

ALVERNO magazine

WINTER | 2022

One by one

If creating healthier communities takes one person at a time, then just imagine what Alverno students and graduates can achieve.

SHOW YOUR
PASSION. LOVE.
RESILIENCE. FIGHT



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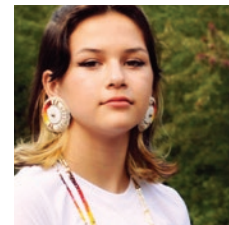
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Faculty, students and alums know that one door, one interaction and one shot can make a big difference.

ALVERNO MAGAZINE • WINTER 2022

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from the President



Dear Alverno friends,

As I write, I know most of us are traveling or looking forward to a time of grace, celebration and wonderful meals, made more so by sharing them with people we love. That alone brings thoughts of gratitude and joy for the many blessings we experience, even during these challenging times.

Still, it has been impossible to ignore that these have been difficult days and weeks in Wisconsin as tragedy, tension and turmoil surround us in our local communities and in the news each day. And we continue to confront the reality that COVID-19 has not disappeared or been brought fully under control. All of it reminds me again and again how important the work we do at Alverno is — preparing competent, ethical and compassionate leaders, especially women — for a world that needs them desperately.

So, we can most assuredly drink from overflowing fountains of gratitude — first for our faculty and staff whose work brings the Alverno mission to life every day; and for our students, from the first-semester undergraduates all the way to the “nearing dissertation completion” doctors of nursing and education. They understand early on that their study and labor has a reason and

purpose that extends far beyond what they can possibly understand at this time in this place. Gratitude as well to our benefactors whose generosity puts flesh and bones on our most compelling aspirations, and to our alumnae who, through their work and presence in so many diverse spheres, reveal in vibrant color and texture the deepest meaning of *Alverno Strong*. And abundant gratitude for those who quietly go “way above and beyond,” whether to set up a meeting or conference for guests; contribute to essential conversations about the marketing of a new academic program; make an instructional accommodation for a student who needs it; or takes the time to make that tiny human gesture to a colleague who needs affirmation and encouragement.

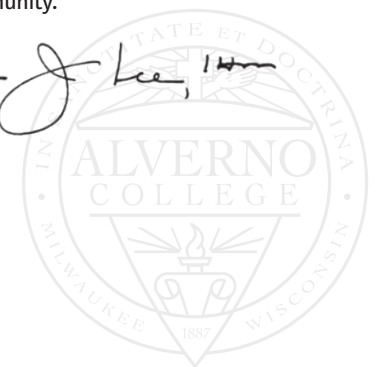
We see this unique Alverno reality expressed in so many diverse ways — through the magnificent senior recitals of gifted musicians; to social work interns moving ever deeper into a city that needs their compassionate and courageous presence; to volleyball players and their coach who bring their best to every game, notwithstanding injuries and a depleted roster.

We see it in experienced senior members of the faculty and staff who never ignore the need to invent and design anew for new times and new needs. We experience it as well in younger or newer staff and faculty who approach their work — in the Career Studio; in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts; in the Athletic Department; in our new Greenhouse; in the classroom; in the Advancement office — with amazing energy, creativity and laser focus on mission and purpose.

I am grateful for all of them and for all of it, including for those whose work is less visible, yet no less essential to creating the dynamic and ever-evolving Alverno experience.

May these days ahead bring you peace, joy, light and good energy. We are so grateful that you are part of this wonderful Alverno College community.

Andrew J. Lee, 14mm





Alverno Strong in Arizona

To continue meeting the need for exceptional health care providers, Alverno is opening a second location in Arizona.

The move represents an expansion of our successful Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN), which launched in Wisconsin in January 2020. The DEMSN offers an 18-month pathway to a nursing career for those who already have a non-nursing bachelor's degree.

Alverno DEMSN students in Arizona will learn and practice in 13,000 square feet of classroom space, including a clinical

simulation lab, in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa (*see rendering above*). With an anticipated start in August 2022, the program launch is subject to the approval of Alverno's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth for registered nurses in Arizona between 2016 and 2026 will be 37%, triple that of the national average.

By offering a DEMSN pathway in the state, Alverno is not only stepping up to meet a pressing public need but is also serving

students as the region's sole Catholic, Franciscan DEMSN program. "Alverno has always sought to meet the needs of the time, to be nimble, and to ensure that those seeking educational access find open and welcoming doors," says **Sister Andrea**.

Alverno is partnering with Synergis, an Arizona-based education services provider with a shared mission to expand educational access. The partnership is closely aligned with Alverno's strategic plan, which calls for the College to grow our health care footprint in order to expand access to health care and fight systemic inequities.

New grant helps opening the door to success in STEM

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Alverno nearly \$500,000 to a program dedicated to women in STEM.

The grant is part of the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program (Alverno achieved the HSI designation in 2017). The funding is meant to enhance STEM education and draw more women to the field, including women of color, as they explore the ways that STEM benefits their communities.

The Truchan STEM Community Impact Program is named in honor of **Sister Leona Truchan '53**, who taught biology at Alverno for nearly 50 years. The program is expected to engage 400 students over the next five years, as well as their families.

"Data suggests that women who enter STEM fields are often motivated to pursue STEM

careers that work toward communal goals and helping others," says **Angela Frey**, professor of biology. "We know that women, particularly women of color, are under-represented in STEM fields. This grant will help us connect students to

professional and social communities, bolster student success, and improve retention, graduation and entry into STEM careers."

— Kelly Cole



Cheryl Moore



Christa Shields



Advancing our mission

Alverno welcomes two new colleagues who will advance Alverno's mission to provide a transformational education.

Cheryl Moore is executive director of career development, preparing students to thrive after graduation. Moore previously served as associate president and undergraduate business department chair at Cardinal Stritch University.

Christa Shields is vice president for advancement, overseeing Alverno's fundraising and alumnae engagement efforts. Shields previously led development teams at Special Olympics Wisconsin and Divine Savior Holy Angels High School.

WHY I TEACH

Empowerment.
Authenticity.
Healing.

These are the goals of communication and higher education, and they underpin the mission that **Lindsey Harness, PhD**, embraces in her work at Alverno.

Harness, an associate professor of communication and technology, recently took the helm of Alverno's Research Center for Women & Girls (RCWG). Founded in 1970, the RCWG's outreach efforts are geared toward improving the lives of women and girls and empowering them with the knowledge and skills to thrive.

"I hope to continue the underlying goal of RCWG by conducting research about present-day needs for women and girls, using that research to be part of important conversations," Harness says. "I believe in conducting research that directly impacts human lives in a way that helps them live authentic and empowered lives, and I believe that intentional communication is a way to heal our world. So, I hope RCWG will be a resource for empowering research that promotes courageous communication and healing."

This fall, the RCWG hosted the third annual Girls Summit, which convened girls and women to explore mental, emotional, physical and financial wellness. Among the highlights for attendees and Harness was the keynote speech from 13-year-old **Ayanna O'Kimosh**, a three-time national boxing champion



Lindsey Harness is an expert on distance learning — knowledge that proved invaluable in the shift to online teaching at the onset of the pandemic.

combination of motivational speaking, consulting, and coaching plus it allows me to continue learning. Voila!"

