



Sister Austin Doherty, S.S.S.F.

August 10, 1927 - February 8, 2015

A Life of Service and Education

Sister

SSSF teacher friend family Academic Dean
scholar Alverno College service scientist
educator
feminist
Irish
St. Francis

Austin

student Pius XI
dedicated futurist mentor
engaging community
feisty commitment Alvernia
BA, MA, Ph.D. communicator

Doherty

professor author

To say that Sister Mary Austin Doherty, S.S.S.F., led a full life is the ultimate understatement and to define the essence of who Sister Austin was would take hours of happy storytelling. The impact that this diminutive woman had on the lives of those she met, taught, mentored and led would not only change the course of their personal lives but would help to change the course of modern education, women's history, institutions and specifically Alverno College.



Sister M. Austin Doherty

Instructor, History and Psychology

1961-1967

Assistant Professor, Psychology

1967-1971

Psychology Department Chairperson

(Established psychology minor/major programs)

1968-1975

Associate Professor, Psychology

1971-1976



Sister M. Austin Doherty

Assistant Dean for Curriculum Development

1975-1978

Academic Dean

1978-1991



Sister M. Austin Doherty

Vice President for Academic Affairs

1982-1999

Director Alverno College Institute

1999-2005

Special Assistant to Academic Affairs

2005-2013

Early Years as Student, Sister



Mary Therese Doherty, born August 10, 1927 was the daughter of Irish immigrants, James and Rose Doherty, and sister to three brothers: James, Thomas and Francis. Doherty's father died during her early childhood in Chicago, Illinois, and her mother resolved to raise and educate her children in the United States rather than returning to extended family in Ireland.

Austin attended catholic schools in Chicago, receiving her elementary school education at St. Veronica parish. She graduated from Alvernia High School on June 7, 1945. Doherty matriculated to Chicago's Loyola University in the fall of 1945 and was a part-time student there through 1951. While studying at Loyola, Doherty also worked as a secretary at the University and held other outside jobs to support her studies and family.

On December 9, 1951 she applied to Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and was admitted with junior status. She received a B.A. in History from Alverno College in 1954. Her catholic upbringing and education inspired her to enter the School Sisters of St. Francis religious community in December of 1951 taking the name Sister Mary Austin. Sister Austin professed as a Religious taking her final vows in June 1954.

Austin, described by many who knew her, was 'Irish to the core'. Fiercely loyal to her heritage and family, often touting her brothers without reservation as the most outstanding men in the world. Her steadfast loyalty to family, friends and her beliefs was a common thread in all that she endeavored to do.



This graduation photo is of the Alverno College Class of July 1954.
Sister Mary Austin Doherty can be found in the second row from the bottom, and is
the second sister from the right.

Educator, Scholar

Sister Mary Austin Doherty took her first teaching position at Pius XI High School in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She taught there from 1954-1961. While teaching at Pius she pursued her master's degree in history from Marquette University and received a Master of Arts in 1960.

Doherty then began teaching at Alverno College in 1961 as a history instructor. In spite of her teaching duties through 1964, Austin's keen intellect and desire for learning brought her back to her studies at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois pursuing and earning her M.A. in Psychology in 1965. Sister Austin continued her sabbatical from Alverno to complete her doctoral work in psychology at Loyola. While there she was honored as the outstanding graduate student in 1967 and was subsequently awarded her Ph.D. in 1968.

Returning to Alverno College in 1968 to resume teaching, Doherty also chaired the psychology department until 1975. She established the curriculum for a psychology minor beginning in 1969 and a psychology major beginning in 1971. The courses she taught included experiential psychology, personality theory and learning development. She received the Uhrig Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence in 1969. These were years of great development and change at the college. Years that would prove to change the course of education and learning at Alverno and for which Doherty played a pivotal role.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS, AWARENESS,
AND ATTITUDE IN A VERBAL CONDITIONING SITUATION

by

Sister M. Austin Doherty, O.S.F.

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts

June
1965

LIFE

Sister M. Austin Doherty, O.S.F. was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 10, 1927. She was graduated from Alvernia High School, June, 1945, and attended Loyola University part-time from 1945 to 1950. In December, 1951, she entered the community of the School Sisters of St. Francis and was professed as a Religious in June, 1954. At that time she also received the degree of Bachelor of Arts with a major in history from Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In June, 1960, she received the degree of Master of Arts in history from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From 1954 until 1963 she taught history in high school and college. In September, 1963, she was granted leave of absence from Alverno College for full-time graduate study in psychology at Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Austin's thesis, *The Relationship of Personality Characteristics, Awareness, and Attitude in a Verbal Conditioning Situation* was submitted for review in June 1965.

http://ecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2916&context=luc_theses

Action Line

VOL. 9, NO. 1

Alvernia Parent Faculty Association

SEPTEMBER, 1966

APFA Meeting September 21 — 8:00 P.M.

FOCUS OUR DAUGHTERS

With our fast changing world of today there are many new problems our daughters face. In the first meeting of this school year a panel of guest speakers will give their discerning views on OUR DAUGHTERS: Yesterday's Dream, Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Hope.

Before the panel discussion Sister Alfonsine, O.S.F., Principal, will welcome the APFA to a new school year.

Sister M. Austin, O.S.F., a graduate of Alvernia High School, will be one of the guest speakers. She is a graduate of Alverno College and received her Master's in history at Marquette University. Sister has taught at Pius XI High School in Milwaukee and at Alverno College. She is now a full-time student in the Graduate School of Loyola University working on her PhD. in Psychology.



Mr. John Kula, Sister M. Austin, O.S.F., Rev. Frank Rog, C.R. prepare to bring in focus to you our daughters.

