

Alverno's Nursing Tradition:

**From Sacred Heart School of Nursing to the
JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing**

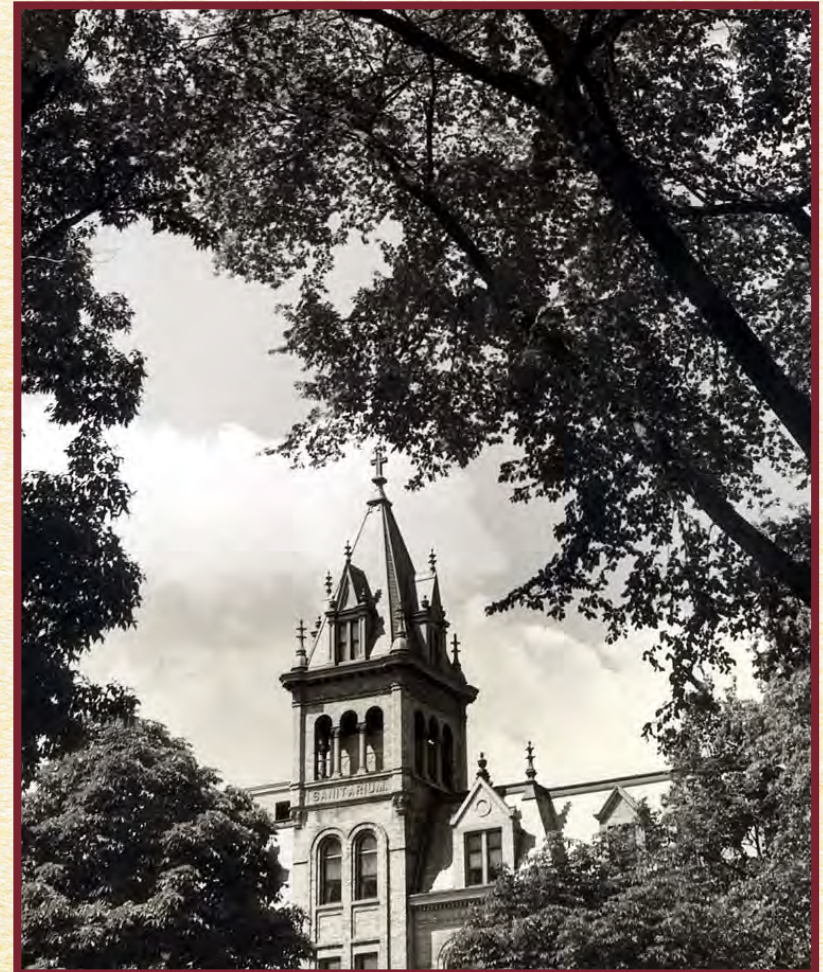
September 22, 1930 - Today

Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



To tell the story of the Alverno College School of Nursing, one has to step back in time and look at the nursing roots laid down by the School Sisters of Saint Francis.

The School Sisters of Saint Francis established the Sacred Heart Sanitarium under the guidance of their foundress, Venerable Mother M. Alexia Hoell. Built on land adjacent to the School Sisters of Saint Francis St Joseph Convent, the sanitarium was located at 1545 South Layton Boulevard and opened December 1893. It would provide a vehicle to further the Sisters' philosophy of ministering to the health needs of others.



Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



Sisters, trained in the methods of nursing and ministering to the sick, would serve as the sanitarium's nursing instructors. They would teach the young women entering the religious life and prepare them for the field of nursing.

Mother M. Alexia was instrumental in bringing hydrotherapy techniques used in Europe to the sanitarium. Doctors were appointed to assist the Sisters in the nurses' training process.



Expansion and reorganization of the sanitarium's medical therapy regime took place in 1902. Additional doctors, specializing in specific diseases and disorders, were appointed to the staff to help with the increased patient load. Patients with various types of ailments, ranging from physical to mental diseases, were coming to the sanitarium for treatments.

Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



This photo was used in a brochure for services offered at St. Mary's Hill. The mental health facility offered psychiatric care to patients with acute mental disease.

Mother M. Alfons Schmid, successor to Mother M. Alexia, faced numerous challenges in 1912. Overcrowding in the sanitarium, combined with the violent nature of some of the severely mentally ill patients, made it imperative to either add an additional wing to the sanitarium or to build a separate institution to house the violently disturbed patients. St Mary's Hill was built five blocks from the sanitarium and opened on May 9, 1912. The mental health facility would become a training ground for nurses specializing in psychiatric care.

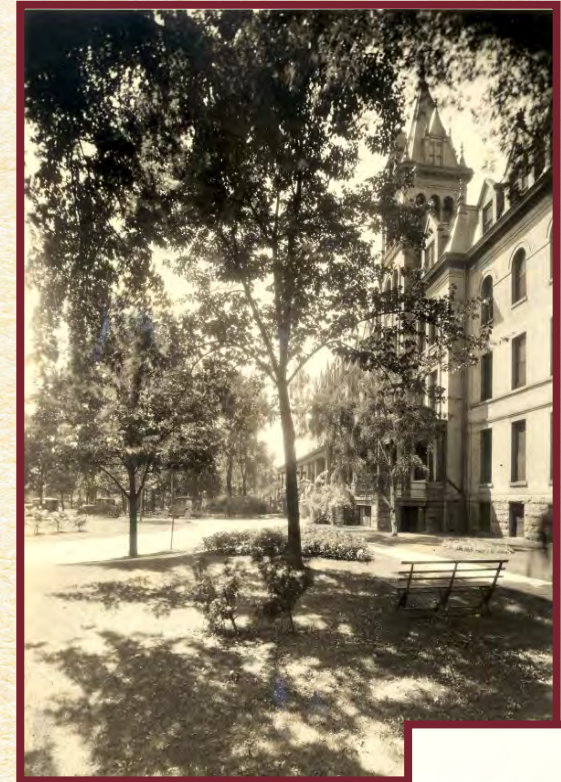
Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



In 1915, as demand for the services of the Sanitarium grew, it became evident to Mother M. Alfons that a more formalized method of training was needed for qualified nurses. She believed the Sanitarium could provide the appropriate training ground needed for a school of nursing. Unfortunately, the Sisters' hopes for the school were brought to an abrupt halt as many of the doctors needed to help start the school were called away to military duty during WWI.

Following the end of WWI, the School Sisters reprised their dream to open a nursing school. Mother M. Alfons' vision for the school was bolstered by a national committee's five year study that reported on the state of nursing education in America. Encouraged by the reports on the Sacred Heart training program, Mother M. Alfons selected Sister M. Loretto Thill to establish a three year school of nursing at Sacred Heart Sanitarium.

Sister M. Loretto consulted with Dr. Edward Fitzpatrick to formulate a three year curriculum that would encompass all of the necessary elements to meet national and state requirements. As a stepping stone, a two year nursing curriculum was first developed in 1920 to comply with the new health standards established by the Wisconsin State Board of Health. Upon completion of the Sacred Heart Nursing curriculum, graduating Sisters received the title "Graduate Nurse".



