

Remembering

Sister Joel Read, S.S.S.F.

December 30, 1925 - May 25, 2017

Alverno College President

1968 – 2003

Alverno College President Emerita



***Take risks.
Don't ever think that
something can't be done.
It can.
Opportunity is everywhere.***

Sister Joel Read



Former Alverno College President Sister Joel Read, SSSF, Class of 1948, died on May 25, 2017 at the age of 91. Read, Alverno's President Emerita, was one of the nation's longest-serving college presidents and a renowned advocate for education reform.

Born on December 30, 1925 to parents Joseph and Ellen Read, Janice Anne Read grew up in Chicago, Illinois. While attending Roman Catholic elementary and high school, she was taught by nuns who inspired her to heed the call to religious life. *"The School Sisters of St. Francis taught at the elementary school which I attended from fifth grade on. They wouldn't fuss about little things, trivia. They were very good to one another and when I saw them together, they were a very joyful group. So in that sense, it was attractive,"* Sister Joel once told *Alverno Magazine*. Janice Read later took the religious name of Sister Joel in honor of her parents Joseph and Ellen.

Sister Joel took her first vows with the School Sisters in 1945 and earned her bachelor's degree in education from Alverno in 1948. She spent several years teaching at the Our Lady of Good Counsel parish school in Aurora, Illinois. Sister Joel completed a master's degree in history from Fordham University in New York, where she also pursued doctoral-level work.



This is the graduation photo for the Alverno College and College of Music Class of July 1948. Sister Joel Read is identified in the second row from the top, the third sister from the left.



the Campus News

Volume XIII, Number 5

Alverno College, Milwaukee

March 6, 1967

Rev. Raymond Parr and Sister Joel Honored by Teacher of the Year Award

By Anna Marie Kusters

What is it like to be a teacher of the year? Father Raymond Parr and Sister Joel now know. They

were recently chosen to receive the "Teacher of the Year" awards.

Father Parr, who has been Chaplain since Alverno College opened in 1953, had this reply, "I am very gratified to receive this honor . . . I accept it as a vote of confidence."

Since 1955, Sister Joel has been a history teacher here. Sister felt "very honored to receive this award." She believes that, "Teaching is an art. It involves communication, which is very important with people of this (college) age level." Sister Joel thinks, "There are many teachers here who deserve an award."

Committee Decides

Juniors, Seniors, and faculty voted for the "Teacher of the Year," but the final decision was determined by a board committee.

Father Parr and Sister Joel were the first to receive what will be an annual award to be given to deserving candidates on the Winter Honor's Day. The awards, \$500 each, will be provided through the Edward A. Uhrig Foundation

Honorable citations were also given to Sisters Bernarda, Claire Marie, Herman, Martine, Roy, and Mr. Robert Pittman.

Campus Education A Challenge to

By Dorice Maryanowski

"Life is a disease. The goal of life is to find as many pills as are needed to cure it." Helen Nowlis, Dean of students, University of Rochester, New York, included this as part of her statement of our contemporary cultural outlook in the opening speech of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators-Federal Drug Administration conference on drugs on the college campus.

The conference was held in Chicago, February 19-21, to analyze the present situation. All authorities, including college students themselves, generally agree that drug use of many kinds is a common phenomenon on college and university campuses.



Alverno welcomed Sister Joel back to campus in 1955 to chair its history department, offering her a chance to return to her ultimate love of teaching. "When you decide in life that you are going to be a teacher — and by joining the SSSF that decision was made for me — I began to understand what a teacher can do for someone if she is effective as a teacher," she told Alverno Magazine. "And I think, that when I was a teacher, that was the most exciting part."

In 1967 Sister Joel and Father Raymond Parr were honored as the first recipients of Alverno Teacher of the Year awards.

Vote

Responsibly
Intelligently

President March 16
Vice-president

Secretary March 21
Treasurer

Secretariats
Social chairman
Day student chairman April 6

Class presidents April 13

But Definitely

Vote



photo by Sister Armella

Anne Marie Kusters, Campus News reporter, interviews Sister Joel and Father Parr, recipients of the first teachers awards at Alverno.

Sister Joel Read was named Acting President of Alverno College on July 1, 1968. She served as the acting president from July 1968 to December 1968. Read was named the sixth President of the college by the Board of Trustees in November of 1968. The formal announcement to the faculty and students came on December 13, 1968. Sister Joel continued to serve the college as President until her retirement on June 30, 2003.



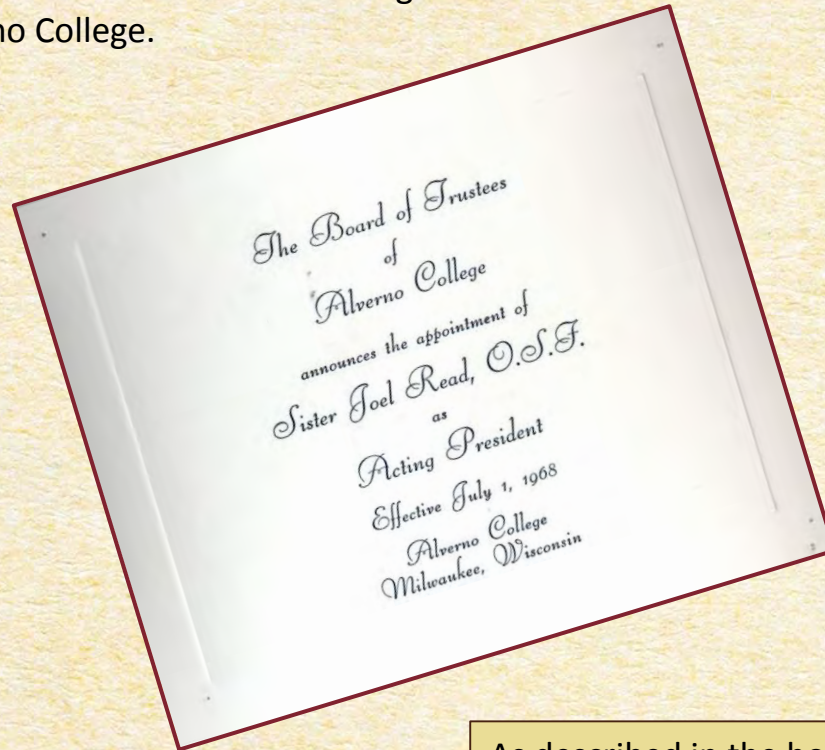
Sister Joel Read
Alverno College President
1968 - 2003

After more than a decade of teaching, Sister Joel was appointed President of Alverno College in 1968 by Alverno's first lay Board of Trustees.



