

# ALVERNO magazine

Spring | Summer | 2023

## HOPE PROMISE GIVING

Celebrating the countless ways  
the Alverno community cares  
for each other and our world

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## Features



*“Hope needs Alverno Strong leaders to shepherd it on its journey toward justice and a brighter tomorrow.”*

— Joseph J. Foy



## Cover Story

**Jaquelin Moreno Gallegos, class of 2024,** hands out fresh flowers on campus as a part of the Giving Project.

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### COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Joseph Foy, PhD  
*Interim President*

Kate Lundeen  
*Vice President of Enrollment & Marketing*

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Jean O'Toole  
*Director of Marketing*

Kelly Cole  
*Editor*

Julie Tokarz-Stoye  
*Senior Graphic Designer*

Dana McCullough  
*Advancement Communications Manager*

### CONTRIBUTORS

Jackie Avial  
Nicole Sweeney Etter  
Ren Havey  
Ann Stawski '93

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Eileen Booth  
Gary Porter  
Linda Smallpage

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



The poet Emily Dickinson once described hope as “the thing with feathers that perches in the soul.” Hope sings, she suggests, “the tune without the words and never stops at all.” While those lines are famously known and oft cited, what I love about her poetic foray into capturing the essence of hope is how she goes on to describe that while hope is buffeted in the gale of furious storms, it persists and brings warmth to so many of us.

The world in which we live often feels like the storm of Dickinson’s poem. Each and every day, we are presented with news about war, social strife, market instability, banking crises, ecological disaster and global health threats. Layered on top of that is the cacophonous din of sensationalized and adversarial commentary in the guise of journalism, and the increasingly fractured public discourse that has been driven by social and entertainment media. In this social storm, hope can seem desperate, fragile and at risk of being lost in the squall of furious winds.

Where I part ways with Dickinson’s beautiful imagery is when she concludes her poem by saying that while hope can be felt in the most desperate and desolate of places, it asks nothing — not even a crumb — in return. I disagree. Hope begs for champions to help it soar. Hope asks for a chorus of voices to help make its song heard. Hope must be fed through works and inspirational action.

Hope needs us.

This issue of Alverno Magazine is one that centers on hope, promise and giving. The stories contained herein speak to an enduring hope for Alverno’s future in new leadership and in many new opportunities. Moreover, these stories — be they about the innovative development of new or reimagined programs that have the power to continue to challenge higher education to be more and to do better, or about new students coming to Alverno through a growing and thriving athletics department, or about alums who have overcome obstacles to be successful in their educational pursuits and beyond — show how we all have gifts to give that can help fulfill hope’s promise.

Hope is an amazing thing. But hope, for all its goodness, is not enough. It requires that we give of ourselves in leadership and service to others. That is what helps it persist. We become the power in hope’s wings. We help amplify its song to the farthest reaches and over the almost deafening force of the most violent of storms. We must be willing to lead with courage of conviction and to give of ourselves in work that helps others see hope in action. Hope needs Alverno Strong leaders to shepherd it on its journey toward justice and a brighter tomorrow.

And so it is my hope that the inspirational stories contained in this issue of the magazine not only help you to see the gift that is today and the promise of our tomorrow, but that they also inspire you to ask how you can give of yourself and your gifts to join in its beautiful song.

Blessings in all things,

Joseph J. Foy, PhD  
Interim President





# Direct impact

*Alverno recently received two grants, both of which will have a direct impact on students and their success.*

Alverno received a five-year, \$2.89 million grant over five years to increase the number of highly trained, bilingual, and racially and ethnically diverse school psychologists who are ready to serve youth and families. The program will have an immediate impact, placing school psychology practicum students and interns in six partner school districts — Milwaukee, Waukesha, West Allis/West Milwaukee, Greenfield, Racine and Cudahy — with the possibility of expanding to additional school districts. Interns who receive financial support through the grant will make a minimum commitment of two years serving as a full-time employee within one of the partner school districts, if hired.

“There is a need for school psychologists who represent the communities they serve, especially in Milwaukee,” says **Jessica Willenbrink, PhD**, project director and assistant professor in the educational specialist training program for school psychologists at Alverno. “There are significant financial and scheduling barriers to complete a school psychology program, especially for underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups. Through this grant, we will be able to offer students scholarships, provide mentorship, and place them in a job in a high-needs school district. We hope that this, in combination with our flexible hybrid program that offers all courses on the weekend, breaks barriers that individuals from underrepresented groups face.”

Separately, the CCAMPIS grant (Child Care Access Means Parents in School), recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, will provide \$90,000 a year for four years, helping offset the costs of on-campus child care for undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need. Combined with wrap-around services and student parent engagement activities, the additional child care hours provided by this grant will allow students to complete more credits each semester, narrowing the gap for completion rates between parents and non-parents.





### Sisters in STEM

When it comes to supporting students in STEM, **Angela Frey, PhD**, knows that creating a sense of belonging is key. That's why she, along with **Megan Anderson**, associate director of career development, established the Alverno Sisters in STEM professional network.

Launched last year, the program connects current STEM students with professional mentors, which research shows is crucial for their success. "It's really about creating a community of support around the students," says Frey (pictured above).

Adds Anderson: "They can have conversations about 'Oh yeah, I was a mom while I was going to school,' or 'My family didn't understand what this major was either.' And so they have both a role model and someone who encourages them."

**Melanie Garcia-Quezada, class of 2024** and a biomedical sciences major, appreciates the opportunity. "You always hear that it's important to have a mentor to guide you through your academic and professional career, but no one really tells you how to begin a mentee/mentor relationship," she says. "It's very encouraging to have that extra support from someone who has walked in your shoes before."

The program, which is supported by a National Science Foundation Grant, isn't simply helping students; it may be cultivating future mentors. Three recent alums who were part of the program are staying connected to their mentors.

“At some point we’re hoping these young alums will think ‘You know what? I’m now ready to be in that mentor role.’”

— Angela Frey

# GENEROUS DONATION

## Benefits Nursing Program



The JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions recently received a donation from the Advocate Aurora Foundation that included two physical exam tables, personal protective equipment, and an ear, nose and throat exam chair. "We are deeply grateful for these gifts, which will allow our students to practice their skills in a more life-like setting, ultimately better preparing them to be highly skilled, confident and compassionate nurses and primary care providers," says Dean **Laurie Kunkel-Jordan '00, PhD, RN**.



*When **Annie Barrett** started working in the Admissions department four years ago, she never imagined her role would take her to Chicago full time. Barrett is the College's first admissions counselor permanently located in Chicago, the largest city in the Midwest and the third largest in the U.S.*

"Students in Illinois deserve to know there are nearby options for them that can be both inspiring and accessible," says Barrett. "Despite being close in proximity, Alverno is not well known as an institution in Illinois. This has been something that both motivates and challenges me."

Her efforts are paying off. In the year that she's been there, she has attended over 30 recruiting events in Illinois. Many of those events targeted multiple high schools and community organizations, putting Alverno in front of thousands of students. In a year-to-year comparison, the number of Illinois residents' applications for the fall has more than doubled.

