

ALVERNO magazine

SUMMER | 2022

InBloom

Students explore
fertile ground
via new learning
opportunities
in Alverno's
greenhouse

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On the Cover

From left to right: Daniela Avila '22; Rachel Manselle, class of 2022; and Mei Ling Hansen, class of 2023.

ALVERNO MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2022

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Alverno Magazine connects the members of the college community by sharing the stories of our strength, inspiration and meaningful engagement with the world.

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from the President

July 2016 – June 2022



Dear Alverno community,

For two and a half decades, I have served as president of three different Catholic institutions of higher education, each sponsored by a dynamic and powerfully engaged congregation of women religious; for the past six years, our beloved School Sisters of Saint Francis. It has been the privilege and honor of a lifetime.

It is a source of significant pride and deep satisfaction that, despite the staggering challenges of the last several years, we have worked together to strengthen Alverno as an integral part of the higher education ecosystem in the Milwaukee region and beyond, where we serve diverse undergraduate and graduate students, on campus here in Milwaukee, online, and now in Arizona. We should all be proud of what Alverno has been for all of you; what it is today for our students; and what it can become tomorrow.

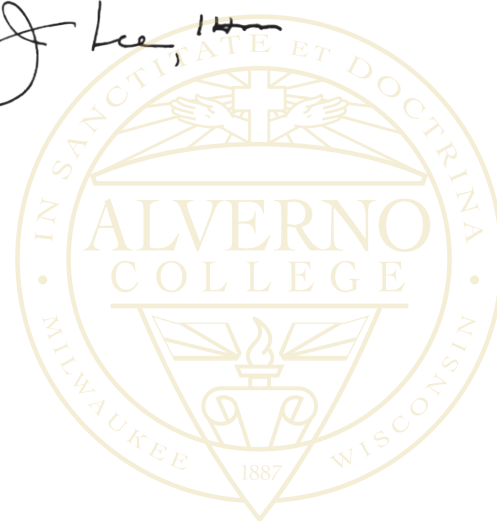
Alverno has — and will continue to have — its own special magic; be a place where diverse students, especially women, find their voices and encounter themselves and their potential at a deeper level than they imagined possible. We see evidence of that every day.

Alverno remains an institution that embodies the mission of our sponsoring School Sisters to address the needs right in front of us, especially for those students with the least range of educational options. We have been resilient, flexible and courageous through it all. Thank you for supporting us in that work!

I thank you especially for your presence and engagement over these years. Few would doubt that dramatic, unprecedented change has marked the past several years in higher education. With you by our side, we have risen “Alverno Strong” to meet these challenges, as we seize promising opportunities that align with our mission.

Thank you for all you have done to make my time among you at Alverno so special. It is such a privilege to know you and a blessing to count on you. You and your families remain always in my prayers.

Andrew J. Lee, 14m



Leading with Faith & Vision



A dynamic strategic plan that positions Alverno to meet urgent community needs, both today and in the future. A steadfast dedication to serving a diverse population of students with unique backgrounds and dreams. Creating and cementing vital community partnerships.

These are just a few of Alverno's many accomplishments during the leadership of **President Andrea Lee, IHM, PhD**. And it is the legacy that Sister Andrea leaves when she concluded her leadership on June 30, completing six years of service at Alverno and a total of 25 years of service as president of three Catholic colleges in what she calls the "privilege and honor of a lifetime."

"Alverno has — and will continue to have — its own special magic; and it will remain a place where diverse students, especially women, find their voices and encounter themselves and their potential at a level deeper than they imagined possible," she says.

Sister Andrea's commitment to the advancement of Catholic higher education will continue beyond Alverno. In July, she begins not one but two new roles: chief academic officer at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis., and as senior associate for sponsorship and mission for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

A national search for a new president is underway, led by Trustees **Kathy Hudson H '14** and **Kathleen O'Brien, OSF '67**. Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees has asked **Joseph Foy, PhD**, vice president for Academic Affairs, to serve as interim president.



"Sister Andrea is a visionary leader who has guided Alverno College to and through innovative solutions that address our rapidly evolving society and workplaces. During a time when the value of higher education is in question, she has helped focus on possibilities. Hundreds of women and men now have unexpected opportunities and benefit from distance learning, a greatly expanded nursing program, more relevant and accessible curricula with more to come. I appreciate Sister Andrea's courage and pragmatic approach to helping students and society become Alverno Strong!"

Charles (Chuck) Bartels
Trustee, Alverno College



"Sister Andrea is a luminary, a pioneer and a dear friend. Her long-standing and faithful commitment to Catholic higher education, to the education of women, and to human flourishing for all is a profound vocational gift. What I admire most about Sister Andrea is her unfailing ability to be simultaneously pastoral and intellectually brilliant in gracefully guiding those she encounters. Sister Andrea radiates what God intended for us all: To give of ourselves for the dignity and betterment of others. She has done so with faithful and steady love. Thank you, Sister Andrea."

Brian J. Bruess
President, St. Norbert College



"Sister Andrea has been a transformative leader. Her willingness to trust me to lead the athletic program and to grow the department has allowed for the expansion of the department and enhancement of the student experience."

Katari Key
Athletic Director, Alverno College

“Alverno is a community known for its committed and innovative staff and faculty. It is because of that community that I see such a bright future for our beloved campus. I have confidence that through our common effort, and supported by a strong team of leaders, we can achieve so much as we build toward the future. We have a clear vision in our refreshed strategic plan, and we will continue to build on that while we look forward to welcoming the next Alverno Strong leader.”

— Joseph Foy, PhD
Interim President, Alverno College



“The nation’s Catholic university presidents unanimously voted Sister Andrea their board chair for a reason. She is as knowledgeable as anyone about the future of these institutions, understands their complex relations to the Church, and thinks constantly about the contributions they can make to a larger society. More than that, the presidents feel supported, even loved, by her in the challenging work they all undertake. She’s far more than a respected colleague; she’s a trusted friend.”

Father Dennis Holtschneider, CM
President, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities



“When Sister Andrea shared her vision for the Alverno Mesa campus, her excitement for the future was infectious! We spoke of the alignment of Alverno’s Franciscan values and philosophies about health care — both access to it and how it is delivered — to those of Mayo Clinic. We talked about how we could link Alverno nursing students and have Mayo Clinic as a clinical site. I walked away with amazement at her laser focus on Alverno’s mission, grit, fortitude, faith and fierce advocacy to achieve all of this growth in the college through some of the most historic and challenging years we have seen as a nation.”

M. Jay Maningo-Salinas '94
Assistant Professor of Nursing and Vice Chair,
Research Administration; Mayo Clinic College of Medicine



Sister Andrea is pictured with (from L to R) Sister Barbara Kraemer OSF '65, Mari-Anne Hechmann '91 and Sister Mary C. Carroll OSF '62 at the annual Alum Teach & Learn Weekend, held on campus in April.