The photo above is of the February 1968 Inauguration of Alverno College Lay Trustees: (left to right) Sister Samuel Nalefski, Sister Maureen Hartnett, Dr. Barbara Ramusack, Dr. Robert Byrnes, Mr. John Sisk, Sister Joel Read, Mr. Frank Zeidler, Dr. Kathryn F. Clarenbach, Sister Augustine Scheele, Judge Leo Hanley, Father William LaDue, Dr. Edward Bachhuber and Sister Francis Borgia Rothluebber.

On July 1, 1968, with the retirement of Sister Augustine Scheele, the Board of Trustees appointed Sister Joel Read as Acting President of Alverno College.



As described in the holiday issue of *Alverno Campus News* (right), Sister Joel's appointment as Alverno College President became permanent on Friday December 13, 1968 when it was formally announced to the Alverno community.

CAMPUS NEWS

Volume XV, Number 5 Alverno College, Milwaukee December 17, 1968

Board Selects Sister Joel As New Alverno President

Appointment of Sister Joel Read, acting president of Alverno college since July 1, to the position of president, was announced Friday morning at separate convocations of faculty and students by Dr. Kathryn F. Clarenbach, Madison, Wis., chairman of the Alverno board of trustees.

Sister Joel, a former Alverno faculty member and former chairman of the college's history department, succeeds Sister M. Augustine Scheele, who retired July 1, after serving as head of Alverno for 20 of its 22 year existence. Alverno, founded by the School Sisters of St. Francis, is now administered by a board, the majority lay members, added a year ago.

Sister Joel was recommended for president by the board's presidential search committee, which had been considering possible choices for several months. The board concurred unanimously in the recommendation.

In making the announcement, Dr. Clarenbach, director of the University Education of Women, University of Wisconsin-Madison, said that Sister Joel had rendered "distinguished service" as a member of the Alverno faculty, and since becoming acting president had "displayed administrative abilities which inspire confidence in Alverno's future."

The board chairman added that "Sister Joel is perceptive of the problems of the private liberal arts college in particular and of higher education in general in a trying period, and will make substantial contributions to both fields."

Sister Joel, a native of Chicago, was graduated from Alverno in 1948, with a bachelor of science degree in education. She joined the Alverno faculty as a history instructor in 1955, after obtaining her master's degree at Fordham university, and continuing there in further graduate study. She was chairman of Alverno's department of history from 1961 to 1967. Last year she was awarded a special achievement citation by Alverno for teaching excellence.

Sister Joel, active in academic and community service programs, is president of the Milwaukee chapter of the National Organization for Women, and vice-chairman for academic liaison for the World Affairs Council of Milwaukee. She was a coordinator for the Tri-College Latin American institute, and served on the board and headed the civic section of the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies. She was chairman of a statewide private colleges planning committee for international studies, and was a director of a non-western studies committee. Organizations with which she is affiliated include the World Affairs Council of Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Historical association. She is a former member of the mayor's beautification committee.



Sister Joel Read

During her 35 years at Alverno's helm, Sister Joel grew her alma mater into the internationally renowned educational institution it is today. She led the development of Alverno's 8 Abilities and assessment-based learning model, which has produced legions of successful graduates and inspired educators around the globe.

The "September '69" program came about as a forum for discussion between students, faculty and administration to effect beneficial changes in the Alverno learning process. Ideas that sprang forth from these dialogues eventually became the framework for Alverno's Ability-based curriculum.



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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN AUTUMN, 1969

"September '69" Program Evaluated

An analysis and evaluation of "September '69," the special four-day study of the learning process at Alverno to effect beneficial changes, are being made by the students, faculty and administration following joint participation.

Consensus of all three college sectors is that the experience was stimulating and enlightening, and achieved a rapport which will serve the college well in working out, through democratic procedures, improvements in the curricula and other areas. New programs from ideas the conferences engendered are expected to evolve, rather than suddenly emerge. Some proposals have been made, and are being

given careful study by students and faculty members.

Sister Joel Read, college president, said that the "September '69" sessions are expected to lead to student-faculty committees to collaborate on changes, some long range, other more immediate.

A spirit of open inquiry and search prevailed at a series of meetings, with all three of the college sectors represented and led by a special Antioch-Columbia college team, headed by Dr. Judson Jerome, one of the nation's leading proponents of innovation and experimentation in higher education. Questions were directed frequently to the Antioch-Columbia team. Alverno was figuratively placed under a microscope for a close-up view—what the college is, and what it hopes to become.

The discussions were frank and thorough, and opinions were frequently voiced, by individuals, and in behalf of groups. In addition to Dr. Jerome, the questioning was addressed to the student members of the team, Douglas Douglas, Nancy Mills and Nancy Timmins. The respondents stressed that

(Continued on Page 7)

Study Program Established for Public Careers

A study program in public administration, designed to qualify the woman student for a career in government service, is being offered by Alverno for the first time this semester.

The four-year program leads to a degree in bachelor of arts, with a major in political science, economics or the social sciences.