"Our presence at local college fairs and school visits in the state continues to build name recognition and trust," Barrett says. "I absolutely love connecting with students whose eyes light up when hearing about Alverno for the first time."

Initially drawn to the College by our abilities-based learning, Barrett wants to share her enthusiasm for an Alverno education with as many as possible. "My mission is always to present students with their options to make their college search exciting and manageable. My goal is for students to find the best fit for them. For many, it will be Alverno!"



## New Dean Brings Vision to Elevate Women

Alverno welcomes **Jeanie C. Lucy, OD, PhD, MPH, MS, FAAO**, as the new dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Lucy joined Alverno in January and oversees the largest of the College’s four schools. The School of Arts and Sciences is comprised of four divisions — Humanities; Arts; Behavioral Sciences; and Natural Sciences, Mathematics & Technology — and offers courses that provide students with a deeper knowledge of the wider world, promoting intellectual and personal development.

Lucy previously served as an assistant professor at Midwestern University, Chicago College of Optometry. Her vision is to continue doing two things that are near and dear to her heart: elevating women in the arts and sciences and holistically promoting biomedical science.

“When we elevate women, we elevate men, entire families, communities and the entire world. When we promote biomedical science, we start to change the trajectory of public health,” says Lucy. “Application of the sciences to real-world problems requires the kind of critical thinking that develops through a liberal arts education at Alverno. I am so happy to be part of such an inspiring group of professionals to accomplish these goals.”



Jodi Eastberg



Peg Rauschenberger

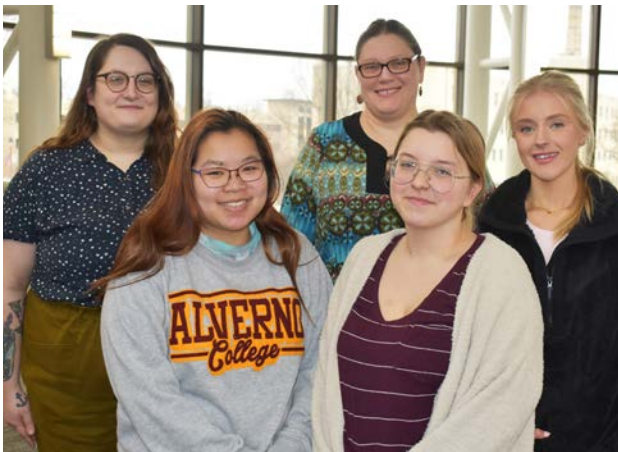
## Two Alverno Leaders Honored

BizTimes Media recently recognized 24 Notable Leaders in Higher Education, highlighting individuals who “demonstrate the quality of higher education leadership in the region and their dedication to developing the next generation of talent.” Two Alverno College leaders are among them.

**Jodi Eastberg, PhD**, is the acting vice president of Academic Affairs and the dean of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies.

**Peg Rauschenberger '85, MSN, RN**, is an associate dean of the School of Adult Learning and New Initiatives and dean emerita of the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions.

“Milwaukee’s future is based on the talent it can create, attract and retain,” says Dan Meyer, publisher of BizTimes Media. “These leaders in higher education are enriching the minds that will keep Milwaukee at the forefront of the key professions and industries that make our economy grow.”



Back row, left to right: Kimberly Watry, Assistant Professor Rebekah Klingler, Allison Goetzke. Front row: Mei Ling Hansen, Brianna Rivera

## Alverno Competes in National Challenge

Alverno College was one of 16 minority-serving education institutions selected to participate in the 2023 USDA–Foreign Agricultural Services Agricultural Export Market Challenge. The challenge is an experiential learning opportunity that simulates the work that Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS) subject matter experts perform every day to increase export opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products. The teams that completed the challenge presented their solutions to FAS leadership in late February and early March. The winning team will receive the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with USDA leaders.

**Rebekah Klingler, PhD**, assistant professor of biology, mentored a team of four Alverno students: **Kimberly Watry, Mei Ling Hansen, Brianna Rivera and Allison Goetzke**.

# WHY I TEACH



## Linda Olszewski: Transformative Teaching



By Nicole Sweeney Etter

**Linda Olszewski '98 '08, PhD,** first came to Alverno as a transfer student. "I wanted to be at an institution where I really felt like it matters that I'm there, where I know my instructors, and they're invested as much as I am," she recalls.

Alverno delivered on that promise and much more. Olszewski returned for her MBA and eventually took her place at the front of the classroom.

"I truly believe the abilities-based curriculum is such a transformative model," says Olszewski, associate professor and director of undergraduate programs in the business division. "I saw it in myself when

I was a student at Alverno, and now I'm blessed to carry that forward and be able to help transform students' lives using that same model."

### What do you hope to empower your students to achieve?

"It is a gift to share with students not only the knowledge but how to use that knowledge. Students uncover this potential in themselves that they may never have seen in themselves otherwise. When that happens, their confidence and ability to use that knowledge changes the way they work, the way they live and the way they view the world. They get to see themselves as change agents.

"While we get a chance to see it for a brief moment in the classroom, it doesn't end here. We won't ever be able to see that infinite domino



effect, but know that it will exist. They're equipped with what they need to be able to carry that forward. I think that's one of the most inspiring things about teaching."

### What do you love about teaching at Alverno?

"Alverno is so very different in the way that we teach because of the assessment model. The narrative feedback is so meaningful for students. It not only allows us to engage with students to equip them with that understanding of their strengths and their growth areas, but then it allows them to be able to do it with their peers as well. So when they're going out into the work world, they're able to have conversations about assessment. That, to me, is transcendent. It never goes away."

### Do you have a favorite memory from your time at Alverno?

"I teach a course called Business Models and Quantitative Methods. We start with a Post-it exercise where I ask the students what they know about quantitative analysis and how they feel about it. There's a lot of fear. Through the semester, we focus not only on learning the models and applying them, but building that confidence. I do the exercise again at the end of class, and I ask them how they feel about their ability now. And I have saved years and years of their Post-it notes because what they write is inspiration in a bottle. They share how differently they see themselves, how capable and smart they feel to be able to do this kind of learning. They have found their voice and found a capability within themselves that they never knew that they had."



## ALVERNO LAUNCHES NEW THREE-YEAR BUSINESS PROGRAM

As Alverno's business faculty surveyed the post-pandemic landscape, they realized it was time to reimagine the undergraduate business program. "We went back to the drawing board and said, 'How do we meet these parallel needs of students who need flexibility in their learning models and employers who want to onboard young talent as soon as possible because of the severe labor shortage?'" explains **Linda Olszewski '98 '08, PhD**, associate professor and director of undergraduate programs in the business division.

Their solution: a three-year degree program that starts this fall. But this isn't the traditional four-year program crammed into a shorter time frame. Instead, the program is structured as seven-week modules.

"We're focusing on the impactful frameworks and concepts that students really need to do a deep dive into," Olszewski says.

As students progress, they'll earn professional certificates in accounting, digital marketing and client experience, human resource management, operations management, and business analysis, as well as digital badges in other areas of interest.

Starting from day one, eight career seminars will cover everything from researching industries to how to build a professional network. By graduation, students will have experience with mock interviews, a portfolio and professional headshots.

