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CORRECTION: The Winter 2004 Bulletin included a memorial gift listing for Ms. Frances Garrett Moore '76 from Joe Moore and Company, Inc. This should have been listed as an honor gift.

Front Cover:
Leadership of the Converse College Model League of Arab States Delegation (l to r): Mallory Beckett '06 (Committee Chair at Southeast, Northeast and National Models), Casey Addis '04 (Head Delegate of Converse Model League Delegation), Rebecca Poston '04 (Arab Court of Justice at Southeast, Northeast and National Models), Erin Poston '04 (Head Delegate and Committee Chair at Southeast and National Models), and Josie Fingerhut '05 (Committee Chair at Southeast and Northeast Models, Assistant Secretary General at National Model)

Cover photo taken by Mark Olencki.

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A few days before Martin Luther King Day this January, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Mayor's Unity Breakfast at Mount Moriah Baptist Church, where Dr. King once spoke. It was awe-inspiring to stand in that place, remembering Dr. King and celebrating unity in Spartanburg — especially given these challenging days in our country. As I remembered this man who fought for all of humanity, I could not help but think of my own son and others who were doing the same in Iraq at that very moment.

As you know, my son Paul is a captain in the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army and has been stationed in Iraq. About two weeks before Christmas, he told me that he might be coming home as part of the advance party for the 101st return to the States. Having become used to the Army's "hurry up and wait," I didn't really believe this would happen. On Christmas Eve he called us from Ireland and said "Mom, I am out of the Middle East." Later that day he called from Maine and said "Mom, we have landed in Maine." Then Christmas afternoon as I was cooking dinner he walked in the back door, earlier than expected, and said simply "Hi Mom." I thought I would faint — and nearly did!



What a blessing it has been that he has safely returned. It has been hard to get Paul to talk much about his experience in Iraq but the one theme he has constantly shared is how important two people were to his experience; his driver, John Roseman, a 40 year old black Baptist, and Faris Abdul Malik, his Arabic speaking Muslim, Iraqi interpreter. Paul and John traveled together through Iraq during the early part of the war. They traveled, worked out of, and even slept in a humvee — John inside and Paul typically sleeping on the hood of the vehicle because John snored. Together they traveled from Kuwait to Najaf, to Fallujah, and Karbala, and were the first of their brigade into Baghdad. From there they traveled to Mosul in the northern part of the country and met Faris. Because Paul was in charge of logistics for his battalion, he had to spend a lot of time in the Iraqi marketplace buying supplies. Unable to discern Sunnis from Shiites and Hussein loyalists from Iraqi patriots, Paul quickly learned that it was not safe to walk into the marketplace with \$50,000 of American money in his pocket. His interpreter could be far more effective than he. Paul's very life depended on these two special people — John and Faris — two men who could not have been more different from Paul.

About the time of Paul's return, *Time* magazine named the American soldier its "person of the year." Our American armed services, according to *Time*, are unique. The 1.4 million men and women volunteers who make up the most diverse military in our history are both better educated than the general population and over-weighted with working class kids and minorities. 60% of our service personnel are white, 22% are black, and 18% are other — a more diverse population than we have in Spartanburg County. Within the leadership ranks, people

from all walks of life are represented from Colin Powell to General Abazaid to Richard Sanchez. As Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told *Time*, "they (recruits) have purple hair and an earring and they have never walked with another person in step in their life. And suddenly they get this training in a matter of weeks, and they become part of a unit, a team. They are all sizes and shapes and different ages and races. You cannot help when you work with them but come away feeling that this is really a special thing that this country has."

In her book *Holiness in Hidden Places*, Joni Tada writes about political correctness. As this distinguished but disabled author prepared for a meeting with inner city pastors in Chicago, she struggled with politically correct language — wondering whether to say African-American or if people prefer being called black. She knew it was not "correct" to say colored people but perhaps it would be okay to say people of color. She thought about her own husband of Japanese descent. Her mother-in-law prefers being called Oriental, but her father-in-law prefers Asian and is highly offended by the term Japanese-American.

At the meeting, Joni found herself tongue-tied in talking about Hispanic churches as she struggled between the terms Hispanic and Latino. Out of frustration, she finally asked the pastors gathered how they wanted to be addressed. Did they want to be called black or African-American? The pastors laughed and responded by saying "Well, we didn't know whether to call you handicapped, physically challenged, crippled, or invalid!"

It seems we all are wondering what labels to use when what really matters is knowing another person's name. Paul knew John and



Faris and learned to love them. It is experience and education on a person-to-person basis that changes not just minds, but hearts.

Today's generation of college students, born after 1982 and frequently referred to as Millennials, is a generation who are often characterized not only as being technologically savvy but also as young people who want to make a difference in the world. Surely, their ability to make that difference will begin with being able to relate to all kinds of people from all over the world — and what better laboratory than Converse for that process to begin. Because of our small size and our shared values, the Converse community is built upon mutual trust and respect. Students and faculty alike have the opportunity to push past stereotypes and barriers caused by nationality, race, ethnicity, and other differences, and really get to know each other as individuals.

The young women who are today's Converse students comprise our Model Arab League team that recently beat teams from Harvard and other Ivy League schools. They participate in community service like our recent Martin Luther King Day project at a local elementary school (see photo above). They reach out to their classmates by doing such things as organizing a fundraiser for an international student who could not afford the trip home to her country to visit her family for the summer. These young women care about each other and their world, and their actions show it.

Converse is a place where the Millennials are embarking upon great lives filled with passion for their world. If you have not already done so, you should meet some of the students we have at Converse today. They are an amazing group of young women.

Nancy Gray

Converse students honored Dr. Martin Luther King by organizing a service project for local elementary students. Student volunteers led civil rights lessons in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes at Pine Street Elementary School. During each lesson, the students learned about diversity and completed an art project that portrays their own dreams for our world. The artwork was on display at Converse during Martin Luther King Day. (Above) Shawna Cowart '04 and Casey Addis '04 read to students about Dr. King.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to the many readers who returned the readership survey that was included in the Winter issue of the magazine! Your feedback is valuable to us, and we look forward to incorporating some of your ideas in future issues.

Beginning with this issue, each Bulletin will have a Converse-related theme. Our first is "History and Politics." Look for future issues on the arts, science, service learning, study travel, and the liberal arts. We hope you enjoy taking an in-depth look at the people, programs, and characteristics of Converse that help make our College stand apart.

Reflecting Back, Projecting Forward: Thoughts from a Department Chair

by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Chair of History and Politics

When I set foot on the Converse campus for the first time in April 1976, I was taken by the beauty of this place. Spacious green lawns, flowering dogwoods, azaleas, huge hardwood trees, lovely buildings, and smiling faces. I flew in from Germany where I had taught in various locations in Europe for three years. Although I had one job offer in my pocket and another interview in Minnesota scheduled on the trip, I knew immediately that Converse was where I wanted to be.

Rebecca Poston '04 of Hemingway, SC, argues her country's position during Model League debate.



Above: Converse College's 2003-2004 Model League of Arab States Delegation with Dr. Joe Dunn

The crowning achievement of Converse's Model League delegation occurred last fall at the Northeast Model, a newly-constituted Model representing Ivy League and other prestigious Eastern universities. Invited to lend prominence to the revived Model, Converse swept the honors by receiving Outstanding Delegate distinction in five of the six committees, Honorable Mention in the other, citations as the Best Jurist and the Best Advocate in the Arab Court of Justice, and Best Chair Award. Harvard finished as runner-up for most of the individual awards and in the overall competition. This level of achievement, unprecedented in Model League history, was particularly notable against such worthy competition.

My undergraduate, graduate, and teaching experience had been at large state universities. My image of a small college drew upon a lovely Methodist seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, where I did some of my Ph.D. dissertation research. Sitting in a third floor seminary library room reading manuscripts, I often paused to daydream. As I gazed out the window over the one city-block campus, the scene seemed idyllic: brick sidewalks, flowers and shrubs, and students lounging under the large oaks, playing frisbee on the green lawn, and chatting with professors. I fantasized that this was the environment of my destiny. Converse certainly matched the physical profile, and equally important, it promised the opportunity to teach a wide range of courses, to shape people's lives, and to pursue my research and writing aspirations.

Admittedly, I envisioned that I would eventually migrate to administration and likely back to my native Midwest. During my tenure, I found Converse all that I imagined, a

MODEL LEAGUE: An Insider's Perspective

by Kristi Faris '03

Model League of Arab States introduced me to a world and culture that I did not know before entering Converse. I was a basketball player and music major who did not have time for, or interest in, the Middle Eastern region of the world. But today as I teach English and study Arabic in Fez, Morocco, it is overpowering to reflect on the role that Model League has already had in my life.

The most important impact of Model League is that it taught me the joy and power of knowledge. I don't have to agree with everything that I learn, but I understand how others view situations differently than I do and the bases of their perspectives. I may still disagree, but I do it more intelligently.

In the fall of my freshman year, Dr. Joe P. Dunn, the professor of my freshman honors seminar, encouraged me to join the Model League delegation. I went to a practice session to learn more, but I was overwhelmed and intimidated by the knowledge in the room and the fiery debate that surrounded me. I determined that I was not ready for this. But the next year, I accepted his invitation and dedicated myself to be worthy of his confidence. I aimed to be the hardest worker on our delegation. I spent hours learning

about Middle East politics and mastering the art of debate and the rules of decorum.

In the next three years, I was pleased to win several awards during competition. Although I was never the most intelligent person in the room, I believed myself to be the most prepared, informed, and knowledgeable. Knowledge was power and it worked. My senior year I served as co-head delegate. It was an honor to be given responsibility to prepare the team for competition and to lead by example.

When I was a first-year delegate, the veterans told us that we would be amply prepared for our first competition because we would never face an opponent as tough as our own peers during practice. They were right, and I offered this same reassurance to new members when I became responsible for preparation. To this day, I would rather debate anyone other than another Converse Model Leaguer.

The Converse delegation is a well-oiled machine. The head delegates run weekly practice sessions, train new members, teach research skills, provide leadership on debate techniques, and even conduct etiquette sessions to insure that all delegates not only represent their assigned country to the best of our abilities but always reflect well on Converse College. Weekly reports on the happenings in all Arab countries allow us to know our competitors' countries at least as well as they know them.

We enjoy the reputation that we



have earned. When I walked up to a group of delegates from other schools at last year's National Model, several individuals noted, "You're from Converse aren't you?" Their tone of voice implied a sense of awe, respect, and keen recognition of our school's tradition of excellence. For three years I had the pleasure of going to the podium at that competition to receive the Outstanding Delegation Award. It isn't a fluke that we prevail year after year over some of the finest academic institutions in the country. We commit ourselves to outwork everyone else, and we cultivate an ability to persuade and convince rather than merely overpower.

Here in Morocco in the midst of a war unpopular in this region of the world, I hear all kinds of criticism and critique of American policy. I don't take America-bashing well, and I'm not shy about expressing my views. But Model League provided me with tools and skills to do it with a better knowledge base and sensitivity to the perspectives of others.

If I could return and relive my Converse years, I would do it in a heartbeat. When I hear about this year's Model League team, I am jealous that I won't be standing up in a committee this year. I would have loved to be a part of defeating Harvard. I'm excited for and envious of the freshmen. They have four years to do what I loved doing so much. I'm thankful for all my experiences, my mentors in the history and politics department and throughout the college, and I'm sad that those precious years are behind me.

special place where I have taught everything I wanted and more. The students impressed me personally and intellectually. I wrote my articles and books. Opportunities came at various points as professor or administrator, including two dean offers and a college presidency, all in my Midwest home country. But each time I decided that it was not the right time, place, or situation. Looking back after 28 years, I now understand that it was unlikely that I would have ever judged any circumstance as the right one. Converse had captured my heart.

Highlights have been many, but most importantly, Converse has been a place of continuous inspiration. As I travel, write, and teach, I remain engaged in an ongoing dialogue with colleagues and students in what I perceive as the ideal of the academy. Much of the pleasure comes from camaraderie with individuals with equal lifelong commitments to place and people. The stability and continuity of our department is unique. In my nearly three decades, we have experienced little turnover. My friend and colleague Kent Brudney left for other pastures after eight years, and Nat Magruder retired after a 31-year Converse tenure.

The accomplishments of the department are remarkable. Eleven books, almost 150 articles, over 500 published book reviews, four of the five members receiving the college teaching award, other state, regional, and national teaching and scholarship citations, and leadership in professional associations. The individual personalities and talents are even more impressive. Jeff Poelvoorde's teaching displays an overpowering intellect equal to that of any Ivy League professor. Melissa Walker, one of the finest young scholars and teachers on the faculty, has established a national reputation as a leading authority on the rural South. Jeff Willis for more than 35 years has been a favorite classroom teacher, a Converse institution, and in recent years a prolific publisher of valuable pictorial histories of Spartanburg and Greenville counties. John Theilmann, versatile teacher and scholar in both history and political science, serves on the editorial board of a political science journal and provides leadership in accrediting visitations for Southern colleges and universities. Besides writing and teaching, I have enjoyed the opportunity to travel extensively, exploring especially the various countries and political environments of the Middle East. A trip to Jordan and exchange professor at the University of Iceland are next on the agenda.

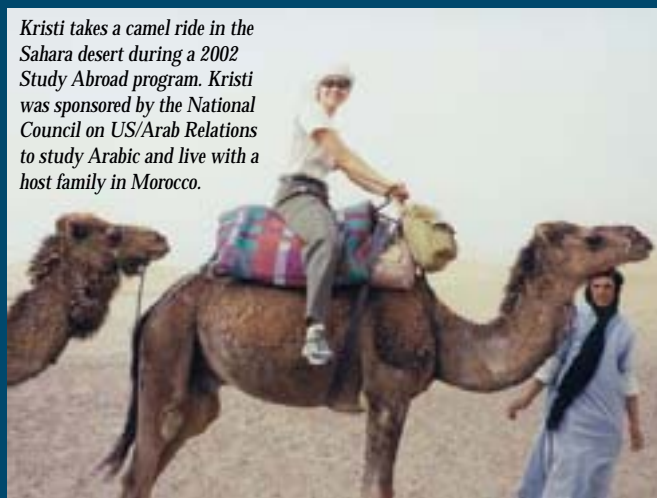
Among our proudest achievements are the decisive role in the advent and leadership of the Ideas and Culture general education course, demonstrating models of teacher scholars within the institution, pedagogical and curricular innovation, service to college and community, and national attainments.

When I interviewed here all those many years ago, the president of the college remarked that "Converse isn't a job, it is a way of life; it is a family." I didn't know how to respond, and I didn't fully appreciate what he meant. Today I do.

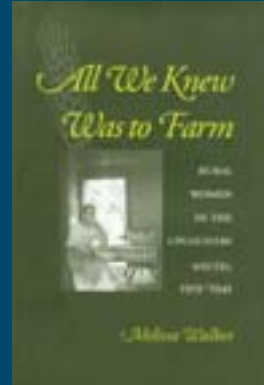
Dr. Joe Dunn with Valerie Brock '03, Casey Addis '04, and Maria Perry '03.



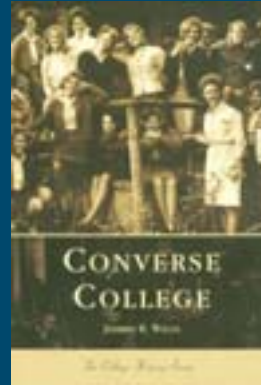
Kristi takes a camel ride in the Sahara desert during a 2002 Study Abroad program. Kristi was sponsored by the National Council on US/Arab Relations to study Arabic and live with a host family in Morocco.



Department of History and Politics Publications



All We Knew Was to Farm
by Melissa Walker



The College History Series: Converse College
by Jeffrey Willis



Country Women Cope with Hard Times
by Melissa Walker



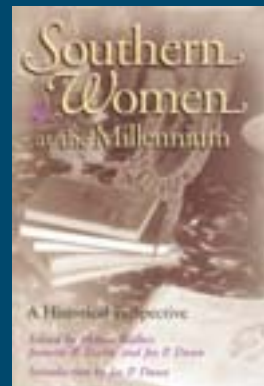
Desk Warrior: Memoirs of a Combat REMF
by Joe P. Dunn



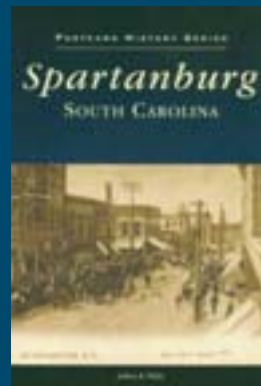
Discrimination and Congressional Campaign Contributions
by John Theilmann & Al Wilhite



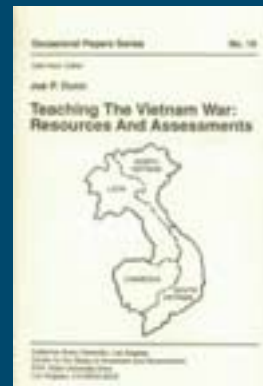
The Future South: A Historical Perspective for the 21st Century
by Joe P. Dunn & Howard L. Preston



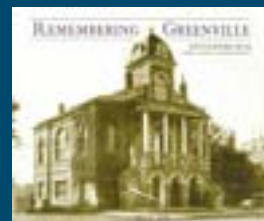
Southern Women at the Millennium
by Melissa Walker, Jeanette R. Dunn, & Joe P. Dunn



Postcard History Series: Spartanburg, South Carolina
by Jeffrey Willis



Teaching the Vietnam War: Resources and Assessments
by Joe P. Dunn



Remembering Greenville: Photographs from the Coxe Collection
by Jeffrey Willis

Several books featured on this page are available in the Converse College Bookstore. Call 864-596-9136 for ordering information.

However, it is our students who characterize us best, and we bask in their successes: college professors, attorneys, ministers, businesswomen, managers, public officials and administrators, Peace Corps workers, teachers, and many other professionals. It is sustaining to be part of their careers and families. This fall I will welcome in class the daughter of one of my majors from my first years, confirmation indeed that I have been here a long time.

I could speak of many things, but forgive the indulgence of focusing on one constituency that has provided me particular pleasure. We began our Model League of Arab States team in 1988. The team won its first national Outstanding Delegation award three years later. Today we have repeated that distinction for seven consecutive years. The activity is a competitive simulation of the actual League of Arab States, headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. Each college represents one of the 22 member countries as we debate and defend that nation's perspective and interests in the six councils and the Arab Court of Justice. Over the years we have represented every Arab country from tiny Bahrain, Djibouti, and Comoros to the regional powers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria. We have portrayed the wealthy oil kingdoms of Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates; the impoverished nations of Somalia, Mauritania, and Yemen; the radical regimes of Algeria, Iraq, Libya, and Sudan; and the moderate political entities of Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Jordan. Palestine, we have done several times, is probably our favorite.