*The Sacred Heart
Sanitarium grounds
and the nursing
school emblem .*



Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



Throughout the 1920's, there were numerous obstacles for Sister M. Loretto to overcome as she tried to establish the three year nursing curriculum for accreditation. The Sisters wanted the curriculum to meet both state and national health requirements as well as educational requirements the Sisters felt were important to carry out the School Sisters of Saint Francis mission. In spite of the obstacles, Sacred Heart's two year nursing program, referred to as the Sacred Heart Diploma School of Nursing, flourished and by 1928 the Sanitarium employed 250 trained Graduate Nurse Sisters and up to ten full time physicians and pathologists.

By 1925 state health requirements were once again changing and the newly formed Wisconsin Bureau of Nursing Education was requiring nursing graduates to take a Wisconsin Board of Health examination to become a registered nurse of Wisconsin. It became apparent that a three year curriculum would allow the necessary time to prepare students for the examination.

The Sacred Heart School of Nursing was officially opened on September 22, 1930. The class of 1932 marked the last class to graduate under the two year curriculum program. The new three year curriculum program was to begin a long history of nursing education at Alverno College.

Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



The 1930's: a new decade and a new nursing school filled with optimism and hope for the future.

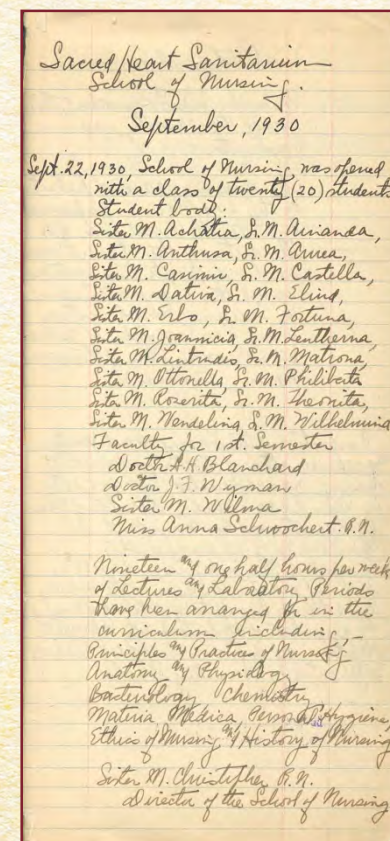
The first Director of Nursing at the Sacred Heart School of Nursing was Sister M. Christopher McGuire. She served as director of the school until her death in 1940.

Detailed records of the school's first years were kept in a diary. It is a remarkable record that highlights the importance of the Sacred Heart School of Nursing as the foundation for all future nursing curricula at Alverno College.



Above is a *Milwaukee Journal* newspaper photo taken during the 1930's at the Wisconsin Catholic Hospital Association convention. Seated at the center is Sister M. Christopher McGuire, Director of the Sacred Heart School of Nursing.

Below is the first page from the Sacred Heart School of Nursing diary. The date of the first entry is September 22, 1930.



Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years

Sister M. Christopher McGuire, Director of the Sacred Heart School of Nursing, died February 9, 1940. An excerpt from the Nursing School Diary, Vol. II read:

"Sr. M. Christopher McGuire died on February 9, 1940 after a protracted illness of asthma. She was buried on Feb. 12, 1940 in a vault on Mt. Calvary. In May 1940 her remains were transferred to St. Paul, Minnesota where internment next to her father took place. The gap she left was tremendous. It took us about 8 mo. to get a sure footing. Requiescat in Pace."

According to the diary record, classes carried on as usual with Sister Ottonella and Sister Viro overseeing the other instructors. It was not until the late summer of 1940 when a Director of the Sacred Heart School of Nursing was selected: Sister M. Ottonella Raupp.



Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



The decade of the 1940's was filled with challenges for the School Sisters of Saint Francis. Increasing enrollment, the onset of WWII, and the demand for highly trained nurses in the psychiatric field prompted Mother M. Corona to accept laywomen into the Sacred Heart School of Nursing. The first class of lay students was admitted to the school in 1944.



In 1946, the Sacred Heart School of Nursing became affiliated with Alverno College and established a division of nursing within the college. A five year Bachelor of Science degree offered students the opportunity to integrate cultural education with professional nursing. The three year diploma program continued to be offered at Sacred Heart from 1946 to 1954. By 1951 the Sacred Heart School of Nursing became a department of Alverno College. At that time, the five year degree program was integrated into a four year degree. The Sacred Heart School of Nursing graduated a total of 184 nurses (132 sister nurses and 52 lay nurses) from the inception of the school in 1930 through 1951.

Alverno's Nursing Tradition - The Sacred Heart Years



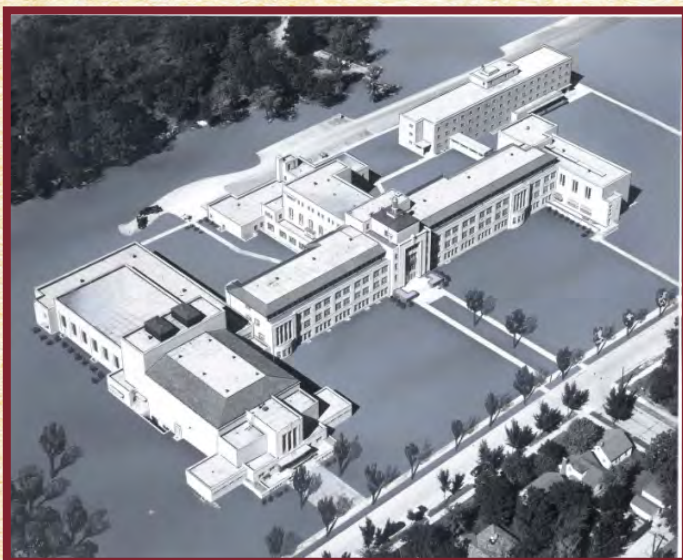
Students in the Sacred Heart School of Nursing spent many hours together, both inside and outside of class. There was little time for recreation during the rigorous nurses training program. Students were encouraged to make the most of their recreation time by playing cards, swimming in the sanitarium pool or gathering around a piano to sing.



Alverno's Nursing Tradition - Alverno College Division of Nursing



Just as the Alverno College School of Nursing was growing, so too was Alverno College. The Motherhouse could no longer accommodate the growing numbers of students enrolled at Alverno College. A beautiful new campus was built and opened to students in the fall of 1953. The Nursing Arts Laboratory classrooms were located in the main Administration Building on the new campus.



Students would practice their nursing skills on classmates in labs fully equipped to resemble medical examination rooms.

Alverno Nursing Tradition- Nursing School Leadership



Throughout the evolution of the nursing program at Alverno College, the “School of Nursing” has gone by many names beginning with Sacred Heart School of Nursing which was used from 1930 to 1951. Sacred Heart became a department of Alverno College and named the Alverno College Department of Nursing. The Nursing Department status changed to the Alverno College Nursing Division in 1974. In 2012 the Alverno College School of Nursing was renamed the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing to honor the generosity and support of Alverno Nursing Alumna JoAnn Resch McGrath, class of 1957.