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

"I want to empower students to realize that their 'voice has volume' (Thank you to our Career Studio director, **Dr. Cheryl Moore**, for this poignant phrase). I want to help them learn how to identify the communicative resources they have available to be heard within spaces where they might not have the traditional resources of power. I want them to know that they matter just as they are, and that they are worthy of living a life of their own design."

What have you learned from Alverno students?

"I have learned about the courage it takes for women to circumvent the structural barriers and inequities that hinder women from obtaining an education. Alverno women inspire and amaze me because they are tenacious in their pursuit of bettering their lives on their own terms. I love that."

who advocates for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (see next page).

"I had the opportunity to visit Ayanna's family and her at the Menominee Indian Boxing Club where she trains. As I helped her prepare for her speech, I was in awe of Ayanna's courage and wisdom," Harness says. "She taught me a lot about what it means to be a person who identifies as a teenage girl and Indigenous, and she helped me realize that I have so much more to learn."

When and why did you decide to become a teacher?

"Originally, I wanted to own a business that combined organizational consulting, event planning, public speaking coaching and motivational speaking. So, I majored in organizational communication and minored in business. After shadowing a motivational speaker and serving as an event planner for my senior internship, I questioned my original career goal. As a graduate student, I was offered a teaching assistantship that allowed me to teach stand-alone public speaking classes. I had an epiphany: Teaching is a



GIRLS SUMMIT

Fighting for the missing

By Nicole Sweeney Etter

From her home on the Memoninee Nation reservation, 13-year-old national boxing champion **Ayanna O’Kimosh** (pictured at left) posts on social media the missing posters for indigenous women nationwide with a simple message: “Have you seen her?”

Whether in the boxing ring or on Facebook and Instagram, the eighth grader from Keshena, Wis., fights to shine a light on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, or MMIWG, as the cause is known. Wearing a white T-shirt emblazoned with the words “STRONG RESILIENT INDIGENOUS,” she spoke about her journey as a boxer and activist in her keynote speech for Alverno’s third annual State of Wisconsin Girls Summit in October.

During her keynote, O’Kimosh shared a favorite quote by boxing legend Muhammad Ali: “We can’t be brave without fear.” She recounted how she initially dissolved into tears after every sparring match, but soon conquered her nerves as well as her opponents.

Outside the ring, O’Kimosh stepped outside of her comfort zone by using her platform to amplify the MMIWG cause. During the 2019 USA Boxing Nationals, she pledged to fight for missing and murdered Indigenous girls. “I wanted to fight for them and to change the narrative for future generations,” said O’Kimosh, who is a member of the Oneida Nation and descended from the Menominee and Arikara tribes.

Her Menominee name, *Naenawehtawukiw*, means Warrior Woman. Her determined spirit comes through in a photo in which she wears a traditional ribbon skirt made by her mother and a T-shirt with the words “War

Ready,” with her hands wrapped in boxing tape. A painted handprint covers her face as a symbol of the MMIWG movement. The cause is personal to O’Kimosh. In 2020, her relative, 22-year-old Katelyn Kelly, went missing. Kelly’s remains were found on the Menominee reservation in March 2021, the case still unsolved.

O’Kimosh shared the stark statistics: Indigenous women face murder rates more than 10 times higher than the national average and significantly higher rates of violence. And those are only the reported cases. A 2016 report by the Urban Indian Health Institute counted 5,712 MMIWG cases, only 116 of which were logged by the U.S. Department of Justice database.

“Native women go missing three times: physically, in the data and in the media,” O’Kimosh noted.

In addition to using social media and media interviews to spread her message, O’Kimosh has presented about MMIWG at her school and participated in a discussion panel on the topic with two professional women boxers, Kali Reis and Ronica Jeffrey. She hopes to teach self-defense to girls as a preventative measure.

“I’m most proud of my role as an advocate of change,” she said. “It gives me a very empowering feeling to teach these young girls and women about this issue, and it drives me to do more to keep spreading this awareness.”

Learn more

Go to alverno.edu/Research-Girls-Summit to watch O’Kimosh’s speech and find other resources related to the MMIWG epidemic.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Bailey

Ayanna O’Kimosh challenged Girls Summit attendees to be the strongest women they can possibly be.

LIGHT IT UP



Lisa Heidelmeier,
class of 2022

Lisa Heidelmeier, a business and management major, interned at financial services firm Robert W. Baird & Co. this summer. One of her most memorable internship experiences involved Milwaukee's famous Hoan Bridge.

"In celebration of National Intern Day, Baird participated in a lightshow competition with Light the Hoan to develop light shows that reflect the company's brand and culture," she says. "The 37 Baird interns were put into groups and each group created a lightshow. We then voted to choose a winner, and my group won. We represented the company in the larger competition. We won against Northwestern Mutual but lost to Direct Supply."

A new mindset

"I started my college career at a public school and then transferred to Alverno. I immediately felt the difference. I was an average student

before coming to Alverno, but when I came here, I realized I actually like school. I was shocked to see the phenomenal feedback I received from my professors at Alverno."

Connecting the 8 Abilities

"Alverno gave me the opportunity to show my skills and what I know rather than being tested on them, and that's what has made a difference in my career. It boosted my confidence to know how to do things. Alverno's curriculum prepares you to be successful and communicate effectively."

Why Alverno?

Laura Heidelmeier MSN '17, Lisa's mother, is a psychiatric nurse practitioner who earned her master's degree in nursing from Alverno. But Lisa has found her own home here. "From the moment I toured Alverno, I liked it. Everyone

was friendly. There wasn't a sense of not belonging or being an outcast."

Paying it forward

After graduation, Lisa may pursue an MBA or follow in her mother's footsteps with an MSN. Either way, her end goal is to bring a mental health crisis center to Walworth County, which she says doesn't have these services close by.

"When my mom was going back to school for her masters and specializing in mental health, it opened my eyes. Because I see the need and I have a huge passion for mental health, it is a dream of mine to offer those resources for the community I grew up in."

— **Melissa Zacula Luna**, class of 2022

A Sweet Family Business

Jennifer Martinez, class of 2022

For **Jennifer Martinez**, family has always been her inspiration. It turns out that they sparked her imagination, too. At a family gathering, Martinez and her cousins challenged each other to recreate a Mexican candy. “The candy became a sensation in our family and was requested for every family party. Until someone asked, ‘why don’t you sell this outside the family?’ And we said, ‘why not?’”

Thus, their business of Picosito Sweets was born. “Coming up with the name of the candy was challenging because we wanted it to represent its Mexican heritage and mix of flavors — sweet but sour with a little bit of spice,” Martinez explains.

Martinez and her cousins were startled by the amount of support they received from friends and the community. They began by advertising the candy to their friends on Instagram and Snapchat, and orders have steadily increased. Through it all, Jennifer has successfully applied what she has learned as an Alverno student to the business.

“Being a business management student at Alverno has definitely given me the confidence to take on this challenge,” she says. “Alverno has cultivated in me the abilities to know how to lead and how to serve.”

— Melissa Zacacla Luna, class of 2022



Hired before Graduation



Emily Rodriguez '21, social work major

Employer: SaintA, a Wisconsin nonprofit serving children in foster care and their families

Role: Child welfare case manager

“I serve as an in-court advocate for kids and their biological families. I also ensure that everyone has the resources they need during foster placements. The ultimate goal is family reunification.”

