

ALVERNO TODAY

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Conference addresses liberal arts education issues

A three day national invitational conference, co-sponsored by Alverno College and the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, marked the opening of the Kellogg Conference Center at

Alverno.

The conference was held October 24 through October 26. Eighty educators, researchers, and administrators from around the country explored issues crucial to

the future of education.

In evening presentations and all day workshop sessions, conference participants focused on outcome oriented liberal education. What happens to learners as they move

through the educational process? Can abilities gained or improved be measured as well as knowledge learned?

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

OCTOBER 24 — The conference began on Sunday evening. Jonathan Warren, Robert DeMott and V. Lois Erickson addressed the question "What are our expectations of a liberal education?" from their perspectives. Mr. DeMott stated that the present concern of educators to provide students with communication, problem solving, analytical and interaction abilities is "music to the ears" of business.

OCTOBER 25 — Monday's sessions were forums for inquiry on Critical Thinking, Communication Capability, and Valuing and Decision Making.

Critical Thinking — One of the underlying assumptions of this workshop was that development of critical thinking skills for all college students, whatever their age or intellectual ability, should involve continuing clarification and refinement of critical thinking as a

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Dr. George Hanson (center), Program Director for the Kellogg Foundation, was a guest of honor at the National Invitational Conference co-hosted by Alverno and the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education. With Dr. Hanson are Alverno President, Sister Joel Read and John Frisch, chairman of Alverno's Board of Trustees. The conference marked the opening of the Kellogg Conference Center, made possible by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.



Virginia Smith, Director of the Fund for Improvement of Post Secondary Education, addressed the closing session of the conference.

Trustees express gratitude

The Board of Trustees of Alverno College, at their September business meeting, unanimously resolved to send to the Kellogg Foundation an expression of gratitude for the funding of Alverno's handsome new facility, the Kellogg Conference Center.

The trustees recognize the vote of confidence in the academic development of the college implicit in the grant as well as the extensive remodeling, furnishing and partial staffing of the Center made possible by the funding.

This recognition and support from the Kellogg Foundation is greatly appreciated by the Alverno board and strongly reinforces the ongoing efforts of the Alverno community.

The story behind the Kellogg grant

From letters asking for information on Alverno's curriculum which is centered on student competence, requests for information mushroomed into on-campus visits, presentations off-campus and the organization of a video library and resource room.

The college's attempts to provide information requested have snowballed into a major activity.

After 2,423 such requests from the United States and abroad had been filled from 1973 to June 1976, S. Joel Read outlined the situation in a letter to the Kellogg Foundation and requested support.

Support came in the form of a \$426,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to enable Alverno to continue refining its learning process and respond more effectively to requests for information.

The Kellogg Conference Center, a fully equipped teaching center with instructional media capability, was completed in September. It will facilitate the college's efforts to respond to questions regarding Alverno's approach to learning.

The inauguration of the center occurred in October when approximately 80 educators from across the nation gathered for a three-day conference to discuss issues in liberal arts education.

The Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, is the seventh largest charitable foundation in the United States. The foundation gives support in the areas of education, medicine and agriculture.



Conference participants discuss during a break.



A Smithsonian display tracing the history of women in the labor union movement caught this conference participant's eye during a reception held in the college Art Gallery.

Post-conference letters from participants contained praise for the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education conference and Alverno:

"We look to Alverno for leadership and certainly found it this week."

"The radiant spirit of Alverno transformed strangers into fellow journeyers, aware more of commonalities than of our divergencies..."

"In addition to attending the most complete summary to date of the 'state of the art' in outcome oriented liberal education, Alverno College deserves special recognition for having embarked on the awesome task of converting a conventional academic program into a curriculum 'centered on student competence as its outcome.'"

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major intellectual and functional activity of the individual.

Communications Capability — National magazines and daily newspapers keep reminding us that we have not yet learned how to produce effective writers and speakers (or readers, listeners and media viewers) within the framework of formal education. Basic questions regarding communications skills and the educational processes to attain them were explored in this workshop.

Valuing and Decision Making — Given the responsibility of the liberal arts college to assist the student in becoming a person who can make conscious educated choices and function effectively as a decision maker in contemporary society, educators explored how they could facilitate development in valuing and decision making processes.

On Monday evening David McClelland, Harvard psychologist, discussed current educational testing practices as assessments of student knowledge and abilities. Research on tests as measurements indicates that doing well on tests

does not indicate future success outside of the classroom.

Dr. McClelland indicated that competence can be taught and the ability to demonstrate competence relates to dealing effectively with life situations. He suggested that new learning measurements should be geared for spontaneous response and emphasize thought processes.

OCTOBER 26 — The following day's workshops provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of assessment practices, their value to the learner and their implications for the teacher.

Many questions were raised about assessment theory and practice. A presentation of Alverno's assessment methods provided a basis for further exploration of the state of assessment and issues involved in development of assessment tools and procedures.

Tuesday evening Virginia Smith, Director of the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, brought together the central issues that emerged from the conference. She urged those concerned with educational improvements to avoid polarities. Up

to now education has been focused on the teacher; a total swing to the learner is not the best answer. All educational elements must be brought together. There is, she said,

a need for openness to new ideas and approaches in order to effectively educate for a world in which the only constant is change.

'76 alumnae fund drive on its way

By the time the 1976 Alumnae Fund Drive kick-off dinner ended, September 28, approximately \$5,000 had been pledged towards the \$26,000 goal.

Efforts to achieve the goal include a telethon and mailings to all alumnae. A matching funds program in cooperation with some employers of Alverno graduates has been established by the Alumnae Association. Employers have agreed to match gifts made by alums or their spouses.

Last year's fund drive earned \$23,544. The \$26,000 goal for 1976 represents \$1,000 for each year the Alumnae Association had been in existence.

Carol Zinner Dolphin '62, 1976 Alumnae Fund Drive Chairperson, emphasizes, "Although contributions at this time (November 1)

are ahead of last year's at this date, alums still need to pull together to make our goal."

President's Council member Dr. Otto Schlaak, guest speaker at the dinner, reminded alumnae that their role in the future of Alverno is an important one.

Dr. Schlaak added that not only does Alverno rely on alumnae for financial support and recruitment aid, but the college looks to its graduates to serve in a public relations capacity as well.

New Board, President's Council members named

Alverno alum, Sister Lauretta Mather, President of the School Sisters of St. Francis (SSSF), has been appointed to the college's Board of Trustees.

New members of the President's Council are Henry J. Wojcik,

President, Henry J. Wojcik Realty Company, and Marjory Ann Wilmot, Assistant Vice President in the Trust Department of the M&I Bank, Milwaukee.

S. Mather received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Alverno

College and her master's degree from Marquette University. Before being elected to a four-year term as President of SSSF, she served as Vice President for Administrative Affairs for the entire congregation and earlier as Director of Personnel

for the Wisconsin Province.

Wojcik has a long and distinguished record of service to the community. He is the current President of the Youth Foundation, a director of Music for Youth and an advisor to the St. Joseph's Home for Children. Wojcik is also a past president and member of the board of the Mitchell Street Advancement Association, a founding member of the Alverno Fine Arts Society and a director of Badger Federal Savings & Loan Association.

Wilmot is widely known throughout the banking community, having served as State Chairperson and Regional Vice President for the National Association of Bank Women. She is also a past president and founding member of the Christ Child Society, Milwaukee Chapter, and a member of Tempo, an organization of professional business women.



Sister Lauretta Mather



Henry J. Wojcik



Marjory Ann Wilmot