Sister M. Austin had a great interest in the importance of educating and preparing young women to take their place in an ever-changing world. In September of 1966, she visited her high school alma mater, Alvernia, as a guest speaker providing insights into the topic, *Our Daughters: Yesterday's Dream, Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Hope.*

RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLOBAL-ANALYTICAL AND OPEN-CLOSED DIMENSIONS
WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE SEXES IN COGNITIVE ACTIVITY

by

Sister Mary Austin Doherty, OSF

A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate
School of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor
of Philosophy

June
1968

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Although it is not possible to express adequately my gratitude to all those who have helped to make this completion of my work possible, I would like to make public the special debt I owe to the following people.

First of all, I am grateful to the members of my religious community who have provided the financial and personal support which created an atmosphere that enabled me to work uninterruptedly.

To the members of the Loyola faculty and staff, especially Dr. Ronald E. Walker, Chairman of the Psychology Department and my advisor, I acknowledge an immeasurable debt for their generosity and encouragement. To all the students and teachers who participated in this study, I express special thanks.

Lastly, to my family and friends who inspired, encouraged, and threatened me at all the right times, I am profoundly grateful.

Sister Austin's dissertation, *Relationship of the Global-Analytical and Open-Closed Dimensions Within and Between the Sexes in Cognitive Activity* was submitted for defense to the Graduate School of Loyola University in June 1968.

http://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_diss/933/

This photo from the late 1960s shows Sister Mary Austin teaching a continuing education class.



Activism, NOW and the Creation of the RCW...



Doherty was a featured speaker at a NOW meeting in Chicago, Illinois, July 16, 1970.



Sister Austin had a deep concern for social justice and the inequalities facing women in society. Throughout the 1960s Doherty spoke to Wisconsin groups about women's issues. She attended the organizing conference for the National Organization of Women (NOW) held in Washington D.C., October 29-30, 1966 and was elected to NOWs' first board.

Doherty's activism in these areas brought her to the forefront of the women's movement in Milwaukee when in 1967, she, Catherine Conroy and others established the first Milwaukee chapter of NOW. Sister Austin helped to organize numerous conferences and seminars held at Alverno College addressing the roles of women past, present and future.

Creation of the RCW...

Austin's deep commitment to equality for women and women's rights could be seen through her work in the establishment of the Alverno College Research Center on Women (RCW) in 1970. Created "in the hope of contributing empirical and historical data to the study of women", the RCW began its functioning conceptually as three centers: a resource center *on* women, a research center *about* women, and an outreach center *for* women. The center was developed through the work and efforts of Sister Austin Doherty, then Chair of the Psychology Department; Barbara Mulligan, Director of the Continuing Education Division; and Victoria Hinshaw, Political Science Instructor.



Sister Mary Austin Doherty
RCW Co-Director
1970-1973



Barbara Mulligan
RCW Co-Director
1970-1973

The RCW was established to "provide the setting and impetus for women to seriously examine their own status, to identify and understand the many historic and contemporary forces which have determined that status and then create the desire and devise the strategies by which women with assurance and self-respect, will lead the way toward the requisite social changes."

Early projects of the RCW included Women in Public Life (research and conference), Spiritual and Religious Experience of Women, and an Oral and Visual History of Suffragists in the Midwest.

Over the years the RCW has seen many changes while continuing to provide invaluable research, curriculum development and institutional guidance in response to current women's issues. The Research Center for Women and Girls was opened in 2009 as a result of RCW Interest Group members' research and reporting on the status of women and girls in Wisconsin. For more information on the RCW/RCWG follow the link to the Archives online exhibit at:

[Archives RCW Exhibit](https://libguides.alverno.edu/rcw_exhibit/) (https://libguides.alverno.edu/rcw_exhibit/)

Educator, Visionary

Sister Austin was a true student of education and the educational process. Her intellect, focus and insightful observations of students' learning needs, and in particular the education of women, made her a natural leader among the Alverno faculty as they tackled the difficult process of evaluating and re-designing the Alverno College curriculum model during the early 1970s. Her work on the Academic Task Force helped to lay the groundwork for implementing the Alverno College Competence Based Learning curriculum, now known as Alverno's Ability Based Curriculum.

Designing the Form and Structure of Curricular Change

The Academic Task Force or ATF was charged with synthesizing faculty ideas into a blueprint for curriculum. Faculty institutes and meetings during this time focused on critiquing and implementing curricular design. Here is a photo of the academic task force with then Academic Dean, Sister Bernarda Handrup.



Back row left to right: Sister Georgine Loacker, Sister Austin Doherty, Jack Cooper. Front row left to right: Brian Nedwek, Sister Bernarda Handrup.

Educator, Administrator

Challenges and challenging times never seemed to daunt Sister Mary Austin Doherty. As a faculty member of Alverno College, she answered the call time and again to find solutions on how best to educate and serve students. Her work on curriculum and assessment development from 1971 through 1976 highlighted her leadership acumen, creativity, analytical ability, frankness, and mediation skills.

In August 1977, Austin was challenged once again when Alverno's Academic Dean, Robert G. Pitman would ask her to step in as Acting Dean while he took a medical leave for an extended illness. Her professionalism, focus and steady guidance would prove crucial in the year that followed as Acting Dean Doherty worked with Alverno President Sister Joel Read and faculty to launch a new program, Alverno Weekend College. The program, launched in fall 1977, was developed to assist working women to obtain a college degree while maintaining a full time job and family obligations.

Educator, Administrator

The role of Acting Dean was bittersweet for Doherty when her dear friend and colleague, Dean Robert G. Pitman died July 23, 1978. President Joel Read asked her faculty and Board of Trustees for feedback on Doherty's performance of duties while Acting Dean so Read could decide how best to fill the position of Alverno Dean.