In the process, Converse students have visited the embassies of most of these nations and attended social engagements hosted by countries from Yemen to Tunisia. In the last decade, 13 Converse students have participated in the coveted annual Kuwait Studies travel-study program to this small nation. Six have studied Arabic in Morocco; two returned for a second year. Two Converse students

last year were guests of the League in Cairo for 12 days on the first Arab League Exchange Program. I led that group of ten students from across the nation as I had escorted the Kuwait trip in 2000. Through these and other travel-study experiences, our students come to appreciate cultures and politics of regions that most Americans do not understand.

In Model League competition and travel ventures, Converse students interact with gifted peers from across the country. Students from the American University of Cairo, Air Force Academy, Villanova, Heidelberg College, Smith, Northeastern, Drew, and the Universities of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Utah, California, Arkansas, Houston, North Carolina State, and many others, deeply respect the talents of the Converse delegation. Last fall we ventured to Boston for competition with several Ivy League and eastern elite institutions, including Harvard, Cornell, Dartmouth, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Our first place victory over Harvard ratified our stature.

Model League is my pet project, but it is only one venue of our students' distinction. They conduct summer research projects, read papers at conferences, participate in seminars, publish articles, engage in interesting internships, win graduate school fellowships, and perform meaningful service activity. The department faculty is proud of their record.

My friends at other institutions ask me what is it like to teach at Converse. I respond that words cannot capture the essence. Those who visit me here and those who observe our students in action envy me. I like that. I am fortunate to be at this place and to head a department that is forging standards for present and future.

When I interviewed here all those many years ago, the president of the college remarked that "Converse isn't a job, it is a way of life; it is a family." I didn't know how to respond, and I didn't fully appreciate what he meant. Today I do. A classic adage proclaims that if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. It resonates for me. This department has a vision. We challenge our students to be the very best possible; they expect the same of us. We have lofty goals. I have been here a long time, and I am proud that I will have many more years to participate in our collective dream. ■

AT A GLANCE: Accomplishments of the History & Politics Faculty

11 books
150 articles
500+ book reviews
4 recipients of Converse's Kathryn Amelia Brown Award for Teaching Excellence
3 South Carolina Distinguished Professor citations
Semi-finalist as U.S. Teacher of the Year
National teaching citation
National Mortar Board Advising Award
O'Herron Faculty Award for Excellence
Converse Scholarship and Creative Achievement Award
Master Scholar for Teaching American History in South Carolina
2 Joseph J. Malone Faculty Fellows
Presidential speech writer for Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush
2 National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar participants
Liberty Forum participant
International Faculty Development Seminar participant
2 Southern Association of Universities and Colleges Accrediting Team participants
Academic leadership positions include:
Executive Secretary of the Southern Association for Women Historians
Executive Secretary of the Carolinas Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations
President, South Carolina Association of Scholars
President, South Carolina Historical Association
President, Greenville Historical Association
President, Spartanburg Historical Association
President, Westgate Training and Consultation Network
Executive Board, South Carolina Humanities Council
Executive Council, Rural Women's Studies Association
Board of Scholars, Vietnam Veterans Institute
Editorial Board, Journal of Political Science
Staff Associate, George Marshall Institute

SUCCESS BEYOND MEASURE

History & Politics Graduates Forge Impressive Paths

The Converse History and Politics Department is rich with alumnae success stories. Its graduates have led successful careers in offices from the White House and Congressional-funded agencies to judicial courtrooms and local city management offices. Following are just a few of their stories.

TRUDY HARLOW '66

Major: History

Hometown: Washington, DC

Current Occupation: Chief of Public Affairs for Bureau of Reclamation



"Politics has always played a big role in my life," said Trudy Harlow '66, who feels right at home in the politically charged atmosphere of Washington, DC. "My father, Bryce Harlow, was Chief White House lobbyist to Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon. His job came complete with a dedicated phone line from our home to the White House. Even our family dinner conversations

centered around political issues, and we were prepared individually to defend our opinions."

After earning her degree at Converse, Trudy made fast tracks back to her hometown. "I accepted a job with the Republican National Committee Boosters Club, which involved working closely with high-level donors. Then for a short time, I worked as assistant to US Senator Edward Gurney (FL) before taking 10 years off to raise children."

In 1986, President Regan appointed Harlow to serve as a special assistant to the director of the National Park Service, and three years later she was named Director of Communications for Take Pride in America, a national program that encouraged public stewardship for the nation's public lands. "For Take

Pride in America, I had to create a media operations office virtually from scratch," she said. "It was a rather difficult situation because there was no clear view of the agency's purpose. I believe its lifespan was only three years."

In 1993, Harlow became Public Affairs Officer for the National Biological Survey, which has since been renamed National Biological Service and merged with the US Geological Survey. In 2001, she was named to her current position as Chief of Public Affairs for the Bureau of Reclamation. "I manage Reclamation's national media relations program, our Web site (www.usbr.gov) and our new visual identity initiative," she says. "Reclamation's main job is providing water to people in the Western states. Water is constantly in short supply in that part of the country, and the bureau has constructed dams, power plants and canals in 17 Western states. Today we provide water to more than 31 million people and irrigation water to one out of five Western farmers."

PEGGY MERRIS '82

Major: Politics

Hometown: Columbus, GA

Current Occupation: City Manager for Decatur, GA



The people of Decatur, GA (population: 18,000) depend heavily upon Peggy Merris '82. As City Manager for the metro-Atlanta town, she supervises many key municipal services that help maintain a high quality of life. Police and fire protection, engineering, recreation, historic preservation, municipal court, economic development, and budgetary issues—

it's all in a day's work for Peggy.

When the *Bulletin* reached Peggy, she was putting the final touches on a presentation to the City Commission regarding

1966

1982

1983

1995

2000

2001

the annual audit. "The audit is very extensive and takes about six months to complete," she explained. "Actually, one of the things I'm most proud of is the fact that our audits have received no management comments for four of the last five years."

The confidence in Peggy's voice is a clear sign that she is on top of her game. "I am one of the lucky few who are doing the job they've always wanted to do," she said. "I have always had an interest in the way local government works. Actually, we operate in much the same way as a publicly held business; instead of a Board of Trustees, we have a Commission, and instead of a CEO, we have a City Manager."

Peggy arrived in Decatur two weeks after completing her master's degree in public administration at the University of North Carolina. She was hired by the City of Decatur in 1983 as Personnel Director. In 1989 She was promoted to Assistant City Manager, and in 1993, she was named City Manager.

Even though most city management jobs are held by men, Peggy says that she is rarely treated differently than others. "Of course there are rare occasions when someone may treat me a bit differently but I do not put up with at all," she said. Peggy also has an impressive list of accomplishments that speaks volumes: she has just completed a term as President of the International City/County Management Association; she is a former President of the Georgia Local Government Personnel Association; and in 1997, *Georgia Trend* magazine named her as one of the "40 Under 40" Rising Stars.

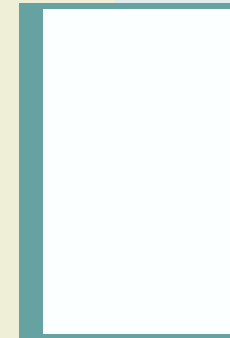
ELISE NEIL BENGTON '83

Major: Politics

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Current Occupation: President of the Greater McLean (VA) Chamber of Commerce

Elise Neil Bengton '83 has served three US Presidents: Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. "Shortly after graduating from Converse, I



was hired through the Junior Professional Program as a staff assistant to the National Security Council (NSC) during the first Reagan term," she explains. "They were specifically looking for young people with a liberal arts background. Most of the NSC staff was on loan from other agencies so that the president could be presented with as many perspectives as possible. It's worked that way for years and still does today."

During her 15 years with NSC, Elise was responsible for researching various policies of the US and other countries, analyzing speeches by world leaders, coordinating policy and projects within NSC and the White House, editing presidential letters and speeches, serving as NSC liaison to other agencies, and organizing NSC briefings and White House events. Her projects ranged from human rights to the much-ballyhooed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). "I spent much of my time in the West Wing and in the legendary Situation Room," she said.

"Looking back, I believe the Reagan staff was the most fun to work with. NSC operated very much like a family and worked well with the White House. During that time, the policy was well coordinated because of our good working relationships. I can remember gathering around a television with the other speechwriters just waiting for our lines to be read.

"The transition to the Bush presidency seemed almost flawless because much of the staff stayed on board. President Clinton virtually cleaned house when he came into office. I think he and his staff viewed the majority of us as holdovers, and felt that since we had worked under Reagan and Bush that we may have had political biases."

Elise stayed with NSC through 1998. "Given the politically-charged atmosphere in Washington at the time, I decided to work

for non-profit agencies in the area,” she said. “I served as a fundraising and marketing consultant for several arts groups.”

In 2001, she was named President of the McLean (VA) Chamber of Commerce. “It was a tough time to join the chamber,” she recalls. “Businesses were taking a big hit because of the September 11th tragedy, so for me it was very much a baptism by fire. McLean is very close to Washington and we count Gannett and USA Today among our clients. In this job, I am using many of the same skills I used at the NSC. Through marketing, research and public relations, I link people together to conduct business.”

KRISTI GOODWIN CONNELL '95

Majors: Biology and Politics

Hometown: Augusta, GA

Current Occupation: Assistant District Attorney; Augusta, GA



As Assistant District Attorney for three Georgia counties, Kristi Goodwin Connell '95 is normally handling 100 cases at any given time. “Richmond County is very urban and is where our most violent crimes occur; namely murders and robberies,” she says. “Columbia County is more suburban and is where we see more white-collar crimes such as identity theft and illegal use of prescription drugs. Burke County is mostly rural, so the majority of cases there involve domestic and property disputes, and cocaine and marijuana use.”

So how does a biology and politics major at Converse end up prosecuting crimes ranging from murder to property disputes? “While I was working on my master’s in health care administration at Mercer University (Atlanta, GA), I took a health care law class that really piqued my interest in law. After receiving my master’s degree in 1997, I began work towards my Jurist Doctorate at Mercer Law School. I was offered a job with the DA’s office in Augusta shortly after I graduated in 2000.”

Kristi is quick to say that her experience with the Converse Model League Delegation greatly strengthened her ability to persuade and debate. “I believe that oral communication has

always been one of my strengths, and Model League made me even stronger. It’s an asset that I cannot do without in my profession. In the courtroom, I’m trying very hard to convince a jury of 12 people that the defendant is guilty of a crime. That involves a lot of research and strong powers of persuasion.”

In her three years with the DA’s office, there are a number of cases Kristi looks back on for which she is particularly proud of prosecuting. “In our district, I’m one of only five people who are qualified to prosecute murder cases,” she says. “In one particular case, two people had been prosecuted twice for murdering a 12-year-old girl in a drive-by shooting in 1996. In both trials, it was ruled that the judge had possibly violated the defendants’ rights because he had given the jury an inaccurate charge before they began deliberations. By the time the case was given to me, the original prosecuting attorneys had moved on. I have much satisfaction in the fact that I was able to successfully prosecute the defendants, who received sentences of life in prison plus 25 years.

“Although this is a very rewarding job, law school does not prepare you to be a therapist, but that aspect is necessary because I do have to work with families and victims in order to prepare my case. One especially tough case involved a 15-year-old girl who was murdered by her boyfriend because he thought she was pregnant. The boyfriend had enlisted the help of a friend. The boyfriend pled guilty and was sentenced to life in prison, but his accomplice decided to take his chances with a trial. The victim’s family had to testify, which was difficult. He was found guilty.”

DEANNA FULTS '00

Majors: Politics and Spanish

Hometown: Altamont, TN

Current Occupation: Special Assistant to the Alabama Attorney General for Legislative Affairs and Special Projects

Deanna Fults '00 gained exposure to the legal system at an early age. As a child, she witnessed her father batter her mother on a regular basis. When her parents ultimately divorced, then 7-year-old Deanna was placed in the custody of her father. That court decision was overturned a year later, however, mainly because of the sheer fear Deanna felt for her father. “Even then,” Deanna reflects, “I was very conscious of how slow the court system moved because of its problems, and I knew that I



eventually wanted to pursue law as a career.”

Deanna later graduated summa cum laude from Converse and cum laude from Tulane University Law School (New Orleans, LA). Her career plan was to serve as a trial attorney for several years and eventually seek a position that would enable her to craft

legislation. But even the best made plans often do not work out quite exactly as designed. As a student, Deanna received the practical experience she wanted by serving as a law clerk with various law offices in Atlanta, GA, and Birmingham, AL. But during her final year at Tulane, she was interviewed on-campus by a member of the Alabama Attorney General’s Office, was offered a job and began work with the agency one week after graduation.

As Special Assistant to the Alabama Attorney General for Legislative Affairs and Special Projects, Deanna spends the majority of her time helping law enforcement officials to prosecute crime more effectively. “I track legislation that may affect our law enforcement officers,” she says. “For example, if officers are having a difficult time enforcing a law such as identity theft, I look at ways that we can strengthen that particular law. I’m also heavily involved with training the officers in the use of the latest courtroom technology so that they can present their case as strongly as possible.”

In addition to strengthening legislation and training law officers, Deanna also defends officers in the courtroom. “Let’s say hypothetically that a prisoner claims that they were mistreated by an officer while in custody,” she says. “I’m often the one representing that officer in the courtroom.” In addition, Deanna is active in areas such as juvenile law by serving as mediator when teens are sentenced by a judge.

While much of her work is devoted to litigation, Deanna also serves as public relations representative for the agency. “I give speeches to various organizations on behalf of the agency, assist with the maintenance of our Web site, and work with the press office,” she says. While it’s certainly a lot of work, every day is a blessing because I know I’m making a difference.”

NIVEDITA (NITU) BAGCHI '01

Major: Politics

Hometown: Calcutta, India

Currently pursuing PhD at the University of Virginia



Just before graduating summa cum laude in 2001, Nitu Bagchi and her twin sister Mitu (also a 2001 alumna) were interviewed by the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* about their experiences at Converse. They readily noted that it was the Converse faculty that made the strongest impression upon them. The Bagchi sisters returned the favor by making an equally strong impression

with faculty members. Dr. Joe Dunn, Chair of the History and Politics Department, said that Nitu was the best student he’s taught in 30 years. “She’s a multiplier,” he said. “She elevates those around her.”

Today, Nitu is pursuing her PhD in political theory at the University of Virginia. She has completed her master’s thesis and should be finished with all but her dissertation by December 2004. Nitu is a Teaching Assistant in American politics and political theory courses at UVA, and also works as the Assistant to the Director of UVA’s East Asia Center. This summer, she will be teaching a graduate-level ancient and medieval thought course by herself. “The teaching styles and passion that I observed at Converse taught me a lot about teaching as a profession,” she says. “Not only did Drs. Dunn and Jeff Poelvoorde (Associate Professor of Politics) have passion for their subjects, but they taught because they cared about the students. They held their student to very high standards, a practice that I follow with my students. I push them and do not believe in any type of grade inflation whatsoever. I sincerely earned my grades at Converse, and I want my students to do the same; they learn so much more that way and are able to exceed whatever boundaries they have in place.”

Nitu is clear about the type of college at which she wants to teach after UVA. “I want to teach at a small college where I can really know my students. At UVA, there are courses with 450 students in which we have to use two lecture halls, and the professor is shown on video in one of the halls. I’d like to teach in a place like Converse.” ■

Reading Dead People's Mail

by Dr. Melissa Walker,
Associate Professor of History

“Reading dead people’s mail.” That’s how the wife of my friend Tracy Power describes the way he spends his days. Tracy wrote a prize-winning book about ordinary soldiers in Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. He reconstructed their lives by spending thousands of hours in archives all over the South reading the letters they sent home, letters their families had lovingly preserved.

Like Tracy, I spend a lot of time reading dead people’s mail. I am a social historian. That means I study the lives of ordinary people from the past. I want to know how they lived, what they thought about the events of their times, how they collectively shaped larger political events and how those larger events shaped their lives. I want to know what made them laugh and what made them cry. People outside academia understand teaching but they often are puzzled by research, a process that seems mysterious. They wonder just how scholars spend their days. One way they spend them is digging through the sources left behind by people of the past. I have spent many happy hours in dusty archives painstakingly opening yellowed letters, neatly organized in acid-free folders and carefully preserved in gray file boxes. By reading personal letters, I can begin to learn something about the flesh and blood human beings behind dry facts on paper.

Thanks to the tantalizing details in sources like personal letters, I can do the real work of the historian: the work of interpretation. My students often define history as “past events.” Past events, however, are only the raw material of history. A listing of decades-old occurrences is a chronicle, not history. In order for past events to be meaningful and useful to today’s citizens, events must be placed in context, analyzed, and interpreted. We want to know why events unfolded as they did and the significance of those events. Most of all, we want to know something about the people who made history. Historians answer these

questions by reading letters, diaries, financial records, and dozens of other sources that people of the past left behind.

The importance of those old personal letters hit home for me when I was researching the life of Lily Strickland, a Converse alumna and noted composer during the early twentieth century. Several years ago, Converse voice professor Susan Lyle and I put together a women’s history month program on Miss Strickland’s life and her music, and later I wrote an article on Strickland for the *South Carolina Encyclopedia*. The Converse College archives holds a collection of Lily Strickland’s personal papers, and I dug through those papers in an attempt to understand this fascinating woman. What kind of confidence and talent had it taken, I wondered, for a Southern woman to succeed in the male-dominated world of music publishing at the turn of the nineteenth century? What inspired her to write music that blended the rich folk cultures of Asia, Africa, and the American South with her own unique phrasings?

It proved easy to assemble the facts of Miss Strickland’s life. Born in Anderson, South Carolina, she began learning music at an early age and published her first musical composition at the age of sixteen. After studying music at Converse, in 1905 Lily earned a scholarship to New York City’s Institute of Musical Arts, the forerunner to the famed Julliard School. In New York, she met and married Wofford graduate J. Courtenay Anderson. Lily continued to compose in her maiden name after her

Lily Strickland, Class of 1905



marriage, publishing 395 musical works, ranging from oratorios to orchestral works, from popular ballads to children’s songs. The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Symphony performed her work as did singers Burl Ives and Paul Robeson. Strickland spent seven years living in India where her husband managed the Calcutta branch of an American company, and while there, she traveled all over Asia and Africa. Converse awarded Strickland an honorary degree in 1924. She and her husband never had children though she remained close to a number of nieces. Lily died in 1958.

The facts of Lily’s life are interesting, but they did not answer my questions about what kind of woman could achieve so much in a time and place when most women, particularly Southern women, did not step much beyond the boundaries of family and home.

Knowing something about the era in which she lived, I realized that Lily was born at a propitious time. In the early twentieth century, educational opportunities were expanding for middle class women like Lily. Because music was one of those fields of study considered to be acceptable for genteel young ladies, eager professors encouraged talented students like Lily to excel. At the urging of her Converse professors, Lily chose to continue her study of composition. In New York, she was pulled into the orbit of young musicians, male and female, who fed the growing American middle class’s appetite for new music—songs to perform at home as well as in professional concerts and on the new technology of the phonograph recording. In short, Lily became a composer at a time when talented artists found an expanding array of opportunities.