NURSING DIRECTORS - CHAIRPERSONS - DEANS

Sister M. Christopher McGuire	1930-1940
Sister M. Ottonella Raupp	1940-1963
Sister M. Sylvia Hart	1963-1964
Sister Regina Marie Maibusch	1964-1968
Neva Nye	1968-1970
Barbara Brown	1970-1972
Sister M. Michaelita Keup	1972-1974
Vivien DeBack	1974-1985
Katherine Couture	1985-1989
Zita Allen	1989-1990
Jean Bartels	1990-1999
Sister Judeen Schulte	1999-2010
Patricia Schroeder	2010-2014
Peg Rauschenberger	2014-2018
Patricia Varga	2018-2020
Laurie Kunkel-Jordan	2021-

Alverno Nursing Tradition - Nursing Department Leaders



Sister M. Christopher McGuire
1930-1940
Director
Sacred Heart School of Nursing



Sister M. Ottonella Raupp
1940-1963
Director
Sacred Heart School of Nursing
Alverno College School of Nursing

Photo
unavailable

Neva Nye
1968-1970
Nursing Department Chair



Sister M. Sylvia Hart
1963-1964
Nursing Department Chair



Barbara Brown
1970-1972
Nursing Department Chair



Sister Regina Marie Maibusch
1964-1968
Nursing Department Chair



Sister M. Michaelita Keup
1972-1974
Nursing Department Chair

Alverno Nursing Tradition - Nursing Division/School Leaders



Vivien DeBack
1974-1985
Nursing Division Chair



Katherine Couture
1985-1989
Nursing Division Chair



Zita Allen
1989-1990
Nursing Division Acting
Chair



Jean Bartels
1990-1999
Nursing Division Chair



Sister Judeen Schulte
1999-2010
Nursing Division Chair
Dean School of Nursing



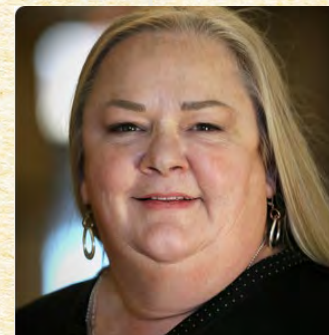
Patricia Schroeder
2010- 2014
Nursing Division Chair
Dean School of Nursing



Peg Rauschenberger
2014 – 2018
Interim Dean
School of Nursing



Patricia Varga
2018 – 2020
Dean School of Nursing



Laurie Kunkel-Jordan
2021 –
Dean School of Nursing

Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1950s



NURSING
Alverno Graduate
on active duty.

THE ALVERNO GRADUATE IS PREPARED
to practice professional nursing
in homes
in hospitals
in health agencies
and to begin advanced study in
selected areas
of supervision
of clinical instruction
of other fields of choice.

ALVERNO COLLEGE is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The Department of Nursing is accredited by the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing, and by the National League of Nursing.

For further information write to:
THE REGISTRAR
ALVERNO COLLEGE
3401 South 39th Street
Milwaukee 15, Wisconsin

2/14/53
pg 153

This Alverno Nursing brochure welcomes prospective students to the modern age of nursing. An Alverno graduate with a degree in nursing is prepared to not only practice professional nursing in various medical settings, she is also prepared to begin advanced studies in the field of nursing.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1960s



The effects of the Viet Nam War were felt on campuses across the country during the decade of the 1960's. The need was especially great for field medical personnel. Many Alverno nursing students rose up to serve as field nurses in the U.S. military. Here, aboard the Army Nurse Corps' recruitment float, are Alverno nursing students Marie Covney (1964), Barbara Moerhlin (1964), and Janice Felder (1964). This photo was taken during a 1963 recruitment rally.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1960s

Alverno nursing students and faculty members visit the Great Lakes Naval Hospital on November 1, 1966. Below, the students sing for the patients in the hopes of lifting their spirits.



Above (l-r), Sister Antonia Neimandt, Kathleen Boyle, Nurse Carey, Kathleen Flaherty talk with a young naval patient.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 1966



New Nursing Education Building



Examining blueprints for the new Nursing Education Building are (l-r): Father Raymond Parr, Alverno College Chaplain, Sister Augustine Scheele, Alverno College President, Dr. Roman Galasinski Fund Raising Committee Chairman, and Sister Regina Marie Maibusch, Acting Chair of the Nursing Department.

Increased enrollment in Alverno's Nursing Program, space constraints, and the government's passage of the Nurse Training Act of 1964, were all signs that a new nursing education building would become a reality. The architectural and engineering firm of Maguolo and Quick designed the building in keeping with their original building designs for Alverno's campus. Construction began in 1966.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 1966



Nursing Education Building Groundbreaking

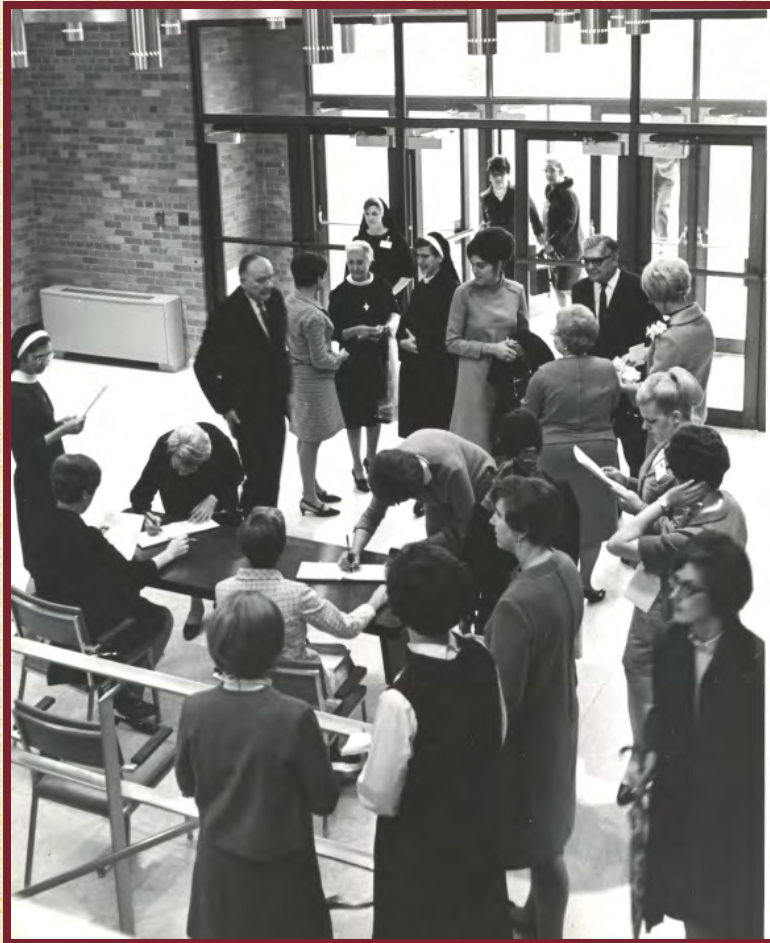
The March 2, 1966 groundbreaking ceremony for the Nursing Education Building (now known as Christopher Hall) was well attended by many in the medical profession as well as several local and state politicians. Father Raymond Parr looks on as Alverno College President, Sister Augustine Scheele, center, and Sister Regina Marie Maibusch, Acting Chair of the Nursing Department, heave shovels of dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony. Accounts of the event were carried in several local newspapers.