ALVERNO STRONG *legacy*



During the past six years, Alverno has accomplished the following student- and mission-centered initiatives, including:

- Launched academic degree programs, as well as the School of Adult Learning and New Initiatives to provide flexible, market-driven options for professionals
- Built upon Alverno’s reputation as a hub for preparing skilled health care leaders, including the opening of a new location in Mesa, Ariz. (see page 4)
- Advanced Alverno’s mission to pursue racial justice and make higher education accessible and inclusive, including being named Wisconsin’s first Hispanic-Serving Institution and launching the Thea Bowman Institute for Excellence and Leadership
- Strengthened the college’s financial position and continually improved student success outcomes

Thank you, Sister Andrea!

Grand Opening: Alverno in Mesa, Arizona



Alverno leaders, alumnae and community members gathered in Maricopa County, Ariz. (home to Mesa), this spring to officially open the College's new nursing education center.

Joining then-President **Andrea Lee, IHM**, for the March 24 ribbon cutting was Mesa Mayor John Giles and **Joseph Foy** (bottom right), now Alverno's interim president, along with more than 100 Alverno alums, friends and guests.

Located outside of Phoenix, the 13,000-square-foot facility houses classrooms, offices and a state-of-the-art simulation lab. On hand to bless the space was Father Jerome Cayetano, SVD, from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in nearby Tempe.

Alverno partnered with Synergis Education to open the facility, which will provide hands-on learning opportunities for Arizona-based students in the Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN) program. DEMSN students are pivoting to nursing careers after earning bachelor's degrees in a discipline other than nursing, meeting a critical national need for skilled nurses.



A national nursing shortage is particularly acute in Maricopa County, Ariz. (home to Mesa), where nursing vacancies increased by 40% between April 2020 and April 2021.

Source: Maricopa County

Pathways to Public Office

A century after women achieved suffrage, a new report from Alverno's Research Center for Women and Girls (RCWG) explores how women seek public office.

Wisconsin Women in Public Life — Elected Officials reviews the state's history of women's civic life and is grounded in the experiences of 98 former and current women elected officials, more than a dozen of whom additionally participated in in-depth interviews.

Key findings included the importance of emotional and concrete support mechanisms as well as the value in helping build potential candidates' confidence in their ability to win and successfully serve their constituents. About 18% of survey respondents indicated they didn't feel ready to run but did so anyway, with one official stating: "I didn't feel ready, although I had tons of experience. My experience is that women generally don't feel ready. You just have to jump."

The report, including short- and long-term strategies for recruiting female candidates, will be available at alverno.edu/research.

A Pipeline for Teachers

Alverno's education faculty have joined forces with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to create a pipeline for a skilled and diverse teacher workforce.

Through this partnership, MPS para-professionals can earn bachelor's degrees and become licensed teachers. Current MPS teachers can add such licenses as special education, bilingual education and teaching English language learners.



It will take all of us working to 'build the bench' in order to ensure that all women are equally represented in political office.

— Lindsey Harness, PhD,
director of the Research
Center for Women and Girls



Not only do Wisconsin K-12 schools face a shortage of teachers to fill available positions, but the number of bachelor's and master's degree graduates from Wisconsin colleges and universities has declined, according to a 2021 report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum. Providing clear pathways to licensure is one key way to help close the gap.

"Through innovative, student-centered practices, Alverno teacher candidates are being prepared to fulfill teaching positions that are urgently needed," says **Mindy Kramer**, assistant professor of education and director of Alverno's paraprofessional to teacher licensure program.

Ready to Run

Track and field will become the eighth sport in which the Alverno Inferno compete, starting in the 2022-23 academic year. The Inferno also field teams in basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball.

Athletic Director **Katari Key** says the new sport "has a rich history for women in our country" and has been a sport that attracts diverse talent. "The sport continues to grow and gives women the opportunity to participate in athletics," she adds.

Competition will begin outdoors in spring 2023, with the Inferno expected to add indoor competition in winter 2023-24.



Style and Substance

A burgeoning partnership between Alverno and Kohl's advances a shared mission to empower leaders

Kohl's is providing five \$5,000 merit-based scholarships to support Alverno students, with a special focus on supporting women of color and/or students who are the first in their families to attend college.

The first cohort of students selected are: **Liliana De Leon**, majoring in human biology; **Sandra Gaytan Lopez**, business and management; **Andrea Herrera**, human biology; **Mariana Lopez-Mireles**, business and management; and **Akeyla Stubblefield**, creative arts in practice.

Professional development is an essential component of the scholarship program. Through the biannual "A Day at Kohl's" event, Kohl's Scholars will meet with Kohl's female leadership, tour the corporate headquarters and get a firsthand look at life at a national retailer.

"The opportunity to experience what it's like to work in the Kohl's corporate office will be invaluable to these young women as they carve a path for themselves through college and beyond," says **Cheryl Moore, PhD**, executive director of career development (pictured above with student **Ana Olvera**).

Moore says the scholarship program grew out of discussions with Kohl's following the company's donation of new clothing to the Career Studio's boutique, where Alverno students can select new or gently used professional apparel to wear for job interviews, at internships and other occasions. Apparel is free and open to all students regardless of financial need.

The boutique represents so much more than clothing, Moore says. It's about providing an inclusive space, empowering students with the confidence to be their authentic selves in the workplace and giving them the tools to grow as professionals.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

In conjunction with Black History Month, Alverno's Bowman Scholars considered the Kohl's Pledge for Progress, a corporate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the workplace, its stores and the community. The scholars assessed how Kohl's executes these beliefs on everything from its social media platforms and website to its products and store displays.

Speaking to an audience of nearly 150, many of whom were Kohl's employees, the Bowman Scholars identified areas where Black and Hispanic voices and images were missing and recommended that Kohl's hire writers and photographers of color for authentic storytelling. The students saluted Kohl's for featuring Black History Month on its website but suggested moving the content up higher. They were excited to see that Kohl's

carried products from Black creators during Black History Month, but they wanted to see pictures introducing the creators and sharing their stories on display next to their products.

Finally, the students encouraged Kohl's to feature Black creators year-round, not just for Black History Month, because — in the words of Bowman Scholar **Breanna Taylor**, a first-year student — "we are more than that."

WHY I TEACH

Greenhouse Edition

A stellar team of faculty, students and staff brought Alverno's greenhouse to life (see page 14), but on any given day, you're likely to find one of these four people at work inside:

CHRISTY BELL

Assistant professor of physical sciences

REBEKAH KLINGLER, PHD

Assistant professor of biology

EMMA RAY

Greenhouse manager and biology instructor

THOR STOLEN, PHD

Assistant professor of education

Their passion for both the greenhouse and student success is abundant, as is the creativity they bring to engaging Alverno students and community members in the space. Their work is rooted in a love for teaching.



A lifelong interest in plants makes **Christy Bell** a natural fit to serve as horticulture director.