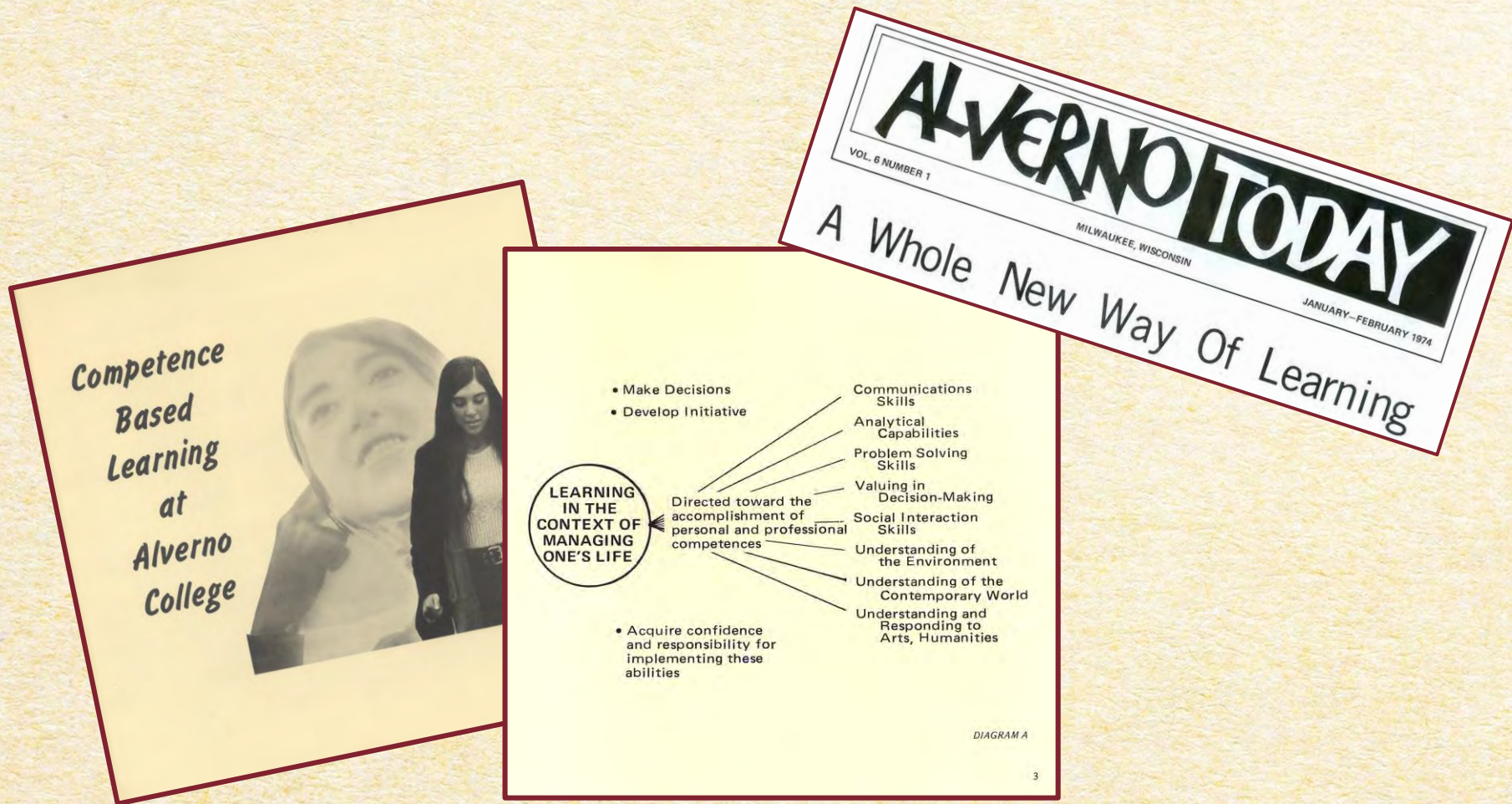
The program was worked out from the Alverno curriculum to meet a growing demand for women in governmental fields, and to facilitate their entering these areas.

Each student has the opportunity to get up specific courses with her counselor, in relation to her objectives.



Dr. Judson Jerome, noted educator and leader of the Columbia-Antioch college team; and Alverno student Kathy Forbes, Chicago, appear engrossed at a "September 69" demonstration. The visiting team, students, faculty and administration together studied the learning process at Alverno for possible improvements and innovations.

At a critical juncture for the College, President Joel Read worked with faculty to carry out a new vision for education. Those efforts bore fruit in 1973, when Alverno introduced its distinctive abilities-based curriculum and assessment-as-learning approach, a hallmark that continues to distinguish Alverno graduates today. Educators from around the world continue to visit Alverno to study this unique approach to education.



Other achievements under Sister Joel's visionary leadership include the introduction of one of the first college internship programs in the country (1971); the launch of the Weekend College (1977), targeted at working women; and the creation of the Digital Diagnostic Portfolio (1999), which allowed students to follow their learning progress online.

Weekend College (later known as Alverno on the Weekend), another pioneering effort by Alverno College, opened its doors in August 1977. It was announced in the February 25, 1977 press release below. The response to Weekend College was phenomenal with close to 350 inquiries within 48 hours of its announcement.

Milwaukee Journal
March 1, 1977

Earn a Degree on Weekends

By Ralph D. Olive
of The Journal Staff

Alverno College will offer a weekend college, making it possible to earn a bachelor's degree by attending classes only on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, starting next August.

The innovative program was announced Tuesday by Sister Joel Read, president of Alverno.

"Weekend College has been conceived and designed for women who have control of their time only on weekends," Sister Joel said. "Alverno College is pleased to offer the women of this community an opportunity to pursue either degree work or course work, which will fa-

cilitate their personal growth and professional plans."

Sister Joel said the weekend college, like other degree programs at Alverno, would be open only to women. Men have many more opportunities, often within their firms, for study outside regular working hours, she said, so Alverno feels a special obligation to women.

