

# ALVERNO TODAY

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## A Whole New Way Of Learning

Competence-Based Learning, which makes the achievement of specific competences the basis for awarding a degree, has observed its first semester anniversary at Alverno College. The program requires that students demonstrate levels of proficiency in eight competences deemed key characteristics of persons who are responsible and independent self managers. Designed and developed by Alverno faculty, the program objective is to produce liberal arts graduates with management ability and marketable skills.

The eight competences Alverno students must master within the curriculum are communication skills, analysis, problem solving, value judgments, social interaction and knowledgeable response to the environment, to the arts and humanities, and to the modern world.

Instead of traditional grades, students receive a Competence Level Unit (CLU) each time they demonstrate another level of proficiency in one of the eight competences. There are six levels of proficiency within each competence, and 40 Competence Level Units are required to graduate, including eight CLU's in the student's major area of concentration.

Since last September, the new Alverno student has faced a rewarding challenge in her Competence-Based Learning program. She is challenged to manage her own life . . . expected to know what is going on in the world . . . expected to develop opinions, value judgments and communicative skills; and expected to surround her everyday awareness and capability with the overall objective of developing a professional skill she can use for a lifetime of personal satisfaction and independence.

### Advising and Career Services

The *Advising Center* is a major component of the competence program to assist students as they sort out goals, plan their programs, and learn to manage their time. Sister Celestine Schall, who directs advising and career services, describes her team's objectives in terms of seeing beyond immediate goals.

"Advising is crucial in the college experience," says S. Celestine. "Advisors must be perceptive, responsive and creative as they determine and assist in the selection of alternatives to young women students who may or may not have looked beyond the present. Our older women also find advising useful as they head toward new directions in careers and living." A key person in the student's progressive development of the power to manage her own life is her advisor. Because the advisor is the only one besides the student who consistently works with the totality of her academic experiences, advisors can provide meaningful feedback on the student's efforts.

Some of the interaction between advisors and students is done in small groups but much is also done on an individual and regular basis. The ready availability of advisors, as well as faculty, is one of the most advantageous aspects of the competence-based program.

### Off-Campus Program

In assisting to find alternatives, an Alverno program which receives acclaim and great student participation is Off-Campus Experiential Learning (OCEL), where students work one day a week in professional positions through the cooperation of Milwaukee area business firms. This is an integral part of the Alverno competence-based curriculum, offering students the opportunity to earn Competence Level Units toward graduation while simultaneously gaining professional skills on the job. Now in its third year of operation, the Off-Campus Learning program has been recognized by the American Society of Training Directors as one of the best professional

training programs in the country . . . "helping bridge the gap between business and education," and "providing graduates who do not need as much employer time and investment to do the job."

### Assessment Center

The complete program by which the competence levels are assessed provides for a variety of assessment procedures and instruments. The Assessment Center operates as a clearinghouse for the coordination of the procedures and instruments. In the *Assessment Center* on the fourth floor of the Alverno administration building, small groups of students are observed and evaluated by teams of

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Advising is a key component of Competence-Based Learning as students sort out goals and discuss alternatives with Alverno advisors. Advising interaction is done in small informal groups as well as on an individual basis. Above are advisors Abbie Davis and Sister Marilyn Brodd with three CBL students (left to right) Virginia Holton, Maria Gabriel and Debbie Dacquisto.



Assessment teams meet regularly to evaluate the level of work being done by Alverno students in the Competence-Based Learning program. Watching a student's videotaped speech are assessment team members (left to right) Cory Pelzek, a 1973 Alverno graduate; Earl Foster, a vice president for Derser Advertising Co., Milwaukee; Sister Mary Hueller, a faculty member; and Carol Dolphin, an Alverno Alumna.

## It's "Gypsy" for Theatre Alverno

"Gypsy", a musical fable, will be presented by Theatre Alverno on Friday and Saturday, March 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 8:30 p.m. in the Alverno Theatre.