"Students will be able to get to the market faster with a deeper knowledge and application base of core knowledge areas and skills," Olszewski says.

The program is unique in the local higher education marketplace. "No one is doing anything exactly like this, so we wanted to be the first," she says.

— Nicole Sweeney Etter

## LA BELLA VITA



Photography by Eileen Booth

By Ren Havey

*In January, 29 students, faculty, staff and alums traveled to Italy for the first study abroad trip since the pandemic. **Ren Havey, class of 2023**, who has a double major in English and history, went on the trip and wrote about her experience in this special piece for the magazine.*

For two weeks over winter break, I traveled with students, alums and faculty across Italy to see the sights and learn about its art, history and culture. We spent three to four days in each city experiencing their urban centers, chapels, museums and historical sites, as well as many different restaurants and cafés where we were able to not only interact with the locals but also bond with each other. For the first time since COVID, it seemed that Alverno finally got its sense of community back.

We flew into Rome and toured such famed sites as the Colosseum and the Vatican, where we got to witness the intricate art of the Sistine Chapel. It was mind-blowing walking around the Colosseum just thinking about how many people, past and present, had gathered there.

Traveling south to Naples, we stopped at the Torre Lupara farm where we fed baby water buffaloes, made our own mozzarella cheese, and had a dinner made exclusively with food grown or made on the farm. Feeding the baby water buffaloes was my favorite part of the trip. There was an audible “aww” when we saw the two babies! This was my favorite part not only because the water buffaloes were adorable, but also because spending time in the Italian countryside, experiencing the culture and beauty of Italy beyond its tourist cities, was a unique experience.

Once in Naples, we toured the Royal Palace of Caserta as well as the ruins of Pompeii. Our next stop was up north in Florence, where we toured the Accademia Gallery with Michelangelo’s David and the Uffizi Gallery with Botticelli’s Birth of Venus. No one warns you how absolutely giant David is, standing 17 feet tall. My mouth was agape while I craned my neck to see the whole statue.



Ren Havey



Students in Pompeii



Daniela Garcia

Our tour ended in Venice where we saw St. Mark's Square and St. Mark's Cathedral. We took a small boat used for public transportation called a *vaporetto* to Murano Island where we saw a glass-blowing demonstration and glass museum. Shortly after that we traveled to Burano, an island famous for its lace, for a more low-key tour that felt enriching to see a less crowded and more personable part of Venice.

Throughout this trip, we not only got to learn about the art and history of many cities in Italy, but we also got to experience a culture different from our own, as this was the first trip outside

of the country for many of us, including myself. We got to flex our Alverno-instilled abilities, such as problem-solving the public transit and navigating the layouts of each city, and communicating with both locals and members of the group effectively. In the end, we gained a more global perspective by both learning and experiencing the Italian culture, and we created bonds and memories that will last a lifetime. It truly felt like we were a community during the trip, and this could be the start of rebuilding that connection that was present in Alverno and its students before COVID.

# HELPING HANDS



Morgan Whitten & Shadow

“I think it gives you a different perspective when you're helping an animal. They don't communicate, so you have to pay attention to their body language and other signals. It really helps you understand others.”

— Patricia Martin, class of 2024

While many college students head for warmer climates over spring break, several Alverno students decided to spend their well-deserved time off helping others. About 15 students signed up to spend two days volunteering at Stepping Stone Farms in Franksville, Wis., cleaning stalls, moving horses and performing other tasks.

Despite the mud, students enjoyed the chance to help out. **Mei Ling Hansen, class of 2023**, has done some riding in the past and welcomed the opportunity to work with

the horses. “I just like giving back to the community,” she says.

The farm's mission is to foster resilience, responsibility and self-esteem in at-risk youth and others by allowing participants to experience the healing power of horses. For **Annette Correa, class of 2026**, the opportunity made her feel close to her mom: “My mom loves horses and lives in Ecuador, so I feel like I'm with her.” She's also grateful for the chance to work with others and to take care of the animals.



Annette Correa



Jenna and Katie Kornwolf



Patricia Martin

# Inferno is

For more than 20 years, Alverno Athletics has been a key part of the college recruitment equation. Adding new sports helps increase the appeal, and the coaches, under the leadership of Athletic Director **Katari Key**, have raised the bar for recruitment.



Averly Maxwell



Katari Key

from nearby states like Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, while others come from as far away as Maine, Georgia, Texas, Oregon and Hawaii.

Key says one of the reasons for their success is that she and the coaches are intentional about recruitment goals.

**“We have great coaches that do a great job of telling our story.”**

— **Katari Key**,  
Athletic Director

Perhaps the biggest part of the equation are the student-athletes themselves. Golfer **Averly Maxwell**, who’s from Des Moines, Iowa, says she always saw herself going out of state for college.

“Alverno allowed me to branch out, but I am still close enough to home that I don’t feel completely disconnected,” she says. “Alverno offers such an amazing program and really has allowed me to be myself within my sport and grow more than I ever thought I would.”

Maxwell, who’s majoring in business and management, says being involved in athletics helps her feel connected to campus. “I love knowing that I could come back to Alverno in 10 years and be met with the same kindness I was since day one.”



Mariah Smith

Those efforts are paying off. This fall, Key and her team scored a slam dunk by bringing in the largest incoming class of athletes since 2015. The 39 new student-athletes bring the total roster up to 72, and they hail from 18 different states and one Canadian province. Of those 39 new student-athletes, 34 are from out of state, second only to 2020’s 41 out-of-state athletes. Some of the students come

# on Fire

**Sharisty Kooch** echoes that sentiment. The Oregon native is particularly grateful for the relationships she's made with her volleyball teammates, coaches and the rest of the student-athletes. "My favorite thing about Alverno is how welcoming everyone is, and if you need something you can go to anyone."



*Dominique Tétrault*

**Anthony Boyer**, who coaches cross country and track & field, knows that camaraderie among athletes is important, so he tries to recruit more than one student from the same geographical area. But his efforts don't stop there. "When I get them to campus, I try to make sure they know I have an open door policy so they can come to me about anything and everything."



*Sharisty Kooch*

That welcoming environment, along with her professors and the small class sizes, help **Giselle Moreno**, a softball player from Chicago, feel at home. "Most every athlete knows each other and understands how being a student and an athlete may be hard at times, especially in season," she says. "As athletes, we make bonds with each other, which really helps me feel like I have a family here at Alverno."

The sense of community and distinctive approach to education are what attracted **Dominique Tétrault**, a softball player from La Broquerie, Manitoba, in Canada, to Alverno. "I thought the unique grading

system would help me with my career as a teacher as it focuses more on learning and collaboration instead of competition," she says. "My favorite thing about Alverno is everyone's openness and willingness to help those who need it most. Everyone is so friendly, I feel like I am back at home."

For Athletics, having a clear mission to recruit student-athletes while forging bonds among them is producing results. And for the athletes, the rewards beyond their sport are evident. Says Maxwell: "No matter what, there is always someone there for you, and the school makes sure you know that."



