



J PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION
of
Christy L. Brown, J.D.

Friday, May 3, 2024
10 a.m.
Alverno College



Alverno College prepares women for lives of personal and professional distinction and meaningful engagement with the world.

Alverno extends this mission by offering graduate and adult programs to women and men. Inspired by its Catholic, Franciscan and liberal arts heritage, the College intentionally creates an inclusive community that engages students in active and collaborative learning and fosters academic excellence.

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H Honorary alumna

PRESIDENTS OF ALVERNO COLLEGE



Mother Alexia Hoell, OSF

1887–1907



Mother Alfons Schmid, OSF

1907–1929



Mother Stanislaus Hegner, OSF

1929–1942



Mother Corona Wirfs, OSF

1942–1948



Sister Augustine Scheele, OSF

1948–1968



Sister Joel Read, OSF

1968–2003



Mary Meehan, Ph.D.

2004–2016



Sister Andrea Lee, IHM, Ph.D.

2016–2022



Christy L. Brown, J.D., became the ninth president of Alverno College in July 2023. Her role includes collaborating with the college’s Board of Trustees, leadership team, faculty and staff working to fulfill the mission while embracing innovation and expanding Alverno’s local, national and international reputation. Before coming to Alverno, Brown was CEO at Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast. Previous roles include Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Vice President and Corporate Counsel at Lutheran Social Services, and Associate Attorney at Michael Best & Friedrich, LLC. Originally from Milwaukee, Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Stanford University, a Master of Arts in Humanities from Duke University Graduate School and a Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Prelude

Gentle Words

Sung by the Alverno College Choir; David Hein, Director
Based on a Shaker humility song, by Sister Polly M. Rupe;
arranged by Earlene Rentz

Optimistic

Sung by the Rufus King International High School Chorus;
Lee Stovall, Director
By Gary Hines, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis

Procession

Fanfare in D for Brass, by Derrick Horne

Celebration Fanfare, by Charles Callahan

Welcome

Jodi Eastberg, Ph.D.

Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and
Dean of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies

Land Acknowledgment

Lillianna Robinette

Undergraduate Art Education Student

Invocation

Reverend Stephanie Welsh Walker, D.Min.

Spiritual Care Manager at Loyola University Medical Center

Greeting from the Board of Trustees

Katherine Hudson H'14

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Sacred Reading

Nilda Cordova, Ed.D. '13 '22

Proverbs 4:7-13 *English translation*

"The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom;
at the cost of all you have, gain insight.

Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.

She will place on your head a graceful garland;
she will bestow on you a glorious crown."

Hear and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.

I have taught you the way of wisdom;

I lead you in paths of righteousness.

When you walk, your step will not be hampered,

And if you run, you will not stumble.

Hold fast to instruction, never let her go.

Guard her, for she is your life.

Reader: Palabra de Dios.

All: Te alabamos, Señor.

Song

This Little Light of Mine (lyrics, page 8)
African American Spiritual

Calls to Service

Cecelia I. Gore '92 '08 – Alverno Trustee

Sister Kathleen O'Brien, OSF '67, Ph.D. – Provincial Coordinator, School Sisters of St. Francis

Dorian Tellis – Student Government President, Alverno College

Patricia Lewis, Ph.D. – Faculty Senate President and Professor of Religious Studies

Katari Key – Director of Athletics, Alverno College

Samantha Maldonado '09 '11 – Alumna, Vanguard Society, Alverno College

Cindy Gnadinger, Ed.D. – President, Carroll University

Ahmed Quereshi – Executive Director, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee

Judith Brown – Brown family member

Mary Meehan, Ph.D. H'05 – President Emerita, Alverno College

Investiture

Katherine Hudson H'14

Chair, Alverno College Board of Trustees

Sister Kathleen O'Brien, OSF '67, Ph.D.

Provincial Coordinator, School Sisters of St. Francis

Anthem

Lift Every Voice and Sing (lyrics, page 9)

By James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamund Johnson

Inaugural Address

Christy L. Brown, J.D.

Imagine, Innovate, Inspire

Alma Mater

Where All Belong (lyrics, page 10)

Lyrics by Jill Moore, Professor Emerita; Music by Michael Kamenski

Concluding Prayer & Blessing

Steven Dunn, Ph.D.