Based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the plot centers around Madam Rose, a domineering stage mother determined to make her children show business successes. "Gypsy" traces the vaudeville careers of Baby June and Baby Louise-Gypsy, vividly portraying theatrical life in the Twenties and Thirties and culminates with the emergence of Louise as Gypsy Rose Lee, the Queen of Burlesque.

Charlotte Lange, a veteran of Milwaukee community theatre, will portray Rose, the archetypal stage mother.

The incomparable Gypsy Rose Lee will be played by Christine Knitter, who is on the Alverno public relations staff and will receive a B.A. degree in applied music from Alverno College this spring. Alverno junior Patricia Kitzke, will be Baby June. Milwaukee actor Harry Zummach will play Herbie. Other Alvernoans in the cast include: Valerie Charnota, Nancy Gscheidmeier, Paula Jacobs, Cindy Jones, Kathy Maslowski, Jane Preston and Pat Wilson.

"Gypsy" will be directed by Robert Pitman, associate professor of speech and drama. Design and technical direction by K. Keith Klemmt. Musical direction by Shelby Dixon. Produced by S. Venard Greve.

### ("Assessment", from page 1)

four assessors: an instructor, alumna, advanced student and a member of Milwaukee's business or professional community, giving the student a wide breadth of expert judgment beyond the classroom and college. Students are evaluated in the Assessment Center for skill in the competences of communication, social interaction and understanding the modern world. The tools used to test competence are designed by Alverno faculty in conjunction with the Educational Testing Service which is utilized by colleges and universities nationwide.

When a competence can be completely realized within the context of a course, students need not go to the Assessment Center for evaluation, as in the case of analysis, problem solving, value judgments, and response to the environment and to the arts and humanities. At the end of the semester, students receive a listing of all courses taken and the level of proficiency attained in each competence.

### Learning Center

In some preparation for competence evaluation, students go to the *Learning Center* where all manner of assistance awaits them in their effort to satisfactorily achieve a CLU and thus move ahead toward their next level of proficiency.

"The Learning Center is designed for the convenience of students and faculty," says Sister Dorothy Wood, director. It is the place where learning experiences are available which would not be available in regular courses or are available in a form different from that of the classroom. Faculty work with Learning Center specialists in designing special learning experiences. Speech and writing specialists and tutors work with students on particular learning tasks, as individuals or in small groups. The Center offers both students and faculty the opportunity to meet trans- and interdisciplinary interest. Certain short courses centering on particular aspects of a CLU are offered in the Center along with both formal and informal learning experiences relating to such matters as contemporary events, social interaction, environment, communication and problem solving. For a quick update on current events and personalities there is a browsing room filled with daily papers, periodicals and a television set equipped with headphones. A daily event flash board is also maintained by students.

### "Responsible Competence"

"Alverno College is a fully accredited independent liberal arts college for women who want to *be* more and *do* more because they are competent managers with outstanding skills," says Sister Joel Read, president. "the

emphasis at Alverno College is upon learning, doing and demonstrating responsible competence which is required if today is to become the tomorrow we desire."

"Competence-Based Learning at Alverno College addresses itself to the woman who wants to make a difference," says Sister Joel. "Our objective is to develop to greater potential every woman who seeks a liberal education combined with responsibility, to herself, and to those whom her presence may affect.

This, then, is competence-based learning in its first year at Alverno College, a trio of specialized centers, a faculty of innovative teachers and a large group of students who intend to make a difference wherever they are.

## BICENTENNIAL SEMINAR

Dale W. Robison, chairperson of the Alverno College Bicentennial Committee, has announced plans for a Spring Bicentennial Seminar on Tuesday evening and Wednesday, March 12 and 13 on the Alverno campus.

Speakers and participants will design presentations around the general theme of our inalienable rights, "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Representatives of the American and Wisconsin Revolutionary Bicentennial Committees will participate along with education and political groups from the Milwaukee area. Films, discussions and exhibits are also planned for Wednesday's activities, with classes cancelled for the day to accommodate student attendance.