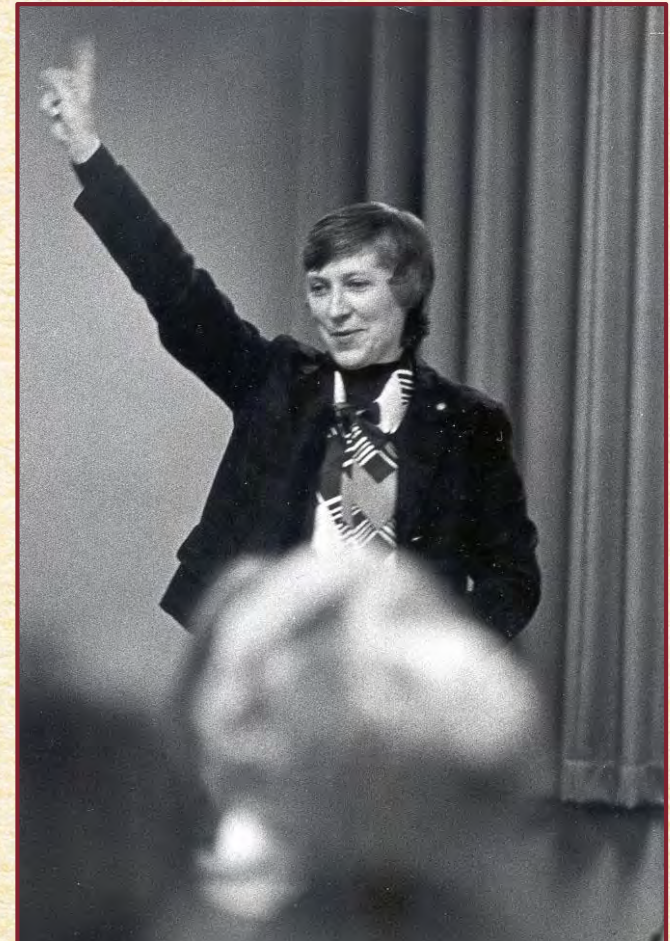
Sister Joel stressed that the



Sister Joel Read

program would be demanding. Students will have the same requirements as those in the regular weekday program. However, classes and

Turn to Alverno, page 6, col. 4



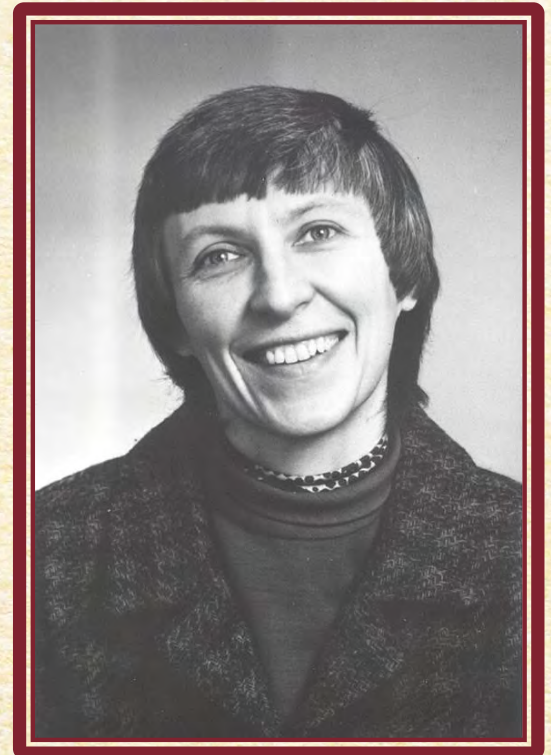
Sister Joel's many achievements weren't confined to Alverno — she also left her mark on the Milwaukee community, as well as throughout the state of Wisconsin and the United States. In the 1960s, Sister Joel was one of several Alverno women at the forefront of advocating for women's rights, and the National Organization for Women honors her on its website as being among NOW's founders and pioneers.



Sister Mary Joel Read

Sister Mary Joel Read Sr. Mary Joel Read was one of the NOW founders who participated in the weekend of meetings in June, 1966, and was one of the 28 who signed the initial telegram to the EEOC Commissioners: "We respectfully urge the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to rescind its ruling permitting employment advertisements in newspapers under separate Help Wanted Male and Help Wanted Female column headings and to adopt in its place the language recommended by Representative Martha Griffiths, which appears in the Congressional Record for June 20, 1966." She was also on the first NOW national board. Sr. Joel Reed served as President of Alverno College in Milwaukee from 1968 to 2003, making her, at the time, the nation's longest sitting college president. During her thirty-five year tenure she earned a well-justified reputation as a notable educational reform advocate and a woman who has dedicated her life to the advancement of women. She received an honorary doctorate from Marquette University in 2003.

<http://now.org/about/history/honoring-our-founders-pioneers/>



National Organization for Women (NOW)



The plaque to the right was awarded to Sister Joel during the 20th anniversary celebration of NOW, July 18, 1986.

Sister Joel Read attended the first organizing meeting of the National Organization for Women (NOW) held in Washington D.C. on October 30, 1966. Sister Joel, wearing her SSSF habit, is seated in the second row of attendees. She was the President of the Milwaukee Chapter of NOW from 1967-1968.



GROUP PICTURE - NOW
ORGANIZING CONFERENCE - OCT. 30, 1966
Washington Post Bldg., D.C

“Pioneer” is an apt word to describe Sister Joel Read’s status among educators...

In 1986, the book *The Many Lives of Academic Presidents* called Sister Joel “one of a handful of college presidents who have broken new educational ground in the past 100 years.” She shared her boundless wisdom as a member of the boards of numerous local, state and national education organizations as well as with two U.S. presidents, who invited her to the White House to discuss educational policy.