The feedback was resoundingly positive, citing Doherty as: *"creative"; "holds a deep and abiding concern for the personal and professional development of individual faculty"; "shows great strength and skill in bringing together diverse viewpoints"; "promotes constructive debate"; and "has the ability to elicit a spirit of cooperation".* The feedback confirmed what Read was considering, to appoint Sister Mary Austin Doherty as Dean of Alverno College.

An official news release was made on October 2, 1978 that the Alverno College Board of Trustees confirmed the appointment of Doherty as Academic Dean of the college.

New Dean Tested by Tasks

Alverno's new academic dean, Sister Mary Austin Doherty, often comments on how a person, by facing and mastering unfamiliar tasks, can enlarge her talents and greatly enrich her life.

In these observations S. Austin speaks from experiences that catapulted her from the field of history, in which she taught for almost a decade, back to the classroom for two new degrees and a new academic career in psychology, and then into the administrative field.



S. Austin Doherty

She was formally appointed by college trustees, effective August 31, to fill the position of academic dean left vacant by the death of Robert G. Pitman. During his illness, and beginning August 3, 1977, she served as acting dean.

S. Austin's professional shifts, made in response to the needs of the religious community, were only temporarily unsettling, she said. Not

only did she soon look back upon them as fortunate, but she gained insights that have proved invaluable.

An Alverno alum (B.A., history), S. Austin taught history at Pius XI High School in Milwaukee for seven years and at Alverno for two years before entering Chicago's Loyola University in 1965 for an M.A. and then a Ph.D. in psychology.

Not only had she to master a new subject content but she had to transform her perspective from a historical approach to that of the traditional scientific method.

"I survived the first year of graduate school in psychology by writing historical papers in psychology," she related, "because I did not have a background in science.

"What I did in the beginning was to work my way into psychology by utilizing everything I knew in history. I had to change my mode of thinking and investigating from a historical to a scientific mode."

This exercise in personal problem solving succeeded so well that S. Austin not only was honored in 1967 as the most outstanding graduate student at Loyola but one of her historical-psychological papers and several scientific papers were published in psychology journals. Awarded a Ph.D. in psychology in 1968, she returned to Alverno to teach in that field and to head the Psychology Department.

The process of changing her mode of thought from historical to scientific, to reflect the change in disciplines, was an experience that illuminated her later curriculum work at Alverno. She served as assistant dean for curriculum development and in other curricular capacities.

"When I changed to the scientific approach," related S. Austin, "the change impressed me so vividly that, when I deal with curriculum areas here, I know what impact curriculum has on the whole intellectual and affective approach. It is a cast of mind.

(cont. to page 16)

ALVERNO TODAY page 4

Alverno Today, Winter Issue 1978-1979, page 4 & 16.

Nun Named Dean at Alverno

Sister Mary Austin Doherty has been appointed academic dean of Alverno College.

Sister Austin, who has served as acting dean since Aug. 3, 1977, was appointed by the Alverno Board of Trustees. The former dean, Robert G. Pitman, died in July after a long illness.

Sister Austin, who received a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology from Loyola University in Chicago, also has a master of arts degree in history from Marquette University. She has taught both subjects at Alverno and was head of the Psy-



Mary Austin Doherty

chology Department from 1968 to 1975.

Sister Austin is co-founder of the Alverno Research Center on Women. Since the early 1970s, she has played a leading role in development of the Alverno learning process, which emphasizes the attainment of specific skills along with general knowledge.

During Dean Doherty's first formal speech to Alverno faculty:

...she pledged to maintain "a light touch in this serious work" and observed that, while a dean must exercise leadership, "You only lead people where in their hearts they want to go".

Excerpt from the article "Dean Stresses Service", *Alverno Today*, Winter Spring Issue 1978-1979, page 18.

Dr. Mary Austin Doherty, S.S.S.F. was officially appointed Academic Dean of Alverno College effective August 1, 1978. Featured at left is the *Milwaukee Journal* article dated October 5, 1978 and below is the college announcement for Sister Austin.



ALVERNO COLLEGE

is pleased to announce
the appointment of

Dr. Mary Austin Doherty, S.S.S.F.

as

Academic Dean

effective
August 1, 1978

Educator, Administrator



The years that followed Doherty's appointment as academic dean would be highly productive for her and for Alverno College. She would serve as: Academic Dean from 1978-1991; Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1982-1999; Director of the Alverno College Institute from 1999-2005; and Special Assistant to Academic Affairs from 2005-2013. Doherty received Alverno College's Outstanding Alumna Award in 1982.

While she accepted numerous speaking engagements, authored scholarly articles, was a consultant to colleges and universities around the world, sat on committees and held community board memberships, Doherty still found the time to walk around Alverno College and engage students in conversations. She regarded each interaction as a teachable moment for the student and for her. Teaching and learning was always at the core of everything that Doherty did. The learning process was to be experienced and was a lifetime endeavor.

Some of Doherty's many Board responsibilities included:

1985-1988	American Lung Association of Wisconsin, Evaluation and Research Committee of Board
1985-1992	Association of American Colleges Board of Directors
1988-2006	Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
1989-1992	North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Institutes of Higher Education Executive Commissioner
1990-1994	Assessment Advisory Committee, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Institutes of Higher Education Executive Commissioner
1978-2015	World Future Society, Milwaukee Chapter Steering Committee
1994-2015	Youth Leadership Committee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Board of Directors
2000-2015	Tanzanian Economic Development Initiative, U.S. Board Member



(Left-right) Judy Heikkinen and Kathy Bretl (1985; 1988), a mother-daughter student team, discussed the 1981-1982 Weekend College schedule with Dean Doherty. The photo was featured in the publication *Alverno Today*, Spring 1981.