As a K-12 educator, **Thor Stolen** has previously introduced students to urban agriculture and boat building.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Alverno?

Klingler: "I love working with all the students. I love the flexibility that we have in classes. If somebody is struggling or, on the flipside, is doing fabulously and needs a challenge, I can pivot and give them something different that still accomplishes their goals and meets their needs. I think that is different than other places, and I really appreciate that."



Rebekah Klingler has researched the impact of environmental toxicants on zebrafish.



Emma Ray raised the perch that now live in the greenhouse.

Ray: "My favorite thing about working with students at Alverno is watching them grow and evolve. Over the course of one semester, I have the privilege of witnessing students gain confidence in their skills, continue to strive to be their best selves, and be welcoming to new challenges."

As a professor at a women's college, what do you hope to empower your students to achieve?

Bell: "I hope that they find work that is deeply satisfying to them and that lets them contribute to their community and make a difference. As a science teacher, I would love if they took the science and their critical thinking skills with them and shared them with the world."

Stolen: "I hope to empower our students to relish the teaching experience to make significant differences in their students' lives. I hope to broaden access to education to more students through project-based learning and experiential education. And if I can get in a little bit of a sustainable lens, like an ecology/environmental piece, that's an added bonus."

[Read more at **alverno.edu/magazine**](https://alverno.edu/magazine)

STEM Superstars

These Alverno students have big summer plans after winning spots in highly competitive scientific research programs



Ameera Pearsall

Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Psychology

Ameera Pearsall, a Thea Bowman Scholar, is one of just 15 undergraduate students selected from across the United States to join the Amgen Scholars Program at the National Institutes of Health. As an Amgen Scholar, Pearsall will work with top scientists while exploring what it means to conduct biomedical research at the federal government's main medical research arm.

"I've always wanted to do science that improves the quality of life for others. Amgen addresses health disparities in marginalized communities, and that really aligns with my values of diversity, equity and inclusion," says Pearsall, class of 2023. "To do this work so early in my career is an amazing opportunity."



Merub Irfan

Major: Biomedical Sciences

Future physician **Merub Irfan** will be doing clinical research through the Student-Centered Program to Advance Research in Cancer Careers (SPARCC) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The competitive, eight-week program will give her the chance to explore possible career options in a field that interests her.

"My hope is to learn more about pediatric oncology because I really want to help kids," says Irfan, class of 2023.

An advocate for her Patients



Abby Brodbeck, class of 2023

MSN candidate —

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Abby Brodbeck has known since high school that she wanted to be a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse. She loves caring for premature babies and helping families learn how to take care of their newest additions.

“As the bedside nurse, you are your neonatal patient’s biggest advocate because the babies can’t tell you when they’re sick or in pain. It’s on you to be their voice,” she says. “Decoding that puzzle ... that’s my favorite part of the job.”

For the next step in her nursing career, Brodbeck has enrolled in Alverno’s Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) program. “I want to help families transition into their caregiving role by being their own child’s advocate, and I know the best way I can do this is by being a neonatal nurse practitioner,” she explains.

Alverno’s NNP program, the first of its kind in Wisconsin, prepares nurses to provide advanced nursing care to children from premature neonates to infants up to two years of age. Except for an advanced clinical procedures workshop, courses are online and are open to women and men.

To date, Brodbeck has mentored undergraduate Alverno nursing students in a research program. This spring, she presented the group’s research — about topical human milk as a treatment modality for diaper rash — at a regional research conference in Illinois, a symposium at an Ohio hospital, the State of Wisconsin Association of Neonatal Nurses conference, and the National Association of Neonatal Nurses Research Summit.

Brodbeck expects to graduate from the NNP program in May 2023, ready to advance in a career she loves.

“The NICU is a magical place,” she says. “How lucky I am to take just a small part in it.”



Madison Kreil

Major: Human Biology

Minor: Psychology

Madison Kreil is exploring her career options but knows she wants to work in health care. Through her participation in the 2022 Wisconsin Community Health Internship Program (CHIP), she will work at the Findley Foundation’s

Findley Medical Clinic, a nonprofit provider of primary and urgent care to patients regardless of insurance status. She will serve as a project coordinator focused on COVID-19 vaccine outreach and data analysis.

“I will be communicating the benefits of vaccination and potentially delivering the vaccine safely and effectively,” says Kreil, class of 2023. “I’m looking forward to working alongside health professionals to help the community in the fight against COVID-19.”



Rachel Manselle

Major: Biology

Minor: Data Science

For Rachel Manselle, mosquitoes won’t be just a summer annoyance — they’ll also be the subject of her scientific research. This summer, she will be working with scientists from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and the Medical

College of Wisconsin in a project focused on identifying the genetic mechanisms underlying differences in malaria susceptibility and vector competence of *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

“I plan on going into bioinformatics, and this internship will help strengthen the skills I have learned in my data science classes,” says Manselle, class of 2022.



As a Catholic, Franciscan institution, our identity is rooted in values of peace, inclusivity and respect for all of God's creation. These values have been woven into the fabric of the college since our founding by the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1887.

Not only do these values guide the college's present work, but they are essential to the sustenance of Alverno's mission to prepare students to meaningfully engage with the world.

As members of the Alverno community, we are called to find common ground in these Franciscan values and work together to ensure that our beloved community is a place where all are welcome, included, and treated equitably. In our own ways, we are called to share our unique gifts and lead the charge for a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Alverno.

What is shared equity leadership?

There are three main components to shared equity leadership:

- Individuals who are building a critical consciousness around diversity, equity and inclusion
- A shared set of values that serve as a foundation for DE&I work
- Practices that everyone carries out

Source: American Council on Education and Pullias Center for Higher Education

How does this work?

Alverno is turning to the 8 Abilities to guide and carry out our diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) work. The Abilities not only provide a lens through which to view our DE&I efforts, but they also provide a toolbox to help carry out this work.

Carrying forth a legacy

Not only does our DE&I work carry forth the legacy of social justice activists, but it also is rooted in the mission and work of the School Sisters of St. Francis. Community outreach to Black communities in the Milwaukee and Chicago areas, as well as the South, grew from providing social services to marching for civil rights and meeting with policy makers. Check out the Alverno Archives for more information on this work, which we carry forth today and into the future.

Who is involved?

This is the work of all, but three campus colleagues in particular are serving as co-directors: **Elena Hernández Burke '22**, coordinator of global exchange programs and Hispanic student initiatives; **Alexis Carter '09**, assistant director of admissions; and **Ronett Jacobs '98 '21 EdD**, assistant professor of education.