Some of her many and varied honors include:

- ❖ Appointment to the **Wisconsin Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women, 1971**
- ❖ Alverno Alumnae Association National Board’s first **Outstanding Alumna Award, 1971**
- ❖ Presidential appointee to the **U.S. Commission for the Celebration of International Women’s Year, 1975**
- ❖ First recipient of the **Harvard University Graduate School of Education’s Anne Roe Award, 1980**
- ❖ **Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership’s Lifetime Leadership Award**
- ❖ Presidential **Appointee to the National Council on the Humanities, 1984**
- ❖ Midwestern Leaders of the Modern Women’s Movement **Bridges that Carry Us Over Award, 1992**
- ❖ Fellowship and induction to **The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1993**
- ❖ **Vatican II Award for Service in Education, 2001**
- ❖ **Charles L. Foreman Award for Innovation in Private Higher Education, 2007**
- ❖ **Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award for Outstanding Contributions to Catholic Higher Education, 2012**

President Read was awarded honorary degrees from several esteemed institutions of higher education including:

- ❖ **Wittenberg University** Springfield, Ohio 1976
- ❖ **Harvard University** Cambridge, Massachusetts 1980
- ❖ **Marymount Manhattan College**, New York, New York 1981
- ❖ **DePaul University**, Chicago, Illinois 1985
- ❖ **State University of New York (SUNY)** New York 1985/1986
- ❖ **Lawrence University** Appleton, Wisconsin 1997

Sister Joel retired as Alverno’s president in 2003, but her legacy lives on. The **Sister Joel Read Conference Center** and **Sister Joel Read Outstanding Educator Award** ensure that her name is known to a new generation of Alverno women, a generation whose education still bears Sister Joel’s indelible stamp.

**“...To
Form
a More
Perfect
Union...”**



justice for american women

Above is the report cover for “...To Form a More Perfect Union...” *justice for american women*. A page from the report at right shows President Gerald R. Ford being congratulated by First lady Betty Ford after he signed the Executive Order creating the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.



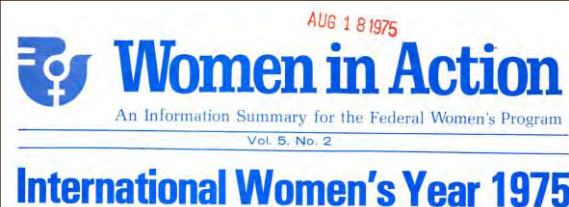
Mrs. Betty Ford congratulates the President after he signed the Executive Order creating the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.

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“...To Form a More Perfect Union...” justice for american women is the Report of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year issued to members of the presidential commission to which Alverno's then president, Sister Joel Read, was a member.

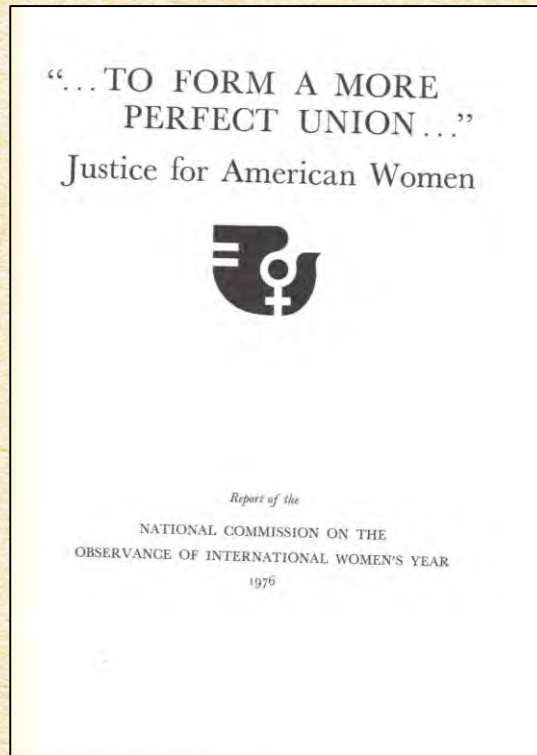
To the right is a photo of the members of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year that appeared in the *Women in Action* summer 1975 publication. Sister Joel is seen in the front row, third from the left.

International Women's Year 1975-1976



Members of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year are shown above at their opening session in April 1975.

International Women's Year 1975-1976



Additional pages from the commission's report, *"...To Form a More Perfect Union..." Justice for American Women* shows the title page (above) and page 133 (right) which features photos of some of the commission members. Alverno's then president, Sister Joel Read, was a member of the commission.

Ersa Hines Poston



Ersa Hines Poston

(Loudonville, New York)

Commissioner and past president, New York State Civil Service Commission. Her voluntary and public service career includes local, State, national, and international assignments as a professionally trained social worker and experienced public administrator.

Sister Joel Read

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

President, Alverno College, a women's college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which has pioneered one of the most advanced learning systems in the country. She is concerned with assisting women to achieve the life they want and finding ways to do so within the context of a world that sets few limits for the individual while increasing the hurdles in exponential fashion.

Sister Joel Read



Betty L. Smith

(Eugene, Oregon)

An active community volunteer, wife and mother of two teenagers; served YMCA as a national board member; president of the Pacific Regional Assembly and local board president. Voluntarism and affirmative action programs, plus the involvement of women at all levels of the YMCA are major concerns.

Betty L. Smith



Sister Joel received this signed presidential dictum dated April 14, 1975 as a member of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1975 by President Gerald R. Ford. The official certificate, which measures 17 inches by 21 inches bears an official embossed presidential seal and the signatures of the thirty-eighth President of the United States Gerald R. Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America.
To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the Integrity and Ability
of Joel Read, of Wisconsin, I do appoint her
a Member of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1975,
and do authorize and empower her to execute and fulfil the duties of that
Office according to law, and to have and to hold the said Office, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments
thereunto of right appertaining, unto her the said Joel Read, during the pleasure of
the President of the United States for the time being.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the
United States to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this fourteenth day of April,
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

By the President:

Gerald R. Ford

H. A. Kissinger

Secretary of State.