**Alverno
Weekend
College**

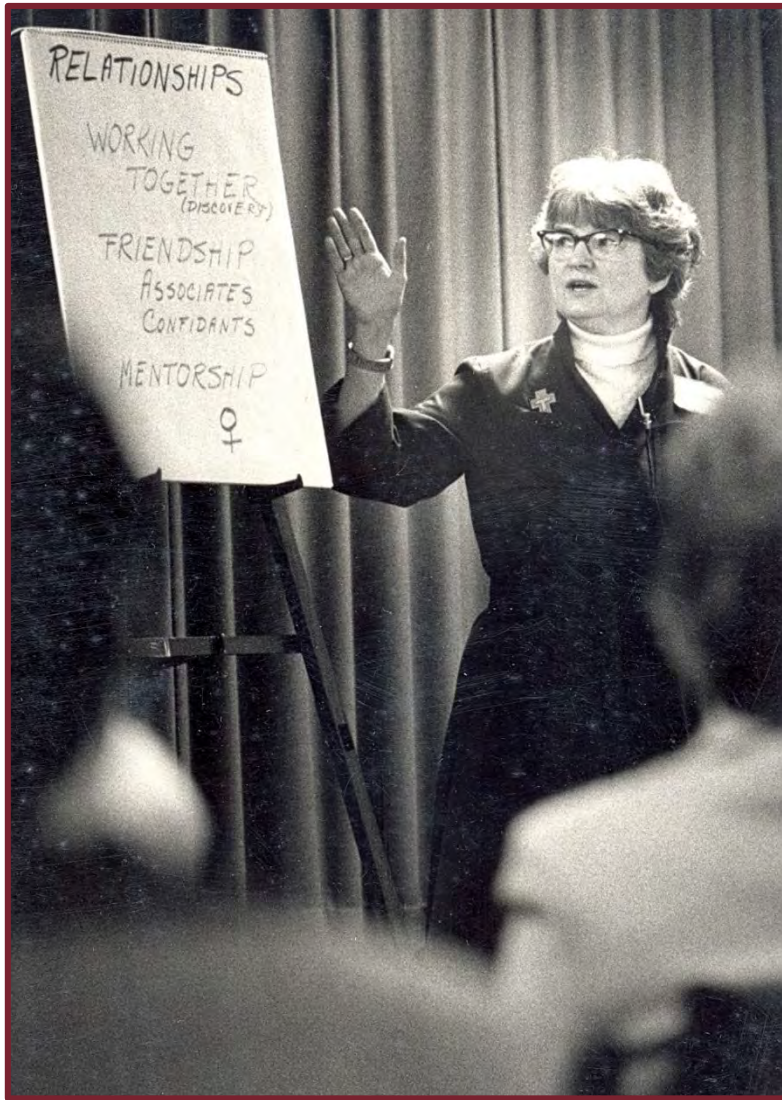
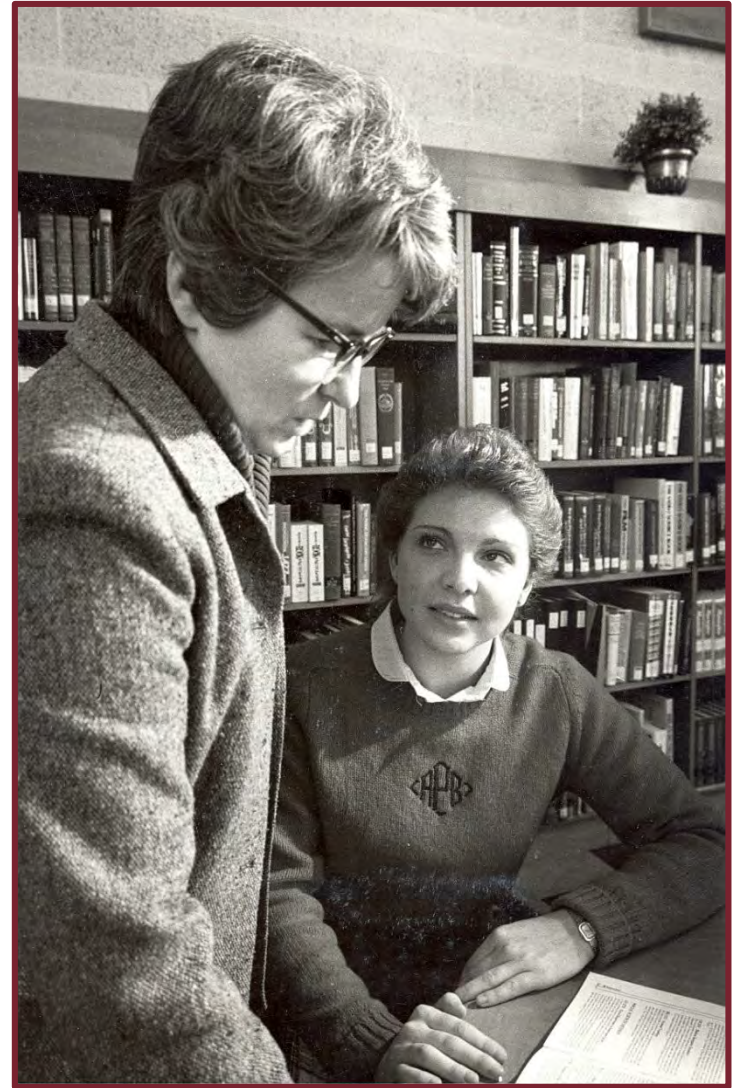


Photo of Sister Austin Doherty taken during a lecture demo on communication, circa 1980s.