All this context, however, did not help me understand the flesh and blood woman who created all those delightful and passionate songs. To unearth a hint of what kind of person she was, I had to read Lily’s letters and other writings. In spite of her early career success, Lily seemed to have remained something of a traditionalist until she and her husband moved to India. There she wrote eloquent letters about the beauty around her. She wrote a niece that, “India has in itself the extremes of contrast; the highest and most glorious mountain range in the world... and illimitable stretches of desert-like, sun-based sandy country... The romance of life is a very real and vital thing with me, and never a day passes but I see beauty.”

In India, Lily seemed to break free of the constrictions placed on women of her time, and her letters and travel essays detail her joyful new adventures. For example, on June 8, 1925, she wrote to her goddaughter about a five-week journey in India with a guide and a woman friend, adventure enough in itself. She explained that she had endured “the most awful soul-stirring cyclone” on the Bay of Bengal and a treacherous trip



Melissa Walker, surrounded by artifacts from Lily Strickland’s file, in the Converse archives.

down a mountain road with a reckless driver. “I skidded very near the edge of Eternity during that ride,” she wrote. “But strange to say, I enjoyed it. That’s the kind of fool I am.... [A]fter so many years of repression and narrow-minded negations, I have just ‘busted loose’.... I cannot begin to write you all that I did and saw during those five weeks of glorious freedom.”

I was thrilled to find this letter. At last, here was the spirited woman who resided behind that stunning list of musical achievements. I eagerly unfolded more yellowed pages in the files and I soon learned that Lily was thoroughly modern in her approach to marriage as well. She seemed to have adored her husband and followed him around the world, but she also fiercely maintained her independence at a time when most women immersed their identities in that of their husbands. In 1938, she wrote to the daughter of a cousin on the occasion of the young woman’s marriage:

“I know all the married members of our family either give you or want to give you advice.... Well, here’s me! C. and I have been married nearly 27 years, believe it or not. I don’t say it has been a perfect union. There ain’t no sech [sic] thing. But — I believe the reason we’ve managed this long without hating each other is that we started out as individuals and kept on being that way. Marriage has never made any two people one yet — if it did, it would be darned dull.”

I still don’t know a great deal about the inner Lily Strickland. Converse has only a few of her papers, and I have much more digging to do if I am to reconstruct some picture of the intense woman composer. Nonetheless, it is through tidbits like these passages from Lily’s letters that I can begin to craft some picture of the woman she was and the things she can teach us. By reading her mail, I can begin to understand her and to interpret her for today’s people. ■



A Pair of Knickers and Time to Explore

by Dr. Jeff Willis, Andrew Helmus Distinguished Professor of History

I have always had a passion for history. When the attraction first began, I cannot remember. It was always there. When young, I was more attracted to the history of Europe than to the past of my own country. Perhaps it was the lure of distant lands and all the kings and emperors that fascinated me. At any rate, the result was that my academic career would be devoted to European history.

After teaching European history for almost 43 years I now find my interest shifting more to the area of local history, and to the history of Spartanburg County and the South Carolina Upcountry in particular. It was many years ago that Spartanburg first attracted my attention. While growing up in Greenville, I was brought on numerous visits. The purpose of these trips was for my family to shop along Spartanburg's East Main Street. For some reason, they were never able to find anything to buy in Greenville.

Not being an essential part of the shopping venture, I was released to discover the delights of East Main Street on my own. At the time the sights and opportunities afforded were far more exciting than any modern mall — at least to a boy with 25 cents in the pocket of his knickers. So off I would go, pausing every block or two to pull the bottoms of the knickers back to knee level. It was embarrassing to have them hanging at three-quarters length. I always headed toward East Main's primary attractions: F. W. Woolworth and S. H. Kress 5 & 10 Cents Stores.

On one especially adventuresome visit, I decided to explore an appealing sight across Church Street. In the middle of an open square was an impressive bronze statue on a tall pedestal. Although forbidden to cross Church Street, I thought that I was owed something for having to wear those knickers.

With a feeling of rebellion, I crossed the forbidden boundary, approached the statue, and learned for the first time of General Daniel Morgan and the Battle of the Cowpens. Many years later, I would learn that Morgan Square was the “cradle” of Spartanburg and the place where the city had its beginning.

During these youthful wanderings, it never occurred to me that Spartanburg would eventually become my home. But here I am and have been for 37 years. It has been during these years that my conversion to local history has taken place.

The culmination of this conversion came when I first discovered several old postcards of Spartanburg. Although Spartanburg has retained many of its old buildings, much of the community's architectural heritage is gone. Through postcards I began to reconstruct the city of a hundred years ago.

As the postcard collection grew, I went back to old newspapers and other records to research the history of each card. As my knowledge of Spartanburg increased, I became audacious enough to go into print and wrote short articles on Spartanburg history for *The Drover's Post*, published by the Spartanburg County Historical Association.

Thus launched into a new career in local history, I joined the board of the Spartanburg County Historical Association and became editor of *The Drover's Post*. Soon thereafter came an invitation to serve on the Board of the Greenville County Historical Society and to become editor of *The New Greenville Mountaineer* and *The Papers and Proceedings of the Greenville County Historical Society*.

Becoming more secure in my new field, I moved in the direction of more extensive publications. Using my collection of Spartanburg postcards and the research done on them, I published *Spartanburg,*

South Carolina: A Postcard History in 1999. During the two years of additional work on this project, my acquaintance with the Spartanburg community was extended far beyond the realm of a residency of a mere 35 years. I learned about more buildings and more people than had previously been within my scope of acquaintance. Soon the rumor began to spread in town that I knew more people in Oakwood Cemetery than across the street in Converse Heights. In the *Postcard History* I was able to recreate Spartanburg as it existed at the beginning of the twentieth century. By the inclusion of postcards of many significant buildings that had been demolished, the *Postcard History* was made to serve as a statement for historical preservation as well.

Now firmly convinced of the validity of well-researched pictorial histories, I began to regret the absence of such a record for Converse College. Although an excellent and thorough history of the College existed, it was published in 1972. An updated history with a more general appeal was needed. My new interest in local history had made me thoroughly familiar with the great wealth of material and images in the Converse archives. *Converse College: A Pictorial History* turned out to be another two-year project. One of my goals in writing the book was to create a reference work that would provide easily accessible information about campus buildings, events, and organizations.

The *Postcard History* and *Converse College* cast me in the role of a local writer and led to involvement with the Hub City Writers Project. In 2000 I contributed a personal essay to *Hub City Anthology II*. The Writers Project's most ambitious effort to date has been the publication of *Textile Town* in 2002. This large volume, with extensive text and photographs, is the best record ever compiled of Spartanburg's once thriving textile industry and textile communities. Many contributions were made to the book by individuals who had grown up in the

mills and mill villages. For the major chapters, the editors turned to the history departments of the area colleges. I was pleased to be asked to write Chapter I.

My work with the Greenville County Historical Society has naturally drawn me into research into that city's past. As editor of the Society's publications, I learned that the Society has a large collection of about 15,000 photographs taken during the first half of the twentieth century. The rapid development of Greenville has almost obliterated the city recorded in these photographs. After



(Above) Today's downtown Spartanburg boasts the new headquarters of Extended Stay America, Advance America, and QS/1, along with many other shops, restaurants, and businesses. (Right) The Marriott Conference Hotel at Renaissance Park opened earlier this year downtown.

during the second half of the twentieth century. This is the Morgan Square that most of you remember. The Opera House, the Cleveland Hotel, and the Andrews Building have all been demolished. If I returned to the area today for the first time since my first defiant crossing of Church Street 60 years ago, I would also find myself in unfamiliar surroundings.

Dominating the north side of the Square today is the recently completed national headquarters of Extended Stay America. The old bank building has been converted into a popular restaurant,

looking through the entire collection, I selected about 300 photographs for publication. *Remembering Greenville: Photographs From The Coxe Collection* was published in 2003. Using the photographs along with an introductory essay and extensive text, the book recreates Greenville as it existed from the 1890s into the 1960s and traces its evolution from a small city into a large metropolitan area.

Many Converse alumnae share my interest in the community where they spent four very important years of their lives. Those of you who have not continued to live in the area will be amazed by the changes that have taken place. Morgan Square, once the center of all activities in Spartanburg, declined

which draws nightlife into downtown. The upper floors of many downtown buildings have been changed into apartments, popular with young professionals. At the beginning of 2004 the Marriott Hotel at Renaissance Park opened on North Church Street, providing much-needed facilities for out-of-town visitors. The area behind the hotel will soon be occupied by a nine-hole golf course and park. The view of the golf course will be shared by the residents of a proposed luxury apartment building.

Spartanburg, along with the Converse campus, is changing. You will enjoy getting reacquainted with both. ■

Spartanburg Colleges Unite to Form College Town

Converse College has joined with the five other Spartanburg colleges to form the College Town Consortium, a project that will foster collaborative social and academic programs to showcase the institutions of higher education in the community. "This is a wonderful niche opportunity to advance the identity of Spartanburg as a vibrant college town," said Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet during an October press conference. Barnet initiated the College Town concept and convened the college presidents. "Spartanburg's six colleges have greatly enhanced the value of our city for many generations, and as they join forces to form the College Town Consortium, they greatly increase their opportunity to impact the 10,000 college students in our community as well as our community members."

John Stockwell, President of the University of South Carolina Spartanburg, has led the College Town effort during its first year. "There are many factors that make Spartanburg a unique town, but it is the fact that six institutions of higher education are located within mere miles of each other that distinguishes this town most," he explained. "Spartanburg has the highest per capita student population of any major city in the state. College Town's mission is to capitalize on the advantages offered by the large number of diverse colleges to create educational, social and service opportunities for students; to create economic and brand development opportunities for the city; and to create and sustain partnership advantages among the colleges themselves."

Jane Marion '04, Converse SGA President, anticipates great advantages for Converse students through the new



consortium. "We are excited about meeting new people and learning from students and faculty at other colleges, and most of all, giving back to a community that has for generations helped to develop the potential of young leaders," she said.

College Town's first official event was the South Carolina Humanities Festival, held last spring on the college campuses. Last fall, the city hosted a welcome back band party for the students in Barnet Park, downtown. Also this year, a series of academic events and a joint community service project have been planned. Converse President Nancy Gray will lead the College Town effort for 2004-2005. College Town is currently building a website at www.collegetownsc.org.

Spartanburg college presidents and student leaders at the College Town announcement press conference.



Converse's First Young Writers Summer Workshop

Help spread the word about Converse College's first residential summer writers workshop for high school students, to be held June 13-18. The workshop will be led by Converse faculty and guest writers, and feature seminars and panel discussions geared toward a range of interests and writers at all levels of development.

Workshop participants will receive personal instruction and critique in several genres of writing including poetry, fiction and nonfiction memoir; learn techniques that help writers recognize strengths, potential, and avenues for successful writing, editing and publishing; and discover new ways to write about and empower their own lives. They will also give in a public reading of their work.

The \$600 tuition includes housing, meals, and on-campus activities. An application and additional information is posted on the Converse website at www.converse.edu. Click the Summer Writers Workshop feature button on the home page. Deadline for application is April 15.



Grant Links Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs

Converse has taken a lead role in securing a three-year \$1.56 million PT3 (Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology) grant from the U. S. Department of Education that will link Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Education Programs throughout the country via Web-based video conferencing equipment. Katharine Stephens Slemenda, Associate Professor of Deaf Education and Chair of the Education Department at Converse, is co-director of the grant along with Dr. Harold Johnson, Professor of D/HH Education at Kent State University.

"This is a very important initiative because it will enable us to examine the most effective practices in D/HH education and incorporate them into our D/HH teacher preparation program," said Slemenda. D/HH programs at other institutions-including the S.C. School for the Deaf and the Blind, Kent State University, Illinois State University, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Spartanburg Hearing Impaired Program, and the Texas School

for the Deaf-have also signed on as participants in the grant. The Association of College Educators-Deaf/Hard of Hearing (ACE-D/HH) will serve as the grant's lead organization.

Through Web-based video conferencing, D/HH student teachers and faculty will be able to collect data and observe the actual practice of successful master teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. For example, D/HH students and faculty at Converse can link with a classroom in Utah to observe a particular instructional strategy or assessment for students who are D/HH, then discuss and document the effectiveness of the observed methods.

While the monies from the PT3 grant will be used primarily to conduct research and purchase Web-based video conferencing equipment, the fundamental goal is to increase the academic performance of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. "The problem of deafness is not too little hearing, but too much interpersonal and informational isolation," said Johnson. "This isolation has resulted in poor academic performance, inadequate teaching resources, and insufficient teacher preparation. The PT3 grant will go a long way in helping D/HH programs throughout the country to greatly improve the way they educate their students and prepare their teachers."



Converse Welcomes Planned Giving Director



Converse welcomed Dianne Ansley in January as the college's Director of Planned Giving. Dianne's primary objective is to educate people about the many

benefits of planned giving. "There are numerous ways for individuals or families to make a long-lasting and significant difference with their legacy via planned giving. It's a form of financial support that more and more people are using," she said. "In its most basic definition, planned giving enables the donor to ensure that their assets are used in a way that truly reflects their values. Rather than entrusting an organization to make the decision on how a gift is used, planned giving allows the donor to specifically target areas they care about the most."

Another advantage of planned giving is the diversity of ways in which the donor can participate. "The most common form of planned giving is the outright bequest in a will," said Dianne. "But there are other options with tremendous benefits. A gift annuity, for example, offers a return on a gift based on life expectancy, which means a Converse donor could receive a lifetime income while benefiting the college at the same time. Other forms of planned giving include charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, private and community foundations, charitable annuities, and donor-advised funds."

A native of Birmingham, AL, Dianne earned her BA in Education and JD from the University of Kentucky. She practiced estate law for eight years with Fowler, Measle, and Bell in Lexington, KY, before moving to University of the South in Seawee, TN, in 1996 to serve as Planned Giving Officer.

To talk with Dianne about planned giving opportunities at Converse, call 864-577-2088 or E-mail her at dianne.ansley@converse.edu.

CLUBEVENTS



October 22, 2003 • Houston, TX

Luncheon at The Forest Club



October 21, 2003 • Dallas, TX

Cocktail Buffet at the home of Sid and Kay Ferguson Theis '78.



November 4, 2003 • Birmingham, AL

Cocktail Buffet at the home of Hugh and Emily Jones Rushing '73.



November 7, 2003 • Spartanburg, SC

1889 Skit and After Party for Spartanburg and Greenville Young Alumnae

CLUBEVENTS

ALUMNAE REUNION WEEKEND

April 23-25, 2004
Everyone is welcome!

Contact Elizabeth G. Simons, Associate Director of Alumnae, by E-mail at elizabeth.simons@converse.edu or at 864-596-9058 for more information. See advertisement on inside front cover.

CLUBEVENTS



November 11, 2003 • Atlanta, GA

Cocktail Reception in the home of Marsh and Mary Gossett Dalton King '75. (Pictured: Suzanne and Joe Hopkins, Dean of the Petrie School of Music, who provided the entertainment.)



November 23, 2003 • Spartanburg, SC

Golden Club Luncheon



December 9, 2003 • Charlotte, NC

Alumnae Christmas Party at the home of Olin and Marian McGowan Nisbet '62. (Pictured: President Nancy Gray and Marian McCowen Nisbet.)



December 11, 2003 • Charleston, SC

Event held at McBee House on the campus of Ashley Hall to honor Margaret Campbell MacDonald '59, retiring Headmistress at Ashley Hall. (Pictured: Heather Patchett, VP for Institutional Advancement, reading)

Alumnae CARE About Fall 2004 Enrollment

We really appreciate how much you "CARE"! The support you are giving to the admissions effort through CARE (the Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort) is paying off - to date we have received more than 240 referrals for the Fall 2004 entering class. That is 50 more than last year! In addition, more than 100 of you have volunteered to help admissions by doing a variety of things such as staffing a table at a college fair, hosting prospective student parties in your homes, or calling or E-mailing prospective students. You are even willing to drop off cookies or muffins at your local high school! Your promotion of Converse in your community is very important in positioning the college as a competitive institution, and we appreciate your willingness to partner with us in this endeavor.

Today, the most important factor in a student's college decision is the campus visit. Students who are considering Converse are also applying to USC, Clemson, Furman, and Wofford. We know that we compare very favorably with other colleges once a student visits the campus, so encouraging a young woman to take that step can make a real difference. Although we still often hear "I told my parents I would never go to a girl's school," once a student spends time

THE IMPACT OF CARE

ENTERING CLASS	2002	2003	2004*	2005*	2006-2010*
ALUMNAE REFERRALS	186	193	240	141	86
ALUMNAE REFERRAL APPLICATIONS	22	41	38	N/A	N/A
ALUMNAE REFERRAL DEPOSITS	7	19	15	N/A	N/A
† LEGACY APPLICATIONS	45	52	52	N/A	N/A
LEGACY DEPOSITS	25	26	19	N/A	N/A

* Numbers for 2004-2010 entering classes are as of March 4, 2004.
† A Legacy is a prospective student who has had family attend Converse.

on campus and sees what the Converse experience is all about, she is usually sold.

So what does that mean for you? We need your continued support for CARE. Encourage young women you know to just take the first step and visit the

campus. We'll do the rest! If you are interested in volunteering with CARE, contact the Alumnae Office or Natalie Spigner '98, Alumnae Admissions Coordinator, at 800-766-1125 or by E-mail at natalie.spigner@converse.edu. And, as always, thank you for your support.

Meet Natalie Spigner



Spigner

Natalie Spigner '98 joined the Admissions team in January as events coordinator and the contact for CARE.

Natalie worked in sales and marketing and as a third grade teacher in Charleston before her return to Converse. "It's great to be back on campus, especially during such an exciting time for the College," Natalie says. CARE participants will be hearing from Natalie soon!

Join the Online Alumnae Network

Career Services is collaborating with Monstertrak.com to provide an online career networking service for Converse students and alumnae. Through Monstertrak.com, alumnae can serve as career contacts or mentors to current students who are making decisions about their major, exploring career options, considering graduate school, relocating, etc. Alumnae can also network with other alumnae in the same manner. All alumnae are strongly encouraged to participate.

Converse protects the privacy of all participants by requiring that communication be initiated through the Career Services Office. Register to participate in the Converse Alumnae Network on Monstertrak.com via the "For Alumnae" section of the Converse website at www.converse.edu. Your username is "Converse" and your password is "password." For more information, contact Career Services at 864-596-9027 or E-mail ruby.brown-herring@converse.edu.