Her motivations: Her son Julian, who turned 1 in July, the family and friends who cheered her on, and her social work faculty members, **Crystal Aschenbrener** and **Luci Staudacher**, who supported Rodriguez’s needs as a new mom and “always kept pushing me to go further.”

Another key motivation? The families whom she serves as a social worker. “Reunification with the families is the best moment. Seeing the whole family together and happy makes me happy.”

What Alverno means to her: “Going to an all-women’s college helped me academically and helped me grow as a person. Alverno helped me mature and get ready for my career.”

One by one



This is grassroots community health nursing. We're meeting the community where they're at," says **Kirsten "Kiki" Lezama '14**, an Alverno nursing alumna and instructor in the College's Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DESMN) program. "People have been saying: 'I never would have been vaccinated if you hadn't come to my door.' This is what it's all about."





Above: Alverno DEMSN students canvass Milwaukee neighborhoods to provide health education and on-demand COVID-19 vaccines.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ONE PERSON CAN IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

That belief is foundational to Alverno's array of health care programs. It's what makes an Alverno-educated health professional in demand by both patients and employers. And it's what drives continued innovation in how we equip students with the knowledge and experience to make a positive impact.

This impact is especially needed in communities that have experienced inequities based on upon race, socioeconomic status and other factors. Such communities are more vulnerable not only when it comes to everyday health issues but also suffer more severe consequences for atypical events, like the COVID-19 pandemic. And this is where our Alverno Strong students, faculty and alums go to work every day, improving access to quality health care and building healthier communities — one door, one interaction, one shot and one person at a time.

One by one

“People have been saying:
‘I never would have been vaccinated
if you hadn’t come to my door.’
This is what it’s all about.”

By Jackie Avial

It’s about meeting people where they are.

On one Tuesday in July, 10 Milwaukeeans received a COVID-19 vaccine at their homes. That’s 10 people who may not have been vaccinated if nurses hadn’t knocked on their doors as part of a grassroots public health initiative to bring vaccines directly to people’s homes. That’s 10 more people who are now protected from getting severely ill with, or dying from, COVID-19.

And it was just one day’s work for a group of Alverno student nurses.



“This is grassroots community health nursing. We’re meeting the community where they’re at,” says **Kirsten “Kiki” Lezama ’14**, an Alverno nursing alumna and assistant

professor of nursing in the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions. “People have been saying: ‘I never would have been vaccinated if you hadn’t come to my door.’ This is what it’s all about.”

This year, Lezama and other Alverno nursing faculty partnered with the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to work on a grant-funded project to promote vaccine confidence and provide COVID-19 education on a hyper-local basis. As a result, five sections of Alverno DEMSN courses were deployed this summer into high-need Milwaukee neighborhoods to provide information about the coronavirus as well as to offer the vaccine.

Throughout the summer, the students learned how to engage residents in conversations that were respectful and productive.

“They started with closed questions: ‘Have you been vaccinated?’ They learned very quickly that people would answer ‘yes’ and shut the door,” Lezama recalls. “So it became: ‘We’re going around to help the community and answer questions about COVID and the vaccine. What questions can we help answer for you?’”

Lezama, who has worked in public health for her entire nursing career and earned a master’s degree in this discipline, says it is essential to be nonjudgmental.

“We want to promote healthy behaviors. ‘Promote’ is a different word than ‘force’ or ‘insist.’ We’re not forcing anybody to do anything. Our job as nurses is to give people the right information so they can make informed decisions about their health. We hope that sharing the most scientifically accurate information in a way that is easily understandable, digestible and relevant,

resonates with peoples’ values and moves them to make a decision that will improve their health and the health of their friends and loved ones.”

For DEMSN student **Porsha Brown**, one of the most profound lessons she learned this summer is best shared via the words of community health leader Lorraine Lathen.

“There’s such a thing as the ‘movable middle,’” Brown says Lathen taught her and her peers. “Some people aren’t budgable. You can’t get them to change their mind. But there are others who, with the proper education, can adopt a new perspective and see things differently. When I was out there canvassing, I kept that in mind.”

The students also learned how to establish their conversations with residents within a larger context.

“We’re working in historically underserved neighborhoods. We have to understand the mistrust that exists in communities that are vulnerable and have historically experienced poor exchanges with health care and other societal systems,” Lezama says. “I tell the students the biggest takeaway I want you to recognize at the end of the day is: Even if you don’t get somebody vaccinated, you were a positive experience with the system. That means more than you may understand. For you, it may be just another house, but for that person, it might be their first positive encounter that can help shape positive health outcomes for themselves, families and friends for years to come. And that is extremely powerful and profound.”

Brown, who is biracial and has lived in some of the predominantly African American communities that the nursing students visited, brought a strong sense of purpose to this summer’s work.

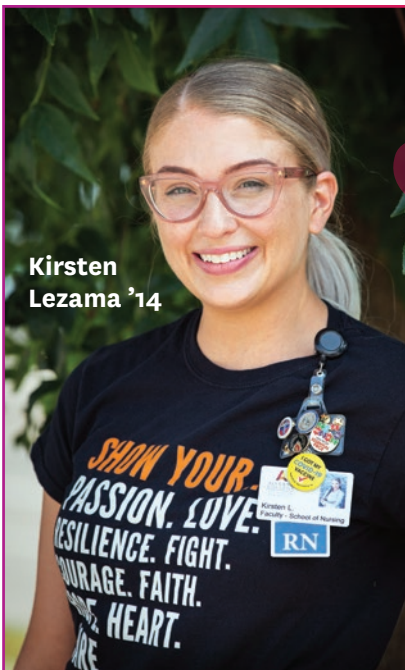
“If I have the education and the knowledge, there’s nothing more I would want to do than spread that knowledge to people I closely relate to and that my family closely relates to,” she says.

Ultimately, Lezama says, the students are discovering the many facets of what it means to be an Alverno nurse.

“They’re having all these epiphanies,” she says. “Everything that they’re doing is important. Everything they’re doing has meaning. Everything they’re doing is nursing.”



Above: Nursing instructor Kirsten Lezama leads DEMSN students through a debriefing following a neighborhood canvassing session.



Kirsten Lezama '14

Measuring impact*

“If I have the education and the knowledge, there’s nothing more I would want to do than spread that knowledge.”

15 Milwaukee ZIP codes where community health workers reached out to residents

Alverno DEMSN students who canvassed this summer

27

396 Residents vaccinated at home

Smoke detectors installed in residents’ homes in connection with door-to-door health screenings

565

*Source: Alverno College and Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Ready for **impact**



This fall, undergraduate nursing students continued the community COVID-19 canvassing work. Assistant professor of nursing **Kristin Wood** and her eight students (pictured above) began by working on Milwaukee's northside; as the work moved to the city's south side, the students were able to leverage their fluency in Spanish and English to communicate with the predominantly Hispanic population.

"It was such an advantage to help the students connect with residents. The students have flourished. Their confidence levels have grown. They're educating people appropriately, they're registering the residents in the system and hopefully gaining consent and then giving the vaccine on site," Wood says. "It's been an honor for me to step back and watch the students take the lead."

For both Wood and her students, it was their first community-based clinical experience. And it has made a deep impact.

"They are really taking this experience to heart. They're noticing that nursing isn't just skills-based, but it's also how you communicate and connect with patients, clients and the community in general," Wood says. "The fact that the residents have literally opened their doors to us speaks volumes to how the students have facilitated trust and a therapeutic relationship with the community."