This photo of Sister Austin and student Amy Post (1984) was taken inside the Alverno Library in 1982.

Alverno College President Sister Joel Read and Academic Dean Sister Austin Doherty preview the results of the first *U.S. News and World Report* survey on top colleges. This photo was taken November 11, 1983 by photographer Frank Miller. To the right of the photo is the cover of the 1983 issue.



Photo left, Austin Doherty and Pam Tate at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) meeting in San Diego California, November 1991. Doherty was a CAEL board member from 1988-2006.



Vice President for Academic Affairs, Sister Austin Doherty is seen returning to her office in Alverno's LA building (now Founders Hall) in this 1984 photo taken by Paul Biwer.



Above, congratulating an Alverno graduate on May 20, 1997 are, from left to right, Sisters Kathleen O'Brien, Austin Doherty and Joel Read.

Photo by Lila Aryan.

Below, Sister Austin delivers a speech during the Alverno OCEL Banquet, April 26, 1988.

Photo by Frank Miller.





The photo above shows Sister Georgine Loacker (left) and Sister Austin Doherty previewing a copy of the second edition of *Assessment at Alverno College*, copyright 1985.

The photo below was taken during the May 1992 graduation activities. Pictured from left to right: Linda Peterson, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Sister Austin Doherty, President; Sister Joel Read, Circuit Judge; Janine Geske and Maureen Sander.

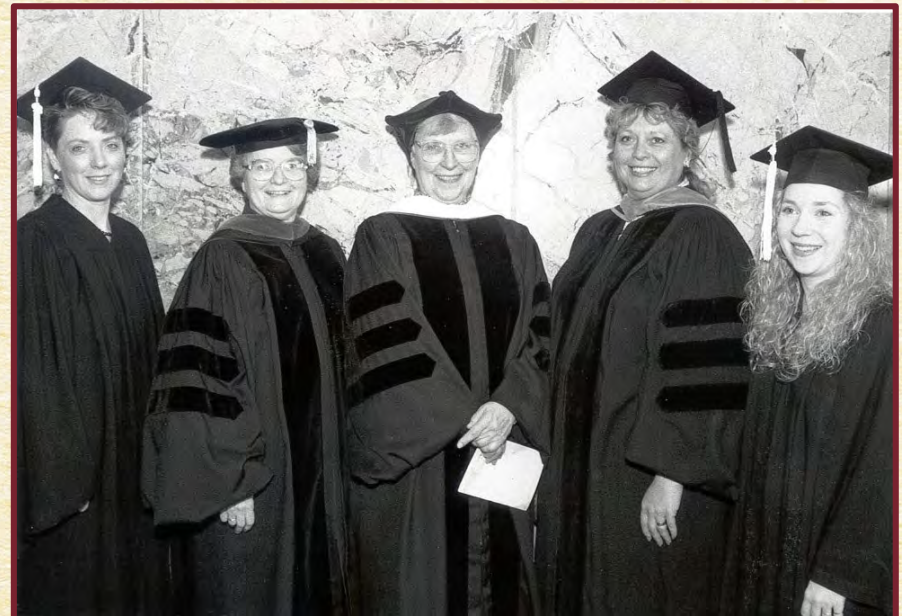




Photo left, students seated at the table behind Austin Doherty are taking part in an assessment of their social-interaction abilities. The other assessing faculty members present include (background, l-r): Sister Mary Georgia Matlock, Jim Roth, and Marilyn Thanos.

Photo right, Professor Georgine Loacker and Dean Austin Doherty explained the Alverno competences during a workshop. The event, held on April 6, 1989 was attended by one hundred educators.



25th Anniversary of the Research Center on Women 1970-1995

A series of brown bag luncheon sessions were held during the fall of 1995 in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Research Center on Women. The capstone event, a presentation by Sister Austin Doherty on the history of the RCW, was held on November 8, 1995. A fortuitous coincidence was the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing earlier in 1995--a fitting focus for the 25th Anniversary luncheon series. Other luncheon speakers included: Dr. Sarah Harder, Professor UW-Eau Claire; Marie Kingsbury, Executive Director of the Women's Center--Waukesha; and Ellen Bravo, Executive Director, Nine to Five. All of these women were participants in the Beijing Conference.

CELEBRATE!

**THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
of the
RESEARCH CENTER ON WOMEN**

PRESENTER

**AUSTIN DOHERTY, SSSF
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**"THE HISTORY OF ALVERNO'S
RESEARCH CENTER ON WOMEN"**

**NOVEMBER 8, 1995
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
ALUMNAE HALL**

BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN US!

DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED BY RCW



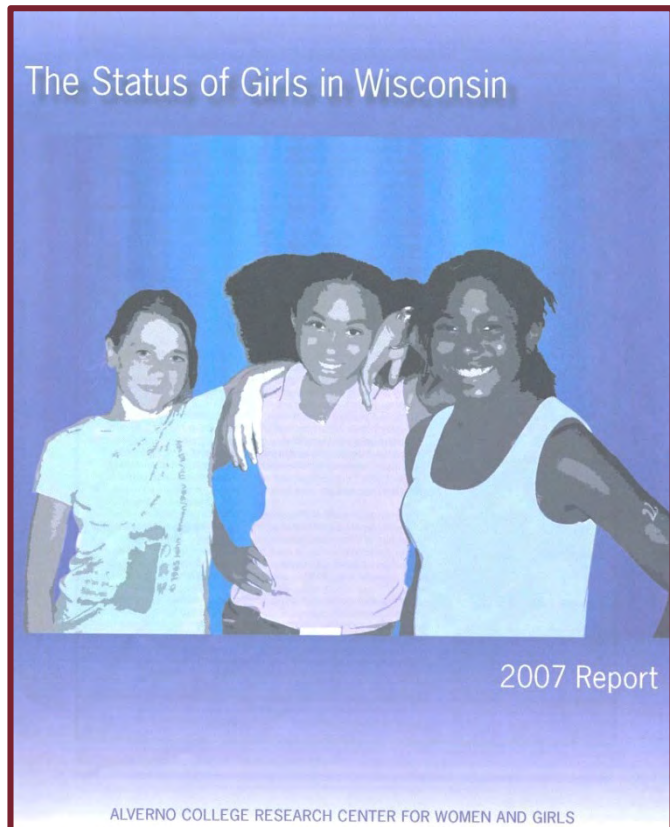
Honoring an Educator, Administrator

On November 8, 2005, Alverno College President Mary Meehan announced that the Campus Center (formerly Loretto Hall) would be renamed Austin Hall in honor of Sister Austin Doherty.

During a Celebration of Giving dinner where the School Sisters of St. Francis were being honored for their generous support of Alverno College, President Meehan commented that Sister Austin exemplified the service, dedication and spirit of the S.S.S.F. foundresses. Meehan continued to say that no one on campus has led a more student-centered life than Austin and so it was fitting that a place where students lived, worked and studied should be named in her honor.



The Status of Girls in Wisconsin 2007



In the fall of 2007 the first *Status of Girls in Wisconsin Report* was released by Alverno College, Girls Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Inc., Girls Scouts of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Women's Council, and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee. Alverno College was an integral part of this research project that looked at the lives of girls ages 10-19 and the impact of socio-economic factors on their health, education, future employment and their aspirations.

Sister Austin Doherty was a member of the Alverno research team which also included: Sandra Graham, Chair; Megan Kemmet, primary research coordinator; Russell Brooker; Kimberly Miller; Kathleen O'Brien; Julie Rice and Julie Ullman. Updates to this first report were released in April 2010.

Status of Girls in Wisconsin Report released in fall

The first Status of Girls in Wisconsin Report was released in November by Alverno College, Girls Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Inc., Girl Scouts of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Women's Council, and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee. This report is one of the few studies in the nation to provide a comprehensive examination of the status of girls at the state level and puts Wisconsin at the forefront of work in this area.

The report draws upon a wide range of statistical information to present an overview of how girls across the state, ages 10-19, are faring. The study assembles a selection of indicators exploring girls' challenges and successes in the areas of education, television and computer use, mental health, juvenile crime, reproductive health, substance and alcohol use, violence and abuse, physical activity and social support.

Main goals of the report are to provide a centralized source of information on the status of girls in Wisconsin; spark additional research on girls and boys; provide information that will help shape policies and practices that enhance the quality of lives of young women and girls; serve as a catalyst for young women and girls and the agencies that serve them to voice their perspectives on the issues and challenges they face; assist partners from business, education and non-profit sectors to thoughtfully engage the data; and provide data that can be used as a baseline to gauge Wisconsin progress in enhancing programs and services for girls.

The Alverno College research team consists of Sandra Graham, Ph.D., Chair; Megan Kemmet, primary research coordinator; Russell Brooker, Ph.D.; Austin Doherty, Ph.D.; Kimberly Miller, M.S.; Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D.; Julia Rice, J.D.; and Julie Ullman, Ph.D.

Sister

Austin

Doherty

August 10, 1927 - February 8, 2015



“Listen Buddies, Carry On”



A Life of Service and Education

August 10, 1927 - February 8, 2015

Sister Mary Austin Doherty died on February 8, 2015. Her funeral mass was held at the St. Joseph Convent Chapel, home to her School Sisters of St. Francis community. Sister Kathleen O'Brien, Alverno College Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs delivered the eulogy for Austin. O'Brien eloquently recounted stories and memories of her friend and mentor. Quoting a prayer by Saint Thomas More that O'Brien felt epitomized Austin's faith and spirit, she read:

*Pray for me, as I will pray for thee,
That we will merrily meet in heaven.*

O'Brien followed that with a favorite phrase that Sister Austin would sometimes use to punctuate a point she was making; a phrase that she imagined Austin would be saying to all those who loved her:

"Listen buddies... carry on!"

Below, the obituary published in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 11, 2015.

Sister M. Austin Doherty SSSF

Doherty, Sister M. Austin, SSSF February 8, 2015, age 87.

Sister Austin Doherty was a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis for 63 years. Sister's primary ministry was Alverno College where she was a professor of psychology and Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Sister Austin was beloved daughter of the late James and Rose Doherty, and sister of the late James (Rose), Thomas (Elaine) and Francis (Helen) Doherty. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Visitation at St. Joseph Convent Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI, Thursday, February 12, 2015, 10:30 AM-12:00 noon, Wake Service at 11:00 AM. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Convent Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee,

Wednesday, February 12, 2015 at 12 noon. Interment Thursday 2:30PM at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Milwaukee.

Memorials to Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd Street, Milwaukee, WI or to the School Sisters of St. Francis Development Office, 1501 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI are appreciated.