Left to right:
Alexis Carter,
Ronett Jacobs and
Elena Hernández Burke.



alverno.edu/dei

Further underlining the collaborative nature of the work, we are grateful for the Alverno Strong alums who have formed an advisory panel to share their professional DE&I experience:

Kristina Bell '07, Diversity, equity and inclusion program manager, Bullhorn

Tammy Belton-Davis '93, Chief diversity officer, Milwaukee Repertory Theater; Founder and principal, Athena Communications; Trustee, Alverno College

Jessica Marie Langoehr Langill '15, Equity, diversity and inclusion coordinator, Rogers Behavioral Health

Samantha Maldonado '09 '11, Senior manager of diversity and inclusion, Kohl's; Trustee, Alverno College

Eva Martinez Powless '06, PhD, Chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer, Milwaukee Area Technical College

ALVERNO @WORK

By Melissa Zacaula Luna '22

Marquita Taylor '09, PhD, had to fight to make room for herself. Now, she fights to make room for others.

Taylor is the assistant director of health equity and leadership programs housed at the Yale School of Public Health, where she works to create spaces and shape policies to advance diversity, equity and inclusion across all corners of the Ivy League institution and in the New Haven community.



After completing her bachelor's degree in business at Alverno and learning to be a servant leader, Taylor felt called to serve her community and help foster real change. After completing her doctorate, she sought an opportunity to "make change in the space," and she saw the right opportunity at Yale.

"I wanted to help shape lives and to chip away at systems that weren't created to help Black and Brown people prosper," she says. "It's important to me that I do work that is providing access to opportunities and always addresses oppression."

With her current role, she has pushed for equitable inclusion and consideration of students in grant, fellowship and internship processes. She has also established transformational experiential learning opportunities for students of color.

The work she does has been fulfilling for her as she gets to be "that beacon of hope or light so that there isn't this ceiling," says Taylor. "Just being a presence here — being a young Black woman in a leadership position role — speaks volumes to the students and the parents who I get to interact with who look like me."

Being an ally for her students can be simply showing up, whether it's talking about their mental health or shopping for whiteboards as they prepare for graduate school entrance exams. No matter the day or time, she makes room for students to help them navigate every part of their college career.

Taylor is also a change agent locally and nationally. She has led both the work and declaration of racism as a public health crisis in New Haven, Conn., and the establishment of a minority mental health day there. She contributes to the research and formation of policies around health equity in health care, housing and education in the state of Connecticut.

MAKING ROOM

Although Taylor is proud to represent students and her community, she acknowledges there are challenges.

"I deal with the same racial issues as students, in addition to gender pay issues," she says, adding that she has encountered people who do not fully credit or value her education and experience because of her youth.

However, she always remembers the "why" behind her work: "I started because I knew there was a lack of women and Black and Brown people in leadership at institutions like mine that weren't built for Black and Brown people. I do it for my students, community and city."

A person's hands are shown holding a large, vibrant green heart-shaped leaf. The leaf is held in a way that its central vein and the veins branching out to the edges are clearly visible. The person is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, t-shirt. The background is a neutral, textured grey. The overall image conveys a sense of care, nature, and sustainability.

ADAPTABILITY

CREATIVITY

SUSTAINABILITY

INCLUSIVITY

RESPONSIBILITY

COMMUNITY

“The Franciscan values that inspire our mission are rooted deeply in efforts to promote sustainability. Those values hold that sustainability is viewed holistically and that our natural and human and spiritual worlds are indelibly linked. The more we do to approach people, nature and the environment with respect, the more we can deliver on our mission and vision.”

— Joseph Foy, PhD
Interim President, Alverno College



SUSTAINING OUR MISSION

*In the world of higher education,
sustainability is multidimensional.*

It's ensuring that a college has the financial resources, business practices and academic programs to best serve students and carry out its mission.

It means adopting green initiatives that reduce the college's impact on the environment, such as reducing stormwater runoff, and giving students the knowledge and tools to work for greater sustainability in all aspects of their lives.

It means creating a community that is welcoming and inclusive, where people feel that they matter and that they belong.

*At Alverno, sustainability means
all of this — and more.*

Read on to discover how Alverno is embracing sustainability in how we work, teach and learn. We hope you'll be inspired to try some of these ideas in your own life.

A FERTILE GROUND FOR LEARNING

By Jackie Avial

Stop by the Alverno Greenhouse on any given day, and you'll find a place where plants — and so much more — are in bloom.

Since the greenhouse opened for campus use last September, it has become a hub for learning and discovery for Alverno students and faculty, as well as K-12 students and community members.

"Everyone has the opportunity to explore new thoughts and research, to work with their hands and to use the greenhouse as their own educational tool," says **Emma Ray**, greenhouse manager.

The possibilities for learning are endless, encompassing horticulture and aquaponics, water sampling and perch, not to mention art, education, STEM and more.

"It's not built as an urban agriculture greenhouse to promote the highest yield of production," says **Thor Stolen, PhD**, an assistant professor of education. "It's built through an educational lens, so that's why there's a lot of extra space for students to move around. It's really meant as a learning space."



Construction began on the 1,400-square-foot warehouse in spring 2021. Built in partnership with the A.O. Smith Foundation, the project also received grant support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The perch are one important component of this living laboratory, as are the four hydroponic beds that can hold up to 192 plants, plus an array of potted herbs, greens and other plants.

To allow the plants to flourish, the greenhouse's temperature is kept at a balmy 55-80 degrees, depending on the season, regulated by wall vents that automatically open and close as needed.

To mitigate the spread of organisms that could harm the plants and fish, all visitors must first wash their hands and clean their shoes.

Tours of the greenhouse start in the fish room, where three 175-gallon tanks hold up to 200 perch. (A wall sign cheekily proclaims "no fishing.") Perch are a native Great Lakes species



“Everyone has the opportunity to explore new thoughts and research, to work with their hands, and to use the greenhouse as their own educational tool.”
— Emma Ray

Below: Assistant Professor Christy Bell and greenhouse student worker Cierra May harvest kale to share with the Alverno food pantry. A newly added refrigerator keeps the kale and other produce fresh, ensuring plenty of healthy options for students.



“As an environmental science major, working in the greenhouse gives me the opportunity to get hands-on experience working with groundbreaking sustainable agricultural methods.”
— Ashley Auclair

The perch, which can grow up to 11 inches, were hatched at the Farmory in Green Bay. Greenhouse manager Emma Ray was interning there at the time and, by the time they were ready to make their new home at Alverno, so had Ray. “It’s a full circle!”





that require cool water, so having their own room ensures that the heat of the greenhouse doesn't affect their water temperature.

A model of sustainability, the greenhouse uses fish waste to fertilize its plants. A pipe directs waste from the fish tanks into a mineralization tank, where an aerator helps bacteria convert the waste into nutrients.

After visiting the perch, it's on to the rest of the greenhouse, where giant leaves of kale thrive along with other various leafy greens, potted lavender, cherry tomatoes and nasturtium (whose edible leaves have a bit of a zing!).

Assistant Professor of Physical Sciences **Christy Bell** regularly harvests the kale to share via Alverno's campus food pantry. The hardy plant has proven a success, and Bell, as the director of horticulture, is growing new skills alongside her students.