Dear Fellow Alumnae,



My favorite time of the year is here! Spring is the time when we are reminded of growth and renewal. I am especially reminded of this when I return to the Converse campus. Phifer Science Hall is progressing beautifully and is a wonderful addition to the campus. A new road alongside the Pine Street side of campus is underway for easier navigation. On the horizon are plans for the renovation of Montgomery Student Activities Center and Kuhn Hall. As I mention each time that I write this column, if you have not returned to the campus recently, please do so. Reunion is April 23-25, and everyone is welcome!

In January, the Alumnae Board enjoyed a demonstration by the Model League of Arab States Team. This delegation was the big winner at the Northeast Model League of Arab States competition in Boston, Massachusetts in November. They beat a collection of teams from Ivy League institutions that included Harvard, Boston College, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Tufts. It was so impressive to see them in action! They exemplified the caliber of today's Converse students.

Again, I ask for your help in supporting growth and renewal at Converse. If you have not made your Annual Fund gift, please do so. This is the way that we provide scholarships for more than 90% of our students. Also, Converse needs you to refer potential students. In the last alumnae survey, 75% of us noted that we found Converse because someone we knew (teacher, family, friend) encouraged us to consider this wonderful place. This is solid proof that the Converse Alumnae Recruitment Effort (CARE) is the very best way to assure growth in the number of students at Converse. Both of these efforts are vital to the successful future of our alma mater!

Thank you for all that you do for Converse. Have a wonderful spring and enjoy the beautiful weather!

Carroll Clancy
President, Alumnae Association

CLUBEVENTS



January 14, 2004 • Tampa, FL

Bill and Lib Harper Hopkins '49 hosted a cocktail party in their home.



January 13, 2004 • Tallahassee, FL

Luncheon at Albert's Provence



January 14, 2004 • St. Petersburg, FL

Luncheon at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club



January 15, 2004 • Jacksonville, FL

Billy and Beth Uible Morris '81 and Jack and Mary Jane Uible hosted a cocktail party at the Timuquana Country Club.

CLUBEVENTS



Distinguished Alumna Award
**Katherine Stallings
Dunlap '29**

Katherine Stallings Dunlap '29 is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award. She was an education and psychology major at Converse and devoted much of her life to public service.

In 1951, Katherine joined SC Governor James F. Byrnes' staff as an assistant. As each new administration came into office, Katherine was asked to remain. By the time she retired in 1980, she had served eight SC governors. Her responsibilities throughout this time greatly varied. She was administrative assistant and fiscal officer under Governors Byrnes and Timmerman; fiscal officer for Governors Russell and McNair; extradition and fiscal affairs assistant for Governors West and Edwards; and fiscal affairs officer for Governor Riley.

On three separate occasions, Katherine was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest honor bestowed on a civilian in SC. In 1980, she was invited to address the state Senate and received a standing ovation. She has also been presented with an Award for Excellence in Community Service by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1995.

Her civic activities include service with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Pilot Club of Spartanburg, the American Legion Auxiliary, Military Officers' Association of America, Fort Jackson Officers' Club Auxiliary, and the Fort Jackson Retired Officers' Wives Club.



Mae Kilgo Spirit Award
**Frances Earle
Halford Sanders '49**

Frances Earle Halford Sanders '49 readily admits that when she was a Converse student, she was more interested in boyfriends, dates, and dancing than academics! However, she did successfully double-major in history and drama. She later earned a master's degree in special education from Clemson University and a master's in rehabilitation counseling from the University of South Carolina.

Her commitment to Converse was reflected by her instrumental help in forming a Young Converse Graduates group in Columbia, SC, in the early 1950s.

Her public school teaching years were spent in Darlington (SC), Atlanta (GA), Columbia, and Greenwood (SC). It was while working with the Greenwood County Association for Retarded Children and Adults in 1974 that she found her true passion of teaching persons with mental retardation. She later co-founded Camp Joy at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Assembly Grounds in Flat Rock, NC, for young people and adults with mental retardation. From an initial one-week, nine-camper beginning, Camp Joy now conducts three one-week summer sessions with 35 campers per session. Frances also served on the Board of Visitors for USC from 1984-91.

One outcome of her drama training at Converse is her participation in all aspects of local community theatres in Florence (SC), Albany (GA), Greenwood, and Columbia.



Community Service Award
**Margaret Jackson
Bundy '54**

The Community Service Award is presented to Margaret Jackson Bundy '54 in recognition of her work as a champion of public library service.

Margaret began her service as a member of the Lancaster (SC) County Library Board—including a term as Chairman—and a Trustee Section Representative. In 1992, she was appointed to the State Library Board by Carroll Campbell, then Governor of SC. Her appointment has been renewed in five-year increments by Governors David Beasley and James Hodges. Her current term extends through 2006.

In 1998, Margaret completed a four-year term as Chairman of the State Library Board. Under her leadership, the library gained a \$1.5 million appropriation from the General Assembly for the DISCUS program (Digital Information for SC Users). Through DISCUS all South Carolinians have equitable access to a vast electronic library via the Internet at participating libraries throughout the state.

The SC State Library and the SC State Library Foundation showed their appreciation for Margaret by announcing a scholarship in her honor at the University of South Carolina that will assist students interested in a career in public library service. Margaret is also one of five living SC honorees on the National Advocacy Honor Roll by the American Library Association and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates.



Career Achievement Award
**Hannah Stewart-
Gambino '79**

Each year, Converse salutes an alumna dedicated to professional excellence and distinguished by notable achievement over a period of time. After Hannah Stewart-Gambino '79 received her bachelor's degree in politics and religion from Converse, she went on to earn her master's and PhD in political science at Duke University. Today, she is one of the most respected experts on Latin American issues and is a Political Science Professor and Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA).

Dr. Stewart's research is centered on the influence of religion in Latin American politics. Examples of her recent publications are: *Power, Politics and Pentecostals in Latin America* (co-edited, 1997), *Conflict and Competition: The Latin American Church in a Changing Environment* (co-edited, 1992), and *The Church and Politics in the Chilean Countryside* (1992). In 1994, she received Lehigh's Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Junior Member of the Faculty.

Dr. Stewart is also founder and Co-Director of Lehigh's Community Fellows Graduate program, which is designed to support partnerships between Lehigh and regional agencies active in economic and community development. From 1999-2001, she served as President of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies.



Career Achievement in
Music Award
**Liselotte Martha
Schmidt '54**

The Career Achievement in Music Award is presented to Liselotte Martha Schmidt '54. Since graduating summa cum laude from Converse, she has earned her MA in musicology, MM in piano performance, and EdD in Music Education from New York University. In addition to her academic degrees, she has also completed graduate study at New York University, the Juilliard School of Music, the University of Michigan, and Yeshiva University. She is currently serving as Professor of Music History at West Chester University (West Chester, PA).

Liselotte is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including a summer fellowship from the New York State University Research Foundation, a research award from Southern Illinois University and a Fulbright International Educational Exchange Grant to the University of Munich for musicological research on the 16th century Italian madrigal. She has presented papers regarding the music of Johanne Sebastian Bach and the Baroque period at the Universities of Munich, Halle, and Magdeburg in Germany.

Before joining West Chester, she was a faculty member of the Crane School of Music of the State University College at Potsdam (NY), Southern Illinois University, Western Michigan, and Wilkes College. From 1958-59, she served as Assistant Director of the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem, NC.



Converse 100 Award
**Lib Harper
Hopkins '49**

Lib Harper Hopkins '49 has been chosen to receive the Converse 100 Award for her embodiment of the qualities of character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal.

A native of Tampa, FL, Lib graduated from Converse with a BA in psychology. From 1969-79, she was a social worker in foster care for the Division of Family Services in Florida. Beginning in 1984, she served nine years as a Human Services Program Specialist in Aging and Adult Services in five counties. She wrote grants and monitored programs concerning domestic violence, displaced homemakers, community care for disabled adults, area agencies on aging, and an Alzheimer's initiative at the University of South Florida. Lib was one of five selected representatives of the state at the first National Family Violence Conference.

Lib retired and moved to Spartanburg in 1994. She accepted a part-time position with Security Link to facilitate adoption of their medical alert systems for low-income elderly and disabled adults in NC, SC, and GA. She served as a Board member for the Georgia Cleveland Home, a residential facility for low income women in Spartanburg.

Lib has since returned to Tampa and is a Board member of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, and a member of the Chiselers, an historical preservation group in Tampa.



Converse 100 Award
**Palmer Davison
Ball '84**

The Converse 100 Award is given to alumnae who clearly represent the qualities of character and achievement. With her selfless giving to her community and her college, Palmer Davison Ball '84 is recognized with this award.

After graduating from Converse, Palmer received her MBA from Vanderbilt University in 1986. Upon graduation, she worked for Price-Waterhouse, a Big Eight accounting firm in Atlanta, and re-organized the Atlanta Young Alumnae into a viable organization. In 1988, Palmer returned to her alma mater and worked in the Development Office, before moving to the Business Office. In 1991, she was named Vice President for Business and Finance, becoming the first female VP for Finance and the first alumna VP at the College. Since 1995, Palmer has served as Business Manager at Spartanburg Day School.

Palmer is a sustainer of the Junior League of Spartanburg. She is a former President and Treasurer of the Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home; a former Board Member of Stop the Violence, the Family Care Council, and Spartanburg County Art Association; and a graduate of Leadership Spartanburg. Palmer has served on the Converse Alumnae Board as an 80s Decade Representative and a member of the Nominating Committee. Palmer and her husband, Michael, have recently endowed the Dean Joe Ann Lever Outstanding Biology Student Award.



Star Award
**Ashley Dover
Sorrow '94**

An alumna who has actively and admirably served Converse in the area of recruitment is given the Converse Star Award. This year's recipient is Ashley Dover Sorrow '94.

Now living in Chattanooga, TN, Ashley is a Diagnostic Account Representative for Bracco Diagnostics. Her duties include selling nuclear medicine, IV diagnostics and the Acist Cath Lab System to hospitals and diagnostic imaging centers in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. She is also enrolled in the Master's of Public Administration Program at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Ashley has served as chair of the Spartanburg Club and is currently serving as Chair of the Chattanooga Club. She has also served as the Young Alumnae Representative to the Alumnae Board and Class Fund Chair.

In her community, Ashley is a member of the Junior League of Chattanooga and a Board Member of the Chattanooga Girl's Cotillion.



**President Elect
Sandra Sherard Bethea '67**

- Columbia, SC
- Retired office manager and bookkeeper
- Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity
- Elder, Deacon, and Sunday School Teacher, Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**1st VP (Nominating Committee Chair)
Palmer Davison Ball '84**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Business manager, Spartanburg Day School
- Sustainer, Junior League of Spartanburg
- Former President and Treasurer, Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home



**2nd VP (National Club Chair)
Mindy Thompson Orman '71**

- Nashville, TN
- Realtor, Prudential Woodmont
- Board member, American Red Cross
- Photographer with husband, Orman and Orman Photographers

**Secretary
Candy Moore '93**

- Fort Mill, SC
- VP of Marketing/Employee Financial Services, Wachovia
- Finalist, 2002-03 Wachovia Diamond Award



**Alumnae Development Committee Chair
Elisabeth Kinney McNeil '89**

- Bennettsville, SC
- Owner/manager, Shiness Gift Shop
- Chairperson, The Kinney Foundation
- Treasurer, Marlboro Civic Center Foundation

**Golden Club President
Marianne Ellison Bartram '49**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Retired math teacher at schools in Columbia, Pendleton, Lancaster, and Greenville Technical College



**Converse II Representative
Elisa Guillermina Balderrama '03**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Project coordinator, City of Spartanburg Community Relations Office
- Organized first Hispanic Health Fair in Upstate to be held at a major mall

**50's Decade Representative
Doris Marley Laird '51**

- Tallahassee, FL
- Active in Tallahassee Music Guild, Colonial Dames and Tallahassee Women's Club
- Soprano, church choir

**50's Decade Representative
"Sister" Marshall Goode '59**

- Rock Hill, SC
- Owner of Gallery 5, exhibits her paintings as well as other award-winning artists
- Member of Advisory Board, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Winthrop University



**50's Decade Representative
Nancy Sibley Dunn '54**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Retired Teacher
- Converse Class Fund Chair and Admissions volunteer

**60's Decade Representative
Harriet Messer Goldsmith '69**

- Greenville, SC
- Active member of Christ Church Episcopal
- Volunteer for several arts groups



**70's Decade Representative
Grazier Connors Rhea '74**

- Rock Hill, SC
- Community development director, Catawba Regional Council of Governments
- Founding member, past president, current board member/treasurer, Historic Rock Hill

**70's Decade Representative
Elise Warren '75**

- Birmingham, AL
- Immediate past president, Converse Alumnae Association
- Sustainer, Junior League of Birmingham



**70's Decade Representative
Nancy Boatwright Holt '79**

- Columbia, SC
- Sales associate, Cucina
- Treasurer, Daughters of the Holy Cross, Trinity Cathedral
- Sustainer, Junior League of Columbia



**80's Decade Representative
Elena Pribyl Rush '84**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Director, Community and Economic Development Department, Spartanburg County
- Board member, National Assoc. for County Community and Economic Development

**80's Decade Representative
Sally Jeter Hammond '81**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Broadcast spokesperson and coordinator of Healing Arts program, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System



**80's Decade Representative
Laura Chappell Bauknight '87**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Program coordinator, Health Resource Center's Parent-to-Parent program

**90's Decade Representative
Jane Manning Hyatt '93**

- Ridgewood, NJ
- Northeast Regional Manager, Prentice Hall Publishing
- Member, Junior League



**90's Decade Representative
Ashley Gross Millinor '94**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Publishing representative and Southeast Regional Trainer, Prentice Hall Publishing
- Member, Junior League of Spartanburg and First Presbyterian Church

**90's Decade Representative
Joy Adams Bethea '93**

- Columbia, SC
- Member, Junior League of Columbia
- Former teacher, Hammond School
- Volunteer, EdStravaganza 2004, fundraiser for a children's museum



**2000's Decade Representative
Susanna Knight '00**

- Atlanta, GA
- Teacher, Dekalb County School System
- Pursuing master's degree in behavior and learning disabilities, Georgia State University
- Volunteer, March of Dimes



**2000's Decade Representative
Bryce Copeland Mazur '01**

- Simpsonville, SC
- Community volunteer
- Member, Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church

**2000's Decade Representative
Wilesha Davis Wright '01**

- Durham, NC
- Educational director, Family Life Enrichment Center of East Durham
- Founder, Touched by an Angel Childcare Services

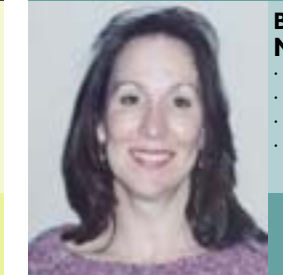
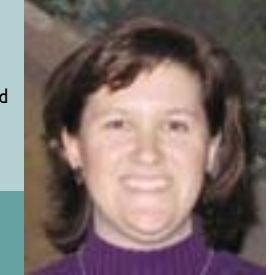


**2000's Decade Representative
Jessica Case Holland '03**

- Spartanburg, SC
- Planning to pursue law degree
- Newlywed

**Board Member at Large
Wallace Davison '89**

- Austin, TX
- Payment processing manager, Supportkids, a child support collections agency
- Member, Junior League of Austin



**Board Member at Large
Mary Helen Richbourg Earle '85**

- Greenville, SC
- Volunteer, Meals on Wheels
- Licensed pilot
- Member, St. Mary's Catholic Church Choir

**Board Member at Large
Lydia Wood '92**

- Atlanta, GA
- Atlanta Converse Club Chair
- Volunteer, Hands on Atlanta
- Volunteer, BellSouth Women's Network Association



**Graduate School Representative
Jenny Williams '96, '98 MEd**

- Spartanburg, SC
- English faculty member, Spartanburg Technical College
- Member, Junior League of Spartanburg
- Member, Arts X Society

IN MEMORIAM

Dora LITTLE Kitchin '29, January 15, 2004.
 Agnes Adger MANSFIELD '29, January 20, 2004.
 Rachel MINSHALL Waters '29, January 6, 2004.
 Marguerite CUTTINO Haynsworth '30, October 27, 2003.
 Byrd AUSTELL Cassibry '31, November 13, 2003.
 Ada Lee DOWLING Hood Cox '31, October 15, 2003.
 Corrie WATSON Clark '32, November 7, 2003.
 Margaret "Sis" ROPER Jeter Gilliam '34, October 22, 2003.
 Vivian FRAZER Donald '36, October 20, 2003.
 Mary RAST Ramseur '36, March 31, 2003.
 Elizabeth JONES Cookman '37, January 1, 2004.
 Julia SEAY Kinghorn '37, October 1, 2003.
 Dorothy DERRICK Betts '43, November 7, 2003.
 Freda Carolyn SULLIVAN Hicks '43, January 5, 2004.
 Nancy VAUGHAN Burns '43, November 16, 2003.
 Jennie COX Prince '44, January 8, 2004.
 Pat GARDNER Elmore '44, October 28, 2003.
 Doris Louisa HATCHETT '44, December 1, 2003.
 Moultrie Hutchinson MCINTOSH '44, January 6, 2004.
 Louise WILLIAMSON Try '44, October 27, 2003.
 Mary Ann CURRY Howard '46, January 16, 2004.
 Kay BAILEY Barry '52, December 23, 2003.
 Hazel COX Chapman '54, December 21, 2003.
 Jessie GREEVER Heyward '57, November 26, 2003.
 Dorothy Jeffcoat MADDOX '70 MAT, December 18, 2003.
 Delane RAMSEY '72 MAT, December 31, 2003.
 Marcia BRANDT '73, January 1, 2004.
 Beth COLLINS Johnston '83, January 29, 2004.

SYMPATHY

To Mary CUTTINO Snyder '27 on the death of her sister, Marguerite CUTTINO Haynsworth '30, October 27, 2003.
 To Mary MOFFETT Hutcheson '38 on the death of her husband, Dr. Robert S. Hutcheson, Jr., February 2, 2003.
 To Elizabeth BARR Capehart '43 on the death of her brother, Capers G. Barr, Jr., October 27, 2003.
 To Margaret GOODMAN Allen '44 on the death of her husband, Julian H. Allen, August 14, 2003.
 To Margaret JARRETT Morris '45 on the death of her husband, Barton W. Morris, Jr., October 1, 2003.
 To Marguerite WILLAUER Yannopoulos '46 on the death of her husband, Dino Konstatinos Yannopoulos, April 3, 2003.
 To Josephine MANSFIELD McGuire '47 on the death of her sister, Agnes A. MANSFIELD '29, January 20, 2004.
 To Mary Lou NETTLES Lentz '47 on the death of her brother, R. Sabin Nettles, October 23, 2003.
 To Carolyn VANN Crawford '50 on the death of her brother, Lawrence William "Bill" Vann, December 12, 2003.
 To Mildred WYATT Ballenger '51 on the death of her husband, Richard D. Ballenger, May 22, 2002.