Campus Minister and Associate Professor of Religious Studies

School Sisters of St. Francis

Recessional

All Creatures Worship God Most High! (lyrics, page 10)

Canticle of the Creatures, by St. Francis of Assisi

Postlude

All Creatures of Our God and King

Based on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen,"
arranged by Václav Nelhýbel

ORDER OF ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand marshal

Alumni marshals

Presentation of academic division banners

Alverno College Board of Trustees

Delegates of colleges and universities

Delegates of Alverno College administration

Alverno College faculty

Alverno College faculty emeriti

Alverno College ability chairs

Alverno College staff representatives

Distinguished guests

Coordinator of ceremony

Chair of the Board of Trustees

President



ACADEMIC DELEGATES

Founded	Institution & Delegates
1838	Duke University Vincent Price , <i>President</i>
1838	Duke University Larry Glusman , <i>1988 Alumnus</i>
1846	Carroll University Cindy Gnadinger , <i>President</i>
1847	Lawrence University Garret Singer , <i>Special Assistant to the President</i>
1881	Marquette University Jacqueline Black , <i>Director for Hispanic Initiatives and Diversity & Inclusion Educational Programming</i>
1890	Viterbo University Robert Van Wicklin , <i>Vice President for Advancement</i>
1893	Medical College of Wisconsin Cheryl Maurana , <i>Senior Vice President for Strategic Academic Partnerships</i>
1898	St. Norbert College Meghan Walsh , <i>Executive Director of Academic Advising and Career Development</i>
1903	Milwaukee School of Engineering Eric Baumgartner , <i>Executive Vice President of Academics</i>
1913	Mount Mary University Isabelle Cherney , <i>President</i>
1955	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Robin Van Harpen , <i>Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administrative Affairs</i>
1961	Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Eric Fulcomer , <i>President</i>
1971	Universities of Wisconsin Jay Rothman , <i>President</i>

SONG

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

African American Spiritual



This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Each and ev'ry day, I'm gonna let it shine,
Each and ev'ry day, I'm gonna let it shine,
Each and ev'ry day, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Morning, noon, and night, I'm gonna let it shine,
Morning, noon, and night, I'm gonna let it shine,
Morning, noon, and night, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

ANTHEM

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

By James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamund Johnson

1. Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, till earth and heav - en
2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning
died; yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies, let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the
wa - tered. We have come, tread - ing our path through the
met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the

pres - ent has brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing
blood of the slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y
world, we for - get thee; shad - owed be - neath thy

sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
past, till now we stand at last where the bright
hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
gleam of our bright star is cast.
God, true to our na - tive land.

ALMA MATER & RECESSIONAL

WHERE ALL BELONG

Lyrics by Jill Moore, Professor Emerita. Music by Michael Kamenski.

From high atop a mountain
With hearts and minds ablaze,
To our cherished alma mater
We sing our song of praise.
From high atop a mountain
We hear our voices blend.
We know that on our paths in life
Our learning never ends.

Alverno, Alverno
Our beloved school,
We sing with voices strong,
Guided by an inner light
To a place where all belong.

We come from many distant shores,
We come to grow and give.
We bring together histories
That teach us how to live.

Alverno, Alverno
Our beloved school,
We sing with voices strong,
Guided by an inner light
To a place where all belong.
Forever we will honor you
In this place where all belong.

ALL CREATURES WORSHIP GOD MOST HIGH

Canticle of the Creatures, by St. Francis of Assisi

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
You grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
Make music for your God to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing brother fire, so bright and strong;
Drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
Praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
All who in pain or sorrow grieve:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God bears your burdens and your fears;
Still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

English translation: composite

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ACADEMIC REGALIA

Presidential Medallion

The official symbol of the office of the president of Alverno College. This medallion was created by Pat Diacca Topp '68. It is conferred at the inauguration of the president and is subsequently worn at official ceremonies.



The medallion's sterling chain consists of 17 links. The front of each link features the Tau Cross, the uniquely designed symbol of the School of the Sisters of St. Francis, the founders of Alverno College. The backs of the links have an added back panel. The names and years of all previous presidents are engraved on the links on either side of the medallion.

Alverno Mace

The Alverno Mace, carried at the head of the academic procession, is a symbol of the College president's authority to grant the graduates' degrees.

The mace's front face focuses on the College's tower. Reaching into the sky, the tower symbolizes the reach for knowledge of each person. The other face focuses on the Tau Cross — the symbol of Alverno's founders, the School Sisters of St. Francis.

The two faces of the mace are surrounded by wings, which symbolize the freedom education brings to us. The knowledge of the world and its peoples is the key to a personal freedom that will forever light one's life.