During commencement week the National Board of the Alverno Alumnae Association presented its first annual Outstanding Alumna Award to Sister Joel Read '48, Alverno president. Admiring the award are, left to right, Maryanna Fridl Novotny '54, association president; Dr. Kathryn Clarenbach, chairman, Alverno Board of Trustees; Carol Dolphin '62, luncheon chairman; and Sister Joel.

Because you have served Alverno College with devotion, dedication, integrity and imagination for sixteen years, first as teacher and now as President

Because you have demonstrated scholarship and attained excellence in the field of education, both as teacher and administrator

Because you have extended your influence and sense of purpose beyond the College into the community

Because you have concerned yourself with maintaining quality private education to insure all citizens a free choice in this important life investment

Because, through your own accomplishments, you have inspired other women to seek their potentialities and to make their contributions to society

Because you have made Alverno "the" college the community looks to for contributions to human welfare and have done so in a spirit of today while upholding traditional Christian values

Because you are truly an alumna to whom Alverno looks with pride

We offer you today, with our love and our gratitude, this first Outstanding Alumna Award



*Presented to Sister Joel Read
By the Alverno Alumnae Association
May 8, 1971*

The Alverno Alumnae Association awarded Sister Joel Read with its first Outstanding Alumna Award dated May 8, 1971.

Anne Roe Award 1980

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Education

ANNE ROE AWARD 1980

SISTER JOEL READ is a person of vision and exemplary achievement.

As President of Alverno College, she has carved out a strong mission for a women's college in an era of decline.

She has provided leadership for the development of a competence-based, practicum-centered curriculum that has enhanced opportunities for women to enter non-traditional careers.

She has served as President of the American Association of Higher Education and thereby achieved visibility and greater recognition for women's contributions in academic administration.

We honor her life and work.

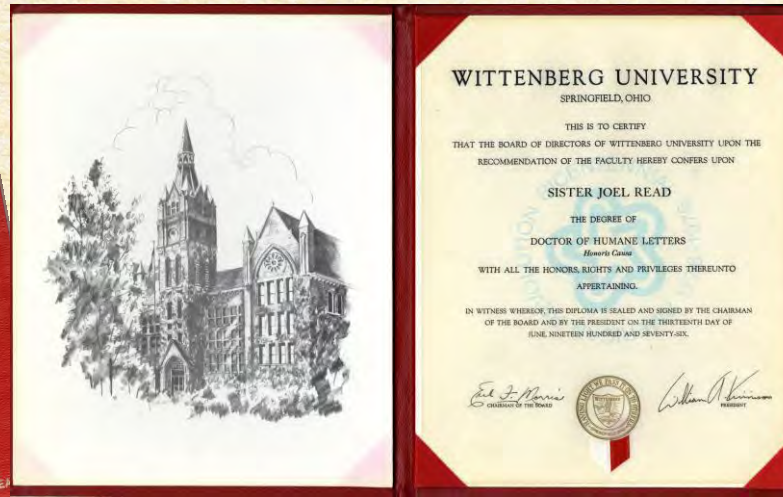
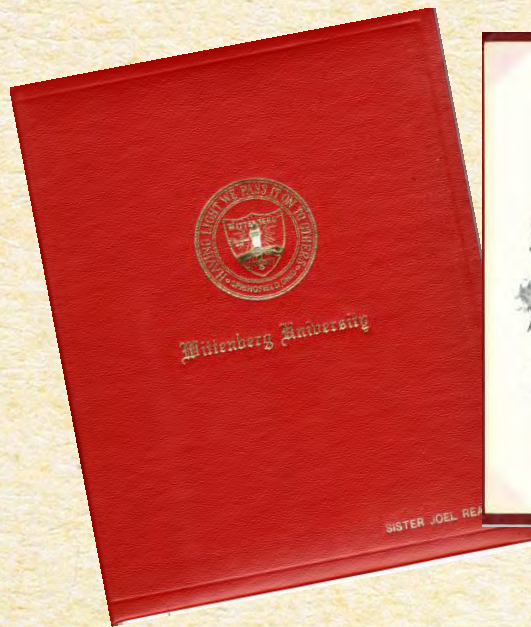


Paul N. Ylvisaker
Dean of the Faculty of Education

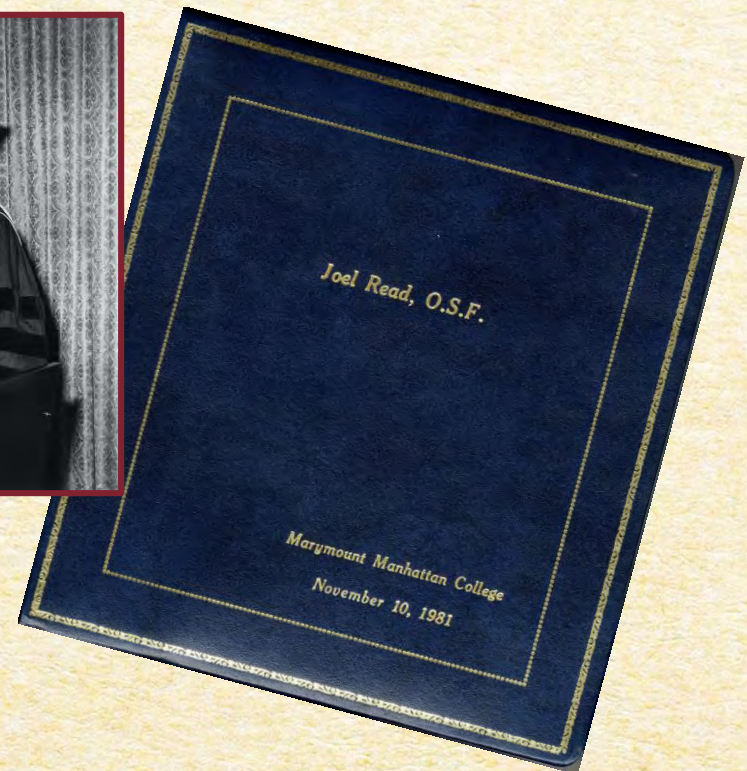
On September 29, 1980 Sister Joel Read accepted the very first Anne Roe Award from Harvard University honoring Sister Joel's life and work in education. As part of her acceptance speech Sister Joel remarked,

"At Alverno, what our life history shows is that we take women seriously. That we educate them to educate themselves. That is, to think."