"I've enjoyed learning how to pollinate tomatoes without bees, and we're going to try the same thing for squash," she says.

Students in an introductory chemistry class have visited the greenhouse to collect kale to study the process of photosynthesis, and future chemistry students may harvest herbs like mint and rosemary to extract essential oils.

But the greenhouse is not just for STEM students. Education students are growing plants and learning how to engage youth in horticultural activities. Art students have sketched the plants as inspiration for sculpture projects and may someday explore how to pull fibers from plants for papermaking.

"Hopefully, it opens their eyes to new experiences and the possibility of different kinds of careers. I hope it helps them find some passion, perhaps in another way than they were thinking," says **Rebekah Klingler, PhD**, greenhouse director and assistant professor of biology. "I believe that until you try it, you don't know what you like. So, it's just another tool for trying new things."



Taking Root

In just nine months, the greenhouse team has not only gotten the facility up and running but has also shared the fruits of their labor with the campus and broader community, including:

- 126 Alverno students
- 143 non-Alverno students, including K-12, have explored, learned and worked in the greenhouse
- 117 faculty, staff, alums and supporters have toured the greenhouse



At left: Thor Stolen's spring 2022 education students celebrate the growth of the plants they started from seed. Below: Emma Ray and student workers gather perch for data collection and to study their growth.



READY TO TAKE FLIGHT

"Replacing some of our lawns with these native species can provide monarchs with the food and habitat needed for restoring and sustaining a healthy population."

— Jenny Johanson
director of the environmental science program
and a key member of the ACTS committee



Despite their small size, monarch butterflies are incredible long-distance travelers — making the annual trek from their breeding grounds in Canada and the northern United States to central Mexico, where they hibernate. It's no wonder, then, that these beautiful and brightly colored creatures have become an important symbol of strength and transformation. So it seems fitting that Alverno becomes part of their journey.

The faculty and staff on the Alverno Commits to Sustainability (ACTS) committee are working to get Alverno certified as a Monarch Waystation habitat, which indicates that campus has sufficient milkweed and other plants that host monarch breeding grounds and provide energy for the butterflies' migration.

According to the World Wildlife Foundation, monarch butterflies' survival is threatened by climate change, development, herbicides and pesticides, and diminishing milkweed. Planting more milkweed and other native plants, like butterfly weed and purple coneflower, is an action that we can all take to bolster the species.

AlumProfile



Erin Dentice '06, Parkside Elementary School, Milwaukee

When **Erin Dentice '06** steps into her garden, she sees more than chickens, plants and pretty flowers. She sees a sustainable food source.

On Milwaukee's south side, Parkside Elementary is where Dentice spends her days as the program agricultural coordinator and special education middle school teacher. In her 16 years there, she has made it her mission to build a community of conscious eaters.

Parkside students learn about Milwaukee's many growing spaces and hoop houses, grow seedlings and transplant them onsite. They also work with local chefs who teach the students and their families to prepare healthy and fun meals using the food they've grown.

"We talk with kids about food miles, understanding how far some of the food travels to get to you, and what some of that food looks like when they harvest it versus what it looks like when we pick it from our gardens. There are endless possibilities that you can cover, but I think any dialogue you can open up about this matter can make a difference," she says. "We need to make a difference because of what is happening to our environment due to climate change and people's health concerns because of what they eat."

— *Natasha Lettner '09*

CHAMPIONS OF

In Milwaukee and beyond, these Alverno alums are

Denise Renteria '20, Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee

As a neighborhood engagement specialist at Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center, **Denise Renteria '20** has come to see how political decisions impact our daily lives and spur action by everyday citizens, such as working for environmental justice.

"Environmental justice focuses on improving conditions for folks that do not have access to them," she says. "One of my favorite forms of environmental justice is accessibility to green spaces, which is what we do at UEC."

Inclusion is a powerful theme of UEC's work, and Renteria — who works at the Menomonee Valley branch — says that begins the moment a visitor arrives.

"I want someone living in the south side of Milwaukee, or attending a neighboring high school, to be able to comfortably come in and think, 'I belong in this space, and I am welcomed here,'" she says. "That is how I felt when I initially started coming to UEC as a volunteer years ago."

Renteria also seeks greater inclusion in the field of environmentalism.

"I think environmentalism hasn't been an open or accepting community to BIPOC folks, people with disabilities, and even people who are not the conventional definition of fit or thin," she explains.

— *Melissa Zacauala Luna '22*



Interested in learning more? Visit alverno.edu/magazine to dig deeper into the alums' stories and



Callia Johnson '15, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee

Callia Johnson '15 will never forget the solitary springtime hike when the wildflowers parted and she found herself inches away from a grazing black bear. Or her time wrangling another wild species: busloads of squirrelly school children on field trips.

These are just some of the memorable moments of Johnson's time living and working in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. She joined the National Park Service in 2020 as a park ranger in education and citizen science and is now executive assistant in the park superintendent's office.

Johnson's love of nature took root at an early age, but it took time to turn her passion into a job. She came to Alverno intending to study education but ultimately double-majored in biology and environmental science.

"I knew I wanted to do something that would allow me to potentially teach one day, but I didn't want go straight into the classroom," she says. "I care deeply about our planet and wanted to do something related to the environment to learn about it and save it, and that's also something that can be taught to other generations."

— Nicole Sweeney Etter

SUSTAINABILITY

doing their part to create a more sustainable world.

Ivy Thompson '95, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County, Md.

Ivy Thompson '95 and her younger sister both have master's degrees in community planning — and that's no accident.

"We feel like that's something that our grandmothers would want us to do," Thompson explains. "My paternal grandmother was the administrator of a community health center, and my maternal grandmother was very involved in the neighborhood I grew up in. They always encouraged us to participate in the community meetings and ask questions not just for that moment, but they wanted us to be able to advocate for the community long after they were gone."

For 17 years, Thompson has served as senior planner for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County, Md., which borders Washington, D.C. She reviews public and private development projects to comply with local development standards, specifically around water and sewer service as well as accessibility and emergency response services.

Thompson embraces a definition of sustainability that invites her to consider how a project meets the needs of today's residents without harming future residents.

"How are the people who are going to be living here after I'm gone going to benefit? That takes me back to my grandmothers," she says.

— Jackie Avial



discover their tips on how you too, can live a more sustainable life.



By Dana McCullough

“My parents were the reason I went to Alverno,” **Stephanie Arend '85** says of mother Evelyn, who worked in the assessment office, and father Clem, who was a volunteer assessor. “They completely believed in the Alverno education. Alverno is not just about grades; it’s bigger than that.”

Arend enrolled in Alverno’s Weekend College. After graduating, she attended law school, became a partner in a law firm and ultimately served as a superior court judge in Pierce County, Wash., for 22 years. She retired last September.