*Mya Roberts*

*Photography by Alverno Sports Information*

# REACHING THE TOP TOGETHER

Not only does Alverno's Summit Fund help students complete their degree, it also asks them to pay it forward.

By Jackie Avial



Retiki Seals

When **Retiki Seals** crosses the Pitman Theatre stage at commencement, she will achieve several milestones.

She will become a first-generation college graduate. She will become a nurse, answering a calling to care for her community. She will proudly represent what it means to be a professional Black woman in health care. And she will continue along the path of higher education to graduate school, where she hopes to address the health care disparities that contribute to higher mortality rates for African American mothers and infants.

"This is a stepping stone for what's to come," she says of her Alverno degree.

With one semester to go before graduation, however, a potential roadblock emerged: A tuition balance had to be paid off before Seals could register for courses and complete her final nursing clinical.

Alverno's Student Development and Success team reached out to help Seals find a resolution. In the course of those discussions, Seals was told her balance would be paid through a scholarship from the Mary J. Meehan Summit Fund, allowing her to begin her final semester of studies this spring.

"I was surprised, I was extremely happy, and I was extremely grateful," she recalls feeling when she was notified of the award. "This nursing journey has not been easy for me. Being a mom adds extra financial responsibility."

Seals is one of between 20 and 45 students every semester who receive a Summit Fund scholarship, typically ranging from \$200 to \$2,000. The awards are designed to ensure that financial challenges do not preclude

academically strong students from earning their degrees.

Created in 2015 to honor Alverno's seventh president, the Summit Fund has awarded more than \$1 million via nearly 300 scholarships to date.



Georgia Wise

One recent recipient is **Georgia Wise**, a student-athlete working toward a May 2024 graduation date. The biochemistry major hopes to attend medical school and become a surgeon, specializing in either orthopedics or obstetrics and gynecology.

“I do plan on giving back to Alverno because I don’t want money to be the reason why someone can’t fulfill their purpose or passion in life.”

—Retiki Seals

Wise’s Alverno education got off to a strong start in 2021. The Arizona native was recruited to join the soccer team and came to campus having already earned 36 college credits through an online program offered by Arizona State University. But right before her second semester started, her dad got into a serious car accident. She had to leave her family and return to campus, unsure of her father’s prognosis.

“The support that I got from school, making sure I got the help I needed, said a lot about Alverno’s community,” she says. “I got personal written letters from the sisters here. Alverno even offered to pay for my plane ticket to go home in case my father’s condition worsened. It was heartwarming.”

The support didn’t end there. Wise’s family had planned on helping her pay for school, but her father’s long road to recovery affected the degree to which they could contribute. So Wise found herself spending many hours working to cover tuition, making it harder to focus on her studies as well as her own wellbeing. She reached out for help, and it came — in the form of a Summit Fund scholarship.



My-Linh Callies

“It was such a huge relief,” she says. “I know I will need loans for medical school, so I didn’t want to take out loans for my undergraduate education. The uncertainty was stressful for me and my family. This relieves some of that stress.”

Dedicated Summit Fund supporters include alumnae like **My-Linh Callies** ’10, who attended Alverno’s Weekend College program. While the fund was created years after Callies’ graduation, its mission struck a chord.

“As soon as I learned about the Summit Fund, I wanted my gift to go specifically to these ladies to help them achieve their goals,” she says. “It goes back to my experience as a working mom who is juggling everything. I was fortunate that finances were not an obstacle for me, and I’m in a good position now where I can give back.”

In fact, giving back is built into the Summit Fund scholarships. Students who receive the awards are asked to sign a pledge that when they are established in the workforce, they will pay the gift forward through a donation to the fund.

A gift to the Summit Fund not only helps a student complete their degree. It also removes barriers to the transformative power of an Alverno education.

“My hope is their experience at Alverno really gives them the confidence and courage to go after whatever their dream is so that they’re able to feel seen and heard in their professional and personal lives,” says Callies.





“When we give cheerfully  
and accept gratefully,  
everyone is blessed.”

— Maya Angelou

Tania Hernandez Galvan and Koki



# The Giving Project



What happens when you give four college students \$100 each and task them with giving it away? Four very different gifts, united by a common theme — a small act of kindness goes a long way.

By Kelly Cole

There are few things more powerful than giving. Whether we're giving time, money, gifts or a helping hand, the difference we make in another's life is immeasurable, and the rewards we receive in return are greater still.

To demonstrate the power of giving, the College worked with four students. We gave them each \$100 and tasked them with giving the money away. The students had complete control over how they gave and to whom. Here's a glimpse into their experiences, the impact they made, and how their attitudes toward giving were affected.



Vanessa Lund



Tracy Thompson and Shivani Brahmhatt

## Showing gratitude

**Shivani Brahmhatt, class of 2023**, knew right away how she wanted to give the money away. The chemistry major had previously questioned whether she had what it takes to succeed. But two of her professors, Tracy Thompson, PhD, and Lauralee Guilbault, PhD, intervened. "(Tracy) motivated me to keep going. She would check up on me every day and tell me to take as much time as I need," says Brahmhatt. "Lauralee's always been like a family member. She goes to the extra mile to care for her students. I want to give back to people who've gone over and beyond for me."

Her idea? To surprise each of them with lunch, flowers and a card. Brahmhatt likes to share tokens of appreciation with food, but this was a chance to show gratitude on another level. "If you have the chance to do something little to show someone that they matter, that you notice, I think it's great," she explains.

The result? Both professors were genuinely surprised and appreciative. "In that moment, they weren't stressed; they weren't worried. They were just smiling, and I was smiling with them. It was impactful," says Brahmhatt. "I don't really have words for how good it feels."

## Charitable giving

**Vanessa Lund, class of 2024**, decided to donate the entire amount to Children's Wisconsin because she not only supports their focus on mental health but also because she was once a patient. "I had a personal connection, so for me, being able to give money back to Children's Wisconsin felt really good."

Donating online also made the process simple, if not as immediately gratifying as handing someone \$100. Lund, a communication major, knows that there are children and families who need help, and she believes that allowing the organization to allocate her funds as it sees fit will have a greater long-term impact.



“Even though I might not be able to see the results right away, I think just knowing that the money is going to go to a good cause will make me feel good,” she says. “I feel gratified knowing that I could make a difference with the money I got and put it towards a good cause.”

### Causes that matter

For **Tania Hernandez Galvan, class of 2023**, giving back to the community is something she values. As a public health major, she’s well aware of the disparities that exist in certain communities.

“I’ve always had an interest in working with women and children. I feel like giving back to the community or just letting them know that someone does care is super important,” she says.

The most difficult part for Hernandez Galvan was deciding how to divide the money among causes important to her. She ultimately bought pet supplies for the Wisconsin Humane Society, clothing for the Milwaukee LGBTQ Community Center’s free closet, and baby supplies for the Hispanic Health Resource Center in Waukesha, where she is currently an intern.

Her takeaways? Giving is much easier than she anticipated, and she was surprised to learn just how many organizations need assistance. She also learned how much even the simplest gestures are appreciated.

“We live in such a fast-paced society, I forget to slow down and just be in the moment, giving time to my family and friends,” she says. “Just being the sunshine for others goes a long way.”