To Margaret GASTON Bates '53 on the death of her mother, Mary Margaret Scott Gaston, October 2, 2003.
 To Claire HORGER Allen '53 on the death of her husband, J. Clyde Allen, April 23, 2003.
 To Sallie Gray HICKS Holt '54 on the death of her husband, Bryce Roswell Holt, Jr., January 15, 2004.
 To Sara TOOLE Beeland '55 on the death of her husband, Cecil H. Beeland, April 3, 2003.
 To Sara HAYNIE Fant '57 on the death of her husband, Albert Reese Fant, November 20, 2003.
 To Peggy HAYNSWORTH Wheelock '60 on the death of her mother, Marguerite CUTTINO Haynsworth '30, October 27, 2003.
 To Sally JORDAN Floyd '60 on the death of her husband, J. Bryan Floyd, January 5, 2004 and her mother, B. Elizabeth Jordan, January 10, 2004.
 To Nancy Love DANIEL Mottern '65 on the death of her sister, Lynda Daniel Moates, December 13, 2003.
 To Katharine STEPHENS Slemenda '66 on the death of her mother, Katrina K. Stephens, December 23, 2003.
 To Blair BLACKWELL Cooper '68 on the death of her father, Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell, January 26, 2004.
 To Carol CAGGIANO Clark '68 on the death of her father, Dominic A. Caggiano, November 8, 2003.
 To Elizabeth BLACKFORD Refshauge '69 on the death of her mother, Jean P. Blackford, January 26, 2004.
 To Cathy MANCKE Tisdale '69 on the death of her mother, Lera Mixson Mancke, December 26, 2003.
 To Millie BLACKWELL Yarborough '70 on the death of her father, Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell, January 26, 2004.
 To Vicky VANN Meyer '71 on the death of her father, Lawrence William "Bill" Vann, December 12, 2003.
 To Libby HUTCHESON Marth '73 on the death of her father, Dr. Robert S. Hutcheson, Jr., February 2, 2003.
 To Leilani RICE Fisher '73 on the death of her mother, Louise Richardson Rice, January 12, 2004.
 To Paula SIGLER Morgan '73 on the death of her mother, Pauline Sigler, January 13, 2004.
 To Missy NEWSOM Blanton '75 on the death of her brother, Brad Newsom, December 27, 2003.
 To Daryle RYCE '75 on the death of her mother,

Louise Richardson Rice, January 12, 2004.
 To Sarah HOLLOWAY Moore '80 on the death of her mother, Madeline B. Holloway, December 21, 2003.
 To Parker DERRICK Knapp '89 on the death of her grandfather, James D. Callahan, January 1, 2004.
 To Dorsey DAUGETTE DeLong '91 on the death of her grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Daugette, January 14, 2004.
 To Frances JETER Stowe '91 on the death of her grandfather, Russell Jeter, November 5, 2003.
 To Dee MARZULLO Schwarzmann '91 on the death of her husband, Jim Schwarzmann, December 14, 2003.
 To Mary Mac ROBINSON Wilson '91 on the death of her sister, Elizabeth Robinson Schmid, January 10, 2004.
 To Pam SABIN '91 on the death of her brother, Grant Sabin, December 18, 2003.
 To Anne JETER Lindsay '93 on the death of her grandfather, Russell Jeter, November 5, 2003.
 To Ashley GROSS Milliner '94 on the death of her grandmother, Marion Driver Metcalfe, January 16, 2004.
 To Kellie WALKER '97 on the death of her mother, Claudia S. Walker, October 31, 2003.
 To Erin RICH '98 on the death of her grandmother, Berniece Pope Ward, January 28, 2004.
 To Rachel BISHOP '99 on the death of her grandfather, Daniel Bishop, January 18, 2004.
 To Molly MORGAN Fisher '99 on the death of her grandmother, Pauline Sigler, January 13, 2004.
 To Christine Jackson JORDAN '01 EdS on the death of her son, Avery T. Jordan, November 5, 2003.
 To Sarah ROWAN '03 on the death of her grandfather, Joseph Anthony Esposito, January 8, 2004.

MARRIAGES

Janet Marie JAMES '82 to Marcus Edward Norton, Jr., January 31, 2004.
 Tina HUSKEY '88 to Charles Darden, January 3, 2004.
 Jo Ellen JONES '88 to Peter Grigsby, July 26, 2003.
 Heilig Leigh MILLER '91 to Steven McKoy Barnwell, November 1, 2003.
 Yolanda SCOTT '91 to Audreau B. Blassingame, December 13, 2003.
 Natalie AUDISH Underdown '92 to John Deaderick Scott, Jr., August 23, 2003.

Amy Melinda ROBINSON '95 to George Wiggins Davenport, Jr., November 8, 2003.
 Sarita CLARK '96 to Doug Burks, November 22, 2003.
 Samantha Bliss GRUBBS '97 MED to James Bradley Harley, October 18, 2003.
 Gina Renee POORE '97 to Joseph Darrell Dunn, October 11, 2003.
 Heather Elizabeth HALL '98 to Jaime Rumbaugh Cramer, November 1, 2003.
 Katherine Parish DOD '99 to Scott McCrea Williams, January 10, 2004.
 Rebecca Suzanne JENKINS '99 to David Williams Barry, October 18, 2003.
 Ann Wilson MULLINS '99 to Stewart Heath Johnson, Jr., November 29, 2003.
 Stephanie ELIZONDO '00 to Gabriel Craft, January 3, 2004.
 Allyson Paige LOWDER '00 to David Steadman Sanders, October 4, 2003.
 Charlene V. GOOD '01 MED to Tyrone Cathcart, June 21, 2003.
 Jessica Lynn HUNDLEY '01 to Patrick Bryan Ray, October 4, 2003.
 Elizabeth Laurens SANSOM '01 to William Parker Willimon, November 1, 2003.
 Shea STELLER '01 to Matthew Scott Dent, September 27, 2003.
 Melinda J. LEE '02 to Michael Tumblin, October 4, 2003.
 Sarah Catherine MCCOMB '02 MED to Kenneth Donald Ashworth, January 3, 2004.
 Amanda Rene-Houston SIGMON '02 to Brett Scott Sain, September 7, 2003.
 Lauren Elizabeth BOWERS '03 to Charles McDaniel Miles, December 12, 2003.
 Jessica Elizabeth CASE '03 to Christopher Ronald Holland, November 1, 2003.
 Amy Sue CETONE '03 to Dev G. Vaz, October 11, 2003.
 Carla NELSON '03 to Josh Martin, August 2, 2003.
 Catherine Bari OLIVER '03 to Keith Aaron Schiff, June 28, 2003.
 Brandy S. WESTBROOK '03 to Anthony Glen McSwain, September 6, 2003.

BIRTHS

Elina Mirovna Posey, January 22, 2002, adopted December 22, 2003 in Samara, Russia, daughter of Kelly L. POSEY '82.
 MaryMargaret Chandler Smith, August 15, 2003, daughter of Leigh and Gayle SCHRIER Smith '84.
 Hayden Thomas Hamlin, September 24, 2003, son of Dave and Treva THOMAS Hamlin '85.

William Addison Fritze, August 13, 2003, son of Daniel and Katie GIBSON Fritze '86.
 Sarah Callahan Knapp, December 25, 2003, daughter of Kenneth and Parker DERRICK Knapp '89.
 Laura Elizabeth Lynch, December 11, 2003, daughter of Jay and Susan WILLIAMS Lynch '89.
 Claire Layton Norris, October 5, 2003, daughter of Eric and Lucy CLOWER Norris '90.
 Molly Paige Verdell, July 27, 2003, daughter of David and Cheryl OWENS Verdell '90.
 Simone Juliette Carr, June 12, 2003, daughter of Bob and Jackie BELLIZZI Carr '91.
 Thomas Noah McPhail, December 1, 2003, son of Kurt and Molly CHAPPELL McPhail '91.
 Karl Maybank Burgdorf, January 13, 2004, son of Davie and Beverly MAYBANK Burgdorf '91.
 John Andrew Dupps, Jr., December 15, 2003, son of Andrew and Anna Liz MOSS Dupps '91.
 Sullivan Grace Hammond, September 15, 2003, daughter of Brian and Melissa SURRETT Hammond '91.
 Noah McDowell Trexler, June 23, 2003, son of Jonathan and Katherine VAN HORNE Trexler '91.
 Sabra Ellis Richards, October 7, 2003, daughter of John and Robbie MOSELEY Richards '92.
 Katherine Nelson Pierce and Georgia Wimerly Pierce, September 29, 2003, twin daughters of Michael and Anna WIMBERLY Pierce '92.
 Scott Michael Simmons, July 10, 2003, son of Brian and Brett MCINTOSH Simmons '93.
 John Philip Duke, March 16, 2003, son of Scott and Wendy MORROW Duke '94.
 Joseph William Falcone, September 3, 2003, son of Jake and Clare SCOTT Falcone '94.
 Rebecca Helen Thornton, October 20, 2003, daughter of Robert and Christine BOGAN Thornton '95, '97 MED.
 Benjamin Barker Morris, November 12, 2003, son of Benji and Tare Emily SMITH Morris '95.
 James Sidney Fulmer III, December 29, 2003, son of Jamie and Katherine COLBURN Fulmer '96.
 Emmalyn Claire Thomas, December 12, 2003, daughter of Frank and Bronwyn KEMPER Thomas '96.
 Claire Vail, December 22, 2003, daughter of Chad and April PACE Vail '96.
 James Gregory Cheek, September 9, 2003, son of Brian and Anna SNOW Cheek '96.
 Caroline Grace Chariker, November 25, 2003, daughter of Chris and Emily WATSON

Chariker '96.
 Katherine Rose Kurecka, October 24, 2003, daughter of Michael and Jennifer BUCHANAN Kurecka '97.
 Brady Andrew Bendig, October 17, 2003, son of David and Dawne COPELAND Bendig '97.
 William Hutchins Merck and Bowen Edward Merck, February 5, 2003, twin sons of Blandin and Lori MILLS Merck '97.
 Riley Dale Trask, September 16, 2003, son of Dale and Amanda THOMAS Trask '97.
 Robert Watson Dorn, September 25, 2003, son of Lee and Alice MILLER Dorn '98.
 Ivey Nexsen Barber, November 20, 2003, daughter of Scott and Elizabeth BOUKNIGHT Barber '99.
 Addison Jay Foster, April 18, 2003, son of Adam and Amanda HOWE Foster '99.
 Owen Christopher Phillips, September 11, 2003, son of Chris and Mandy THOMPSON Phillips '99.
 Ethan Isaac Porter, October 31, 2003, son of Isaac and Marcie VANCE Porter '99.
 Julius Whitaker Cox, November 21, 2003, son of John and Amanda CRANE Cox '00.
 Alexis M. Krivicich, February 2, 2004, daughter of Bill and Karissa JONES Krivicich '00.
 Gretchen Elise Berry, April 1, 2003, daughter of Jonathan and Sharon SIMMONS Berry '01.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Dabney HUNTER McKenzie '76, Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Teaching, Auburn University, December 19, 2003.
 Molly LEVY Campbell '87, Master's in Counseling Education, Augusta State University, December 2003.
 Amanda HOWE Foster '99, Doctor of Pharmacy, Medical University of South Carolina, May 15, 2003.
 Allyss BEEK Haecker '01, Master of Music, University of Illinois, May 2003.
 Neal MILLIKAN '01, Master's in Public History, North Carolina State University, May 2003.

CAREER CHANGES

Dabney HUNTER McKenzie '76, Assistant Professor of Education, Coordinator of Elementary Education, Troy State University, Montgomery, AL.
 Pamela ELLIS Hall '77, Department Chairperson, Medical Laboratory Technology and Phlebotomy, Alamance Community College, Graham, NC.
 Katharine MANNING Zeigler '78, Marketing Director, The Worth Collection, Columbia, SC.
 Anne H. EBERHART '86, Ophthalmologist, East Tennessee State University Physicians and Associates, Johnson City, TN.
 Moira DIRR '93, Realtor, Keller Williams, Atlanta, GA.
 Angela ROGERS Jacques '97, Special Education Teacher, Crofton Meadow Elementary, Crofton, MD.
 Natalie SPIGNER '98, Alumnae and Admissions Events Coordinator, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC.
 Amanda HOWE Foster '99, Pharmacist, CVS Pharmacy, Charleston, SC.
 Jessica EGGIMANN '00, Staff Assistant, Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC), Washington, DC.
 Deanna FULTS '00, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Projects, Alabama Attorney General's Office, Montgomery, AL.

CLUB EVENTS



January 19, 2004 • Anderson, SC

Converse Tea with Strings was held at the home of Nell Taylor, daughter of Velma Hood Mayer '24.



February 5, 2004 • Augusta, GA

An Alumnae Luncheon was held at the Augusta Country Club.



January 20, 2004 • Florence, SC

Marion and Frances Green Swink '75 (pictured) hosted a cocktail party at their home.

CLUB EVENTS

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 2004
Converse College Alumnae Association Board

The Alumnae Association Board held its Winter Meeting on campus.



MARY EMILY JACKSON '42 AND NELSON JACKSON

Mary Emily Platt '42 and Nelson Jackson, founders of The Jackson Companies, were awarded South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, on February 26. The Myrtle Beach (SC) couple is known for their leadership in the campground and tourism industries, as well as their support of the Grand Strand community.

The Jackson Companies were established to oversee the many subsidiaries that began with Nelson and Mary Emily. Ocean Lakes Family Campground, the flagship of The Jackson Companies, is the largest campground on the East Coast and has won national awards for its leadership in the industry. Its sister company, Ocean Lakes Properties, has pioneered the concept of annual lease sites. Other subsidiaries include the award-winning Ocean Lakes RV Center, Sunway Charters and Tours, Crystal Lake Mobile Home Village, and SayeBrook, a new mixed-use development. The Jacksons have also owned a construction company, an asphalt company and Sea Winds Stables.

The Jackson Companies have also provided assistance to many organizations including the Turbeville Freewill Baptist Home for Children, and firemen and law enforcement organizations. They also present the Horry County "Teacher of the Year" Award annually.

In 1992, Mary Emily was recipient of the Mae Elizabeth Kilgo Spirit Award, given annually to an alumna who has kept the spirit of Converse College visible to other alumnae and her community through her continued loyal service to the College. The couple has five daughters, four of whom also attended Converse: Emily Jackson Valarino '65 (a current member of the Converse Board of Trustees), Laura Jackson Hoy '67, Rachel Jackson Gandy '76, and Jeannie Jackson Mize '79.

CLASS OF 1933

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:

Mrs. Blanche Dennis Cantey
420 Joseph Walker Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



I am writing a list of things that I wonder about- I want to know *why* they exist-can I fathom their meaning? One thing that is on my mind now is why my few remaining classmates don't communicate with me at all and *why* I keep trying to write this column. I wonder *why*, when the dictionary states plainly that "at" is a preposition that is used to indicate a point in time or space and is never left dangling at the end of a sentence, some ignoramuses still say "I wonder where he is at." Obviously he is behind the at. I wonder *why* the phone rings constantly with calls for donations or services for your roof or screen porch which you don't have anymore and the relatives and friends that you long to hear from have forgotten you exist.

CLASS OF 1943

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:

Mrs. E. Paul (Anne Crooks) Smith
205 S. Hickory Street
Summerville, SC 29483, 843-873-1846
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



No news from classmates so I am reduced to writing about my December adventure to points north. If you were listening to the Texaco opera broadcast from the Metropolitan on December 13, 2003, I was there in a box seat watching a three hour French opera with Anne Sloan Keck (daughter of the late Dovie Crooks Rankin '42) and Alexandra Keck, age 10. New York City was very cold and crowded with holiday shoppers; but it is an exciting city and it was a real thrill to attend the opera, even worth braving the cold and standing-room-only buses when getting a taxi was impossible. We stayed in the city for three days until snow and icy weather sent us rushing back to Anne Sloan's house in Noank, CT. I don't advise leaving home so near Christmas, but we were delighted to return to sunny Summerville, SC, just in time to celebrate Paul's 85th birthday on December 20. It was great to meet **Jordan Young Tolson's** daughter, Kyn Tolson, who drove over to Noank from her editor's job at the New London newspaper. Kyn lives in East Hadden, CT, on Devil's Hopyard Road (love that street address!)

with her husband and teenage son. Kyn regaled us with stories of her early life and the years of living abroad. Alexandra wowed us with a lengthy soliloquy from Hamlet which she delivered from memory and in a British accent. It was a fun evening and almost like a long distance visit with Jordan. *Pilgrim in the Ruins: a life of Walker Percy*, written by Jordan's son Jay Tolson and published in 1992, is one of the best biographies I have read. It reads like a good novel with really outstanding prose. It is an impressive work and I am sure it took much research to write such an interesting account of the life and works of Walker Percy. Thanks again to **P.C. Howard Cummings** and her sister, Virginia Howard McGahey '37, for alerting me to the book. Virginia knew Walter Percy when he was an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In fact, she said he always sought her out on the dance floor (and the Howard sisters are still dancing!). While typing these notes, I had a call from **Janice Mayhew Hammer** in Indiana. She had talked to **Alice Clare King Whitescarver** in Roanoke, VA, who reported seeing Bettie Jenkins Senter '42 from time to time. I need to hear from you before May 21 for news for the summer *Bulletin*. Any of your activities would be welcome news, even if it's just winning at bridge or discovering a good book. Bon sante.