Student **Isabel Colón, class of 2022**, took the experience a step further by proposing her family's restaurant as a site for a mobile vaccination clinic. And so on a chilly Tuesday in November, eight people received their COVID-19 vaccine at La Caribeña Restaurant, where Colón's mother and sister — the head chefs — regularly prepare such staples of Dominican cuisine as La Bandera, the white rice, red beans, salad and meat a nod to the tri-color Dominican flag.

"I grew up on the south side of Milwaukee, so it really meant a lot to be able to advocate for the health of my community," Colón says. "I always knew I wanted to give back to our community; I just didn't know it would be this soon in my nursing career."

Colón appreciates the opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of public health. And it has inspired a new career goal for her.

"I've always been firm on wanting to work in a critical care setting, but I grew a passion for policy making," she says. "One of my future goals is to advise officials and government agencies on matters that affect the public. I think it's important to have representatives who are like us and have a true understanding of the issues in our communities."

Orgullosa de **servir**

Many of Wood's nursing students in the community clinical class are bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish. They were proud to leverage these skills to serve the community.



"I believe that speaking someone's native language helps people feel more comfortable. You can get their trust by listening and answering their questions accordingly."

— **Myriam Hernandez,**
class of 2022



“The south side of Milwaukee is my home; therefore, having the opportunity to canvass and give back to the community was a phenomenal experience. Utilizing my bilingual skills... I truly felt like I made a difference as I could observe each

individual’s sense of relief as we were able to comprehend one another.”

— **Angelica Torres, class of 2022**



I am glad I had the opportunity to partake in such a wonderful clinical experience! It was especially of great honor and joy to be able to communicate with the Hispanic population, especially during such stressful times. I was able to

help break the language barrier and aid in keeping the community safe by providing education and addressing unanswered questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. I am a proud Puerto Rican!

— **Ruby Perla Ortiz, class of 2022**

“Being bilingual, this clinical provided the avenue to take my knowledge and experience developed in the classroom and clinical setting to the community and provide education in Spanish. This was so special because even if my Spanish wasn’t the best, I was using my skills to be a community advocate.”



— **Melissa Rogel, class of 2022**



Speaking up

Joselin Rodriguez Santiago, class of 2022, knows firsthand how language can prevent or open access to health care. In high school, the native Spanish speaker moved to Wisconsin from Puerto Rico. Not only did she work hard to advance her English, but a family member also counted on her for interpretation services at doctor appointments.

“I realized that the only people who could understand us and help us were interpreters. They were going the extra mile for us,” she recalls.

So when Rodriguez Santiago enrolled at Alverno, she supplemented her biology major with a minor in Spanish/English health care interpretation. She enjoys exploring the ethics of the profession as well as serving as an interpreter at parent-teacher conferences for a local elementary school.

“Having this minor helps me communicate not just with the scientific community but also with people from my background. It helps me keep my roots,” she explains.

Our Profiles

Nichole Gladney '00



For so many organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic posed an urgent need to adapt. To catch up. To build something new.

Not so for **Nichole Gladney '00**, director of community outreach and engagement for Ascension Wisconsin. Gladney and her team tapped established partnerships and an already strong foundation to deliver information — and later, vaccines — to communities around the state.

“We knew we needed to get messaging out about the coronavirus, especially to vulnerable communities that may not be digitally connected. So we went to the frameworks we had previously developed,” she explains. “We worked with our urban media partners and hosted virtual town halls with faith leaders. We have been communicating in this space for several years as a trusted voice.”

Building trust

As a communications specialist at the Medical College of Wisconsin, **Marina Thao '18** has a seat at the table at the nation's third-largest private medical school.

It is a responsibility she takes seriously as MCW responds to not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also social justice issues.

“I support MCW with institutional and community initiatives around public health and racism,” she says. “I’ve helped coordinate and run listening circles, including those centered around Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate. It’s important to create this space and allow students, faculty and staff to express and feel heard and seen by the institution.”

Thao also served on an MCW team focused on serving vulnerable communities, including translating educational materials for the Hmong community of which she is a member. She contributed to MCW's vaccination clinics, during which she sought to assure loved ones of the safety and importance of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“As a Hmong woman and person of color, when you walk into a room of medical professionals who are primarily white, I understand how it can make you feel uncomfortable or distrustful,” she says. “So when I got my vaccine, I posted it on social media and shared the news with others. Family members and friends felt more reassured after seeing me get the vaccine and hearing my testimony. In that position, I can be a face for my community and help others feel supported and safe. It was an honor to be present and volunteer for those efforts.”



Marina Thao '18

Not only did Ascension Wisconsin share information about staying safe from the coronavirus on radio shows targeted to African American and Spanish-speaking audiences, Gladney says, but within weeks of vaccines being widely available, her team was leveraging partnerships with community organizations to distribute vaccines to populations that historically have faced barriers to accessing quality health care.

“I’m so grateful to work for an organization that lives, breathes and honors its mission. The mission is not just a statement hanging on a wall,” she says of the Catholic health care organization, a strong partner to Alverno with a shared mission.

In fact, Gladney attributes her mission-driven career path to her Alverno education, which she says allowed and encouraged her to consider such questions as: What’s meaningful to me? What do I want to become?

“I began to look at the world differently and my place in the world. I knew I wanted to serve others, but I didn’t know exactly how that might work for me,” she recalls. “Through my experience at Alverno, it became clear.”



Lara Sobek '08 '13

Making a difference for the **future**

When double alumna **Lara Sobek '08 '13** returned to the Alverno campus this summer, it wasn't for a reunion or even to visit her mother, a visual arts instructor here.

Nevertheless, it marked a homecoming for the public health nurse, who staffed a Milwaukee Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinic on campus at the end of August. The free clinic, one of several that Alverno has hosted, was open to members of the campus community as well as the general public.

“I was really excited to know that a mobile vaccination site was going to Alverno and happy that I was able to work at it. It’s like coming back home,” says Sobek, who has also served as a disease investigator earlier in the pandemic. She has focused her public health career in maternal child health, having done home health visits to assist underserved pregnant women, mothers and children access crucial medical and social services and to provide health education and screenings. She chose public health because “it aims not only to help today’s generation become healthier but future generations as well. I’m so glad to help make a positive impact on the community as a nurse.”

BURNING

FOR 20 SEASONS, Alverno Inferno student-athletes have shone in the classroom, in the community and on the field (or court, or trail, or diamond). In this anniversary year, we honor all those who helped build and grow the Alverno Athletics program, as well as the students and alumnae who have demonstrated leadership, sportsmanship and service while achieving personal, academic and athletic growth.

13

Years Alverno has taken first, second or third place in the annual NACC food drive since its 2006 inception (including 9 consecutive first-place finishes)

7

SPORTS OFFERED

- Basketball
- Cross country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Volleyball

“IF YOU LOOK at our young program, we are just coming out of our teenage years and we are reigniting the Inferno so that we can make sure that the next 20 years are even better than the first. We are looking to make some improvements and enhance our programs in many different ways. You should tune in and watch the Inferno reignite the flame in 2021.”