Alverno Nursing Tradition – 1967



Nursing Education Building/ Wehr Hall Dedication



The dedication ceremony for the new Nursing Education Building (now Christopher Hall) was held October 15, 1967 in the building's Wehr Hall. The guest speaker was Wisconsin Congressman Clement Zablocki. Guests included numerous state and local officials, academic and medical professionals, students, alumnae and friends of the college. Visitors were provided with tours and refreshments by Nursing Division officials.

The total cost to complete and fully furnish the building was 1.3 million dollars. Funding for the building was made possible through federal grant funds, combined with generous donations from local companies and foundations, Alverno Alumnae, the Alverno Parent Association, physicians and friends.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 1967



*Nursing Education Building
Alverno College*

Nursing Education Building Dedication October 15, 1967

Here are images of the invitation and program for the Nursing Education Building Dedication.

*Alverno College
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
invites you to attend the
Dedication
of the
Nursing Education Building
Sunday afternoon, October the fifteenth
Nineteen hundred and sixty-seven
at two o'clock*

S. 39th and W. Morgan

*Reception following
Student Lounge*

INVOCATION AND BLESSING

Reverend Raymond A. Parr, Chaplain
Alverno College

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Sister Regina Marie Malbusch
Acting Chairman, Department of Nursing
Alverno College

WELCOME

Sister Augustine Scheele, President
Alverno College

GREETING

Miss Judith Gregor, President
Nursing Student Organization
Alverno College

MESSAGE

The Honorable Clement Zablocki
Representative,
Fourth Congressional District

INTRODUCTION OF NURSING FACULTY

Sister Regina Marie Malbusch

TOURS OF NURSING EDUCATION BUILDING

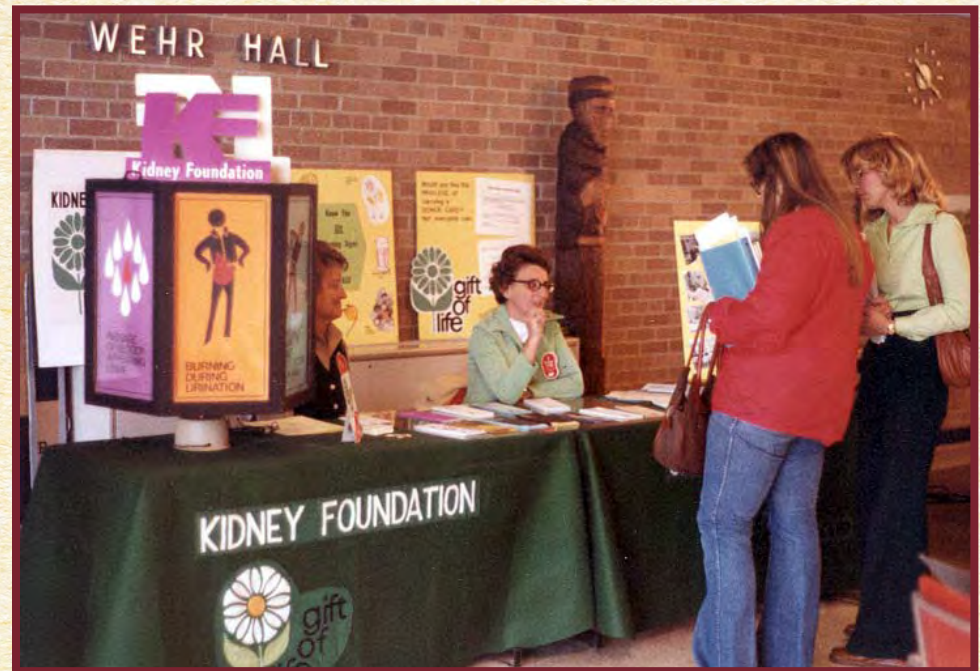
Nursing Students

RECEPTION

Student Lounge

Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1970s

The year 1974 holds many challenges. Alverno's Nursing Division Director, Vivien DeBack, undertakes the task of being the division's new director as well as integrating the college's new ability based curriculum into Alverno's nursing program.

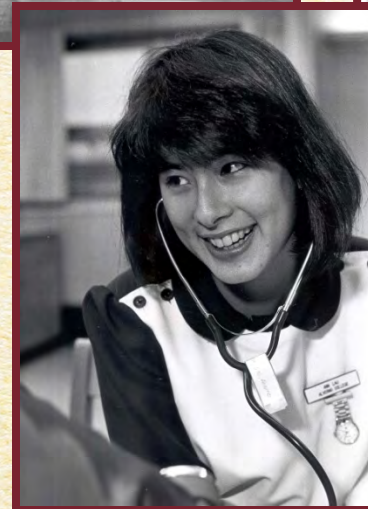
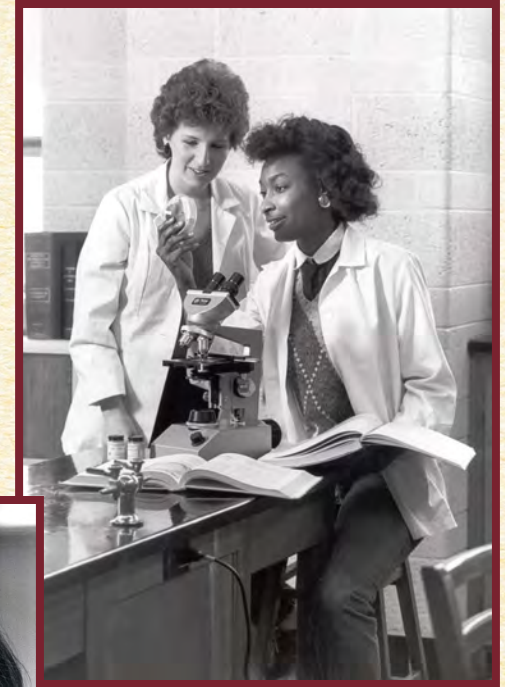


Health fair days were held to help nursing students gain up-to-date information on various health care organizations and health care trends. The photo above shows Alverno students getting information from the Kidney Foundation Booth set up outside of Wehr Hall. The Alverno Nursing Division sponsored this "World Wellness Day" event on November 9, 1977.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1980s

Just as the field of medicine has evolved in leaps and bounds, so has the profession of nursing. New technological advances mean more diverse learning opportunities for nursing students as well as more to learn and master.

In 1985, enrollment in Alverno's nursing program reached an all-time high of 494 students.



Alverno Nursing Tradition – The 1990s



The Alverno Nursing Division saw numerous additions and changes to the nursing program during the 1990's.

- The **National League for Nursing** (NLN) re-accredited Alverno's undergraduate nursing curriculum for the maximum 8 year period in 1990.
- The **Nursing Skills Resource Center** benefited from grants and in-kind donations during 1992-1995. Donations were used to re-conceptualize and reconfigure the center.
- The **Nursing Division Advisory Council** was initiated in 1994.
- The **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education** (CCNE) grants undergraduate accreditation to the Alverno nursing program for the maximum 10 year period in 1999. NLN accreditation is discontinued.
- Work begins to redesign the nursing pre-licensure curriculum in 1999. The new curriculum design would reflect the eight Alverno abilities.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2000, a new millennium in nursing

Alverno graduate is first to win National Spirit of Nursing Award

Kathleen R. Vega is the first Alverno student ever to win the National Spirit of Nursing Award.