CLASS OF 1944

60th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:

Mrs. Catherine Gant Powell
122 Fairway Drive
Washington, NC 27889, 252-975-6902
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



How interesting it's been for me to hear from so many of you but frustrating that I can't include all the information. I'll bring the letters to our big reunion so come and share the news. **Janet Kelly Bryan** and Bob spend time at the beach enjoying the families of their three daughters, "but no traveling overseas!" **Julia Bridger Cox** wrote from Amarillo, TX, where they settled after being in Alaska "with no regrets". They have two sons, two daughters, and eight "fun" grandchildren. Nobody tops **Allene Broyhill Heilman** and Bob. They share 17 children (counting spouses) and 38 grandchildren! Keeping up houses in Florida, Hilton Head, SC, and Lenoir, NC, and remembering all those birthdays is all she can do. **Mary Crutchfield Macnab** has moved to a lovely assisted living community on Long Island, NY. She has her piano and plays daily. Two daughters are nearby and her third daughter is in Richmond, VA. **Frances Griggs** has stopped traveling but stays active with friends in Wilson, NC, for lunch and bridge. **Edie McEachern Hicks** had lunch with **Penny Parker Peterson** at Penny's home in Flat Rock,

NC. Penny planned to go to Georgetown, SC, for a couple of months after Christmas. Edie and Myers divide their time between their home in Florence, SC, and their new one in Black Mountain, NC, where they share "vittles" with the wild bears! **Margaret Workman Hudson**, who keeps up with more of us than anybody, is eagerly awaiting the arrival of lots of us in April. **Mary Dyches Kenney** called to ask if we suffered from Hurricane Isabel. (We were spared this time.) **Carolyn McSween Webb** has moved to the Presbyterian Home in Clinton, SC. Her five children and six grands are spread from Seattle, WA, through Knoxville, TN, Charlotte, NC, and Annapolis, MD, to Pittsburgh, PA. **Virginia Manning Moses** and John have moved to a smaller house in Spartanburg, SC, and she finds time to paint. Pediatrician son and wife have twins. Daughter Dee is a lawyer and Dinny is a craft director in Vermont. **Virginia Faulkner Fleming** is enjoying her two-room apartment in the Westminster-Canterbury Retirement Community in Richmond, VA, where Bea Wright '46 lives also. **Frances Hurt Holley** will be spending our reunion time with all her children and grandchildren at her Hilton Head, SC, home, a traditional family reunion date. And **Margaret Goodman Allen** will also be absent as she has moved to Cincinnati, OH, to be near her son, Paul. We'll miss those who can't make our reunion, but look forward to many hugs, laughs, picture viewings and shared memories with those who can come. Crutch said it best. After 60 years "I have a happy feeling for Converse since she sent me off in the right direction." More letters will get you more news. Love to all and see you in April! Cacie

CLASS OF 1945

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:

Mrs. Margaret Fulton Walker
208 Crest Drive
Mt. Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-2167
Mrs. Mary Fabisinski Roberts
1506 NW 36th Way
Gainesville, FL 32605, 352-376-7175
Mrs. Dee Jennings Tindal
10 Summit Place
Columbia, SC 29204, 803-256-2916
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



CLASS OF 1946

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:

Mrs. Mary Helen Garrison Dalton
3064 Ridgewood Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30327, 404-355-0434
E-mail: mhdalton7@aol.com
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



Penelope Bouknight Houghteling has moved from Bethesda, MD, to Los Alamos, NM, to be near her son. **Corbin Crafford Hume** has three daughters, one in Fredericksburg, VA, one in Denver, CO, and one in Atlanta, GA. All gather at Pawleys Island, SC, during the summer. Corbin stays at Cat's Paw and the girls and their families rent houses. **Frances Glass Erwin Blair** and her husband have moved to a retirement community in Burlington, NC. She says her gardening is now limited to a flower box. **Anna Hart Cheatham** attended the annual state meeting of the Colonial Dames in Columbia, SC. She is active in the Kesler Winslow Chapter in Newberry, SC. **Nancy Milby Gabhart** spent Christmas with her daughter in Stoneham, MA. She enjoyed showing her Asian-adopted granddaughters, ages four and seven, an 1810 Chinese house that had been moved to the Salem Peabody Museum. Nancy's other daughter and family live in Louisville, KY. During the five-month renovation of their home at DeBordieu, a beachfront community near Georgetown, SC, **Harvey Newsom Harrelson** and her husband lived in a rented house across the street. They are now enjoying updated kitchen and bathroom facilities. **Malinda Jennings Holroyd** and her husband are going on an interesting 20-day trip in September. They will board a train in Clemson, SC, and circle the USA. They are also involved in an interesting volunteer activity, House Calls, sponsored by the county library in which they deliver books to people who are homebound. **Elwyn Pratt Hutchinson** lives in Houston, TX, and is an active volunteer with the Houston Museum of Art. **Frances Morgan Gilleland** can be found in Andrews, SC. She has four children and 16 grandchildren. She is quite a bridge player and volunteers at a local museum. **Jean Claire Griffin** is collecting memorabilia on opera singer, Tatiana Trozanos. **Shirley Shepherd Johnston** is in Spartanburg, SC. She said she has been unable to do any traveling recently as she is battling shingles. Her daughter was married in Columbia, SC, in August. In Youngstown, NY, is **Beth Golder Larson**. She is a member of an investment club, bridge club and study club. She spent Christmas in Oregon with her two daughters. **Betty Steven Linney** is in Salisbury, NC, and also enjoys bridge. **Elizabeth "Bea" Lee Wright** lives in a retirement community in Richmond, VA. They have had interesting weather since last fall. First there was Hurricane Isabel that knocked out their power. No sooner was the power restored that they had a tornado and no power again. They also felt the tremor from an earthquake! **Rosa Strait** is still golfing, playing tennis, and painting. She plans to be in a painting workshop this spring in Myrtle Beach, SC. **Katherine McElroy Vincent** and her husband are mentors for a singles' group that meets in their home twice a month for dinner and a Bible study. **Juleene Cutright Tope**, of Fredericksburg, OH, has been engaged in numerous forms of art since the '70s

(This form is available online at www.converse.edu)

Refer a Student to Converse

Name of student _____

Street address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone _____

Name of high school _____

Year of high school graduation _____

Areas of interest _____

Any relationship to Converse? _____

Join the Converse Network

Please check areas in which you are interested.

- Alumnae Board
- Development/Fundraising
- Class Representative
- Converse Clubs
- Serve on an Alumnae Telephone Committee
- Assist Admissions with Student Recruitment
- Provide an Internship Opportunity for Current Students
- Host Reception for Prospective Students
- Attend a College Fair
- Call Prospective Students
- Provide Contacts with Hiring Personnel

Alumnae Information Update

Please include relevant dates and information in order for your life event to be published. Please type or print all information.

Name (first, maiden, last) _____

Class year _____

Street address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

E-mail _____

Vacation address

Street address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Marriage Announcement

(no engagements, please)

Name (first, maiden, last) _____

Class year _____

Spouse's full name _____

Date of marriage _____

Birth/Adoption Announcement

(please circle)

Mother's name (first, maiden, last) _____

Class year _____

Father's name _____

Daughter's/Son's name (first, middle, last) _____

Birth date _____

Career Change

Title _____

Company _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ Work phone _____

Advanced Degree

Degree earned _____

Date awarded _____

College/University _____

Death Announcement

(attach additional sheet if necessary)

Name of deceased (first, maiden, last) _____

Class year _____ Date of death _____

Place of death _____

Surviving relative _____

Address of surviving relative _____

Mail or fax this form to:

Converse College Alumnae Office
580 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
Fax: 864-596-9735

You can recommend a student by
sending an E-mail to info@converse.edu.

and '80s. She has a studio that houses her looms for weaving flax, wool, cotton, and silk and she enjoys knitting. She has also made stained glass windows for a house of post and beam construction that belongs to her son. **Betsy Stephens Williams** lives in Spartanburg, SC, and enjoys many of the concerts at Converse. She spends half the year at her second home in Lake Summit, NC. **Betty Jane Woodside Fairey** has a cousin in this year's freshman class at Converse. **Mary Poulnot Neff** is in a retirement community in Richmond, VA, and is a volunteer in assisted living recreational activities. **Mary Cannon Pridgeon** has moved to a locally owned retirement community in Spartanburg, SC. She is a member of a ladies' club whose mission is purely fun, no fund raising projects, etc., and they wear red hats and purple dresses! **Marguerite Smith Compton** continues to do a superb job of sending Converse news articles to me. She is looking forward to spring and working in her garden. **Dicksie Brown Cribb** and her family went to Washington, DC, in October for the 50th anniversary of the International Studies Institute of which her son Kenneth is president. I am particularly proud of my husband, Jim, as he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Duke University at Duke's Founder's Day celebration in October. The presentation took place in the Duke chapel with a large reception and seated dinner afterwards. Jim's three brothers, his sister, their spouses, our three children and their spouses also attended, much to our delight. I will rotate off the Converse Board of Trustees in April but that has nothing to do with my responsibilities as class representative. I hope some of you will be able to attend the Golden Club luncheon on Friday, April 23 during Reunion Weekend. I look forward to seeing you soon.

CLASS OF 1947

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:**

Mrs. Mary Young Cousar
4615 Arlon Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-387-1793
E-mail: cousarj@bellsouth.net
Mrs. Martha Thompson Vermont
121 Eastwood Circle
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-583-2211
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



CLASS OF 1948

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:**
Mrs. Eleanor "Skippy" Herbert Hale
5171 Yacht Club Road
Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-387-9592
E-mail: skippyhale@earthlink.net
Golden Club Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51

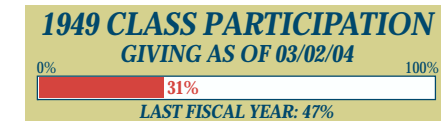


I have enjoyed, again, getting to talk to the gals of '48. Had a long chat with **Eva McBride Curry**, who is living in Tallahassee, FL, where she was a social worker for over 40 years. She has five children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She enjoys the local senior center where she takes art lessons and line dancing three times a week. GO EVA! I found **Melville Neilson Dugins** living in Tuscaloosa, AL, where her husband had shoe stores. She has four children, one of whom lives in Park City, UT, where he has shops. She enjoys bridge, church work, and particularly gardening, a hobby that I share. **Jeanne Barrett Evans** married one of our Converse "coeds", Jack Evans, a music student. When he finished at Converse, he went on to Chapel Hill where he got his MD degree. He has been an ENT specialist in Chattanooga, TN. They have three girls, one of whom is a missionary to Ethiopia. Jeanne visited her in Ethiopia last spring. **Virginia Hart Fife** lives in Charlottesville, VA. She said it has been the coldest winter ever with several snows and other storms slowing things down. She works at a retirement center, which keeps her very busy. She has three children and two grandchildren. A son is an Episcopal priest, of which she is justly proud. **Edith Bikle Gregg** lives in Charleston, SC, her hometown. She taught high school math for 30 years. She has a son who is a vet in Columbia, and a daughter in Greenville, SC. One of her twin grandsons is a pediatric cardiologist. She enjoys bridge and her church work. She sings in the Senior Choir where she says they have a great time. **Betty Styron Guffin** still lives in Atlanta, GA, and spends a great deal of time 'opera-going'. She visited her daughter in Minneapolis, MN, in the spring and heard a presentation of *Lucretia Borgia*. Betty goes to the Met in NY frequently, and has been to many of the operas of Carlisle Floyd '47. She saw **Ermine Floyd Matheney** at the opening of *Cold Sassy Tree*. While attending the opera season in Sarasota, FL, she will have a visit with **Peggy Robertson Robison**, who winters in Naples. Betty is teaching English as a second language to Hispanics. **Martha Griffin Evans** lives in Douglas, GA, and claims to have the record number of grand and great grandchildren in our class. She has fifteen grands and three great grands. If you can top this let me know, and you will take the record from her. Had a long talk with **Julia Pinnix Elrod**, living in Greensboro, NC. She has a granddaughter getting married in August and a grandson who has just started Georgetown Law School. Julia has had her share (and more) of medical problems, but she wants all to know that she is doing well, and I can vouch for her that she sounded very "up". She had good advice for all of us. She has learned to enjoy doing the things that she can do, and not worry about things that she used to do, but can't do any more. Not many of us are running races. **Eoline Garvin Few** and her husband, Richard, have sold their Greenville home, and are living

full time in their Kiawah Island, SC home. They belong to a Presbyterian church built in 1719. They have three children and eight grandchildren. She is still playing tennis, and does a lot of church work. My last call found **Ethel Hantske Forman** in Lubbock, TX. She and her husband lived in Dallas for 30 years where Ethel taught 9th grade science. They have been in Lubbock for 20 years, and Ethel taught science there until she retired a few years ago. But she is not sitting down. She has taken up writing since her retirement, and has published a coloring book explaining how to study. It is for students from the 4th grade up. Wish I had had something like that when I was a student. Barnes and Noble had a reception for her when the book was released. She has also written several novels, and is still writing and submitting manuscripts. **Beverly Sloan Shuler** wrote from Mt. Pleasant, SC about her grandchildren, a total of nine, eight are girls and the youngest is a boy. The three older girls are students at Clemson University where Beverly's daughter is dean of students. I hope you have enjoyed this visit with your former classmates. I found a strong thread connecting us—grandchildren and church work. I shall continue my calls next quarter, and maybe call YOU.

CLASS OF 1949

**55th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:**
Mrs. Kitty Peeler Carson
401 Springdale Drive
Union, SC 29379, 864-427-3353
E-mail: ladykc@nuvox.net
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



In spite of a tight deadline so soon after agreeing to be class rep, I have some terrific information from a few of our classmates. Of 108 listed, only 20 include E-mail addresses. Of those, about half were returned due to errors. If Converse has your E-mail address and you didn't get an E-mail from me, we have it wrong. We really need to hear from you, as we are known as the "silent class"! I heard first from **BK Wilson Harden**, big name on campus in '49! She is still terrific, playing tennis weekly with Stoney. **Sara Stonesifer Airheart**, and substitute teaching the hearing impaired at the old job she retired from in '94. Having been widowed with three children in '74, BK remarried in '94. Together they have eight children, 21 grands, three great grands! Through the years she has enjoyed community theatre (Hazel Abbott would be so proud!). Her last role (type casting she joked) was when she played the ditsy sister in *Harvey*. This summer they moved to a one-floor condo "for the joints", but still playing tennis (!). I think she is being modest! Go girl! **Elizabeth Harper Hopkins** is the Converse Club Chair (in addition to many community activities) in the Tampa, FL area for which she hosted a luncheon at the St. Petersburg

Yacht Club for those in Pinellas County and a cocktail party in her home for Tampa alumnae in January. She and husband Bill enjoyed a trans-Canada rail trip, Vancouver to Montreal, last fall and visiting relatives in the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia (including a granddaughter's wedding in Greenville) in December. Libby was so active with the alumnae while in Spartanburg, she is really missed, but we see she has taken that activity with her! **Margaret "Peggy" Roohan Schmitz**, an ordained United Methodist minister, though retired at 70, continues serving the conference as clergy mentor. Husband Cliff is also retired. Peggy (or Peig - her Irish spelling) serves her small West Virginia county in a neutral organization helping children/families "be safe, employed and educated". She is co-chair for a school/community partnership that controls a 2.1 million dollar grant for after-school education. She asks our prayers for this work and also for the United Methodist May general conference for which she sponsors a resolution "on evil that I have been trying to get the church to adopt since '92." Peg has done exactly what we expected her to do...succeed in a big way! **Marianne Ellison Bartram** and husband Tom were looking forward to a March trip to Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig where they were to attend operas and concerts. She is a member of the Alumnae Board and expresses her hope that '49ers will meet her challenge to top other classes in percentage giving this year. So we'll take your contributions now and look for your news for the next *Bulletin*. She'll tell us about her trip at reunion, we hope! **Jo Putnam Carpenter** and Ed celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary in '03 and over the years have visited all but two states! She is serving on the Alumnae Board as a 40's decade rep and looks forward to our reunion alumnae recital. If you remember, at our 50th Reunion she received the Career Achievement Award. She and Ed have three children, six grands, and she still has time for genealogy, reading, gardening, church leadership, Sunday School teaching, the local historical society, music club, community chorus, and the Isothermal Community College where she organized the music department and taught from '67 to '72. Since 1988 she has been a moving force behind the symphony of Rutherford County which performs two annual concerts, and does a one-day tour of Rutherford County Schools. She serves this organization as president and says "I write all the news releases, schedule, line up concert sites, recruit players, beg for \$\$\$, etc. etc., a constant challenge." She sent a beautiful family picture for our reunion archives. She has also made reservations at The Piedmont Club in Spartanburg for our class dinner on Saturday night of Reunion Weekend...thanks, Jo! **Lila Gaines Talmadge** is in Sierra Vista, AZ where she volunteers for the Friends of the Library. She attends the symphony there and the opera in Tucson. Last, I come to me! I was widowed on August 28, 2003, after 52 1/2 years of marriage (and four years of dating). Gene was in an auto accident April 15 and died of complications after four and one half months of hospitals. I am devastated but our four children and their spouses, seven grands, long-time friends, and my many activities are my rescue. I cruised NYC to Quebec City and back

in October and was fortunate to cruise on the Queen Mary 2 from Dec. 31-Jan. 6, on her "shake down" cruise out of South Hampton prior to her maiden voyage on Jan. 12, my 19th cruise! Being out of the house in this early stage of grief has helped, too. I am a 3-day-weekly YMCA user and have brought my osteoporosis from severe to normal with the prescribed therapy! This fortunately was my only ailment and I licked that! I am such a traveler that fitness is paramount to me. So sorry I don't have news from more of you, but you must keep in contact. Let's not be "the invisible class" any more! Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or snail mail and let's find out what is going on with everybody! Dynamic we were and I know we still are! I remind you of our 55th Reunion April 23-25 in Spartanburg. You should have the details by now-there's much to do! I look forward to seeing you and gathering even more news in person!

CLASS OF 1952

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representative:**
Mrs. Suzie Earnhardt Smith
370 Montgomery Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-582-2415
E-mail: sesmas@charter.net
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Ann Ratterree Herlong '51



CLASS OF 1953

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004
Representatives:**
Mrs. Marilyn Mateer Sherrill
114 Briarwood Court
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-583-8066
Mrs. Lil Lindsay Sachs
1412 Kathwood Drive
Columbia, SC 29206, 803-787-7916
Mrs. Jean Kearns Stansill
5907 Colchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28210, 704-554-8299
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Frances Kirkwood Graham



With two delightful telephone calls from **Mary Baker Bell**, I cannot forgive myself for failing to mention her in my class notes. She called before and after our reunion last year to hear about us, and we were so sorry she couldn't make it. I wish I knew what each of you did over the holidays, or any news, but as usual you are quiet as mice. You must be tired of the Spartanburg 'biographies' but it's all I know. **Becky Ramsaur Pennell** and I were proud grandmothers at deb balls during the holidays. Becky's granddaughter, Elizabeth Lowndes, daughter of Libby Pennell Lowndes '78 and granddaughter



JOHN RAMSAUR '53 (BMus), '55 (MMus) AND HELEN KNIGHT RAMSAUR '55

When John Ramsaur '53 needed an accompanist for his vocal recital at Converse, he turned to Helen Knight '55. At the time, he was completing his Master's in music. John and Helen must have struck a note with one another, because they married in 1954. Fifty years later, they are considered by many to be legends in the world of music instruction.

"Shortly after we married, we both took on instruction roles at Berry College (Mount Berry, GA)," said John. "I was director of the music department and Helen was the college organist and taught piano. We became friends with many of the music faculty at Shorter College in Rome (GA), and I was asked to lead their voice department, an opportunity we accepted."

Helen became a member of the Shorter faculty in 1964, but was by no means finished with her own music education. "Twenty-two years after earning my bachelor's degree from Converse, I enrolled at the University of Georgia," she said. When she graduated from UGA, she did so with the highest honors. She is now professor of music and coordinator of keyboard studies at Shorter. She has taught first-place winners in the Georgia Music Teachers Association College and Pre-College Piano Competition, National Federation of Music Clubs Students and the Atlanta Pro-Mozart Scholarship Competition.