THE STORY OF ALVERNO

The name *Alverno* comes from a mountain in Italy that was used by St. Francis and his followers as a place for deep reflection.

In 1224, St. Francis made a journey up that mountain. He spent 40 days and 40 nights in a small hut on the upper reaches in prayer and fasting. He sought an understanding of what it means to love — love of God, one's sisters and brothers, one's family and neighbors. So intense was this experience that it moved him to write his famous song of praise, *The Canticle of the Sun*.

For Franciscans, Mt. La Verna is a place to gain insight into the meaning of one's life. And Alverno College is a place where

persons of all backgrounds and ages can seek to gain the perspective and knowledge that will enable them to find the focal point of their own lives and prepare them for their futures.



ALVERNO MILESTONES

- 1887 Saint Joseph's Normal School, the precursor of Alverno College, was founded to teach the School Sisters of St. Francis.
- 1887 Mother Alexia Hoell, OSF, became the first president.*
- 1907 Mother Alfons Schmid, OSF, became the second president.*
- 1924 Saint Joseph Convent Conservatory of Music opened. The school eventually evolved into the music department of Alverno College.
- 1929 Mother Stanislaus Hegner, OSF, became the third president.*
- 1930 Sacred Heart School of Nursing opened. The school eventually became the Nursing Division at Alverno College.
- 1936 Saint Joseph's Normal School became Alverno Teachers College.
- 1942 Mother Corona Wirfs, OSF, became the fourth president.*
- 1948 Sister Augustine Scheele, OSF, became the fifth president.
- 1949 The first laywoman graduated from Alverno College.
- 1951 Alverno Teachers College merged with the schools of music and nursing to become Alverno College, a four-year liberal arts college.
- 1954 The new college campus was dedicated.
- 1968 Sister Joel Read, OSF, became Alverno's sixth president.
- 1969 Ideas generated from discussion between students, faculty and administration to effect beneficial changes in the learning process became the framework for the ability-based curriculum.
- 1973 The ability-based curriculum was instituted; the Assessment Center opened.
- 1976 Weekend College was launched to serve working women.
- 1986 Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching named Alverno's general education program one of the top three in the nation.
- 1987 Alverno celebrated its centennial.
- 1996 Alverno launched its first master's program, a Master of Arts for practicing teachers and instructional designers.
- 1999 The state-of-the-art Teaching, Learning & Technology Center, which includes science, computer and multimedia labs, and a conference center, opened.
- 2003 Sister Joel Read retired after 35 years as president.
- 2004 Mary J. Meehan, Ph.D., became Alverno's seventh president.
- 2016 Sister Andrea Lee, IHM, Ph.D., became Alverno's eighth president.
- 2024 Christy L. Brown, J.D., is inaugurated as the ninth president of Alverno College on May 3.

* Prior to the college being reorganized in 1948, the head of the Congregation served as the President of the College.

GRATITUDE & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The process of planning a presidential inauguration is formidable, requiring the dedication and talent of a large and diverse cross-section of the campus community. Though far too numerous to list here, Alverno College and the Board of Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank all who contributed their valuable time, creative brainpower, patience, wisdom and hard work to this momentous occasion. An inauguration is not just an event, it is the ushering in of a new era, and without the teamwork of our faculty, administrative staff, alums, students and community volunteers, it would simply not be possible.

Planning Committee

Heidi Anderson-Isaacson	Dominique Hudson '22	Sister Marlene Neises H'99
Julie Borgealt '15	Steve Janco	Jean O'Toole
Kelly Cole	Carol Ann Kashishian	Jason Pilarski
Steven Dunn	Rollie Layman	Lynda Sommers-Herzog
Jerry Dutschek	Jeanie C. Lucy	Julie Tokarz-Stoye
Jodi Eastberg	Shannon Malnory-Silbernagel	Ali Vokes
Sheila Gustafson	Gina Mazzone	
Leslie Henry '93	Kim M. Muench '89	

Music

Special thanks to the singers and instrumentalists who helped to make today's inauguration ceremony festive and joyful, especially the Alverno College Choir, directed by David Hein; the Chorus of Rufus King International High School, directed by Lee Stovall; accompanists Sheri Masiakowski and Aaron Mathews, graduate instructors in Music and Liturgy. Thank you to the brass players and additional instrumentalists — and to all present who joined their voices together in joyful song! Lastly, we wish to thank our music coordinators, Steve Janco and Leslie Henry.

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