Total number of food items the Alverno community has collected in the past 14 years

180,668

18

Members of the Alverno Athletics Hall of Fame, honored for their athletic achievements or dedicated support for our student-athletes

410

Scholar-athletes (with a grade point equivalent of 3.25 or higher) since 2001

— **Katari Key**,
director of
Alverno Athletics



BRIGHT



MERUB IRFAN

CLASS OF 2023

Major: Biomedical Sciences

“Playing a sport, in general, has a positive impact. Furthermore, I can say with certainty that playing tennis has helped me become a leader among my peers. As I look back at how I have changed since high school, I have built up a lot of confidence and I am not a timid girl anymore. I can say that I am ALVERNO STRONG.”

ZIRI HERNANDEZ-BUSTOS

CLASS OF 2022

Major: Nursing

“As a student athlete, I have the opportunity to expand myself in ways I wouldn’t be able to in other programs. I am able to grow tremendously as a leader, teammate and athlete. Every experience, game and practice has shown me ways to better myself and gain confidence in my abilities.”



HANNAH MUSZYNSKI

CLASS OF 2024

Major: Kinesiology

“To be a student athlete at Alverno is more than just one thing. It’s leadership. It’s balancing my academics and athletics. It’s being a part of something bigger. It’s being part of a community that always believes in you and supports you.”

DOMINIQUE HUDSON

CLASS OF 2022

Major: Kinesiology

Being an Alverno student-athlete means “being a role model that younger kids look up to and being able to influence them in an empowering way. It’s about creating connections, not just with your team, but with the other sports and people on your campus.”



Remembering the past Bringing hope for the future

On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, **Kate Lemke '08** found herself standing shoulder to shoulder at the Pentagon with a four-star general and emergency personnel who responded to the attack.

They — along with other first responders, survivors of suicide attempts, veterans and mental health care professionals — were part of a 20-member team of cyclists on the 9/11 Ride of Hope. Organized by the Quell Foundation, the five-day, 250-mile bike ride sought to break down the stigma around mental health.

Between the ride's starting point in New York City and conclusion at the Pentagon, riders made daily stops at fire, police and EMS stations to provide education on the warning signs of mental distress as well as resources to find help. The ride raised nearly \$225,000 to fund the foundation's first responder mental health preparedness and training program.

Lemke, an experienced cyclist, joined the ride in memory of her boyfriend James Michael Martin Sarabia, a firefighter and advanced EMT who died by suicide in 2019. "He was the kind of guy who looked up at the stars. He loved life," she recalls. "But our first responders walk into traumatic situations every day and don't get to process that."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, firefighters and law enforcement personnel are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty, and EMS providers are 1.39 times more likely to die by suicide than members of the general public.

"The ride seemed not only like a great healing opportunity for myself but also an opportunity

to bring awareness to the challenges first responders face," Lemke says. "It felt like a way to have hope and purpose."

Throughout the ride, Lemke was able to share her boyfriend's story (putting a face and a name to the statistics) and deliver an important message about the need to look out for each other. "We have opportunities to be good listeners and advocates for each other. There are so many of us facing challenges, but we should take the time to listen to each other and reach out if



somebody is presenting signs of struggling. They may not be capable of reaching out, so it is important that we reach into others."

Lemke says the ride brought on a range of emotions, from deep sadness to laughter as well as the comfort and vulnerability of sharing stories. Not only have lifelong friendships been formed, but so has a lifelong mission.

"I'm excited to work to bring the Quell Foundation's Ride for Peace of Mind to Tucson next June," says Lemke, a Wisconsin native who now resides in Arizona. "We're going to keep working to break down the stigma, lift the mask and get support for first responders."

FINDING HELP

To find help for yourself or someone you love, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at **1-800-273-8255**.

More information is available at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

Warning signs include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves
- Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Extreme mood swings

Source: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

After sharing her boyfriend's story, Kate Lemke (below, at left) receives support from her cyclist teammates on the 9/11 Ride of Hope.



Photos by Jason Whitman / 513 Media House

Saving Lives



Tonnie Boston
MA '20

Photo by Jeffrey Phelps

By Jackie Avial

For much of her life, **Tonnie Boston MA '20** didn't know the facts about organ and tissue donation.

"That's the reason I have a job," says Boston, who has spent the past six years as community outreach manager for Versiti's organ procurement organization. Her work places a special emphasis on connecting with people of color.

Particularly "in the African American community, we tend to carry a seed of medical mistrust," she says. "When you start talking about transplanting organs, there are a lot of myths and misinformation."

Boston developed an outreach program called Churches for Organ Donation, Education and Registration (CodeR). Participating churches receive education sessions and are invited to join such activities as annual gospel concerts. In return, the churches facilitate ongoing conversation among congregants about organ and tissue donation. CodeR started with one church and now

boasts 22 members. The program's success spurred Boston to create Classmates CodeR, which provides education about organ and tissue donation to high school students at a critical time in their lives.

"When you're going to the DMV for the first time to get your driver's license, that's when the question is asked: Do you want to be an organ donor? We want our teens to make an educated decision," she says.

Among the facts Boston often shares: African Americans account for nearly 29% of those waiting for an organ transplant but comprise 15% of organ donors. She tells people of color that becoming a registered donor "makes the pool richer for those waiting. You're likely to have similar genetic makeup and similar blood types, so it makes you a better match."

Boston acknowledges generational mistrust of the medical establishment in the Black community. Throughout history, Black people have been forcibly subjected to medical experiments. One of the most well-known

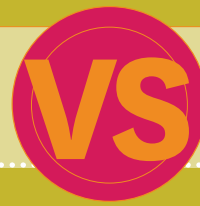
wrongs was the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, in which Black men unaware they had syphilis were offered free medical care while their syphilis went untreated. "I take this history seriously. And it's my responsibility to bring this information to our community," she says.

Recently, Boston embarked on a new way to get the message out: Lifeline, an exhibition that blends facts and debunks myths about organ and tissue donation, featuring pieces by local artists and testimonies from local members of Black sororities and fraternities. The exhibit launched in April at America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee.

Boston's work can be emotional and heavy. But she also knows that it is powerful.

"I don't care if your role is to answer the phone, or organize and schedule meetings. If you're in organ and tissue donation, you are a lifesaver. Even though I'm not in the emergency room or recovering an organ, I'm still a lifesaver because I'm educating," she says. "That's how we train our people. I really take that to heart."

MYTH VS FACTS



Alumna **Tonnie Boston** debunks common myths about organ donation.

MYTH

Organ and tissue donation does not affect my community.

110,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, and nearly **2,000** are located right here in Wisconsin. Of the patients on the national waitlist, **60%** represent multi-ethnic communities.

FACT

MYTH

I can't be an organ donor because of my age or current medical issue(s).

People of all ages and medical histories can be organ and tissue donors.

FACT

MYTH

My religion does not allow me to be an organ donor.

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

FACT

DID YOU KNOW?

Boston's Alverno sister, entrepreneur **Ebony Ssali MBA '19** of Ssali Media Group, shared her marketing talents to help bring this exhibit to life!



THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP



Arianna and
Betty Hill

Photo by Katrice Battle

Betty Hill '17 knew she wanted her young daughter to be involved in community service and to benefit from positive role models. And when she couldn't find a program that fit the bill, she created her own: Power Gurlz.

"Power Gurlz started because I did not see something that supported what my daughter needed at the age she was at," Hill explains. "These kids are smart, early. And they want to be engaged. You can't sleep on them. You have to cultivate them."

Aimed at girls ages 6 to 12, Power Gurlz offers fun activities, like arts and crafts or movie outings, as well as volunteering, education and mentorship. Girls can participate in one of three ways: through their schools, through the community or via virtual events.