"Harvard Honors Alverno", *Alverno Today*, Winter issue 1980-1981, pages 10-11, 18-19.



Just a few of the
Honorary Degrees
bestowed upon
Sister Joel Read.



Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award 2012

For outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education

Sister Joel Receives **NATIONAL HONOR**

Earlier this year, Sister Joel Read received the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award for her outstanding contributions and extended service to Catholic higher education. Honored by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the national award is named after one of the most influential figures in higher education and is among the association's oldest and most prestigious honors.

Mary Meehan and Sister Joel Read with Michael Galligan-Stierle, president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.



ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award
For outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education

Sister Joel Read, S.S.S.F.

President Emerita, Alverno College (President 1968-2003)

In *The Many Lives of Academic Presidents*, authors Clark Kerr and Marian L. Gade named Sister Joel Read as one of a handful of college presidents to have broken genuinely new educational ground in the past century. Under her leadership, Alverno College—where she served for 35 years as president—underwent a curricular metamorphosis and emerged as a national education innovator for introducing its “ability-based” curriculum.

Sister Joel's leadership in instituting this curriculum brought her high honors from other educators. In 1980, the Harvard University Graduate School of Education named Sister Joel the first recipient of the Anne Roe Award. Viterbo College presented her with its Pope John XXIII Award in 1977, and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning later bestowed the Morris T. Keaton Award upon her. The recipient of numerous honorary degrees, Sister Joel also has received a Lifetime Leadership Award from Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership; the Vatican II Award for Service in Education from the Milwaukee Archdiocese; and the Charles L. Foreman Award for Innovation in Private Higher Education from the Foundation of Independent Higher Education.

Currently a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Sister Joel also has earned recognition for her efforts on behalf of American women. As president of Alverno, she led in the development of programs that addressed the unique education and career needs of women. For her efforts, Sister Joel was named a presidential appointee to the U.S. Commission for the Celebration of International Women's Year (1975-76). She chaired the Commission on the Status of Education of Women for the American Association of Colleges (1971-77) and is a past president of the National Forum for Women. She also served as a member of the Neylan Commission, an association of colleges affiliated with orders of Roman Catholic women religious, which researched the status of American Catholic women's colleges. ■

The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) awarded Sister Joel Read, President Emerita of Alverno College with the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award for outstanding contributions to Catholic higher education. The award, the oldest award given by the association, was presented to Sister Joel during the association's annual meeting in Washington D.C. on January 28, 2012. The photo to the left shows Sister Joel Read with Alverno President Mary J. Meehan and ACCU President Michael Galligan-Stierle.

Photo ©Peter Cutts Photography, used by permission of the ACCU.



OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A L V E R N O C O L L E G E

TO: Administrators, Faculty, and Staff DATE: January 13th, 1976
FROM: S. Joel Read, President
SUBJECT: Establishment of an Alverno College Archives

First as an historian and secondly as President of Alverno College I have been aware for quite some time of the need for establishing an archives to preserve all the official records that reflect the history and development of Alverno College. Accordingly, I offered to S. Joanne Barras the position of organizing such an archives, which she accepted last August. After months of research on this topic I am now ready to initiate the project.

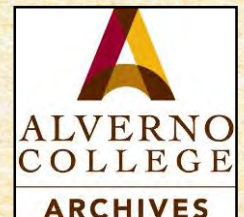
All official records of the office or employee of the college, including records which result from the operation of the institution and not of the individual, OF THE INSTITUTION and not of the individual, including official correspondence sent to or from the college, division, and committee minutes, directives; printed or manuscript records of its offices; personnel and student records; photographs and sound recordings of events.

When these official records become inactive, that is, are no longer needed in the offices for reference, they should be transferred to the Archives for preservation and possible future reference. Prior to their transfer, an arrangement should be made with the archivist. She will advise you as to which records should be transferred, provide appropriate boxes for the records, and assist in the preparation of a Transmittal Form on which is listed or described the materials being transmitted to the archives, together with any

Ever the historian and ardent researcher, Sister Joel recognized the importance of preserving the institutional history of Alverno College and its founders. On January 13, 1976, she officially introduced the Alverno College Archives and Archivist Sister Joanne Barras.

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This image of the Office Memorandum sent by Sister Joel to administrators, faculty and staff outlines the establishment, policy and mission of the Alverno College Archives.



Exploring and developing international ties was always important to President Read from the time she was a history instructor at Alverno through her presidency. Exchanging knowledge and information through educational outreach programs and conferences was a natural extension of the Alverno curriculum and Alverno's philosophy of experiential learning.

In the photos clockwise: (top right) Sisters J. Dolores Brunner and Joel Read meet with Olivette Stuart Caulker and Lettie Stuart from Sierra Leone June 5-6, 1964; (bottom right) President Joel Read meets with visiting educators from the Netherlands; (bottom center) President Read speaks at a conference at Nijenrode Universiteit (Neyenrode University) in 1988; and (bottom left) President Read presents Fullbright Visiting Professor Sufia Ahmed with an appreciation award from Alverno College in 1985.



President Read also oversaw multimillion-dollar fundraising campaigns that expanded the physical campus, as well as scholarship and academic offerings. *"I don't have any problem raising money," she once said. "If I were asking for myself, forget it. When you've got something very worthwhile and you see what it means to individual students, you see them transformed; you go for it."*



Sister Joel Read stands in the rotunda of the Teaching Learning and Technology Center which was completed during her presidency in 1999. The building was later renamed in her honor, the Sister Joel Read Center (RC) in 2012. (Photo bottom left shows the Read Center exterior).