HERITAGE FUNERAL HOMES Altstadt-Tyboriski- Johnson-Reiss-Klemmer 414-281-5533 Guest Book & Directions

Funeral Home

Heritage Funeral Home

4800 South 84th Street Greenfield, WI 53228
(414) 281-5533

In Honor of
Sister Austin Doherty
1927 - 2015

Career and Service
Highlights

1952 - Professed
final vows, becomes
a School Sister of
St. Francis

1954 - Earned BA in History
from Alverno College
1960 - Earned MA in
History from Marquette
University

1965 - Earned
MA in Psychology
1968 - Earned PhD
in Psychology -
both from Loyola
University

1967 - Taught
History at
Alverno
College

1968 - Developed
and launched
Psychology program
at Alverno

1971-76 - Served
as co-designer of
Competence-
based Learning
and Assessment
Program

1975 - Named
assistant dean
for Curriculum
Development

1978-91 -
Served as
academic dean

1992-98 - Served
as vice president for
Academic Affairs



A scholarship fund has
been created to honor
Sister Austin's memory. If
you would like to give to this
scholarship fund, visit [www.alverno.edu/
onlinegiving](http://www.alverno.edu/onlinegiving) and indicate the gift is in
Sister Austin's honor.

It is with a heavy heart we announce the recent passing of Sister Austin Doherty '54, SSSF, who went to her heavenly home on February 8, 2015. She knew the power of faculty engagement to a student's learning path, **seizing every teachable moment and challenging countless Alverno students to reach their full potential** ... which, as it turns out, is always higher. Find peace and joy in this eulogy excerpt from Sister Kathleen O'Brien '67, SSSF:

"...Austin brought to all her studies a mission: a focus on students and their learning. She was a scholar in the finest sense of the word. She didn't love academic discourse for its own sake, but for our students' sake, and that made her one of the most disciplined, dedicated scholars in the field of education.

"...For Austin, every encounter, whether with a student, faculty or staff, not to mention with those she met outside the College, became a teachable moment. One former student tells the story about the time she tried to sell Austin candy bars to raise money for a certain cause. Austin would always generously provide some funds, but first she would ask: 'Why do you think I should buy this? What's your rationale? What might pull me into your cause?' She was, of course, helping this student practice using the abilities in an everyday interaction. And she did so with an infectious smile that always delighted students.

"...So dear Austin, we know you are with us as we grieve your loss. Help us feel you poking us in the shoulder, saying: 'Get on with it!' There's still so much to do in this life: To serve our students and our colleagues. So get on with it, but know that I am praying for you right now as you do for me."

This memorial tribute to Sister Austin Doherty '54, SSSF was featured in the spring 2015 edition of *Alverno Magazine*. It included eulogy excerpts from Sister Kathleen O'Brien '67, SSSF.

The article also provided information about a scholarship fund being created to honor Sister Austin's legacy. The fund, named Doherty Scholars, would become an integral part of a new program, The Doherty Scholars Learning Community. Doherty Scholars would be part of a learning community selected by the Center for Academic Excellence drawing together students from across college disciplines seeking academic challenges and research opportunities.

Alverno Magazine, Spring 2015, page 27.

Doherty Scholars: honoring the legacy of Sister Austin

By Laura Sear

The Doherty Scholars Learning Community, one of the new programs launched by the Center for Academic Excellence, is named in honor of **Sister Austin Doherty, O.S.F., '54** (1927–2015).

This article featured in *Alverno Magazine* speaks to the legacy of Sister Austin Doherty. The Doherty Scholars Learning Community exemplifies Alverno students exhibiting Doherty's scholarly curiosity, initiative and collaboration as learners.

Alverno Magazine, Spring 2016, page 21.

A founder of Alverno's abilities-based curriculum, Doherty was a significant leader in the national movement to reform college education to better serve student learning. She was widely known in the United States and internationally as a dynamic, caring and risk-taking educator — and a powerful contributor to many professional organizations that seek to drastically improve college teaching and learning.

Doherty helped found Alverno's Department of Psychology, served as dean and eventually as vice president for Academic Affairs, and established what was then known as the Research Center on Women, one of the first such centers in the country. Her dedication to women's empowerment compelled her to participate in the earliest conferences that led to the establishment of the National Organization for Women.