Vega accepted the award, which is given by the Army Nurse Corps in conjunction with the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), at an all-expenses-paid trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a convention of the NSNA. She was selected from among hundreds of applicants nationwide.

"I thought I was too old to go to college, but I've always wanted to be a nurse," Vega said. "My son encouraged me to enroll in college." That same son graduated from the Air Force Academy this May, just as Vega received her degree in nursing from Alverno.

"I started working in the kitchen at St. Luke's Hospital 21 years ago," Vega said. "Over the years, I became an X-ray technician, worked for central services, and then did wound-cleaning as an emergency-room technician. Most recently, I have been a nurse intern in the emergency room, and I love my job. I thrive on the fast pace and constant change."

Throughout her schooling, she worked full-time, along with caring for her three children. Despite her whirlwind schedule, Vega has held virtually every volunteer position one can hold on campus to assist other students to adjust to the rigors of college-level work. She has served as a peer advisor, peer mentor, peer tutor and study-group monitor. She also volunteers for Hispanic agencies and sponsored a Hispanic family to become US residents. She recently finished a term as president of the Alverno College Student Nursing Association.

It hasn't always been easy. At the end of her first year, her son fell 20 feet down a mountain in Colorado, and massive reconstructive surgery was required to repair his face. Vega dropped out of summer school to be with him in Colorado and – long distance – they supported each other through the next year of school.

Vega's youngest son, age 13, is learning dis-



Kathleen R. Vega '00

abled and spent a month in a wheelchair after hip surgery. She spends a lot of extra time with him every night going over his schoolwork to help him succeed in school.

Vega hopes to go to graduate school next year, so she can become a nurse practitioner in an emergency-care setting.

"I feel that God has called me into nursing to help the Hispanic people – a very underserved population," Vega said. Her minor at Alverno was in Spanish Language

and Cultures. "I am fluent in Spanish and know the cultures well. My clinical experiences have provided opportunities of caring for Spanish-speaking clients and their families. I look forward to being an advocate for their future health care."

***"I thrive on the fast pace
and constant change."***

–Kathleen Vega

Photo by Chris McCarter

The 21st century ushered in a new era for Nursing Education at Alverno College. As always, there are new technologies, advances in medicine and new nursing techniques that need to be brought into the nursing curriculum. These advances bring with them new opportunities for nursing education and professional advancement.



Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2000 to 2004



2000:

Kathleen R. Vega (2000 Alverno Alumnae) is the first Alverno student ever to win the National Spirit of Nursing Award. Vega was selected from hundreds of applicants nationwide to receive the Army Nurse Corps' award which is given in conjunction with the National Student Nurses Association.

2002:

Chair of Nursing receives appointment

Based on formal and informal evaluations, the staff of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools unanimously supported **Judeen Schulte's** five year appointment as a Consultant Evaluator. The appointment is a continuation of an initial three year appointment. Schulte is professor and chair of the Nursing Division, and has taught nursing at Alverno since 1980.

2004:

Assistant nursing professor presents at conference

Virginia Burton, assistant professor of nursing, presented at the 12th Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Association of Mediators in Madison in November 2003. The presentation was titled, "Focusing in Mediation Practice: Unlocking the Issues within the Conflict." Burton is a certified focusing trainer and uses the technique of focusing to assist clients in a variety of nursing and health situations.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2005



First Master of Science in Nursing Class - 2005

Starting in the Fall of 2005, Alverno College, an international leader in nursing and education, began offering a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program which was open to women and men. The program was designed specifically for practicing professionals interested in advancing their careers in the areas of nursing education and clinical practice. Alverno's MSN program was fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in 2007.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2005 to 2006



2005:

Alverno's Nursing Division Faculty continued to make history in the Fall of 2005 with the beginning of the Master of Science in Nursing Program.

2006:

Judeen Schulte is elected to the Nomination Committee for the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators.

School of Nursing receives honors

The Alverno College School of Nursing received the Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin Hope & Spirit Award in September 2006. Alverno was recognized as a community leader dedicated to improving the health status of the community, resolving to address serious healthcare challenges, and having a profound commitment to meeting the health needs of the community. In May 2006, the Milwaukee County Historical Society presented Alverno with an anniversary accolade commending the School of Nursing for 75 years of service to the Milwaukee community.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2007



The **MSN program** receives accreditation from the **CCNE** (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) in 2007.

New President of the Board for Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization:
Cathy Knuteson, Associate Professor of Nursing, was elected president of the board of the Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO) at its annual meeting in October. HALO provides shelter, programs, and services for the homeless seeking permanent housing.

Nursing professor receives 2007 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award:
Cathy Knuteson, Associate Professor of Nursing, received the 2007 YWCA Women of Distinction award during the YWCA of Racine's 20th annual Women of Distinction awards dinner in August 2007. She was recognized for her outstanding leadership in her professional career and for her community involvement which includes numerous volunteer activities.

Judeen Schulte presented an overview of the principles of outcome-based education to the students and faculty of the School of Nursing at Tokyo Women's Medical University on September 12, 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. Schulte served as a visiting professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) School of Nursing in Kowloon, Hong Kong from September 16-29, 2007. She also served as a consultant to the College of Nursing (CON) at the Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust (HIHT) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India from October 3 – 6, 2007. The CON functions in a collaborative model with the Himalayan Institute Hospital Nursing leadership to educate baccalaureate nurses.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2008



Michelle Venn, Assistant Professor of Nursing has been elected the Southeastern Wisconsin Nurse Representative for the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care for a three-year term.

Diane Duffy, Associate Professor of Nursing, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Planning Council for Health and Human Services. She currently is on the Board of Directors and will be serving as the Council's Treasurer this next year. The Planning Council is a non-profit organization which serves as an independent information, education, research and consultative resource to the community. Its mission is to assist clients to achieve their goal of providing equitable and efficient delivery of health and human services. The Council serves the entire state of Wisconsin, with special emphasis on southeastern Wisconsin counties.

Karen Kapke, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and **Judeen Schulte**, Dean, School of Nursing, authored a poster presentation for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Master's Education conference in Newport Beach, California, featuring the results of a hands-on learning experience for graduate students enrolled in MSN701 Health Promotion for Vulnerable Populations. The MSN program students worked as consultants with the staff of Clement Manor, Inc., in a unique collaborative practicum experience.

Luanne Wielichowski and **Julie Millenbruch**, Professors of Nursing, will revise their chapter, "Planning and Implementing Short Term Travel Courses and Cultural Immersion Experiences," for a second edition of the text.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2009



The **BSN program** receives reaccreditation in 2009 from the **CCNE**.

Janet Levey, Jean Pirkey, and Michelle Venn, Assistant Professors of Nursing, received an Alverno College Fellowship during the summer 2009 to explore clinical simulation and its development for the college of nursing. This included touring five simulation labs in two states and interviewing the clinical lab specialists in simulation.

Jean Pirkey, Assistant Professor of Nursing was elected to the Wisconsin League for Nursing Nominating Committee.