Images from the groundbreaking ceremony for the Teaching Learning and Technology Center, October 15, 1997. The building would later be renamed the Sister Joel Read Center in 2012.



School Sisters of Saint Francis Community

The School Sisters of Saint Francis and community life was deeply woven into the tapestry of Sister Joel's life. As a child in catholic grade school, she recognized the communal bonds the sisters had with one another and the joyfulness with which they served others. In 1943 Sister Joel took her vows with the School Sisters of Saint Francis becoming a member of the community she so admired.

Sister Joel was once asked in a profile article written in 2000 by Alan Borsuk, an education journalist, friend, and senior law fellow at Marquette University, why she became a nun. She responded, "I really wanted to know if you could know God in this life." Borsuk then asked if she had succeeded, to which she replied, "I think I have."

Through the School Sisters of Saint Francis as Sister Joel Read so came to know God, she was able to touch the lives of thousands. Helping others to lift themselves up as they sought knowledge, self-discovery and the ability to set and attain unimaginable goals.



"In education, I think that making people as independent as you can, giving them the tools to handle their own life, is the most fundamental gift you can give."

Sister Joel Read, "Looking Back to Get a Fix on the Future", *Alverno Magazine*, February 1989.



Sister Joel's SSSF 25th Jubilee celebration photo from 1968.

Honoring SSSF community members 1977



Featured in the photo above were honored members of the School Sisters of Saint Francis following an awards ceremony highlighting their dedicated service to their community. Seated from left to right are: Sisters Laura Lampe, Helena Steffens-meier, Joann Posch, and Armella Weibel; standing are Gratia Gross, Johanella Fiecke, Elizabeth McCourt, Elizabeth Grosse Rhode, Solano Granger, Mary Simec, Dorothy Adler, Elena Kollenbroich, and Seraphim Stoecker. Standing to the far right is Sister Joel Read who made the presentations. *Alverno Today*, Fall 1977, page 4

Sister Joel's SSSF 60th Jubilee celebration June 2003

In the photo upper right, Sister Joel attends a special jubilee liturgy, dinner, and reception held at the St. Joseph Center located in the School Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse. The event honored the milestone anniversaries of service as religious women. Sister Joel receives a framed photo of Archbishop Rembert Weakland from Bishop Sklba in the lower left photo and the photo lower right shows Sister Joel seated beside Archbishop Rembert Weakland.





This photo was taken during Sister Joel's 90th birthday celebration held at Alverno College on April 7, 2016. The celebration commemorating Sister Joel's 90th birthday which was actually on December 30, 2015 was among the last gatherings at the college that Sister Joel attended.

As news of Sister Joel Read's death arrived on campus, Alverno President Andrea Lee, IHM sent word to the Alverno Community in a heartfelt letter:

Dear Alverno Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that our revered President Emerita, Sister Joel Read, died last night, May 25. She had suffered several medical complications during the past few weeks, and passed peacefully surrounded by family and sisters who loved her.

Services are being scheduled and I will share information as soon as it is available. Surely we at Alverno will want to honor Sister Joel's life and her extraordinary contributions to our College, to our city and to higher education and the advancement of women nationally.

In her retirement letter to the Alverno community in 2003, Sister Joel said, "It has only been with the strong commitment of a highly dedicated faculty, staff, administration and board of trustees that Alverno College has been able to achieve its distinctive standing."

So as she leaves us in body—but never in spirit—to encounter the God she served through her incredible life work, we all stand to honor and further her legacy of developing strong, independent, educated women. Women ready to take risks and to impact our world for the better. Women who will make us and her forever proud. Alverno women.

May Sister Joel's life call us all to be more and better than we imagine ourselves capable of being - as individuals and as members of the strong Alverno community. May we know peace and serenity as we grieve Sister Joel's loss. May we find inspiration in sharing our memories and the many lessons she taught us. In a special way, we extend our deep sympathy and promise of prayer to Sister Joel's School Sisters of St. Francis family and to her family of birth.

Remembering

Sister Joel Read, O.S.F.

December 30, 1925 - May 25, 2017



"Sister Joel devoted her incredible talents to building a revolutionary educational institution that has thrived for decades," said Mary Meehan, PhD, who succeeded Sister Joel as president and served in that role from 2004-16.

"Sister was a colleague, mentor and friend to me, and I will forever be grateful to her for her constant support and encouragement. Anyone who knew her would agree that she was a teacher from whom we all learned so much."

Mary J. Meehan

Courage



Tenacity

During the funeral liturgy for Sister Joel on June 1, 2017, her longtime friend, fellow school sister, colleague, and advisee Sister Kathleen O'Brien said of Sister Joel:

"Of all my memories, her courageous tenacity stands out. We all know of her many accomplishments as we look back over her life. Yet success is never for certain..."

O'Brien went on to explain the many challenges and obstacles that Sister Joel faced as a new college president of a women's college facing a serious financial crisis.

"Despite these hurdles she assured the faculty as she wrote to them in 1968, 'I would like you to know that I have the utmost confidence in each of you.' To the Alverno students she proclaimed using a particularly favorite Broadway line: 'Stick with me baby and you will see your name in lights!!' I have often wondered what kind of internal stamina and fortitude and faith it took to continue in those adverse conditions. We see her accomplishments now, but often don't realize what courage and tenacity it took and what these cost her personally."

Sister Kathleen O'Brien

"At Alverno we believe that the most important development each day on campus is the dynamic interaction of the minds of faculty and students, faculty and faculty, and students and students. The whole administrative organization of the college is oriented to support this relationship. It is my purpose, in the capacity of acting president, to lend every possible encouragement and aid."

Sister Joel Read, S.S.S.F.



Those words were spoken near the beginning of Sister Joel's 35 year presidency at Alverno College in 1968. Her mission of dynamic interaction of minds was realized daily throughout her presidency and beyond.

*To learn more about Sister Joel Read and
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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