**MENTORSHIP IS LEADERSHIP.
YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
— the human race —**

**WHEN YOU ARE MENTORED
CORRECTLY.**

"My philosophy is empowering girls at an early age. It creates seeds that we're planting early," Hill says. "You always remember what someone did that was positive and hold onto that. That's what I hope Power Gurlz has done for girls and continues to do."

Now 15, Hill's daughter Arianna remains engaged with Power Gurlz as a volunteer. She accompanied her mother to the Power Up Teens event held at Alverno this summer. The event, cosponsored by Alverno's Thea Bowman Institute for Excellence and Leadership, featured a financial coaching and business development workshop as well as a maker's market featuring teen entrepreneurs.

"It's just another way for me to fill a gap, support our youth and let them know that we care. We want them to flourish. We want them to succeed," she says.

In addition to serving as founder and principal of Power Gurlz, Hill works as program coordinator for Mentor Greater Milwaukee. The organization, which is affiliated with the Milwaukee Bucks, ensures that youth in Milwaukee have access to mentorship and that mentors have the training and resources to positively impact their mentees.

ALUMS ON MENTORSHIP



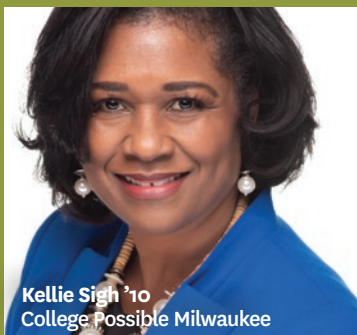
Betty Hill '17
Power Gurlz

“You’re not becoming a mentor to fix anyone. You’re meeting that person where they are and you’re taking a strengths-based approach to make sure you’re expanding on those strengths.”



Cassidy Korpela '19
PEARLS for Teen Girls

“I’ve learned it’s okay to accept that you might be planting seeds. You don’t always know the impact you’re having on someone.”



Kellie Sigh '10
College Possible Milwaukee

“I very much believe in the idea ‘to whom much is given, much is required.’ It’s how I live my life, and I never want to lose sight of that. I know so many people have given their time, love and encouragement to me, and I believe it’s a moral obligation to do the same for others.”

#AlvernoStrong, anywhere

Whether you’re in your car or relaxing outside, you can take a little bit of **#AlvernoStrong** with you.

The Alverno Voice, a new podcast from the Alverno Alumnae Engagement team, shares inspirational, motivational, heartwarming and funny stories from Alverno alumnae. Tune in to hear how your sister alums seized opportunities for personal and professional growth, formed lifelong friendships and are now driving change in their communities

Episodes are released monthly. All interviews will be shared via Anchor and Spotify apps.

Have an amazing story, or know someone who would make an awesome guest? Let the team know today at alumnae@alverno.edu.



Teach & Learn Weekend

Welcoming you home

We are getting ready to celebrate the sixth annual Alverno Alum Teach & Learn event next spring, and we hope you’ll join us!

Beginning on Friday, April 22, 2022, ahead of Alverno’s 135th anniversary, we’ll kick off a weekend of community, empowerment and sisterhood.

Highlights include:

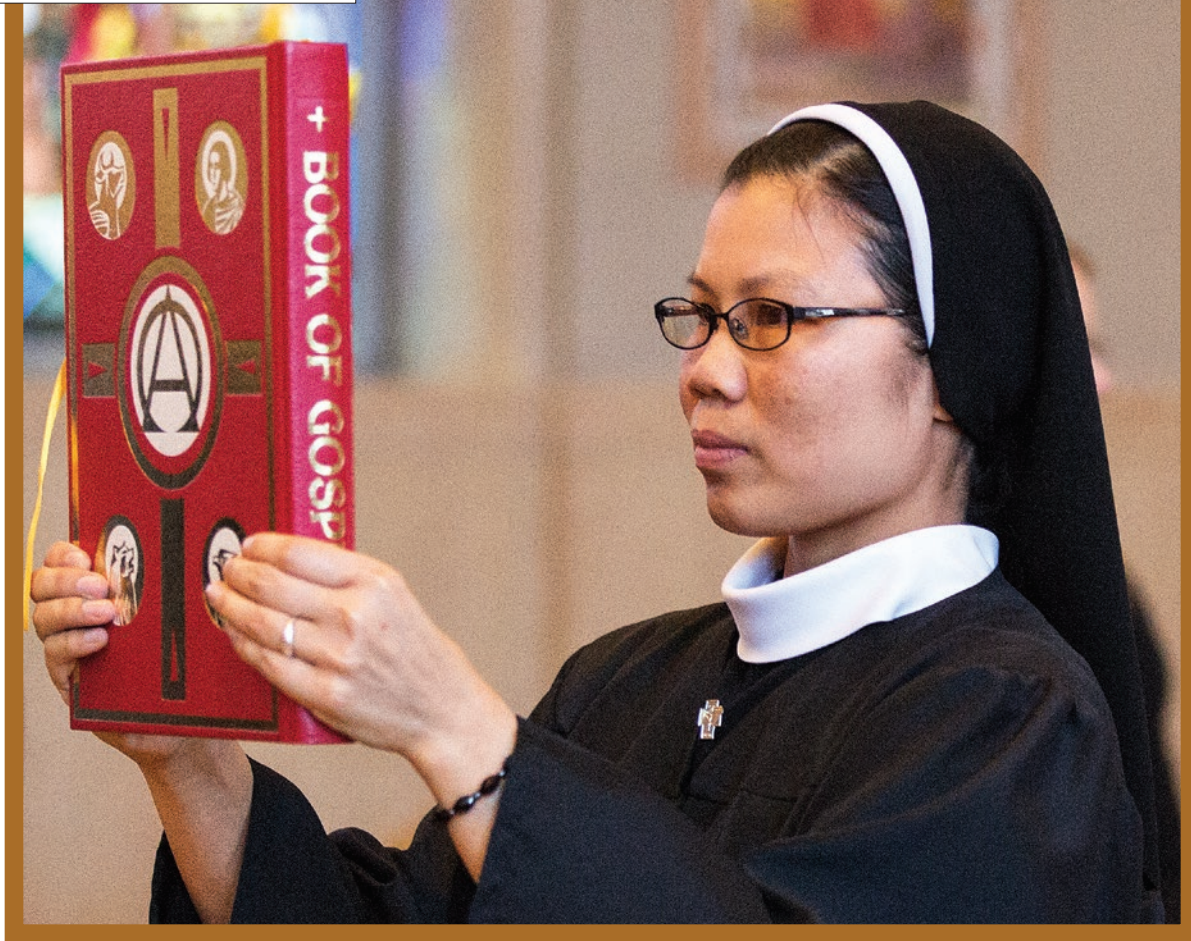
- Alverno College Community Conference
- Alverno Strong Alum Awards
- Milestone reunion celebrations in honor of our Golden & Silver Guild inductees
- Opportunities to learn from and alongside your fellow alums, and current Alverno students
- Special events for young alums
- Alverno’s Giving Challenge, in support of your alma mater

And so much more!

SAVE THE DATE!

April 22-24, 2022

Registration to open in early 2022. Please watch for a mailed save-the-date or keep an eye on alumnae.alverno.edu.