“My experience at Alverno was transformative,” Arend says. “The small group work and the processes Alverno uses for assessments really help a person understand how interdependent we all are, and also that sometimes the people that are going to have the biggest impact on you aren’t necessarily the people you think.”

Tim Riordan, professor emeritus of philosophy, was one of the people who had an unexpected impact on Arend by suggesting that she attend law school.

“Going to law school would never have occurred to me in a million years. I thought I wasn’t smart enough to go to law school, but I took a leap of faith that he knew what he was talking about,” Arend explains. “It’s what **Sister Jo Ann Miller '60** has talked about ... Others see strengths in you that you don’t see in yourself.”

As a judge, Arend heard criminal felony, personal injury, family law and other cases. She knew the decisions she and jurors made would deeply impact those involved, possibly even changing the trajectory of their lives.

Arend says Alverno’s 8 Abilities are all integral to the role of a judge. “I had some cases where I really stuck my neck out because the law was silent, and I believed there was a right result,” she said. “I think that takes a bit of courage and confidence in one’s abilities. I believe that was developed at Alverno.”

It was Alverno that first connected Arend to a Wingspread conference on adoption — an event that would change her life.

“At this conference, the idea of adopting hard-to-place children had been planted in my heart,” Arend says.

Years later, Arend began pursuing adoption. She found that not all social workers were open to considering an unmarried woman like herself as an adoptive parent. But the same year she became a judge, Arend adopted two boys, ages 6 and 11, from foster care.

“Today [my sons] are both successful, contributing members of society, and I have four grandchildren,” Arend says. “I could not be more proud of what they have overcome and what they have achieved. I don’t think it’s an overstatement to say that we all benefited from that conference.”

To Arend, being Alverno Strong means going on a journey of self-discovery. “Alverno provides an opportunity and safe environment to explore what your strength is, who you are as a human being and who you want to be,” she says.

Giving back to Alverno

In 2010, **Stephanie Arend '85**, along with her father and siblings, decided to honor her mother by establishing the Evelyn D. Arend Endowed Scholarship for Alverno students.

In Alverno's assessment office, Evelyn Arend made a difference every day.

"When students came in, she helped encourage and support them," Arend says. "She was very good at that. If she could have, she would have enjoyed being a student at Alverno."

But when Evelyn had graduated from eighth grade, teachers told her she wasn't smart enough to pursue further education. She started working but always valued education. It was one of Evelyn's final wishes to establish a scholarship to support women to pursue their education.

So far, the scholarship has supported four students and will continue to do so for years to come.

To learn more about ways to give, including endowed scholarships, please visit alverno.edu/Give

ALVERNO STRONG

Arend, who received the 2003 Outstanding Alumna Award, is a member of Alverno's Vanguard Society and has served on the Alumnae Board.

What's Next?

In retirement, Arend plans to continue her work for Habitat for Humanity and for the Court History Project, as well as reconnect with friends across the country, create quilts to gift to Habitat for Humanity families and more.

ALVERNO STRONG NOW & FOREVER



What a joy it was to welcome alumnae back to campus for our annual Teach and Learn Weekend in April! In addition to class reunions and powerful panels, we had the opportunity to celebrate three Alum Award winners.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

Ellen Hopper '96

Ellen Hopper is vice president of distribution performance at Northwestern Mutual, where she leads a team that supports recruiting, advisor development, business practice, sales plan achievement, diversity, equity and inclusion goals and overall supervision for highly regulated insurance and investment products. She is a strong advocate for women's education and serves on the board of directors of St. Joan Antida High School, an all-girls Catholic high school in Milwaukee. She is also a member of the Alverno Vanguard Society.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Clarissa Lawrence '12 '18 '21, DNP

Clarissa Lawrence is CEO of Community Health Primary Care Services, which provides in-home care ranging from immunizations, COVID-19 testing, and adult and well-child visits to Milwaukee residents. She founded her practice in 2020 in order to fight health care disparities and improve access to care.

Lawrence also pays it forward to the next generation of health care leaders as a mentor for the American Nurses Association, a nurse practitioner preceptor and a board member of Wisconsin Nurses Association-NP Forum.

RISING STAR AWARD

Samantha Maldonado '09 '11

Samantha Maldonado is a senior manager of diversity and inclusion at Kohl's, where she drives the design, development and delivery of diversity and inclusion learning programs to all levels of the business. She has shared her D&I expertise as a speaker, facilitator, employee and board member.

Maldonado, who earned both her bachelor's degree and MBA from Alverno, is a member of the Vanguard Society and joined the College's Board of Trustees in 2021.

inMemoriam

We ask for your prayers for these alumnae who passed away as of April 1, 2022.

Edwilda (Allen) Isaac '59
 Karla M. Barillas '09
 Cynthia A. (Blue) Bergeron '93
 Sister Mary Therese Brunner '64
 Nanciana (Davis) Buikus '81
 Amanda S. Butler '20
 Christine Cocking '84
 Carole C. (Hipp) Evans '60
 Mary Diane Fox '65
 Sister Ruth Marie Holzhauer '43
 M. Louise Hutchins '90
 Carol (Groshek) Janecek '70
 Patricia J. Jensen '71
 Ann K. Kennedy '61
 Therese (Cicero) Kueng '61
 Patricia M. (Charon) Lauth '49
 Sister Bernadine Lepak '71
 Sister Theresa Lesnak '55
 Sister Eva Lorscheter '66
 Joan C. Murphy-Horvath '54
 Dianna (Seline) Nondorf '88
 Mary Anna (Fridl) Novotny '54
 Marilyn (Weiss) Nowak '54
 Debra Jean Pawlik '83
 Sister Mary C. Pisors '67
 Norma E. Prohaska '86
 Jolita Rappa '03
 Sister Margaret Sibbel '49
 Caroline Sikorski '68
 Kathleen M. (Stevenson) Simpson '66
 Shirley (Petrowiak) Sobocinski '61
 Linda M. Tischler '90
 Nancy J. (Maricle) Vasek '61
 Barbara (Fridl) Wesley '57
 Theresa D. (Sapanik) Willenborg '53
 Ann Marie (Kronewitter) Willing '62
 Sister Mariel Wozniak '57
 Linda L. (Nickison) Yingling '96

For gifts received from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

In Memory of...