Center for Academic Excellence

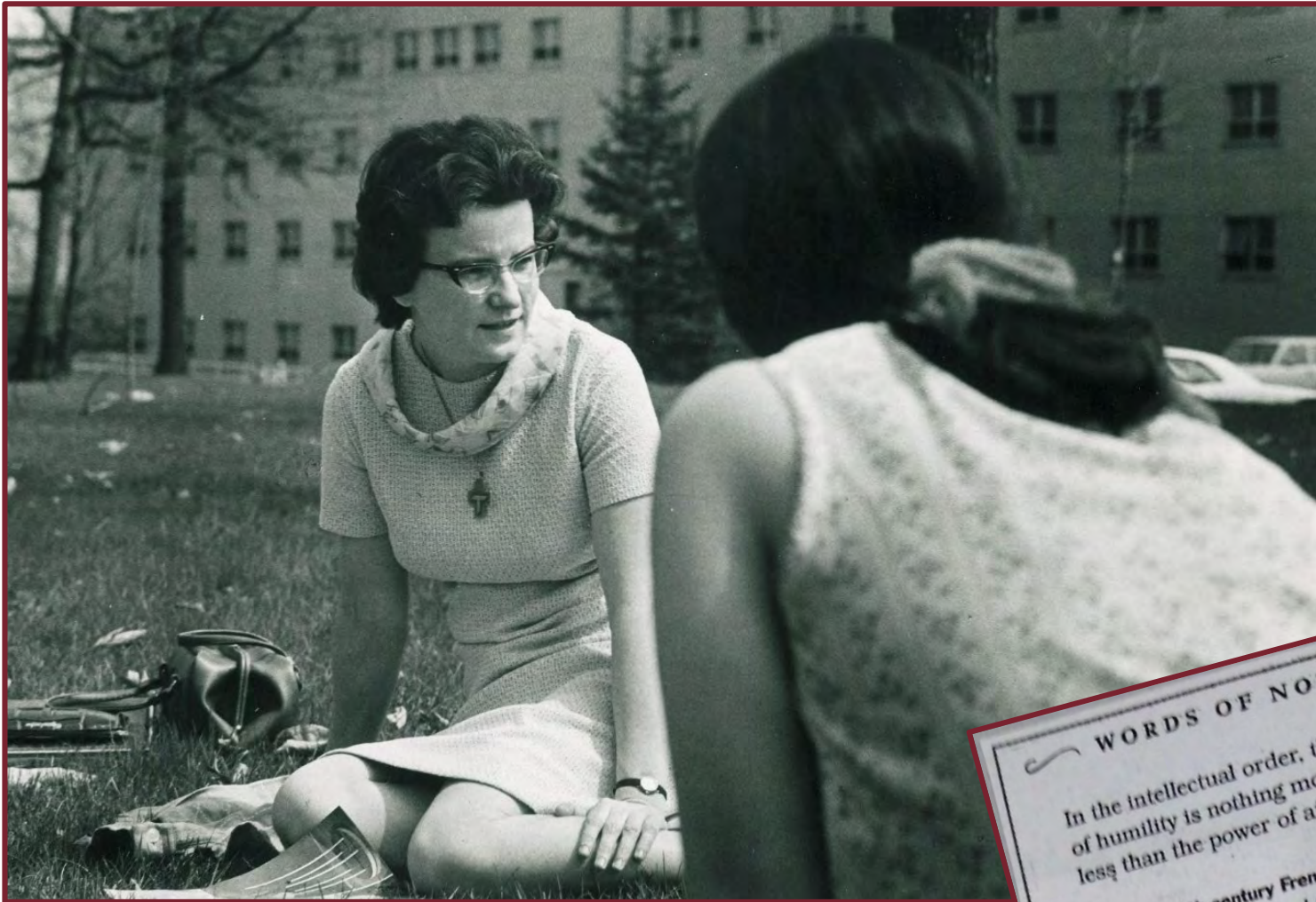
Fiercely dedicated, compassionate and caring, Doherty exemplified Alverno's commitment to seeking deeper connections and exploring multiple perspectives. She was never satisfied with "just enough." Her legacy lives on in the Doherty Scholars, women who demonstrate a potential for strong scholarly accomplishment and curiosity, an understanding of themselves as learners, and the ability to take initiative to collaborate with peers.



Austin's Wallet



For Sister Austin, words carried great meaning, value, power and mystery. So it's not surprising to learn that in her wallet she carried several snippets of quotes from newspapers or articles that she read. The quotes spoke to Austin of beliefs that she valued, reflected upon and was moved by. Following are just a few of Austin's inspirations.



WORDS OF NOTE

In the intellectual order, the virtue of humility is nothing more nor less than the power of attention.

Simone Weil,
20th-century French philosopher
From 'Gravity and Grace' (1947).

***“Feminism is the radical
notion that women are
people.”*** Marie Shear

[Reviewing *A Feminist Dictionary* by Cheris Kramarae and Paula A Treichler
in *New Directions for Women* (1986)]”





“To affirm the reality of love is to look its opposite in the face and do our best, throughout a lifetime, to stare it down. That activity is called hope.”

Reclaiming the Bible: Words for the Nineties
By Robert McAfee Brown 1994, page 142

Sisters Austin Doherty and Kathleen O'Brien



***Materials used for this display come from the Alverno College Archives.
For more information on the history of Alverno College visit Alverno College Archives
website or link to our Archives exhibit page at:***

<https://www.alverno.edu/Archives-Exhibits>

Time Line of Alverno History

<https://libguides.alverno.edu/timeline>

Unfolding Understandings: A History of the Alverno Learning Process

<https://libguides.alverno.edu/learning-process-history>

Reaching Out In New Ways: Highlights from the History of Alverno's Research Center on Women

https://libguides.alverno.edu/rcw_exhibit

Or contact the Alverno College Archives at:
414-382-6202.

Articles and publications:

Doherty, Sr. Mary Austin, Psychology, "The Psychology of Woman: A Historical Survey", Front Line, Vol. 3, No. 1, Summer 1964

Doherty, Sr. Mary Austin, Relationship of the Global-Analytical and Open-Closed Dimensions Within and Between the Sexes in Cognitive Activity, Doctoral Dissertation, June 1968

Doherty, Sr. Mary Austin, "Sexual bias in personality theory," The Counseling Psychologist, Vol. 4, No. 1 Spring 1973, p. 67-75

Archival Records highlighting the work of Austin Doherty:

Office of the Academic Dean: Records of the Austin Doherty Administration, 1978 -1991 (A3.5/Boxes 1-29)

Videotape— Competence Based Learning at Alverno, Presented by Austin Doherty and Georgine Loacker, 2-13-1982 (A25/Box 2)

Video Disc--Alverno Forum; Social Interaction Department Meeting; Presenter: Austin Doherty; Master Copy (A25/Box 8)

Video Disc--Alverno Forum; Social Interaction Department Meeting; Presenter: Austin Doherty; Master Copy (A25/Box 8)

Video Disc--Alverno Forum; Social Interaction Department Meeting; Presenter: Austin Doherty (A25/Box 8)

Photos/Negatives—Faculty/Staff; Doherty, Sr. Austin (A25/Box 11/File 26)

Marketing Communications: Personnel: Photographs: Doherty, Sr. Austin: Alverno College Institute; 1977-1991 (A11/Box 76/File 9)

*For more information on the history of
Alverno College visit the Alverno College
Archives website:*

<http://www.alverno.edu/archives/>



*For more information on the history of the
School Sisters of Saint Francis visit their
website at:*

<http://www.sssf.org/>

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