On-Campus individuals and departments who will participate in the seminar include Kathy Gigl, coordinator of the Alverno Research Center on Women; Sheila Isakson, Biology department; S. Margaret Earley, department of Religious Studies; S. Martine Hundelt, department of History; William Egan, Philosophy department; Roy Kuffner and S. Alice Theine, Chemistry department; Lucy Cromwell, English department and George Brownlee, Art department.

The seminar is free and open to the public.

## used books needed

The Fine Art Society of Alverno College announces its second used book sale. Scheduled for May 16, 17 and 18, the sale will be held in the Mall of the Mayfair Shopping Center. The Annual Book Sale is the major fund-raising event of the year. Funds from the sale are channeled to support the continuing series of fine art performances at Alverno College and to offer financial assistance to the College in the area of scholarships.

The Fine Arts Society has a three-fold mission: to bring quality fine arts performances to the Alverno Campus, to involve Alverno students and faculty with the surrounding community in this endeavor, and to financially support performance costs which are not covered by ticket sales.

The continuing variety and quality of the Alverno Fine Arts Series is not new to Milwaukeeans nor are the soaring costs of presenting excellent performances in music, dance and theater. Sister Laura Lampe, Alverno music faculty member, coordinates the Fine Arts Series each year and is supported in this effort by the interest and dedicated efforts of Fine Arts Society Members.

The Society needs community-wide awareness and help in this endeavor. The need is for used hard cover books, sheet music, records, paper backs, comics, cook books, text books — volumes in every category. Interested persons with books to donate are asked to drop them off in cartons or bundles at participating neighborhood banks or to call the following persons for pick up service at home or at a general neighborhood collection point: Mrs. Ralph Kobb, 764-3834, Mrs. Orley Meyer, 543-0875 or Frances Henkel, 342-0061.

## ALVERNO WORKSHOP ON WOMEN AND THEIR FINANCES

Women who desire information on how to establish credit, how to manage personal finances or how to invest their money, are invited to enroll in the Alverno College workshop called "Women and Their Personal Finances." The program begins Friday, February 15 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and continues for three consecutive Fridays.

To register, call Carol Swallow, coordinator of continuing education, Alverno College, 671-5400, ext 361. The cost is \$20.

## Heads Continuing Ed



Carol Swallow

Carol Swallow has been appointed coordinator of continuing education at Alverno College. Mrs. Swallow will coordinate all aspects of continuing education on campus. She will be responsible for pre-admissions and financial aids advising for adult students, assisting with enrichment program planning, administering pre-admissions testing, and will actively participate in on-campus activities of continuing education students. She will also work with the coordinator of Alverno's Research Center on Women to plan and implement workshops and seminars for women.

Mrs. Swallow brings a rich background of experience in women's volunteer organizations to this position which include the past presidency of the Junior League of Milwaukee and active membership on the Volunteer Services Advisory Board — a project initiating volunteer programs in the County Welfare Department. Most recently she served on the steering committee to establish a Voluntary Action Center for Greater Milwaukee. She continues as a member of the Board of the Riveredge Nature Center, Corporate Board of Milwaukee Children's Hospital, and will serve as a vice chairwoman of the Lakefront Festival of Arts in June.

## Delta Omicron News

The national board of Delta Omicron International (professional music fraternity for women) has established a new chapter in the Performing Arts Division of Alverno College, according to Chris Risberg, president. Installation was held in December for initiates: Lois Buchholz, Jacqueline Hinz, Debra Jupka, Christine Knitter, Carolyn Schmidt, Janet Brueshaber, Karen Miklaszewski, Mary Clare Kralj, Valerie Krebs and Susan Tallerice.



Last month the Alverno library staff hosted a Competence-Based luncheon for faculty who earned their lunch by showing exceptional competence in using the library. Brian Nedwek (above) chairperson for the social sciences division checks the card catalog.