John is now Shorter's Florence T. Arnold Professor of Music. His accomplished students have won 82 first places in Southeastern Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions, and he is the only voice teacher to have taught four first place winners in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National College Vocal Artists Competition. Four of his students have been national winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. In July of 2001, he served as a master teacher in the NATS Summer Intern Program in Dayton, Ohio.

also of Rhetta Morrison Lowndes '54 made her debut in Spartanburg, SC. My granddaughter, Mary Capers Bouton, made hers in Greenville, SC with my grandson, Michael Egan IV, as her escort. I've been to see Spartanburg's new hotel, the Marriott Spartanburg Conference Hotel at Renaissance Park, and it is such a "plus" for Converse reunions, visiting parents, etc. It is huge, absolutely gorgeous, and a tremendous welcome to our fair city. Come see us!

CLASS OF 1954

**50th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004**

Representative:

Mrs. Bet Shepherd Ancrum
35 Honeysuckle Woods
Lake Wylie, SC 29710, 803-831-0205
E-mail: bancrum@bellsouth.net

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Nancy Sibley Dunn
Ms. Frances Owen McDaniel
Mrs. Mildred Roberts Robard



Christmas mail was sparse this year, not a single letter, but every one of the cards had some version of "See you in April" on it! Isn't that great? **Marge Williams Erich's** most recent trip was to Belgium and Holland, and she had news of **Kay McLaughlin Hassell-Fisher** on a trip to England aboard the QE2 on its final transatlantic voyage before being replaced by the new QM2. Doesn't that sound like fun! **Becky Clement Johnson** and her husband were in the British Isles to celebrate their 50th anniversary last September. She says that in Edinburgh on the 11th, everything came to a complete halt for a moment of silence at the exact minute of the second anniversary of the Twin Towers' tragedy. It was very touching. Time is growing short to make your reunion reservations. I've sent letters to everyone whose address is known to me, and hope that no one got left out. To recap, the date is April 23 - 25, and we'll be staying at the new Marriott Hotel in downtown Spartanburg. Husbands/dates encouraged. YOU'D BETTER BE THERE, OR WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOU!

CLASS OF 1955

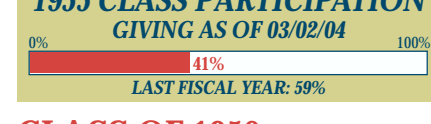
**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005**

Representative:

Mrs. Anne Orvin Yarborough
211 Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29401, 843-958-0389

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Dawson Thompson Nicholson



CLASS OF 1956

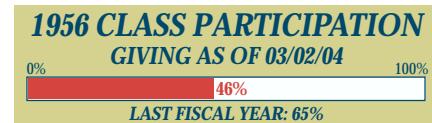
**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006**

Representatives:

Mrs. Ida Rose Bruton Dillon
4751 Blair Court
Winston-Salem, NC 27104, 336-765-4084
Rev. Carolyn Byers Brockwell
2108 Coley Forest Place
Raleigh, NC 27607, 919-787-5963
E-mail: cbdb78@nc.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Bettie Jane Woodward Grant



Christmas did bring some news! It was wonderful to hear from **Sunshine Conner Norwood** that she finished chemotherapy and radiation in April and immediately started traveling. It sounds as though she has not let that experience slow her down very much and that is certainly what we want to hear. To celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary, Sunshine and husband Benny drove west some 8,300 miles which took them as far as the San Juans. It seems they also managed to take in Europe and the Lewis and Clark Trail in September, Orcas Island in October, and Hilton Head with the family in the summer. We're all so very glad that you're doing so well, "Sunshine". **Tolly Gilmer Shelton** writes that their "big news" was the arrival of Louise Dearing Mercer on July 24 in Washington, DC. Louise is the daughter of Caroline (Shelton) and Joe Mercer. Other news of considerable note was that Tolly's husband, Barrett, was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award by the University of Alabama Alumni Association in March. They also managed to travel to France with the Comite Protestant des Amities Francaises A L'Etranger. They were touring in the Cevennes region of France with emphasis on the Protestant presence in the region before and after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. There were 136 other participants from several different countries, descendants of Huguenots, attending. I also heard from **Carolyn Belcher Hansard**. She and husband Bill are enjoying caring for grandchildren and Carolyn is enjoying teaching piano to her granddaughter, Haley. Carolyn also wrote that she enjoyed having the opportunity to play in a recital in her church in November. A note from **Ann Hudgens Karegeannes** says that husband, John, is doing "OK" and keeping on with the battle for good health. In February they enjoyed a warm weather Elderhostel in Everglades National Park and in September they went the other direction, visiting Niagara Falls and going on to an Elderhostel in upstate New York and the 1000 Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

CLASS OF 1957

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2007**

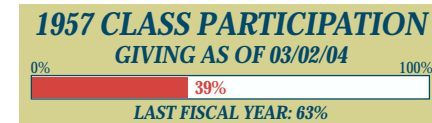
Representatives:

Mrs. Patsy Cox McMillan
530 Azalea Lane
Florence, SC 29501, 843-669-6094
Mrs. Sylvia Craver Gandy
283 Molasses Lane

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, 843-884-4001

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Ms. Carolyn Fulmer Alexander
Mrs. Jane Powell Crowder
Ms. Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton



CLASS OF 1958

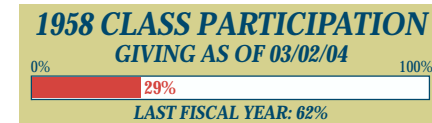
**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2008**

Representatives:

Mrs. Jack (Elaine Finklea) Folline
740 Kilbourne Road
Columbia, SC 29205, 803-254-9503
Mrs. Bud (Nancy Hayes) Wilkerson
2122 Norton Road
Charlotte, NC 28207, 704-376-4776

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Ms. Mary Searle Rowland



Margaret Rogers Taylor is in Fort Mill, SC where she enjoys teaching private piano lessons at home, while volunteering as assistant director of the church choir. Daughter Renee lives with her family in Florence, SC and is pianist with Southside Baptist Church. Jeannie, Ed, and Rodger along with their families live nearby and pop in to visit Margaret. From Columbus, GA music major **Joann Finn Holt** wrote that she needed help identifying those in our class picture. That week she was giving a 96th birthday party for her mother, Isabelle Morgan Curry '28. Mrs. Curry lives around the corner from Joann, goes out every day, and keeps up with her Converse buddies. Son Richard and grandson Ben (7) went to New York with Finn and her sister and two other seven-year olds. In the worst January snow, Ben asked if he saw one more room at the Museum of Natural History, could he possibly then go out to throw snowballs? And they did! **Wesley Smith Poe** and husband Alvis still have the Farmers' Exchange in Rock Hill, SC and April is their busiest time with fruits and vegetables. Alvis is doing well after his brain surgery last April. He was in the hospital only two days and never had a headache. Wesley said her roommate, **Ann Ward Houck**, still has her gift shop in Florence, SC and drives all over the state in her pick-up truck transporting treasures. Ann and Wesley went to their 50th high school reunion. **Lynn Peterson Jones** and husband Fred spent the fall of 2003 in Salem, OR. They traveled to the coast of Oregon and Hood River at the Columbia River Gorge. Thanks to you who wrote Christmas cards: **Searle Rowland** is again painting scenes and note cards for the Columbia River Walk. **Daisy Barron Leland** and Aaron in Wadmalaw Island, SC know all the school activities for each of their five grandchildren. **Betty Anne Nelson Richardson** and Don sent precious family pictures. They just returned with **Katherine Ryan Stribling** and Cherry from

China. **Gracie Mabry Whitlow** and Stan are toasting in Florida for the winter.

CLASS OF 1959

**45th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004**

Representatives:

Mrs. Anne Argo Sanders
1045 Woodburn Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864-585-2968
E-mail: argo@argoco.com
Mrs. Jane Torkington White
4607 177th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98006, 425-562-0787

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Sally Mason Maynard



Joan Madden of Glenview, IL is still the volunteer wedding hostess at her church and IS coming to reunion. She just returned from Hendersonville, NC where she visited her 98 years old father. **Angela McKinnon Hammond** is in Louise, VA and her new interest is serving on THE REGIONS TEN Community Service Board that oversees the policy for local health, mental retardation and substance abuse for five counties in central Virginia. **Anne Argo Sanders** had an article published in *Cleanfax* magazine on the Argosheen method of carpet cleaning with cotton pads/bonnets they developed. In August **Carolyn Turner Kelley** and her husband went to Gustavo's at Glacier Bear National Park. In November they spent two weeks in France - one in Paris and one in Nice. Carolyn invites all to stop and see her in Charlottesville, VA where they expect to be most of '04. She IS coming to reunion. **Sally Mason Maynard**, **Aimee Reese Kornegay**, and **Jayne Callahan Burton** planned a mini-reunion at the South Carolina Wildlife Exposition in Charleston in February. They are all planning to attend reunion with husbands. If you wish to order the must have, Tabasco award winning, cookbook that Aimee helped put together and published by Trinity Episcopal Church to help renovate this beautiful church established in 1774, *Pon Top Edisto: Cookin' Tweenst the Rivers*, give her a call or order from trinity@dycon.com or www.trinityedisto.com. **Harriet Marshall Goode**, artist and owner of Gallery 5 in Rock Hill, SC, is lecturing in the 2004 Spartanburg Museum of Art series, "Tuesdays in the Library with Art." Her topic is "Living with Original Works of Art." I called Tork the day before she left for Palm Beach, FL for ten days. Buddy said she was skiing. She called me from the airport in Philadelphia and then from Palm Beach with the following urgent message: *Don't leave home without it!* (credit given to whoever owns logo). I'm referring to the Converse Directory. Think about it. When you get on a plane today there is no telling where you will land. Put it in your canvas tote—not locked in cargo where you can't get to it. If you find yourself in Ten Buck Two with a two-hour wait, pull out the directory and call an alum. They are totally surprised and thrilled. You took the time to say hello, and after

all you had nothing else to do. Here is an example. I finally got my once in a lifetime trip to Glitter City, Las Vegas (once is enough). I looked in my book and there is **Winnie Harris Hobron!** She said she would pick me up at the airport and inasmuch as we had not seen each other since I left in '57, we arranged a place to meet. Out of her trunk came a huge basket of goodies and a 24 pack of bottled water since the temperature is never under 100. We (my Charlotte, NC tennis buddy and I) finished it all. (Except for white hair Tork is certainly recognizable and Winnie's glamorous shot standing on her balcony she sent for a previous reunion was certainly Winnie). Tork was going to Palm Beach, FL to visit her sister Jacquie Liggert who founded HOW—"Hearing the Ovarian Cancer Whisper" in January 2002 to advocate ovarian cancer research. The Palm Beach Healthcare Foundation hosts the accounts and gives grants. Tork was there for the annual fundraising luncheon at The Breakers Hotel and they had a glorious 65th birthday celebration the night before with all Jacquie's children. Tork says to pray for a cure and a miracle. Tork and I are counting on each of you to really make the effort and come to the Reunion. We will make sure you are glad you did!

CLASS OF 1960

**Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005**

Representative:

Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz
105 Sunline Place
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-579-3986
E-mail: maximum1983@cs.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Donna Culbertson Fritz



I had a wonderful letter from **Jane McCutchen Brown** who had a very busy 2003. "Cutch" is still working as Special Collections curator at the Medical University in Charleston, SC. During the year she gave talks on colonial medicine and did extensive traveling, much of it in South Carolina visiting Musgrove Mill, Hagood Mill, Clemson Botanical Gardens and other interesting sites. Jane spends a lot of time with her children and baby sitting grandchildren. Sounds like "Cutch" hasn't changed since Converse, still keeping active and on the go and she has no plans to retire! **Diane Schenck Philippott** and her husband really like retirement. They have been traveling with a recent trip to Nova Scotia by car and ship. They are also enjoying their grandchildren. **Jean Yarborough Helms** is chair of the seventh annual Charleston Antiques Symposium that benefits the School of the Arts of the College of Charleston. My husband, Max, and I celebrated **Jackie Hackler Hollis** and husband Richard's first wedding anniversary with them in their new home in Spartanburg. It's wonderful having them here after all these years. Please let me hear from you and make plans to attend

our next reunion that will be in 2005. There are so many changes and additions to the campus; you must see it to appreciate it. Happy Spring!

CLASS OF 1961

Next Reunion

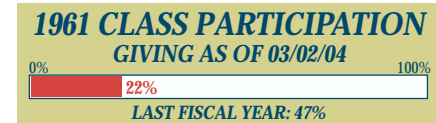
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representative:

Mrs. Betsy Blythe Frazer
324 Nottingham Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 919-402-0409
E-mail: ebfrazier@earthlink.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Josephine Carr Ussery



Marietta Williams Gordon E-mailed that she is still teaching resource at a middle school in Dalzell, SC, and living in her hometown of Camden, SC. Her daughter, Kirke, mother of two daughters, Fiona (6) and Ailsa (2), recently bought a house near the Thomas Edison estate in Ft. Myers, FL. Marietta's other daughter works in the Washington office of the P.C.U.S.A. and took a trip in January to the Middle East with the Churches for Peace, visiting Palestinian refugee camps and meeting with various government officials in Lebanon, Jordan, and Jerusalem. Both daughters and the grandchildren were with her for Thanksgiving, and "Granny" had the high score when they went bowling! **Sylvia Harley Arant** writes that she takes care of her mother, who lives with her, and greatly enjoys her two little grandsons. **Boo Bargamin Kral** and Ted are enjoying the warmer weather in their new Florida home. She is still playing golf and bridge and has started a book club. They spent Christmas with their daughter's family of three small children in Jackson, MS, and son Teddy flew in from DC to make it a special holiday. **Piedy Mahaffey Waterfall** and Gail enjoy visiting with their two grandchildren, Dan (9) and Sherry (3), the children of son Chris and his wife who live in Columbia, SC not too far from their Newberry, SC home. Charles, their other son, lives in Chantilly, VA. Piedy and Gail recently took in the Civil War show in Charleston, SC. **Toni Jackson Myers** writes from Mobile, AL that she and husband, Happy, spend one half of the year in Highlands, NC and it is great to be back in "God's country"!

CLASS OF 1962

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Dixie Crum Stone
9419 Owl Trace Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23838, 804-748-4755
E-mail: dixiestone@comcast.net

Mrs. Mareon Chapman Stall
125 Kellett Park Drive
Greenville, SC 29607, 864-288-2447
E-mail: baldstall@earthlink.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Mareon Chapman Stall



When it comes to news from our classmates, one of the most important topics is grandchildren. **Rannie Sparkman Townsend** has eight grandchildren - seven of them are boys in the same family - a combined one! Son Tommy and his wife Miki, who live in Marietta, GA, are the parents of "The Tribe," and Rannie is called the "Mother Superior." Her only granddaughter is Samantha (3), the child of Rannie's daughter Julia Easterby and husband Sam, of Ft. Bragg, NC. Sam is in the 82nd Airborne and was deployed to Iraq in January to help in training Iraqi troops. Julia has a job at Ft. Bragg and has a very good support system with other wives there. We are praying for all of them. Rannie is trying, like all of us, to maintain her health with regular exercise. She has successfully retired from things of great responsibility and stress, but continues as a volunteer in the church lay ministry at Christ Church in Greenville, SC, and assists students with their higher education. One of her favorite pastimes is soaking up vitamin D in Florida while visiting her brother. **Prim Nettles Green** and husband Jimmy have nine grandchildren, ages 18 months to 12 years old. Prim and Jimmy have three children, who each have three children of their own. One family lives in Camden, SC, where Prim and Jimmy live, and the others live in Columbia, SC, and Augusta, GA. One of their most fun things each year is "Camp PaPa" at Wateree Lake - a five-day camp at their house with the grandchildren. One must be four years old to attend and last year there were seven campers! On Friday, the parents come for the closing program that signals the end of the camp. Jimmy is a practicing CPA who is trying to slow down a little. Prim "retired" from teaching about two years ago but she is finishing her "loop" - she taught a 2nd grade class last year and goes up to the 3rd grade with them to finish. Then the real retirement comes! In August 2002 **Lynne Trammell Weed** and her husband, Rogers, moved from Spartanburg, SC, to Blowing Rock, NC, when he retired from Associated Petroleum Carriers. In retirement they enjoy doing many things, but especially hiking and traveling. In October, 2003, they spent almost a month in Australia and New Zealand. Lynne says that New Zealand is one of the prettiest places she's ever visited! Daughter Trish, and husband, Jay live in Spartanburg, SC, with their two children, Patricia (10) and Benjamin (7). Trish teaches preschool at Episcopal Church of the Advent. Son Brian, and his wife Jennifer live in Roswell, GA, and have one son, Jack (2). Brian is an environmentalist with Environmental Solutions. Rogers has four sons who have blessed him and Lynne with seven grandchildren. These sons and their families are really scattered all over the US - Seattle, Minneapolis, New York, and Charleston! Lynne and Rogers love to visit the six children and ten grandchildren as often as possible. Also, they have established a wonderful tradition - when a grandchild turns seven years old, he or she is treated to a Disney Cruise with grandmother and granddaddy! Classmates, we

truly want to hear from you! Please write, phone, or E-mail one of us with your news!

CLASS OF 1963

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

Ms. Peggy Rainwater
1228 N. Carolina Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002, 202-544-4396
E-mail: prainwater@rendon.com

Mrs. Betty "Boopie" Poole Rose
1002 Vance Street
Raleigh, NC 27608, 919-834-8270
E-mail: rose1793@bellsouth.net

Mrs. Emily Kerr Stay
9619 Pekin Road
Novelty, OH 44072, 440-338-8221
E-mail: estay@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair: Vacant



Judy Wainer de Ponce lives in Mexico City with her husband Emmanuel and five of her seven children. Her oldest, Jeimi (31), is married and lives with his family in the Columbia, SC, area. Daughter Sonia Helen (27), married last year and she and her husband live in Mexico City. Twins Hector and Alec (25) live at home while both attend school. Daughter Xochi (23) is completing her master's degree in biology and may continue her studies in the US. Daughter Lourdes (21) is in her third year studying art and communication and has recently chosen illustration as her specialization. John Robert, the youngest at 19, graduated from high school which is equivalent to college in the US and is taking a break from further studies. Last summer, Judy spent several weeks in her hometown of Sumter, SC, working on the old family home where her sister still lives and visiting her son Jeimi (pronounced Jamie) and family. **Louise Watkins Moore** sent news that her daughter, Catherine Porter, will graduate from medical school in May and will then have her MD and her PhD. During our reunion last spring, I spent some time with John Erickson and a few of his other former students and since that time, I have been practicing the piano. I have relearned some pieces and have played the prelude for services at my church several times. I also have been assisting the choir director with rehearsals and conducted at a service recently when he was unable to be there. I continue my real love of choral singing with the Thomas Circle Singers, an elite chamber chorus here in Washington. In August, my husband Leo and I (you remember he was the only spouse at the reunion beside Carlisle's Joe) had a fabulous trip to Sarajevo to visit friends, where we saw a city emerging from their struggles and destruction of the 90s. Then we went to Venice for some of the world's most fabulous architecture and creative arts. We ended the trip with a cruise along the Dalmation coast of Croatia to see the historic cities of Dubrovnik, Split, Pula with its Roman Coliseum and other quaint seaside towns with great views of the mountains coming down

to the clear blue Adriatic Sea. It was quite an experience. We returned home hoping to find our house renovation near completion, but alas, not to be. It continued throughout the fall up until six days before Christmas and I was scrambling to get things clean and ready for a large family gathering for Christmas. But it was better than ever with all the chaos, gifts, food and caroling. We look forward to hearing from more of you as we want to pass along your news. Use your E-mail or write or call. Peggy

CLASS OF 1964

40th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Mrs. Henrietta Hughes Ouzts
805 13th Avenue NW
Hickory, NC 28601, 828-324-2893
E-mail: peterouzs@hotmail.com

Mrs. Anne Mayo Elliott
116 Pineville Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864-583-7982
E-mail: ellam@charter.net

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Righton Hodgkin McCallum
Ms. Caroline Watts Morris



"Always and forever" was the response of **Judy Fessey Bradley** when asked if she was returning to our reunion this spring. The Spartanburg Alumnae are looking forward very much to having a huge turnout for this our 40th Reunion - if you can believe it has been that long. We have been plotting as to how we can lure you back to reminisce over days gone by and catch up with new events. Hopefully you have received our letter of invitation and information by this reading and know how much we are looking forward to seeing you the end of April. So don't disappoint us and "come on down, over, or up" - whichever it may be.