WHERE THERE WAS NEED

Sister Ban Phung

Sister Ban Phung '18 MBA '21 is a pioneer.

She is one of a handful of sisters from the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Hung Hoa, a Catholic religious order in Vietnam, to attend college in the United States. And she has become the first from her order to earn a master's degree, in business administration.

Phung hadn't planned on MBA studies, but while studying business as an undergraduate, a visit from her mother superior first planted the seed.

"My mother superior told me that in my convent, we haven't had any sister who has taken business classes. She feels I have some skill in business,"

she says. "I finally decided to take it to meet the needs of our congregation."

Those needs are the kindergartens that Catholic sisters operate throughout Vietnam. The government doesn't allow religious instruction in K-12 schools, but it does allow the sisters to operate preschools and kindergartens. Her congregation operates seven kindergartens serving approximately 1,500 students between the ages of 18 months and 6 years old. As students near school age, they receive instruction in math, writing, reading and science.

"My religious sisters have managed these kindergartens successfully. I do not plan to

“My mother superior told me that in my convent, we haven’t had any sister who has taken business classes.”

To read our Q&A with Sister Ban, please visit alvernomagazine.com/sister-ban

intervene or change the management in the kindergarten system. Instead, I want to share with my sisters several new leadership business skills so that we can provide even better service to our customers,” she says.

After spending eight years in the United States, Phung also sees another opportunity for her to share what she has learned.

“I personally intend to organize an English center in Vietnam where some of my sisters who also studied in the U.S. and I can provide English lessons and programs for students who want to become more proficient in English,” she says.

In Honor of...

Billye Aaron H '21
Ms. Mark Maurice

Alverno College Library
Abigail C. Bruders '21

Alverno faculty and staff in the School of Professional Studies
Patricia A. Luebke

Alverno students
Daniel L. Leister

Dawn Balistreri
Jeri L. Vatne '09

Marian Berger
Judith A. Berger '98

Donna Brady '89
Mr. Kevin Brady

Betty J. Carr
Beverly Collins '88

Jovita Carranza H '11
Merit Financial Advisors

Lois Casey
Kevin M. Casey

Class of 1958
Mary Alice Metzler '58

Class of 1967
Barbara Marks '67

Class of 1982
Susan Haerberlin '82

Class of 1985. Alverno community. For love and service.
Diane M. Miller '85

Class of 2003
Angela M. Chandek '03

Class of 2019
Mary J. Kitten DNP '19

Class of 2020!
Kimberly C. Otzelberger '20

Sister Bernardin Deutsch '53
Judith W. Amberg '67
Sue Leister MA '05
Andrea T. Petrie
Karen '73
and Walter Zoller

Sister Mary Diez '67
Katherine L. Katter '93
MA '00

Sister Austin Doherty '54
Mr. William Boline

Sister Margaret Earley '52
Alice Hatzenbeller '88
Dr. Marilyn Shrude '69
Louise S. Thompson '01

Jodi Eastberg, new Dean of Professional and Graduate Studies
Crystal Aschenbrener
Desiree Pointer Mace

Angela Frey
American Association
of University Women —
Milwaukee Branch

Mei Ling Hansen
Mrs. Carmella Hansen

Maureen Hellwig '68
Ms. Leah Axelrod
Linda Umbdenstock '68, PhD

Kelley Hickman '19 MBA '21
Jennie L. Benz '18 MBA '21

Wade and Lardella Hodge
Mr. Josh Diedrich

inMemoriam

We ask for your prayers for these alumnae who passed away as of October 19, 2021.

Thecla L. (Stifter) Ambrose '52
Dorothy Ann (Yankanin) Amsler '71
Margaret Ann Arnold '51
Charlene T. (Sitkowski) Bailey '65
Rachel M. Basina '05
Therese A. (Jurewicz) Burdey '95
Barbara A. (Christman) Christiansen '90
Barbara R. (Whalen) Darby '63
Geri (Morong) Dickson '74
Shirley (Taylor) Dorsey '52
Barbara (Glasl) Esser '59
Jeanette (Koch) Frederickson '67
Edith Gorski '64
Laureen Haben '49
Barbara (Johnson) Harvey '85
Jacqueline (Hinz) Harvey '75
Gloria J. (Olszewski) Helgren '93
Sabrina R. Hooks '02
Judith (Streit) Hopping '63
Sandra A. (Pietrzak) Janicek '87
Donna M. (Kania) Kania-Lachance '86
Mary Rita (O'Malley) Kauffman '65
Lois (Bevsek) Kormanik '66
Louise Kwaterski '61
Mary Laemmrich '76
Carol (Drake) Latta '89
Barbara (Goldyn) Leonard '63
Lois M. (Lee) Longmire '79
Mary Ann (Altstadt) Lorentz '60
Bessie L. (Bowers) Lynch '83
Nancy (Ziemer) Makal '80
Regina Pacis Meservey '62
Mary (Braun) Munoz '59
Karen S. (Scherkenbach) O'Brien '68
Lorraine A. O'Malley '91 MA '03
Mary Jo (Nelson) Phillips '61
Barbara A. Popp '80
Geraldine Reszel '62
Barbara Rittmanic '54
Cecelia Schlaefer '53
Susan J. Sear '71
Mary Ann (Reitz) Slattery '58
Lavon Smith '77
Manuela P. (Perez) Soto '92
Ellen (Willmert) Spitzer '73
Carol (Keup) Theisen '78
Betty (Phillips) Tubbin '61
Anne (Stock) Weber '78
Helen (Schwartz) Wrabetz '56

In Honor of continued...

Holy Family College
Mr. Josh Diedrich

Ronett Jacobs '98
Desiree Pointer Mace

**Sue Leister MA '05,
Career Studio**
Mary S. Rowe

Carol Lubinski Levin '71
Carol and Paul Levin Fund

Loving Family
Sandra Panuce '57

Hailey McLain '21
Carol A. McLain '95 MBA '11

Beth Monhollen '97
Karen M. Romantini '19

**All Music Therapy students
and graduates**
Nancy A. Dexter Schabow '92

**Sister Kathleen O'Brien '67,
trustee**
Lavetta Meyer Torke '82

**Our dedication &
persistence and
persistence during
COVID-19**

Mikelene H. Ray
and Stuart Hoffman

**Parents, grandparents
and family**
Mary T. Kennedy '69

Grace Parlier, class of 2022
Kathleen M. Utschig

Neysel Powell '16
Cynthia M. Ramirez '07

Marilyn Reedy
Nancy C. Jelen

Lena Scheibengraber '13
Marcy H. Kulakow '12

Jane Schmitz
Nancy R. Bowen '97

School Sisters of St. Francis
Gwen Drapela '67

Amy Shapiro
Tamara C. Strause '96

Gullee Souvajian
John C. Savagian

Rose Spang '62
Gina M. Spang MBA '08, trustee

**This gift is given to recognize
the professionalism, kindness,
and dedication demonstrated
daily by Valli Sternig, associate
professor of nursing**
Dawn M. Caruss '84

**Teachers at Alverno Early
Learning Center**
Heather A. Aschoff

Joeli Vargas Cortes '21
Laura J. Bolger

Sister Roseann Wagner '56
Sister Mary Jane C. Wagner '64

Mary Jo Walsdorf '02
LuAnn Bird '01

Jessica Wegner '95 MA '05
Nancy T. Sawyer MA '20

Sister Mariel Wozniak '57
Carole J. Poth '82

Sister Elizabeth Zilla '61
Laurie Fels '89

In Memory of...