**“No one has ever become poor by giving.”**

— Anne Frank

### Random acts of kindness

**Jaquelin Moreno Gallegos, class of 2024**, wanted to spread as much joy as possible, so she decided to buy fresh flowers and hand them out to people on campus. “My love language is gift giving, because I feel like that’s how I show my affection, and it means a lot to me to be able to give to people,” she says, adding that she looked forward to creating one-on-one connections with friends and strangers.

The education major has been volunteering in her community for several years, so giving of herself comes naturally. Her goal with this project? “I want to make somebody’s day, because you never know what somebody is going through. Maybe all they need is a random stranger to give them a flower.”

The biggest surprise for her was how people reacted. “I thought people were going to be like, ‘Oh thank you,’ and walk away. But a lot of people were really sweet about it and asking questions like ‘Why are you doing this? What is this for?’ It was really cool,” she says. “I want to do something like this more often on my own or with other students. I think it would be a really cool thing to do.”

### Psychology behind giving

So what motivates people to give? **Kris Vasquez, PhD**, professor of psychology, says the reasons can vary. “Sometimes we give because we empathize so much with the distress of others that we can relieve our own suffering as well as theirs with a gift,” she says. “Sometimes we give as part of an implicit social pact: I’ll give when I can, and I hope someone will help me when I need it. If we have received help, we might give to pay it back or pay it forward. We give to people who seem to need help, and to those we think deserve help, however we define that. We give to demonstrate our values.”

While some freely give their time, money or other resources, there are others who hesitate, often because they believe what they have to offer somehow isn’t enough. “Imagine that I only have a dollar to give

# Sharing our Strength

For these recent alums, being Alverno Strong isn't just about what Alverno gave to them. It's also about what they give back to their alma mater and to their Alverno sisters.

and I find it embarrassing to give so little, so instead I give nothing," says Vasquez. "Is the recipient better off? No. And if many people like me who have a dollar to give actually gave it, there could be a big benefit to the recipient."

Lund echoes this when reflecting on her experience. "I may not have a lot of money, but there are always other options like volunteering. There's always some way that you can give back to others," she says.

## Lessons learned

We may all have different incentives for giving, but doing so makes us happy.

"People feel sustained happiness from giving to others," says Vasquez, and the students' experiences bear this out.

"I learned that it truly does make me happy when I see other people smiling," says Brahmhatt. "This brought a lot of joy to me, and the joy you get from it is more than anything in this world."

Hernandez Galvan felt inspired.

"It made me feel seen and it encouraged me to take more of my time to invest in these communities or these groups within my own community," she says.

Moreno Gallegos reports that it made her feel good about herself.

"It's so fulfilling, you get to feel joy because you made someone's day," she explains.

"You don't really know what someone's going through or what they have going on, and maybe that one thing might make their whole day."

"I learned the importance of being able to give back," adds Lund. "It doesn't matter how much money you have or how much you can give, the important thing is that you're giving."

All of the students involved indicated that they would like to continue giving, whether it's their time, talents or money. Hernandez Galvan has even put regular giving in her planner, because, as she says, "small acts of kindness really do go a long way."



**Cassidy Korpela '19**

**Alverno gave me:**  
A strong sense of self worth

"My educational experience helped me build confidence and

know that I have value. I learned how to advocate for myself and how to prepare for the real world."

**I give back to Alverno because:**

"As a nontraditional student, I benefited from the financial help and counseling that Alverno provided. I want that for other students as well. If my gift can help keep someone from struggling too much or feeling discouraged about continuing their education, then that's worth it!"

**My advice:**

"Giving to Alverno is really investing in the community and the workforce. It's creating future leaders with the core value of giving back to their community."



**Kim Otzelberger '20**

**Alverno gave me:**  
The 8 Abilities

"My communication skills, my ability to present — all of the 8 Abilities came into

play in my job interview, and that's why I got the job!"

**I give back to Alverno because:**

"Alverno gave me everything for four years and was one of the highlights of my life. Why wouldn't I want to give back to the place that molded me into who I am today and made me a strong individual?"

**My advice:**

"There are many ways to give back beyond monetary gifts. The most important thing is to keep Alverno's name out there. The more people we speak to about our good experience, the more people will come to Alverno."



**Jessica Pharm MBA '16**

**Alverno gave me:**  
A network of empowered women

"I had a really good experience with Alverno. I loved the

campus community. Even I after I graduated, I was adamant about staying connected."

**I give back to Alverno because:**

"As a first-generation college student, (at a different college) I had to learn things the hard way. Alverno has a large population of first-generation students, and I want them to have an easier experience than I did. My hope is that, in turn, they turn around and help the next group of people coming through."

**My advice:**

"It was always really important to me to give back. Sometimes, giving back is sharing resources. But giving advice and imparting knowledge can be just as important as writing a check."



**Ashley Prondzinski '19**

**Alverno gave me:**  
Confidence

"I was extremely shy in high school. Alverno helped me get out of my comfort zone. For

most of my classes in my major, I had the same classmates, which helped me feel comfortable and develop my network."

**I give back to Alverno because:**

"I want to help first-generation college students because I was one. It's really important that they take that first step toward getting a higher education."

**My advice:**

"Take as much time as you need and donate at a level that you feel comfortable with. Small gifts add up to the bigger picture."

— Jackie Avial



Building a  
**Family  
Business**

*An Alverno education prepared sisters Svetlana Stanić '08 '13 (at left) and Vesna Stanić '08 (right) to create a new path as entrepreneurs.*

By Nicole Sweeney Etter

## It started with a cast-off bedroom furniture set spotted on the curb.

Milwaukee sisters Svetlana Stanić '08 '13, Vesna Stanić '08 and Duška Stanić hauled it back to their parents' garage, determined to do something creative. They sanded, primed and painted until it looked like a whole new set — then quickly sold it on Facebook Marketplace.

That whim turned into a growing business known as Three Sisters Furniture. In their West Allis shop, the trio showcases their latest creations: side tables, nightstands and dressers in bold colors with artful detailing. In the back room, shelves overflow with sanders, paint brushes, furniture stain and a rainbow of paint cans, while decades-old furniture pieces await transformation.

The sisters know the power of reinvention. As Serbian children living in Bosnia during the country's civil war in the 1990s, they spent 15 months in a concentration camp before they found a new life in Milwaukee. When they arrived in 1997, the girls spoke no English.

"We had to grow up much faster than your typical child, and living through that world and focusing on survival, we didn't really get to do all the fun stuff, which makes us a little more childlike now," Svetlana says. "It also made us much more resilient."

Eventually, Svetlana and Vesna found themselves at Alverno thanks to the Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn Endowed Scholarship, which supports undergraduates of Serbian ethnicity. Svetlana intended to study nursing but found herself drawn to psychology and sociology and later returned for her master's degree in community psychology. After graduation, she worked in health care and then social work at Children's Wisconsin.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Svetlana felt the urge to make a change. "I decided to take some time off, reevaluate and focus on the [furniture] business so I can invest more time and build this up," she says.