Jean Pirkey, Janet Levey, Assistant Professors of Nursing, and **Mary Kitten**, Associate Professor of Nursing, designed and conducted an innovative teaching strategy involving teleconferencing in community health nursing in cooperation with Winona State University and LEAP (Linking Education in Practice for Excellence in Public Health Nursing). This culminated in a poster presentation at the 12th Annual Public Health Nursing Conference, "Cultivating Healthy Communities", in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Janet Levey and Jean Pirkey, Assistant Professors of Nursing, in conjunction with LEAP (Linking Education in Practice for Excellence in Public Health Nursing), participated in a collaborative review of the literature exploring teaching strategies for clinical settings currently used in community health nursing. The results of this extensive review were developed into a booklet titled "Unbound Clinicals Literature Review, October 2009," to be disseminated at future public health conferences, meetings, and posted on the LEAP website (<http://www.son.wisc.edu/LEAP/>).

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2010



The Alverno College School of Nursing received a grant of \$547,500 from the **Helene Fuld Health Trust** to fund financial aid for students enrolled in the college's baccalaureate nursing program.

Association for American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) names Alverno as leader:

AAC&U has recognized Alverno in 2 out of 12 key programs in its 2004 publication, *Taking Responsibility for the Quality of the Baccalaureate Degree*. AAC&U evaluated Alverno as advanced leaders in the areas of Teacher Education Portfolio Assessment and Nursing Senior Assessment.

The publication states that the Portfolio Assessment for Teacher Education at Alverno gives education majors an opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for student teaching by showing their ability to plan, teach, assess, and give feedback on their work.

Alverno's Nursing Senior Assessment was recognized for its requirement of integration in the areas of formulating value judgments and collaboration as a member of the health team to meeting health needs of individuals, families and groups within the nursing process.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2011



The School of Nursing launched a new **MSN Family Nurse Practitioner** track in the fall of 2011. This marked the second track in the Master of Science in Nursing program.

Mary Kitten, Associate Professor of Nursing and **Lori Baez** of Instructional Services, co-presented at the Nurse Educators Conference in Breckenridge, Colorado and the National College of Learning Center Association in Charlotte, North Carolina. They shared how collaboration resulted in changes in the nursing pathway, creation of new interventions, and increased instructional services specialization.

Carol Sabel and **Michelle Venn**, Assistant Professors of Nursing, have been accepted to the **American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)** faculty development institute on **Quality and Safety Education for Nurses Initiative (QSEN)**. This project is designed to develop faculty in teaching quality and safety content for RN students. Coursework focused on six core components including patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence based practice, quality improvement, safety and informatics. The expectation of participants is to cascade their learnings to other faculty, as well as to integrate this cutting edge content into the curriculum as a whole.

Patti Varga, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was re-elected to the Wisconsin Parish Nurse Coalition Board, a special interest group of the Wisconsin Nurses Association, as Chair of Nominations and Publicity.

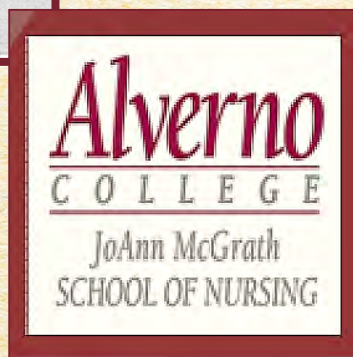
Judeen Schulte, Graduate Dean, formerly Dean of the School of Nursing, has been named to the **Board of the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center**. The mission of Milwaukee AHEC is to improve access to health care in Southeastern Wisconsin's underserved communities through the development of community-based, client-oriented, culturally-relevant, and collaborative health professions education programs. Milwaukee AHEC fosters cooperation and collaboration among health professionals, educational institutions, and the communities. The service area is the five counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth and Waukesha.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2012



Alverno's School of Nursing received a very generous gift from **JoAnn Resch McGrath**, a 1957 alumna of the nursing school. To recognize JoAnn McGrath's vision and loyalty to the nursing program at Alverno, the college renamed the School of Nursing the **JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing** on October 6, 2012 during the college's 125th anniversary Homecoming celebration. A panel of distinguished nursing alumnae spoke during a special luncheon honoring JoAnn McGrath.

The alumnae panel included: Jean Bartels '81, Vivien De Back '54, Norma Lang '61, and Cathy Rick '71.



This fall begins a new chapter for us. We are so grateful for the generous gift and inspiration of **JoAnn McGrath**, nursing alum of '57. In recognition we become the new JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing. We are proud to carry this new school recognition forward as we continue to grow nurses who are changing the world!

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2013



Jennifer Flamboe, Assistant Professor of Spanish, continued her work with **Annette Ries**, **Assistant Professor of Nursing**, on their 2012 summer fellowship for which they researched the use of simulation labs in training medical personnel on cultural competence and best practices when using medical interpreters. In October, they joined **Daniel Dickover**, Instructor of World Languages, and **Leah Widder**, **Clinical Liaison in the School of Nursing**, in creating a video using the Eve simulator in the CNRC (Clinical Nursing Resource Center) for use by nursing and health care interpretation students. Ries will present the project during the 12th Annual International Nursing Simulation & Learning Resource Centers Conference in Las Vegas in June 2013.

Jennifer Flamboe, Chair of World Languages and Assistant Professor of Spanish & Healthcare Interpretation, presented “Managing the Flow of Communication: Mental Health Interpreting” at the first Alverno Interpreting Institute in April. She also co-hosted the event together with Daniel Dickover, Adjunct Instructor of Healthcare Interpretation, and Christopher Rubach, Interpreter Services Supervisor at Aurora Healthcare.

Patricia Schroeder was appointed to the joint advisory board of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Arnold P. Gold Foundation National Nurse Initiative, which will recognize nurses who exhibit leadership in compassionate, humanistic care as educators, researchers, mentors and practitioners and students who exemplify and demonstrate these qualities. She was also appointed to the Task Force on State Nursing Leadership at the Wisconsin Center for Nursing’s “Taking the LEAD” grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2013 - 2014



Julie Jutrzonka, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was recently elected Treasurer of the Wisconsin League for Nursing. She will serve in that capacity through May, 2016.

Patti Varga, Associate Professor of Nursing, was recognized for the Outstanding Poster at the May 2013 Inaugural Celebration of PhD Student Progress at Marquette University College of Nursing.

Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (MHNP): Alverno College launched a new Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track in fall of 2013. The new degree, which is open to women and men, marked the seventh master's degree program or licensure-to-master's specialization developed by the college in the last seven years.

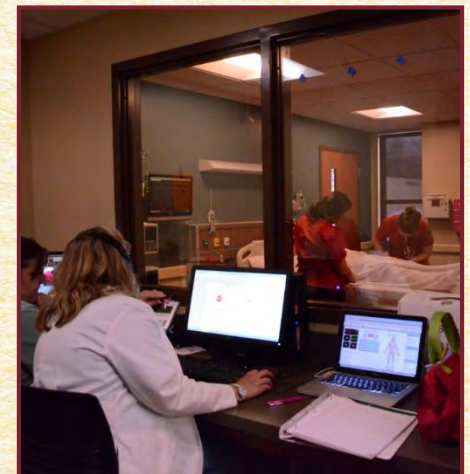
“Across the country, and here in southeastern Wisconsin, there is a significant need for mental health nurse practitioners to provide primary care and a comprehensive range of services, including medication management, for those with behavioral health care needs,” said **Patricia Schroeder**, Dean of the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing at Alverno College. “These providers will make an important difference for our community.” Schroeder helped to develop the program's curriculum.

