

ALVERNO COLLEGE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 5, 1969

Dear Freshman:

It is with pleasure that we welcome you to a great four years at Alverno beginning in September, 1969. We foresee for you four years of exciting learning.

The thought of college probably runs through some of your activities this summer anyway, whether it be working or preparing your fall wardrobe. Things are happening at Alverno which will make this coming school year an experience of real learning for you and your fellow participants in Alverno's educational enterprise.

Students entering the mainstream of higher education must seriously consider their attitudes on learning in general, personal responsibility for their education, and learning with and from each other. In other words, YOU determine your college education. In many institutions of higher learning, however, students setting out with this determination often meet subtle resistance from administration, faculty, and lethargic students. This is not so at Alverno. Alverno's campus is changing from a dependence on books, syllabi, or a faculty member's store of knowledge to an awareness that each one of us is a power-pack of possibility which can be released in a fertile learning environment. With the right combination of resources -- teachers (all of us can be at some time), students (all of us can be this, too) and other educational tools -- a college education can strike the sparks of real learning. No matter what discipline you have chosen, education means a knowledge of your own learning process, an ability to integrate ideas, and an active sharing or bounce-back-of-insight experience. This is your opportunity at Alverno beginning in September, 1969.

The signs of change have already begun to appear and will continue with the formal beginning of school as students, administration and faculty put their creative energies to work. The opening of Alverno's academic year will embody a three day experience in learning tentatively called "September, '69".

Last May, a notice on the student bulletin board in the administration building invited anyone who had the time and interest to volunteer to be on a committee to do the ground-work in planning for the new school year. "September, '69" and the plans described in this letter are the result of a day of brainstorming on the part of about twenty-five students and seven faculty members who had indicated an interest and who were able to attend the meeting on July 11 and 12. "September, '69" which will be held September 3, 4, and 5 will be three full days devoted to activities and experiences integrally related to planning the content and process of each of your classes. The intent of this venture is serious. The hope is that you are, too.

You are probably already aware of what courses you will participate in this first semester. The first three days of school, then, will be a plunge both into these courses and many more possibilities of learning. As you think about this, forget about limits. Think only about what your own creative possibilities can produce. What are you going to do with your education? Come to this kick-off session with seriousness concerning your own learning process and the creative freedom for the highest aspirations of what you want at Alverno.

You've decided on getting a college education and Alverno's where it's at. The days will fly sooner than you think. "September, '69" will set the stage for your greatest possibilities for an education at Alverno. See you there and continue to enjoy your summer.

In a spirit of anticipation,

The Communication Committee for  
"September, '69"

Sister Yvonne Neville  
Georgia Orthaus  
Sister Patricia Forrest  
Vivian Schwelitz  
Mary Kay Turkovich