Vesna also joined Alverno with plans of studying nursing before deciding it wasn't for her. Then a professor told her: "You're really good at art. Why don't you try art therapy?" After graduation, Vesna worked with people with disabilities as a case manager at Curative Care. While her career later moved in a different direction, she remains tied to her artistic roots.

## The skills the sisters learned at Alverno have transferred well.

"Alverno helped me to be innovative and mindful — like speaking on your feet and using all your different skills in the moment," Svetlana says.

Vesna says Alverno gave her the courage to speak up. "At Alverno, we did a lot of group work, and you couldn't just stay quiet — everyone had to have input. So that helped me a lot," she says.

"Also, taking art classes really helped me with creativity and how to express myself through art."

## They've learned how to work well as a team.

"We all have our strengths, so we try to focus on them," Svetlana says. "Duška is the talker; she's the marketing and salesperson. Vesna is the detail-oriented one, so she usually comes in at the end. I'm the muscle behind the operation and the jack of all trades."

Alverno also helped the sisters become more conscious of their impact on the environment. They note that more than 80% of discarded furniture ends up in landfills — adding up to nearly 10 million tons of furniture every year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "We're trying to be more mindful by recycling this furniture and not ruining the environment that we live in further," Svetlana explains.

They scavenge estate sales, thrift shops and street curbs for their next makeover project, and they also do home consultations when a client has a particular piece on hand or in mind.



"A lot of people have a very hard time articulating what they want," Svetlana says. "Some people are more into keeping with the trends while other people are like, 'I have this classic piece that was handed down to me from my great-grandma. I love the sentimental value of it, but I hate the look of it.' So then we'll come out, look at the entire space and bring it back to life."

Duška and Vesna still have their day jobs but eventually hope to make the business a full-time job for all three sisters. Already clients from as far as Madison and Chicago have reached out with custom requests.

"I never thought about being an entrepreneur — it wasn't one of those things that I grew up seeing possible," Svetlana says. "But I've learned that with the proper tools and the right connections that you make through your education and your work, if you have a vision and you are passionate about something, you can make it happen. It's amazing to show other people and our daughters that these things are possible."

# Flipping the Script

By Ann Stawski '93

For most of her childhood, **Debra Patrick EDD '22** would have considered a career in education to be unthinkable.

From first to ninth grades, Patrick was bullied and frustrated with learning. She developed a dread of school, where she couldn't find the compassion and motivation that are so essential to student success.

In 10th grade, however, Patrick met Mrs. McGlamory, whose teaching style and the attention she paid to her students turned things around. "I stopped struggling, and discovered a love of reading, devouring every book I could," Patrick recalls. "I even wrote a chapter book!"

Frustrating early childhood experiences and the inspiration of a great teacher sparked what would become Patrick's lifelong passion for teaching, and ultimately her completion of a Doctor of Education degree at Alverno.

After receiving her bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees in education, Patrick started her doctoral coursework at a different school in 2007. Unfortunately, several unplanned family medical emergencies put her pursuit on hold.

Several years later, Patrick discovered that the new principal at her school, **Tangela Benjamin EDD '22**, was going to pursue her Doctorate in Education at Alverno. The following weekend, the two women worked together to submit Patrick's application. Patrick's previous doctoral coursework was approved, and she was accepted into Alverno's doctoral program in January 2020.

At first, Patrick was intimidated by the superintendents, principals and school leaders in her cohort. "I kept thinking, what do I have to offer? But then I read 'The Dissertation Journey,' a comparison of the dissertation process to

# HARPER

*Debra Patrick EDD '22 turned a negative educational experience into a fulfilling and successful career*



Tangela Benjamin EDD '22

Debra Patrick EDD '22

mountain climbing and how we were all tethered together and what would we experience along the journey. I discovered I had a lot more knowledge to offer others than I thought.”

Having Benjamin in the doctoral program was also beneficial. “I was fortunate to have someone on this journey with me. We held each other accountable and worked together to ensure we made it through,” Patrick says.

In December 2022, Patrick traveled from Georgia to Wisconsin for commencement, and 14 of her family and friends cheered her on. “They came from Georgia, Colorado, Illinois and Barbados, West Indies. We are a close-knit family, and always support each other,” she says.

Patrick received her doctoral degree after teaching in elementary schools for 33 years and being awarded the Teacher of the Year in her school district twice. She is scheduled to retire from Clayton County Public Schools at the end of the 2022-23 school year.



The experiences Patrick endured in her younger life inspired her mission to help students. In retirement, she’s looking forward to teaching an undergraduate course for educators.

“A lot of the reasons students struggle with reading is because teachers do not have the knowledge themselves,” she explains. “My class will focus on pedagogy and give future educators the knowledge and skills they need to help children.”

Patrick’s educational journey at Alverno helped renew her focus.

“What I went through as a child sparked my passion for the work I do,” she says. “Everyone has a gift and a talent, and once you know what you can offer to the world, never give up on achieving that goal.”

“I loved the approach to instruction at Alverno. While all the coursework was online, being in the cohort with the cooperative learning and conversations was so supportive.”

— Debra Patrick

## ALVERNO STRONG ALUMS

Please join us in congratulating these three alumnae who will be honored with the following Alverno Alum Awards at Teach & Learn Alum Reunion Weekend.



### OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD Mari-Anne Hechmann '91

Mari-Anne Hechmann is a long-time volunteer and enthusiastic supporter of Alverno whose dedication to her alma mater is unparalleled. Her service has included involvement and leadership roles in the Alverno Alumnae Association and co-chairing the Promise & Power campaign’s alumnae working committee.

In 2008, she was elected to the College’s Board of Trustees. An all-around ambassador and champion for Alverno, she is the first to send a note to welcome new faculty and staff and cheers on Alverno’s athletic teams. Hechmann currently serves on the Board of Trustees’ Student Experience Committee and has previously served on the Educational and Student Affairs committees. In addition, she is a member of the Vanguard Society and has provided philanthropic support to Alverno for more than 30 years.



### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD Dionne Grayson '96

As principal of Building Your Dreams, LLC, Dionne Grayson is a visionary leader committed to helping the next generation discover their purpose, believe in their potential, and boldly pursue their dreams. She is also a certified career development coach.

Grayson co-founded Lead2Change — a nonprofit career-readiness organization for young people powered by her patented program *Dream.Explore.Build*, which provides paid summer internships and professional development for Milwaukee high schoolers. She was named a Woman of Influence by the Milwaukee Business Journal and was recognized as a Leading Woman in Business by O, The Oprah Magazine.



### RISING STAR AWARD Kristin Belkofer '08 '14

Kristin Belkofer is the founder and clinical director of CLARA Healing Institute, a holistic mental health private practice in Wauwatosa that opened in January 2021. She runs Punk Rock Therapy, an online mutual aid community. Belkofer is active in

the Milwaukee community as a leading therapist and mental health advocate. She is part of TEMPO Milwaukee’s Emerging Women Leaders and serves on the organization’s Committee for Equity and Belonging. She speaks at academic conferences nationally and internationally.

# in Gratitude

For gifts received from  
September 1, 2022, through  
February 21, 2023.