On **March 18, 2014 a ground breaking ceremony** was held for the Promise & Power expansion and renovation project. Plans for the \$30 million dollar expansion and renovation included a new building to house a suite of state of the art nursing simulation rooms.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2015



The **JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing** opened the doors to a new Clinical Education Center in January 2015. Boasting the latest technology-based nursing simulation suites, Alexia Hall provides nursing students with five state of the art clinical simulation rooms to enhance nursing skills, technique, and learning. There are observation units for the simulation rooms so faculty can give students immediate feedback and suggestions.



Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2016



Alverno College Launches New Health Education and Kinesiology programs

Health Education – Health educators work to promote and maintain health and wellness with individuals, communities and systems. Graduates of this program will be eligible to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination, a national designation required by many employers. While shaping the curriculum, Alverno consulted several area healthcare professionals who agree there's a growing need for health educators, both in the private and public sectors. "Given the stronger national focus on health promotion, we feel the time is right for an undergraduate degree in this field," said VanEerden. Thanks to Alverno's long history and strong presence in nursing, the school has many partnerships in place for students, but more are being developed specific to this field. "Alverno's new Health Education major is a wonderful opportunity to train individuals within the community they call home," said Libby Holte, public health educator with the Sheboygan County Public Health Department. "Having this program in Milwaukee will bring a new set of skills to the community and impact the overall culture of health."

Kinesiology - The new kinesiology program will offer two different majors, kinesiology/pre-physical therapy and kinesiology/sport management. Students opting for the pre-physical therapy major will have a strong focus on science, and will be able to work as a fitness trainer, corporate wellness manager, athletic coach or strength and conditioning coach. Students may also choose to continue their education and earn a physical therapy degree. For those who choose the sports management major, there will be more of a focus on business, management and communication. Career opportunities for graduates with this degree include coaching, health club management, athletic trainer on the high school, college or professional level and youth camp director. The pre-physical therapy major requires 53 core credits and one internship, while the sports management major requires 56 core credits and two internships.

"There is a huge demand for women in sports management, and Alverno College has a long history of preparing women to meet the needs of employers," said Kaitlin Pike, assistant athletic director for health and wellness at Alverno and kinesiology program director. "With our new kinesiology program, we are opening up possibilities for women in sports management and fitness."

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2016



Alverno College Launches New Doctorate of Nursing Practice October 4, 2016: Program marks the first doctorate offering at Alverno

In response to demand and the increasingly complex health care landscape, Alverno College is launching a post-master's **Doctorate of Nursing Practice** degree and the first doctorate offering at the college. The program is for nurses looking to increase their marketability and maximize their potential for career growth. Alverno's JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing is fully accredited and widely recognized as one of Wisconsin's top nursing programs.

"We are excited to offer a doctorate degree to our nursing students and to advanced practice nurses in the community who are looking to advance their careers and earning potential," said Margaret Rauschenberger, MSN, RN, interim dean of the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing at Alverno College. "I often hear employers say they can always spot the Alverno graduates, and now we can offer our exemplary education to those wishing to earn a terminal degree."

Open to both women and men, Alverno's **DNP** will launch in January and will offer two tracks, leadership and direct care. The leadership track requires 32 credits to complete, and the direct care track requires 30 credits to complete. Twelve courses will be offered in a flexible hybrid format that blends online and classroom education, and a cohort model will offer year-round courses in eight-week blocks. Students can choose to attend full or part time, and can complete the program in 18 months with full-time attendance.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2016



Clinical Nurse Specialists: Alverno's Clinical Nurse Specialist Master's program is designed to help meet the health and medical needs of adult populations as well as aging adults requiring focused geriatric care. The Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (PCNP) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (**CNS**) curriculum puts advanced theory into practice with patients, staff and/or students.

Graduates with a Clinical Nurse Specialist advanced degree will be equipped to work with adults and older adults. As a nurse educator, you will be able to teach in an associate or baccalaureate school of nursing or work as an advanced educator in a health care or community setting.

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2018



Varga Named Dean of JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions

08/16/2018 by Becky Dubin Jenkins

Patricia Varga, Ph.D., MSN, RN, CNE, has been named dean of Alverno College's JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions, President Andrea Lee, IHM, announced.

Varga, an associate professor of nursing who has been at Alverno since 2004, will lead the implementation of the college's ambitious strategic plan, which seeks to expand on its widely admired history in nursing and make a significant contribution in the evolution of health care to improve access, increase quality and lower costs. Varga also will lead college efforts as it makes final preparations for accreditation renewal by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the national agency devoted exclusively to accrediting baccalaureate and higher-degree nursing education. Previously, Alverno was granted the maximum 10-year accreditation period, extending from December 2009-December 2019.

Margaret Rauschenberger, MSN, RN, CCHP, who has served as associate, interim dean and dean of the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions since 2012, will return to the faculty and assist in the leadership of Alverno's strategic plan initiatives. Lee named her dean emerita of Nursing. Rauschenberger's professional experience as a mental health nurse will be particularly valuable in the college's work. Under Rauschenberger, Alverno launched a doctorate of nursing practice; a graduate clinical nurse specialist program, graduate family nurse practitioner program, graduate clinical nurse specialist program and graduate adult geriatric primary care nurse practitioner program; and RN to BSN program. Rauschenberger will partner with Varga during her transition into the dean's role.

"We are thrilled to have a dean of Dr. Patricia Varga's caliber as the college expands its footprint of excellence in nursing and health care," Lee said. "At the same time, we thank Peg Rauschenberger for her years of principled, high-energy leadership and are fortunate that she will continue her excellent work at Alverno."

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2018



**Patricia Varga, Ph.D.,
MSN, RN, CNE
Dean, School of
Nursing and Health
Professions**

Patricia Varga received her doctorate in nursing from Marquette University. Her areas of expertise include community health, nursing education and leadership, and parish nursing. Her area of scholarly research focuses on the factors impacting diverse students in nursing programs. Working with a team of Alverno faculty and students, she served as primary investigator on a grant-funded program through the college's Center for Academic Excellence. It extends the topic of her dissertation, which proposed a new model and theory: the Theory of Diverse Student Faculty Partnerships. Using findings from these two studies, she anticipates testing interventions aimed at attracting students from diverse populations and successfully retaining them through graduation.

"This is an exciting time at Alverno College," Varga said. "I look forward to building on our strong history in nursing and embracing bold approaches that address primary care needs and engage in cutting-edge advances in access and delivery for the community."

"Alverno has always trained highly skilled and compassionate nurses who make a difference in their communities every day," Varga says. "Both our longstanding and new health care programs will ensure that the College and its graduates continue to serve the Milwaukee area and beyond in new and exciting ways, leading the charge to create a healthier world."

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2019



Alverno College President, Andrea Lee, IHM, Announces Strategic Alliance with Ascension Wisconsin - May 21, 2019

“Alverno College has formally entered into a strategic alliance with Ascension Wisconsin to improve the health and well-being of the state’s residents. Alverno’s primary role in this alliance will be to expand and strengthen its presence as a premier educator of health care professionals.

