December 11, join in on the discussion *Black Minds Matter*. Each session will include a one-hour live-streamed lecture followed by a group discussion. Check out <http://bit.ly/2yCaQoA> for more information.

COMMUNICATING WITH  
PARENTS

On Tuesday, October 24 from 3:30-4:30, Appalachian Alumni Kayla Cook will present a session on How to Effectively Communicate (and Deal) With Parents. The session will be held in room 321 of the College of Ed building.

## PTMA

On Wednesday, October 25 from 7 - 8 pm, award winning mathematics teacher Adam Reeder talks with the Prospective Teachers of Mathematics Association in Walker 103A.