## *In Honor of...*

### **Juanita Adams**

Patricia Cifax '96 '01

### **The Advancement team**

Elizabeth K. Lukowitz '15 '20

### **Borman Family Foundation,**

#### **Bene Award recipient**

Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

### **Kevin Casey**

Jodi R. Eastberg

### **Sister Bernardin Deutsch '53**

Judith Amberg '67

Lisa Arrigoni

Debra Dosemagen '80

Ann M. Herbord

Sister Elaine Julia Weber '61

### **Sister Mary E. Diez '67, Franciscan**

#### **Spirit Award recipient**

Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

### **Sister Margaret M. Earley '52**

Jodi R. Eastberg

### **Janice Ereth and John T. Gilligan,**

#### **Ambassador Award recipients**

Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

### **Dr. Maureen Hellwig '68, on her 50th**

#### **anniversary as an associate SSSF**

Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

### **Sister Leanne Herda '48 '49,**

#### **on her 96th birthday**

Patricia A. Dwight

### **Katari A. Key**

Jodi R. Eastberg

### **Catherine Labinski '62**

Nevenka Lutzow Bralic '77

### **Carol (Lubinski) Levin '71**

Nicolene A. Rosati '71

### **Gloria Maningo**

Jay L. Maningo-Salinas '94

### **Sister Marlene Neises H'99**

Nancy T. Sawyer '20

### **The O'Grady women**

Mary T. Kennedy '69

### **Linda M. (Kesich) Olszewski '98 '08**

Daniel and Susan Horton

### **Jennifer Phipps '17 '19 and**

#### **Susan L. Phipps '06**

Howard Phipps

### **Sister MaryAnn Schmidt '67**

Marilyn J. Ratke '96

### **Emily J. Sielen '09**

Rosemary A. Stetzer

### **Rose E. (Purpero) Spang '62**

Lou Koval

### **Rose E. (Purpero) '62 and**

#### **Joseph J. Spang**

Gina M. Spang '08

### **Kathryn D. "Kate" Tisch**

Karen M. Romantini '19

### **Maggie Wilmot**

Zach Draper

Fidela Mendez

## *In Memory of...*

### **Judith C. (Winter) Anderson '84**

James N. Anderson

### **Frank and Sophie Bevsek**

Sue Ann Bevsek '79

### **Ann L. (O'Conner) Bolanos '61**

Patricia Wilde '61

### **Ginette Brennan, my sister-in-law**

A. Virginia Andrews '92

### **Ellen Brosnihan '63**

Marie Gery '60

### **Victoria "Vickie" (Rigoni) Brown '67**

Mary Jane W. Powers '67

### **Sister J. Delores Brunner '42**

Guisselle Lizano-Castillo '01

Mary F. Grimes '68

### **Louise Burzynski**

Mary Beth Berkes '75

### **Wilbert L. Carr**

Beverly Collins '88

### **Alfred Case**

Karen A. Case

### **Nicholas Samuel Chudnow**

The Nicholas Samuel Chudnow

Chudnayshun Fund

### **Mimi Czarnik**

Sister Marlene M. Neises H'99

### **Rose Delahaut**

Marilyn A. Marks '65

### **Sister Austin Doherty '54**

William Boline

### **Barbara (Reitz) Domarad '60, an amazing PhD nurse and lovely friend**

Tom and Caryn Avelsgaard

Christine and John Decyk-Lebetski

Alice M. Delmore

Flora and Dan MacLean

Cheryl Waldstein

### **Sister Elizabeth Engel H'80**

Diana Burns '78

### **Sister Joselma Gartner '42**

Sister Frances P. Cunningham '65

### **Joan and Ed Giencke**

Jill A. Giencke '81

### **Mary (O'Brien) Giorgio '66**

Sister Marlene M. Neises H'99

### **Sister Ambrose Glynn '57**

Mary C. May '62

### **Sister Marie Gnader '52**

Toni A. Gradisnik '75

Jayne Steffens '68

### **Sister Bernarda Handrup '50**

Dr. Peggy A. House '63

### **Sister Margaret Held '71, on the**

#### **sixth anniversary of her death**

Elizabeth A. Bacik '66

### **Sister Lee Agnes Hodap '66**

Patricia G. Harmon '66

### **Sister Theophane Hytrek '38**

Antoinette Cray '67

Caroline Urban '62

### **Patricia Jensen '71**

Kathleen G. Lake

Shawna L. Muren '13

Richard Runkel

Joanne L. Schilz '85

### **Herb and Joyce Kiekhaefer,**

#### **my parents**

Ann White '80

### **Matthew and Justine Kluka**

Barbara A. Kluka '66

### **Mary S. Knudten**

Mari-Anne '91 and

Donald Hechmann

### **Therese (Cicero) Kueng '61**

Patricia Zadorozny '61



**The LaMothe sisters: Sisters  
Marguerite '41, Ruth '41 and  
Mary Claire '45**

Diane M. Wagner '65

**Oliver and Theresa Land**

Theresa M. Roznik '78

**Georgiann Langreck**

Kevin Langreck

**My husband William Lau, father  
of Mary '83, Jane '84 and Ann '86**

Patricia Lau '59

**Sister Georgine Loacker '47**

Valerie J. Brown '60

Dr. Peggy A. House '63

Roseanne '63 and Kenneth A. Karolik

Ivy R. Thompson '95

**Irma Ludzenieks**

Ieva Briedis '62

**Sister Mary Georgia G. Matlock '60 '85**

Janice K. Gifford '82

**Dr. Carol M. Meils '75**

Eric Meils

**Sylvia Miller**

Diane M. Miller '85

**Jean Nelson, my sister**

Lynn E. Schuldt '92

**Sister Anna Marie Noth '52**

Dr. Carla Littlefield '56

**Sister Maria Therese Patterson '56 '85**

Susan '97 and James Sajdak

**Sister Joel Read '48**

Prudence Court '68

Kaye Daun '66

Carole A. Elsner '61

Bonnie M. Fuggiasco '93

Mari-Anne '91 and Donald Hechmann

Diana M. Jurista '72

Margery C. Kasar '61

Mary C. McNamara '61

M. Kathleen Murphy '79

Mary Pettinger '62

**Dorothy Retka**

Connie Manke '75

**Harold and Mary Belle Ryan**

Judy A. Steinke '64

**Sister Cherubim Schaefer**

Gloria M. Konkel '83

**School Sisters of St. Francis,  
my wonderful teachers and mentors**

Marlene E. Petersen '58

Dr. Marilyn Shrude '69

**Ted Schuldt**

Lynn E. Schuldt '92

**Susan J. Sear '71, rest in peace**

Nicolene A. Rosati '71

**Sister Helena Steffensmeier H '75**

Roberta Meyer '61

**Arline Thill**

Jeanne S. Gundrum '70

**Dorothy (Klobuchar) Vittone '75**

Nancy V. Paddison

**Sister Roseann Wagner '56**

Toni A. Gradisnik '75

**Joyce Wallskog '77, MSN, RN**

Barbara Jean Haag-Heitman '77

**Barbara (Steffens) Walters '64,  
my dear friend**

Barbara Moehrlin '64

**Gordon and Grace Weber**

Christine Spencer '80

**Marguerite Wendell '55**

Betty Giannasi

John and Linda Meilinger

**Edmund and Angeline Wieczorek**

Diane J. Reed '62

**Sister Mariel Wozniak '57**

Carole J. Poth '82

**Karen S. (Livieri) Wuethrich '84**

Diane Wilson '80

**Joan Zientek '62**

Dr. Mary Ann Schwartz '62

and Dr. Richard Brewer

## In Memoriam

We ask for your prayers for these alums who passed away between August 27, 2022, and February 20, 2023.