Judith C. Anderson '84 —
she loved Alverno

Mr. James N. Anderson

Jim Berkes

Mary E. Devitt '82 MA '02

Dave Blonien

Carol Johnson Fritz '78

Linda L. Bosetti '78

Colleen M. Hegrans

William Considine

Claudia Considine '64

Rose Delahaut

Marilyn A. Marks '65

Sister Austin Doherty '54

Mary Jean Collins '63

Constance Eglsaer '71

Elizabeth M. Giencke '21

Sister Elizabeth Engel H '80

Rose Mary Walecki '65

Daniel C. Fehrenbacher

Mary Beth Berkes '75,
trustee emerita

Sister Joyce Fey '70

The Maxine Paril Fund

Sister Johanela Fiecke

Sister Helen R. Butzler '60

Robert E. Gehring

Kimberly A. Bernfeld '95

Sheryl Gist '87

Bobbi Jo Peuse-Celli '86

Gretchen Grotenroth '97

Karen S. Drescher '98

Sister Theophane Hytrek '38

Elizabeth M. Seaver '67

Mary Jo Secanky Kaiserlian '58

Winifred Nathan '58

Sister Laura Lampe H '78

Glenda Holm '69

Caroline Urban '62

Karen '73

and Walter Zoller

Sister Georgine Loacker '47

Sister Julia A. Rice '54

Ivy R. Thompson '95

D. Lawson

Ivy R. Thompson '95

Therese Lemanski Luedke '55

Mary Ellen Hughes '63

Martin J. Melvin

Maureen Christopher '74

Mary Rose (Quast) McCluskey

Ms. Deborah Borsdorf

Mr. Kim E. McCluskey

William McEachern

Patricia J. Jensen '71

Mr. and Mrs. George McKee

Bunny K. Booker MSN '13

Sister Agnes Meysenberg '47

Leslie A. Henry '93

Mary C. Stryck '86

Linda M. Czarnecki '83

Sue Miller

Judy Williamson '89

Pilar Moller '97

Brooke P. Wegner '99 MA '03

Beth Monhollen '97

and Daniel Seung Pugliese

Loretta Muench

Mari-Anne '91, trustee,
and Donald Hechmann

Mary Driscoll Neumann '68

Cynthia Frami '68

Marciano and Rosita Perez

Raquel Perez '67

Sister Joel Read '48

Charlene Chapman Madden '64

Dianne J. Spector '99

Sister Celestine Schall '48

Anna Villarreal '01

Ted Schuldts

Lynn E. Schuldts '92

Diane Schultz '87

Karen M. Zima '87

**Birdie Gee Smith,
on Mother's Day**

Dr. Carriette Weddle '76

Kathy Niggeman

Speckbrock '54

Dr. Vivien De Back '54

Collette Switalski

Sister Agnes Marie Steiner '66

Eunice Thompson

Ivy R. Thompson '95

Sister Roseann Wagner '56

Toni A. Gradisnik '75

Sister Mary Jane Wagner '64

Carol (Suminski) Wagner '68

Fran and Carol Wagner Fund

Joyce Wallskog '77

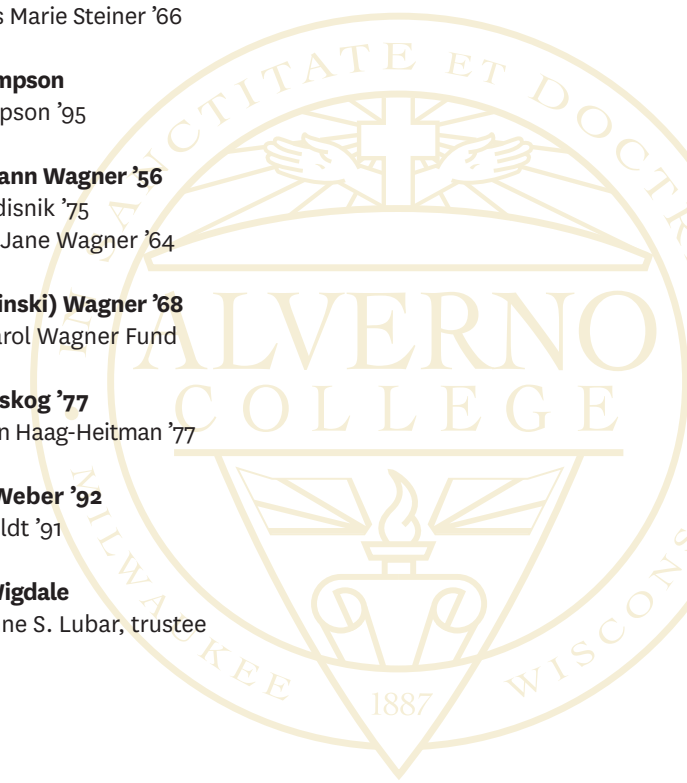
Barbara Jean Haag-Heitman '77

Filippa C. Weber '92

Lois Gresholdt '91

Elizabeth Wigdale

Mrs. Marianne S. Lubar, trustee



On track for a bright future



Jessica Becerra Martinez has a clear goal for her future, and she's on track to achieve it.

The first-year Alverno student recently met with her coach in Alverno's Career Studio, prompting her to select a major that will allow her to take a step closer to her goal of offering bilingual financial accounting and economic assistance to small business owners in the Hispanic community.

"I made a significant change, and I feel so good about it. My career coach made it a point to reach out to students to make us feel comfortable to go and talk about our progress in the first couple of weeks. I made an appointment with her, and it has changed everything," Becerra Martinez says. "I am in a much better place. I couldn't have done it without the Career Studio."

The personalized guidance and support that Becerra Martinez received from her career coach is emblematic of her Alverno experience, where she has found supportive faculty and an inclusive campus community.

"Alverno is so welcoming. There are so many people like me here — Hispanic and Latinx students — that I'm not the only one," she says.

Becerra Martinez is the newest recipient of the Barbara Frost Harkness Scholarship, a full-tuition, four-year

scholarship intended for an Hispanic student beginning her college education at Alverno.

The Harkness scholarship is one of 376 scholarships at Alverno, which together provide more than \$2.2 million of annual support to our students. Talk about impact.

"When I was applying to schools, I didn't think Alverno would be an option because of tuition. I was lucky enough to receive some other scholarships, but now, with this, I feel like I have a safety net," she says.

"Having them believe in me and my abilities to make a change feels so good. I'm just really grateful."

During the next several years at Alverno, Becerra Martinez plans to continue seeking meaningful connections with her professors, as well as to improve her public speaking skills. She will also seek internship opportunities that will help her build expertise in order to help the Hispanic community here in Milwaukee, providing assistance with banking and running a small business.

"A lot of Hispanic and Latinx people have the dream of making a small business, and they don't know how to start. Being someone who could help them with financial resources would be very rewarding," she explains.



GIVE GROWTH

An Alverno scholarship gives a student a chance to grow. With personalized guidance, every student has the support to find her best path to success. Make your gift today, and you can make a powerful difference on campus, in Milwaukee and throughout the world.

alverno.edu/give

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**READY TO
CONNECT
INSPIRE
LEAD
SHINE
ACHIEVE**

READY FOR
WHAT'S NEXT.