Thomas Allen

Kevin Allen
 Rosemary Asmondy
 Mike and Cheryl Birschbach
 Bridget and Joseph Ciurlik
 Elizabeth Ciurlik and Mark Wilson
 Michael Dorsey
 Lisa and Edmund Fernandez
 Cathleen and Peter Fox
 Susan Moynihan and Richard Manning

Sylvester Obremski
 Cyndi Schiferl
 Mary and Robert Schneider
 Morton Soifer
 Michael and Patricia Theim
 Karin Lee '94 and Masood Wasiullah
 Luanne Wielichowski
 Evonne Zalewski '82

Judith C. Anderson '84
 Mr. James N. Anderson

Christopher Arens
 Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

Linda-Lee A. Betancourt '81
 Lynette S. Thiele '81

Carol Burke Bomely '69
 Patricia Frank '69

Alfred F. Case
 Bruce Barr
 Karen A. Case
 Kieran Murphy
 Quarter Century Club, GE Healthcare
 Bruce and Lyn Ranta
 Gail and William Rewolinski

Tim Curran
 Mary Jane W. Powers '67

Christopher P. Dahl
 Mary C. Dahl '07

Rose Delahaut
 Marilyn A. Marks '65

Sister Austin Doherty '54
 Peg Kelly

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 Sister Judeen Schulte '71

Sister Bernarda Handrup '50
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 Veronica Wielebski '66

Irene Hartshorn
 Valerie S. Drescher '94

Patricia J. Jensen '71
 Cathleen Amdor
 Marybeth Anderson
 Judge Stephanie A. Arend '85
 Daniel Beeman
 Gregg and Pam Beeman
 Robert E. Birney
 Elizabeth M. Blair '89
 Laura J. Bolger
 Julie A. Borgealt '15
 Rev. Anita L. Bradshaw
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 Kathleen A. Cepelka
 Del and Rita Chipps
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 Robert and Sarajane Kennedy
 Alice Kolb
 Sarah A. Kordsmeier '12
 Janice Kotowicz
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 Emily Lefferts
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 Sally Lewis and Kathleen Rivera
 Carol McCabe
 Frank Miller '10
 Rhoda and Maryann Miller and Reese
 Sister Marlene M. Neises H '99
 Julie Jensen Nielsen
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 Rev. Dr. Timothy Perkins
 Michele M. Pohlman
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 Wendy Powers and Lisa Irwin
 Margaret Rediger
 Marilyn J. Reedy
 Janet Schmitz
 Patty Schneider
 Patricia S. Schroeder
 Sister Judeen Schulte '71
 Amy H. Shapiro
 William A. Shaw
 Shayla Sheets
 Shayla Stanek
 James Radke and Elizabeth Tole
 Dr. Julie and Rev. Robert Ullman
 Barbara Wesener '70
 Jane Wheeler
 Susan and Wayne Will
 David G. Willms
 Leona Vandervusse and Gladys Simandl
 Mike and Penny Zacek

James B. Jodie
 Paul and Mary Cain
 Marysue Cleary
 Connie Coffey '65
 Eva B. Eiseaman
 Francis and Judy Jacoby
 Bryan and Josephine London-Williams
 Maureen McMahon
 Frederick A., Jr. and Mary Ellen Muth
 Carmela Zammuto and Paul Caccia
 Marie Slattery '64
 Mary M. Strunk
 Jeanne and David Trumpy
 Barbara Wesener '70

Jeff Kierczek
 Sister Mary E. Diez '67
 Sister Elizabeth Ann Heese '61
 Sister Marlene M. Neises H '99
 Sister Judeen Schulte '71

Therese Kueng '61
 Jacqueline Horn

Sister Laura Lampe H '78, always with gratitude
 Caroline Urban '62

Georgiann Langreck
 Kevin Langreck

Sister Georgine Loacker '47
 Dr. Peggy A. House '63

Cheryl (Kirt) Mazmanian '86
 Cynthia Armstrong
 Thomas J. Prochniak
 Jason Schroeder
 John and Mary Kay Seidl
 Annette Troshynski

Dr. Carol M. Meils '75
 Eric Meils, Sr.

Sister Regina Pacis Meservey
 Sister Mary Diez '67
 Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann
 Sister Liz Heese '61
 Sister Marlene M. Neises H '99
 Sister Kathleen O'Brien '67
 Sister Judeen Schulte '71

Sister Agnes Meysenberg '47
 Mary C. Stryck '86

My parents
 Ann White '80

My parents, who worked so hard to see all of their five children attend college
 Darlene Florek Ebeling '71

Lorraine O'Malley '91 '03
 Jeri L. Gabrielson '96

Sister Maria Terese Patterson '56 '85
 Susan A. Sajdak '97

Jean Pickens
 Bernadette Davel

Mary Loretta Pike
 Bernadette Davel

Anthony Purpero
 Anonymous
 Slavic and Debra Augustynowicz
 Joseph and Virginia Besasie

Richard and Deborah Bock
Wayne and Diane Dalton
Elaine A. '97 and William Dragotta
Nicholas G. Fricano
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Ellen Marie Jasinski
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The Kuans
Mary L. Nordstrom
Matthew and Rosemarie Pankow
Christina Purpero
Cynthia Purpero
Roslyn T. '84 and David Radke
Anne Roll
Nancy Schumann
Rose E. Purpero Spang '62
Julie St. John
Kathie Staszak '72
Rosann Stoeker
James and Annette Surfus
Basil and Jan Tsatsas
Anthony and Jean Vodnik

Sharon Quintenz Van Pelt '65
Helene Raidl

Sister Joel Read '48

M. Kathleen Murphy '79

George and Lorraine Roginske
Lynn Arlene Roginske '92

Harold and Mary Belle Ryan
Judy A. Steinike '64

Sister Celestine Schall '48

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Ronald and Pat Merath
Karen Nehls '65
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Susan Spoerk
Susan M. Wasserman
Leslie Wyrowski

Susan E. (Skiba) Smyczek '92

Janice Pogodzinski '65
Anthony Smyczek

Sister Christine Trimberger '40
Andrea C. Greuel '01

Flip Weber

Lois Gresholdt '91

Sister Armella Weibel '46 '85
Veronica Wielebski '66

Jim Wendt

Sister Mary E. Diez '67
Sister Elizabeth Ann Heese '61
Sister Marlene M. Neises H '99
Sister Kathleen A. O'Brien '67
Sister Judeen Schulte '71

Leona Williams

Barbara Wyatt Sibley '82 and
Rev. Louis Sibley

Helen (Schwartz) Wrabetz '56

Marla Kennedy '56
Julie A. Moore '95

In Honor of...

All Alverno faculty and staff

Bernadette Mayer '78

My Alverno teachers

Dr. Marilyn Shrude '69

Jovita Carranza H '11

Lauren Webb

Sister Bernardin Deutsch '53

Lisa Arrigoni

Jodi Eastberg

Rachel Arndt
Kathleen T. '95 and
Robert Brumder
Barbara Fuldner

Ronett Jacobs '98 '21 EdD

Desiree Pointer Mace

Mary Pat Kerrigan '58

Mary A. Chambers

Erin Koch '13

Virginia Dotson-Koch

Dara Larson

Denise M. Cawley '96

Sister Andrea Lee, IHM

Mari-Anne '91 and
Donald Hechmann

Kim Muench '89

Pat Wilde '61

**Nuns at Alverno, past
and present, for the wonderful
work and service you continue
to provide for women**

Rosemary A. Stetzer

Jennifer Phipps '17 '19

Howard Phipps

Susan Phipps '06

Howard Phipps

Marilyn Reedy

Nancy C. Jelen

School Sisters of St. Francis

Judith W. Amberg '67

Sister Corina Stifter '62

on her 100th birthday
Kathryn Wellenstein '79

Rose E. Purpero Spang '62

on her 80th birthday

Caroline Purpero Besasie and
Ray Besasie

Kathy Vanderzwaag

Donna Gettys '79

Jessica Willenbrink

Barbara Fuldner

GIVING CHALLENGE

The generous donors to the 2022 Alverno Giving Challenge honored the strong — the women, faculty and other individuals who have significantly influenced their lives. Below is the list of honorees.