Kathleen (Dilger) Adelmeyer '86

Patricia Beidatsch '52

Ann L. (O'Conner) Bolanos '61

Natalie M. Bratchett '02

Alyce Breitweiser '57

Sister Pauline Bridegroom '69

Victoria (Rigoni) Brown '67

Ellyn (Lacke-Eiche) Buhmann '81

Jennifer S. Craine '12

Sister Patricia M. Derfus '57

Mary L. (Golik) Dineen '94

Kathryn (Gajkowski) Emler '70

Metrodora M. (Evagelatos) Fredricks '98 '12

Cecilia V. (Van De Kamp) Freund '56

Sister Darlene V. Hoch '55

Susan (Haller) Jacobs '62

Pamela Ann (Szyszkiewicz) Kasper '91

Sister Angeline Kieler '67

Sister Rose Knotek '44

Joan M. (Kasdorf) Kraft '54

Kathryn (Pauly) Morgan '65

Bernice C. (Brunner) Murphy '91

Mary F. (Gerler) Murray '00

Sister Anna Marie Noth '52

Dorothy (Wilson) Perpich '60

Sister Joan Puls '58

Judith (Winkowski) Radow '64

Suzanne Rasmussen '81

Sister Mildred Rieber '50

Herbert A. Russell '03

Sister Bernadette Salm '67

Sister Lorraine M. Schmitz '65

Sister Joyce Schreiner '61

Sister Mary Alice Simanek '46

Barbara (Modic) Stupek '84

Bonnie J. (Mahnke) Tefft '68

Joan D. (Marx) Waldvogel '68

Linda (Gioia) Wallace '66

Marguerite Wendell '55

Nancy T. (Maurice) Wentland '60

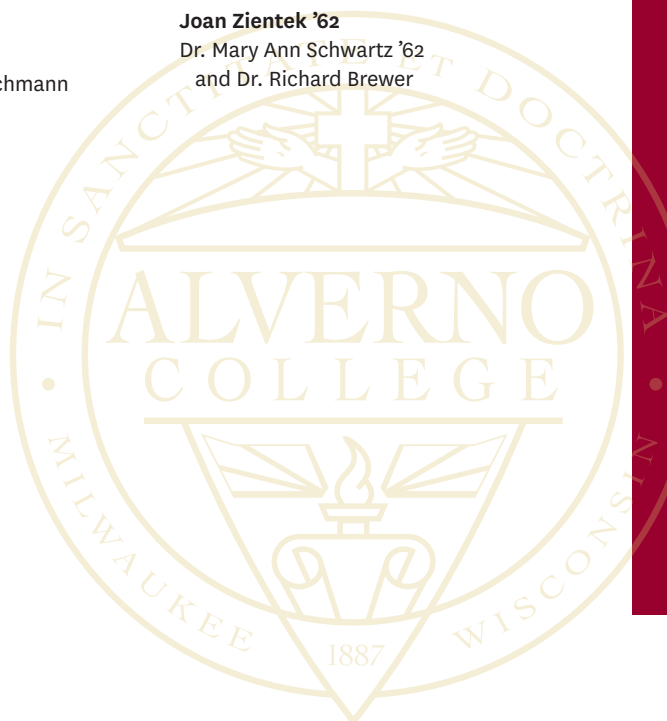
Judith Wiegert '88

Janice (Barczak) Wilkins '79

Sister Mary Yanny '55

Joan Zientek '62

Please contact [alumnae@alverno.edu](mailto:alumnae@alverno.edu) to share news of an alum's passing.





# A Dream Fulfilled

By Dana McCullough

One day when **Elaine Pagliario '79** was driving home from work, she heard a radio ad promoting Alverno's new Weekend College. "I thought, wow, I could do this. So I went to the info session and signed up," Pagliario says.

At the time she heard the ad, Pagliario was married, had a young child and was working part-time as a nurse. She had a nursing diploma from Milwaukee County General Hospital's School of Nursing but always had wanted to earn a bachelor's degree. "Alverno made it possible for me to fulfill a dream I had since I was in grade school," she says.

After graduating from Alverno with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she got her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and then became a clinical instructor of nursing at Alverno, eventually being promoted to associate professor.

"If anyone ever told me I would get in front of a class to teach, I would have said they were crazy. I was an introvert," says Pagliario.

As a student in Weekend College's first graduating class, Pagliario knew students couldn't graduate unless they could speak on their feet. Public speaking was just one of the many abilities she learned as an Alverno student.

Pagliario is a witness to how an Alverno education changes students — from both her experience as a nursing student and as a faculty member. "I remember writing feedback and reading self-evaluations of students at the end of classes with tears in my eyes because of the difference Alverno had made in their lives," Pagliario says.

When she was 50, Pagliario earned a post-master's degree from Marquette and became a geriatric nurse practitioner, at first working for an internal medicine physician and then working with independent living patients at Luther Manor, where she retired. She also was active in many local, state and national nursing associations.

Last year, Pagliario and her husband Frank moved from Wisconsin to Florida. With their move out of state and the nationwide nursing shortage, they decided the time was right to establish the Elaine and Frank Pagliario Nursing Scholarship at Alverno. The annual scholarship will support up to 10 nursing students demonstrating financial need each year.

"I've always provided some support for Alverno, and we are blessed to live this life. Through this scholarship, we hope to help someone to achieve their degree or make it a little easier for them," Pagliario says. "Hopefully they will do that for someone else as well."

If you're interested in establishing a named annual scholarship or endowed scholarship, please contact [advancement@alverno.edu](mailto:advancement@alverno.edu).



# Future generations of Alverno students **NEED YOU!**

Spring is decision time for future students. The amount of scholarships they receive *right now* greatly influences where they will attend college.

A gap in financial aid of any amount — from \$500 to \$5,000 — can change a student's path forever.

**Will you help open the door to an Alverno education for more women?**

**100%**

of eligible full-time undergraduate students receive financial aid, including scholarships.

**70%**

of incoming undergraduate students are the **first in their family to attend college.**

**56%**

identify as students of color

**HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION**



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# THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT IS HERE

## THREE OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

▶ **Opportunity to add value to the workplace**



Business owners: Help your employees advance their degrees or gain certifications or licensure individually or as a team!

▶ **Opportunity to advance your degree**



Alverno has eight master's programs and two doctorate programs to consider.

▶ **Opportunity to use Alverno's event space**



Need meeting space? Training off site? Alverno has room and FREE parking!

**SMALL COLLEGE WITH  
BIG OPPORTUNITIES**