As part of the Alverno-Ascension alliance, we have signed a Letter of Intent, signifying our engagement in serious discussions to incorporate into Alverno College the 118-year-old Columbia College of Nursing (CCON), now part of Ascension, located in Glendale, Wisconsin.

The Letter of Intent begins the process of Alverno and CCON, with our joint accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), taking the necessary steps to combine our institutions, pending any major barriers arising during the required period of due diligence. This process is called Change of Control. We expect to conclude the Change of Control process in July 2020.

Because the CCON programs are coeducational and this venture is a new initiative for Alverno, they will be administratively housed in the School of Adult Learning and New Initiatives, separate from the undergraduate women’s college, while the curricular content will be overseen by the dean and faculty of the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions.

This strategic alliance will amplify the existing relationship between our two Catholic and mission-synchronous institutions, including clinical and career placement opportunities for Alverno graduates within Ascension’s statewide integrated network of care.

The alliance will enable Alverno to expand its existing academic degree, certificate and credential programs in health care and to develop new programs, including continuing education opportunities for employees at Ascension Wisconsin’s 24 hospital campuses and more than 100 clinics.”

Alverno Nursing Tradition – 2020



Alverno College President, Andrea Lee, IHM, Announces Plans for the Expansion of the Nursing Program in Mesa, Arizona. - February 11, 2020

“On behalf of our Board of Trustees, Vice President for Academic Affairs Joseph Foy, Ph.D., JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions Interim Dean Laurie Kunkel-Jordan, Ph.D., RN, ANP-BC, CCRN, and our leadership team, it is my great privilege to share today that we are publicly announcing the expansion of our nursing program to Arizona.

In 2022, pending regulatory approvals, we will open a second location, dedicated exclusively to health care.

In partnership with *Synergis Education*, a premier Arizona-based education provider, Alverno will initially offer our highly successful Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN) program in Mesa, which is 20 miles from Phoenix. Designed for individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing, the DEMSN allows students to receive both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in nursing with 18 months of full-time study. Students will be prepared to sit for the NCLEX to become a registered nurse at the conclusion of the program.

After exploring this expansion for some time and examining its mission, academic and financial implications, our Board of Trustees enthusiastically and unanimously supported it. This exciting initiative underpins Alverno’s bold plans to expand our health care footprint and, in this case, to do so with a partner with whom we share significant mission synchrony.

Phoenix is the country’s fifth-largest city and has been the country’s fastest-growing city for the past three years. The DEMSN will be distinctive in the region as the only Catholic, Franciscan program, an advantage for students seeking a rigorous, but personalized, curriculum. The other similar nursing programs in the region are offered at large, public institutions.

In addition to the DEMSN program, Alverno will explore launching other health care programs in Arizona, including a nursing degree completion program for students who have completed their pre-nursing courses; a neonatal advanced practice program; and, for those needing them, nursing pre-requisite courses in the sciences.”

Alverno Nursing Tradition - Ceremonies Past and Present



The profession of nursing has a long history that is steeped in tradition and symbolism. White uniforms, dark blue capes, white caps, red crosses, embroidered nursing school patches, nursing school pins and white shoes have been the physical signs and symbols representing the nursing profession over the years. These symbols, recognized throughout the world, brought with them a sense of hope, care and healing.

While the ceremonial traditions and symbols of the nursing profession have evolved, the sense of honor and duty that are at the core of nursing remains steadfast at Alverno College.

Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present



The first Sacred Heart School of Nursing pin (far left) was awarded in 1932 to graduating nursing students. Students were excitedly awaiting their capping ceremony in the unidentified photo (bottom left). Newly capped nursing students leave the St. Joseph Convent Chapel carrying candles and certificates in the near photo. The SHS emblem below was used on uniform patches to designate the Sacred Heart School of Nursing.

Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present

Capping ceremonies were always eagerly anticipated by nursing students. The pristine, white nurses' cap represented the chosen profession of the nursing students and the beginning of focused studies in nursing. The capping ceremonies took place during the second semester of the nursing students' sophomore year. After receiving the cap, the nursing students acknowledged the beginning of their focused nursing experience by reciting the Nightingale Pledge. The pledge is an adaptation of the Hippocratic Oath physicians take.



Here Sister M. Ottonella Raupp, Alverno College School of Nursing Director, is shown capping sophomore nursing students during the Capping Ceremony in February 1957.

Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present



These photos, depicting the capping ceremony, were taken in the early 1970's.



Nightingale Pledge

*I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.
I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.
I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician, in his work, and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.*

Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present



The Dedication Ceremony

The tradition of the Dedication Ceremony began in 1978. The image of nursing and the nurse persona was evolving. Much of that image revolved around the nursing cap and how it was perceived by those outside of the nursing profession.

In 1977 the Alverno College Nursing Division wrote a position paper as an answer to these concerns and changes. The paper discussed the image of nursing and the concept of “wellness” as a focus. In keeping with the American Nurses Association campaign, “**1977 – RN: The Year of the Nurse**”, the Alverno Nursing Division announced that they would be formally dispensing with the tradition of the nurses cap and the Capping Ceremony.

The Dedication Ceremony would replace the capping ceremony. The new ceremony would signify the beginning of upper division coursework and the concept that the nursing student publicly proclaims her dedication to the nursing profession and the pursuit of nursing education. The Nursing Dedication Ceremony continues today as an Alverno College tradition.

Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present



Pin and Stripe Ceremony

The Pin and Stripe ceremonies marked the end of a nursing student's undergraduate studies and the beginning of their professional career in the field of nursing. The ceremony, held prior to commencement day, gave the Nursing Faculty the opportunity to honor and welcome senior nursing students to their profession. The practice of the Pin and Stripe Ceremony continued through 1977.



Alverno Nursing Tradition: Ceremonies Past and Present



The Candlelight Ceremony

The Candlelight Ceremony holds special significance for Alverno's graduating senior nursing students. It marks the collegial acceptance into the profession of nursing. It is a time when nursing students can reflect on their training and education together and look forward to their field placements as nurses.

The ceremony includes some elements from the past, the ceremonial pinning and the nurses' pledge. The age old nursing symbol of the candle as the harbinger of healing illuminates the room during the ceremony. Today, Alverno Nursing students actively include their families in this event. The pin is awarded by the Nursing Faculty, however, a family member or special loved one "pins" the student following the presentation of the pins.



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Alverno Nursing Tradition



Historical information is provided by the Alverno College Archives Collections. The following collections were used in this research:

- *Sacred Heart School of Nursing* Collection,
“Nurses Training at the Sacred Heart Sanitarium”, Sister M. Rosenda, O.S.F.,
January 7, 1966. Series B17.1/Box 1/File 14.
- *Alverno Nursing Department*, Series B17.2/ Boxes 2, 12, 31, and 36
- *Alverno College Archives* Reference,
“Foundations of the School Sisters of St. Francis”, Sister M. Mira, O.S.F.
- *Alverno College Archives Photofile*, Series Pf1-6

For more information on the history of Alverno College you can contact the Archives at 414-382-6202 or visit our website at

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