Adekola Adedapo '10 '21
Heidi Anderson-Isaacson
Trish Feldman Andrae '64
Anna Arens '20
Dawn Balistreri
Karla Barillas '09*
Carole E. Barrowman
George (Bud) and Alice Barr
Teresa Bartels
Marian Berger
Linda-Lee Betancourt '81*
Sister Dorothy Bock '50*
Patricia Dix Brewer '68
Tom Brewer*
Elaine Burke H '15
Elena Hernandez Burke '22
Wilbert Carr
Alexis Carter '09
Class of 1997
William Considine*
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Sister Joyce Fey '70*
Sister Deborah A. Fumagalli '06
Gretchen Grotenrath '97*
Dr. Veronica Gunn
Sister Bernarda Handrup '50*
Lianha Rose Hansen
Sue Hansen
Niomia A. Heard
Mari-Anne Hechmann '91
Sister Leanne Herda, SSSF '48 '49
Sabrina Hooks '02*
Ellen Hopper '96
Sister Lucinda Hubing '42*
Sister Maurelia (Mary V. Hueller) '43*
Sister Martine Hundelt '40*
Sister Theophane Hytrek '38*
IHM Sisters of Monroe, Mich.
Ronett Jacobs '98 '21 EdD
Patricia Jensen '71*
Ashley Johnson
Julia Kaminecki
Katari Key
Laurie Kunkel-Jordan '00
Sister Laura Lampe H '78*
Elizabeth Land '86
Jacquelyn N. (Barnes) Landry*
Clarissa Lawrence '12 '18 '21
Sister Andrea Lee, IHM
Sister Georgine Loacker '47*
Jennifer Lopez
Marianne Lubar
Kate Lundeen

Samantha Maldonado '09 '11
Gloria Maningo
Jay Maningo-Salinas '94
Michael Marr
George & Gennie McKee
Sister Agnes Meysenburg '47*
Reverend LeeRoy Miller*
Helen & John Montague*
Cheryl Moore, PhD
Janice Stewart Nessibou '71
Marilyn Nowak '54*
The O'Grady Women
Kathryn O'Hara
Sister Marlene Neises H '99
Jean Nelson
Annette Padron
Florence and Gilbert Panuce*
Father Raymond Parr*
Dawn Peterson
Mr. Pitman
Jean Polczynski-Norton
Sister Joel Read '48*
Marilyn Reedy
Dorothy Retka
Betsey Rhode
Dr. Stephani Richards-Wilson
Sister Lorraine Marie Ritger '53
Kathleen Rock*
Patricia Larsen Rozek '68
Sister Celestine Schall '48*
School Sisters of St. Francis
Sister Judeen Schulte '71
Sophie Shields
Emily Sielen '09
Barrie Simpson
Jessica Solis Salinas
Gina Spang '08
Rose Spang '62
Claudia Spice
Luci Staudacher
Sister Helena Steffensmeier, OSF*
Sister Lola Stecher '42*
Sister Mary Anna Stickelmaier '45*
Sharon Thompson
Sister Leona Truchan '53*
Sister Venard
Sister Marion Verhaalen '54*
Catherine Vlahoulis '20
Jennifer Kopps Wagner '93
Sister Mary Jane Wagner '64
Sister Armella Weibel '46 '85*
Helen West*
The White House Sisters
Edmund and Angeline Wiczorek*
Pat Wilde '61
Constance Williams
Lola M. Wilson
Women of Ukraine
The great advisors and equitable
contribution of those in the EdD
program
In memory of classmates Margaret,
Patricia, Carol and Joyce

This list includes honorees submitted April 13, 2022, through May 6, 2022, and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the list. See more at alverno.edu/2022challenge. An asterisk (*) indicates that the honoree is deceased. Please contact advancement@alverno.edu with any questions.

Turning Grief into Gratitude



Maxine and
Matthew Florek

*“The highest tribute to the dead
is not grief, but gratitude.”*

— Thornton Wilder

By Dana McCullough

When **Darlene Florek Ebeling** ’71 was in high school, she considered herself to be shy and an average student. That all changed when she arrived at Alverno.

“Alverno brought out my ‘hidden’ confidence, abilities and curiosities in the world of science,” says Ebeling, who majored in medical technology. Not only did she and her three siblings become the first in their family to graduate from college, but she also went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of Minnesota.

Ebeling’s career began at St. Luke’s Hospital in Milwaukee. She taught at the University of Illinois Medical Center in the College of Applied Health Sciences and then held various positions at such medical corporations as Syntex, Boston Scientific, and AbbVie. She traveled the world facilitating clinical trials on drugs to treat cancer and other medical therapies. Notably, she worked on Cytovene, one of the first AIDS-related treatments to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration.



Darlene and Melvin Ebeling

“Not too dissimilar to COVID-19, hundreds of young people were dying of AIDS. It was an amazing experience to see this chemical compound progress from the research laboratory into the clinical space and ultimately prove to be safe and effective for this ophthalmic malady, a key marker in the diagnosis of AIDS,” she explains.

Now retired, Ebeling hopes to help a new generation of science students launch impactful careers. She created the Maxine and Matthew Florek Endowed Scholarship, named for her parents, to help first-generation students studying the sciences with a desire to pursue scientific research.

“I want to recognize my parents for the love, encouragement and personal sacrifices they made to accomplish their goal of getting each of their five children not only through college but graduate school for most of us,” she says.

The scholarship also represents an important step on Ebeling’s faith journey following the loss of her husband Melvin after 42 years of marriage.

“My faith is guiding me through a personal transformation in handling loss and understanding the real benefit of my career and success,” she says. “Christ taught us to care for one another. I’m hoping that this scholarship is an example to people that when you are successful, you do something with that success beyond personal satisfaction. You help people because we are all part of God’s creation.”

PROPEL STUDENTS FORWARD.

An Alverno scholarship gives students access to a college education. Your gift today propels students forward on their path to graduation and success.

alverno.edu/give2022

Mariana Lopez-Mireles

MAJOR: BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

“As a first-generation student, a college education now seems possible. My scholarship made me realize that dreaming big is good and with enough hard work my dreams can be achieved.”





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