CLASS OF 1965

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

Mrs. Marjorie Martin Pierce
210 Ramblewood Drive
Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-1254
E-mail: spierce@esn.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Kathleen Cohen Willard



Greetings of the 2003 holiday season were extended to our classmates by **Linda Frank Johnson**, **Tris Gowen Graybeal**, and **Julie Miles Brock**. Both Tris and Julie spent last September cleaning up the debris left by Hurricane Isabel. Although Julie lost four trees and was without electricity for five days, she and husband Neal

escaped any real damage. Julie's mother is 91 and still living alone in the house she moved into as a bride in 1943. In October, Tris and husband Jim treated themselves to a bit of R&R in NYC, and Linda and husband George were in Chicago to celebrate her father's 90th birthday. In January, the Brocks spent some time in Fort Lauderdale, FL, cat sitting for Julie's sister. What a chore! **Nancy "Lovey" Daniel Mottern** wrote that her oldest son, Bobby, was married May 30, 2003 to Lizzy Butler in Richmond, VA. They are now living in Athens, GA, while Bobby attends the graduate school of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia. Lovey said **Peggy Clotfelter Allen**, who lives in Athens, has been a wonderful help getting them situated in the city. Please note on your calendars this very important date: May 21, 2004. Yes, this is the deadline for our summer 2004 column. Hope to hear from you soon.

CLASS OF 1966

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

Mrs. Millie Gold Moore
213 Silver Moss Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32963, 772-492-6722
E-mail: MLMillie@msn.com

Mrs. Barbara Nelson Yergens
PO Box 1080, 4127 Serenity Mountain Road
Waynesville, NC 28786, 828-454-5054
E-mail: byergens@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Kathryn Aderholdt Portwood



I received an E-mail from **Lynn Harrison Johnston** who is curious why our class is not sending in more news! Lynn has worked for 20 years with the YPO—Young Presidents' Organization—as the Florida Chapter Administrator. This began when she was living in Tampa, FL, and she's continuing this position from her hometown of Greenwood, SC. As administrator she travels to interesting locations, attends phenomenal education programs, and enjoys the dynamic leadership and cutting edge thinkers of the global organization. Lynn had recently been in touch with **Dot Sanders Shad** and is hoping to reunion with her at Dot's mountain house near Hendersonville, NC. Lynn has a son working in Winston-Salem, NC, as a structural engineer and her other son is with Wachovia as an investment banker. **Mary Anna Baum Vincent** writes that she and her husband, Phil, became first-time grandparents with the birth of adorable Hanna Grace Vincent on April 7, 2003 at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, GA! News from **Gay Cooper Nightingale** indicates that she is president of a mental health foundation among other volunteer jobs she has in Jacksonville, FL. Husband Downing is CEO of Lambs Yacht Center which he bought a few years ago with their sons and two other business partners. My daughter Kate had a second child, a girl, Logan Anna Graves on November 29 so I

am again a proud grandmother! The class of 66 must be brimming with news so let us hear from you! Millie

CLASS OF 1967

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Sandra Jones Husted
11 Vance Street
Lexington, NC 27292, 336-248-4934
E-mail: rlhusted@lexcominc.net

Mrs. Marsha Sams Thrift
2898 Monticello Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106, 336-723-3748
E-mail: mthrift@triad.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Martha Shields Horton
Mrs. C. Langdon Cheves, Jr.



Nancy McCall Poynor reported that she sees **Lida Wylie Jones** when she returns to Birmingham, AL. She and her husband Bill, continue to live in Memphis, TN. Bill retired from the ministry two years ago and is enjoying a new career in storytelling. Lida often accompanies him on his travels. **Bryan Daily Adair** had another busy year in the real estate business in Chapel Hill, NC. She moved to a new house during the year and she is ecstatic over the upcoming wedding of her son James. **Judy Coe** is now retired and spends most of her time involved with The Washington Club (a literary, educational and social club in DC) activities. She recently co-chaired a Chinese New Year dinner celebration. **Jane Moody Galbraith** - a non-resident member of the club - came to town from Montpelier, VA, for the event and they had a great time catching up. Jane is busy fixing up the house where she grew up and now lives in as well as taking landscape design classes. Judy also co-chaired a fashion show/luncheon in March. Her term on the Board of Governors ended last year but she still continues as Chairman of the Admissions Committee. She also co-chairs a committee for the American Cancer Gala to be held in Washington, DC, on September 18th, obviously a worthwhile cause! **Lee Tabb Lauterbach** and husband Fred live in Plano, TX. Her daughter, Judith, lives nearby and is a lawyer; her son, Buck, and his family are in Colorado. **Margot McCord Campbell** has been busy taking care of elderly parents, and working and traveling for business. She and her husband spend quite a bit of time in Flat Rock, NC, where they have a second home. Margot continues to enjoy her full time work as an investment advisor. She went to Washington, DC, to meet the author of *Seabiscuit* and attend a private showing of the movie in August. She returned to NYC for the Academy Awards to be with the *Seabiscuit* people. It is a long shot, but who knows. In October of this year a group of Converse gals are having a mini reunion in Flat Rock — **Beth Brewer Franz**, **Kathleen Quincy**, **Karen Stratton Schlag**, **Jane Moody Galbraith**, **Lee Tabb**

Lauterbach, and Judy Coe. They plan to see **George McKinley Greaves** in Greenville, SC, as well. **Sandra Jones Husted** is totally enjoying her retirement this year after 36 years in education. She has, however, filled up her days with reading, walking and trying her hand at writing a children's book. She and her husband are active in their church and community and busy travelling to Sewanee where their daughter, Carty, is in school. Sandra has recently "reunited" with **Anne Bennett** and **Anne Jones Holloway**. **Suzanne Smith Jordan** and her husband, Whit, enjoy spending time at their Litchfield Beach, SC, home where **Jenny Kimbrel Bunn** and her husband, Jim, also have a place. Jenny and **Maggie Myers Morris** are busy being grandmoms to little Charlie and Zan and enjoy seeing each other on a fairly regular basis. Jenny has enjoyed having her daughters a little closer to home - Teebie in Durham, NC, and Kimbrel in Charlotte, NC. **Brookes Sanders Hamilton** and husband Sam are living in Winston-Salem, NC, and are busy working, being grandparents and being quite active at their church. **Marsha Sams Thrift** still enjoys teaching art to children and adults in her home. This year she also works part time teaching art to kindergartners and to physically handicapped children in the school system. When not working, Marsha continues to enjoy painting in watercolor and pastels, travelling with friends, scuba diving, day hiking parts of the Appalachian Trail, walking and enjoying the company of her two shih tzus. **Cherry Able Goldson** is also enjoying painting now that she has retired and is busy with her family. Along with her husband, Charlie, she enjoys spending time with her mom and her daughter Emily who also live in St. Petersburg, FL. Their other daughter, Karen, moved to New Orleans, LA, last year. **Clara Irwin Traver** is in Atlanta, GA, where she is the middle school assistant principal at The Lovett School. Her daughter, Dorothy, gave birth to a baby girl, Lilla McIntosh Walker, in May-a future Converse lady? **Judith Klason Tolbert** presented the inaugural recital on the new pipe organ at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fort Mill, SC. She also serves as director of parish music and organist at St. Paul's. She says this gets particularly interesting during tax season as she is also a full-time CPA!

CLASS OF 1968

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representative:

Mrs. Barbara Baker Kennedy

4400 Dewees Court

Raleigh, NC 27612, 919-782-9459

E-mail: barbarabek@msn.com

Converse Fund Class Chair: Vacant



Joanne Gilmer Cole and husband, Charles, are living in Columbia, SC, where he is regional president of Wachovia Bank. She enjoys spending time with her married daughter in Charleston,

SC, and her son who lives in Columbia, SC. Joanne and Charles spend a lot of time working on their house at Sullivan's Island, SC. She says it is a wonderful get away place! **Blair Blackwell Cooper** and husband Pete live in Florence, SC, where she teaches 3rd grade and he is a priest at St. John's Episcopal Church. All three of their children attended the College of Charleston. Son Wade and his wife live in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and have one daughter, Gracie. Daughter Ashley and her husband recently moved to Florence, SC, and Lyles, the youngest, just graduated. Blair says she is glad they are finally finished. **Carol Early Graham** and Bob live in Vista, CA. She is still working some but spending more time with piano students and Curves for Women. Bob recently retired and enjoys playing golf and tennis. The recent firestorm did not reach their area but they reported that it was quite devastating. They recently took their granddaughter, Brittany, on a car trip to 13 states. They enjoy having Michael, Debra, and Brittany close by. Son Dan is in Pasadena, CA, selling real estate and mortgages. **Martha Nicholson Ventors** is in Greenville, SC, with Ed and still loves teaching Spanish and art at First Presbyterian kindergarten. She is doing a lot of volunteer work with the soup kitchen and the Greenville Irish Children's Summer Program where she served for 12 years as a volunteer and two years as director. Son Louis is married and lives in Columbia, SC, and daughter Emily is married and lives in Pawleys Island, SC. **Nina P. Zouck Waite** writes that after Converse she attained the PhD at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in library science at Simmons College. She and her husband Stephen are living in Los Altos, CA, where he is the research director for Packard Humanities Institute and she is the library media teacher/library director for Los Altos High School. She says they are busy with jobs, outdoor activities, church work, and scouts. **Linda Lawson Payne** writes that she and her husband work for South Carolina State University; she is a professor of physics as well as chair of the department and he is a professor of physics also and an associate dean. Linda was just named regional coordinator for the Midlands Math and Science Center. They are looking forward to retirement in the next few years. They have two children-Jason, who just completed his doctor of medicine and is in his residency at Ohio State in radiology, and Jennifer who completed her second master's degree, this one in speech pathology.

CLASS OF 1969

35th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Ms. Ashley Fine Nagle

301 Kirk Lane

Media, PA 19063, 610-565-4483

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Mrs. Harriet Messer Goldsmith

121 Rockingham Road

Greenville, SC 29607, 864-277-4893

E-mail: maghmg@aol.com

Mrs. Charlotte Smith Purrington

2723 Riddick Drive

Raleigh, NC 27609, 919-781-3142

E-mail: cspurring@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Mrs. Linda Russell Cranford

Mrs. Harriet Messer Goldsmith



A blast from the past! I called **Jackie Jones Thomsen** to find out what's been happening the last 35 years! She lives in Charlottesville, VA, with her husband, Rip, and has three sons: Porter (22), a senior engineering major at Duke, William (20), a soccer star at Radford University, and Robert (16), still at home and enjoying all the attention. Jackie is a pre-school teacher (I could still hear the mischief in her voice!). Lucky children! She said that when she goes to visit her sister in Mt. Pleasant, SC, she also sees **Jane Chandler Rouse**. Jane's husband, Bob, teaches at the College of Charleston and Jane used to teach French, but I understand she is doing some interior design work. They have a son, Wilson, a Clemson graduate. **Floride Owens McKoy** has spent much more time in the last year traveling to Charlotte, NC, to visit her granddaughter, Hannah Elizabeth Griffith, born in February 2003. **Sally Evans Lockwood** built a new home in Madison, GA. Son Jay is enjoying his sophomore year at Wake Forest and son Chip, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, will graduate from Yale in May. My crew is moving along. Our youngest, George, graduates from Woodberry Forest in May and will attend Washington and Lee this fall. Tempus fugit! Daughter Lindsay has been promoted to soloist in Carolina Ballet and they will perform *Messiah* in April. Daughter, Ginna, is getting her MFA in creative writing at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Luckily she gets home several times a year. Since our 35th Reunion is upon us, let's each grab two Converse buddies and show up April 23-25. The more, the merrier! See you there. Charlotte

CLASS OF 1970

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

Ms. Janice "Smack" Mack

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E-mail: mackjs@att.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Patty Downes Johnson



CLASS OF 1971

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

Mrs. Jane Byrd Melton

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Mrs. Dee Dellastatious Myers

1645 Queens Road West

Charlotte, NC 28207, 704-333-6498

E-mail: jmyers1@carolina.rr.com

Mrs. Mindy Thompson Orman

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Nashville, TN 37220, 615-373-5965

E-mail: ormanphoto@comcast.net

Converse Fund Class Chair: Vacant



CLASS OF 1972

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Sissy DeWitt Carroll

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E-mail: dtmsart@aol.com

Mrs. Jill Rushforth Coker

17 Collins Ridge Drive

Greenville, SC 29607, 864-281-0314

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Betty Blanton Lewis



I received a long E-mail from **Janet Smith Moore** who lives in Asheville, NC, and works for the Mission Saint Joseph's Health Care System where she is the marketing director. Her husband, Parker, is an analytical chemist and she has a daughter, Amelia (15). Janet and her family also have a home in McClellanville, SC, that they visit often. **Betsy Crane Griffith** has been working for Morgan Stanley in New York for 20 years. She and husband, John, have lived in Princeton, NJ, since 1991 and have two sons. They also have a home on Hilton Head Island, SC, and Betsy says her accent gets more southern the moment the plane lands in South Carolina. She keeps up with Russell Holliday '71 who escapes to New York to shop and see shows. Betsy met **Rose Harvin Long** and **Susan Nash McClellan** at Canyon Ranch in Arizona last year where they hiked together. Susan lives in San Diego, CA, has two children, and participates in marathons, triathlons, you name it. Susan is also involved in running several charities. **Sarah Jones Prestipino** and husband Tony are now living in Pinehurst, NC. Sarah is still interpreting for the deaf in a high school and Tony is working and traveling all the time. Son, Tony, Jr., graduated from Wofford and is presently working in Washington, DC. Daughter Kelly graduated from Randolph Macon. **Sallie Robins Johnson** writes that her life is still crazy! Both of their children are now living in Birmingham, AL, and Sallie and her husband plan to build a new house this year. Please continue to E-mail me with news about yourself or other classmates. People love to hear about you! Sissy

CLASS OF 1973

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representative:

Mrs. Emily Jones Rushing

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Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Horres



There was no Internet connection when we were in college, but that hasn't kept the class of 1973 from keeping in touch that way. In fact, much of the news for this report comes via E-mail from distant classmates. I look forward to hearing from the rest of you, whether I send you a request or you just decide on your own to use the address above. You can be sure you won't ever disturb me at a meal and you don't have to spend money on a stamp. First, a quick post-Christmas greeting from **Susan Marrash-Minnerly**, who now lives in West Virginia with husband Doug and son Nathan. They are all well, she reports, though very busy at work and school. It was fun to see them, along with Susan's parents, at last year's reunion. I also heard from **Pam McDonald Cook**, who returned with husband Lee and family to Atlanta, GA, after nine years in Philadelphia, PA. That was three years ago, when youngest son John was accepted at Holy Innocents' Episcopal. Now John is a senior in high school, a wrestler and lacrosse player who has been accepted at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, (where his brother James already is). Pam has been working as a consultant for ETC (sister company to Carlisle) and at the Curtin Exchange, enjoying the flexible hours, while Lee works with brokers across the Southeast at Citigroup. **Robin Crandall** reported in from Connecticut, where she lives on a hilltop in Mystic and plays with her airedales, Ruffles and Sassyfrass. When she's not playing at home or directing the handbell choir at the Union Baptist Church in town, she teaches elementary music in two schools in Groton, CT. "I enjoy my work with the children," says Robin, "as I find them to be absolutely honest and fun-loving creatures." During a visit to South Carolina in the summer of 2003, Robin enjoyed meeting up with Dr. Perry Daniels, retired music professor, and his wife, Phyllis, and Beverly Barrs, '68 MMus. Robin also took a walk with her dogs through the Converse campus and enjoyed the beautiful setting. The alumnae office received news from **Peggy Kelly Lancaster** and **Debbie Knowles Spink**. Peggy visited with Ronnie and **Sharon Amos Shealy** during Wofford's homecoming weekend last fall. Peggy's daughter, Cecilia, is employed with a public relations firm in Spartanburg, SC, and her son Bryan is the assistant golf pro at Carolina Country Club, also in Spartanburg. Debbie is a proud grandmother to her first granddaughter, Sarah Catherine Sullivan, born in October to her daughter Jessica, who lives in Hartsville, SC. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the London Term crowd at this year's reunion weekend in April. I know it's not "our" year to go back, but

we've all been invited to join fellow travelers who have been making this trip since the fall of 1970. I had fun looking back at my annual from that year and remembering all the classmates - and parents - who joined us in 1971. Check your information from the alumnae office and make plans to be there.

CLASS OF 1974

30th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representative:

Mrs. Libba Elmoro Rhoad

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E-mail: elizabeth.rhoad@irs.gov

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Sara Ellis Lehner



REUNION! Hopefully everyone has made reservations for April 23-25 by now, but if not, it is never too late. I look forward to receiving more class news at that time. My son Elliott was married last May and I enjoyed celebrating with classmates **Beth Guess Moody**, **Margie Cantwell** and **Janet Andrews**. Beth's daughter Meg is currently attending USC at Salkahatchie. **Elizabeth Crenshaw Crum**'s daughter Betsy graduated from the University of Alabama in December and is going to medical school. Her daughter Barton stays busy with 3rd grade sports, dancing and gymnastics. **Dian Louise Lawler-Johnson** teaches voice at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA, and maintains a private studio in Roswell, GA. She is also a certified McClosky vocal technician and therefore is often included in assisting otolaryngologists and vocal therapists in rehabilitation of damaged voices. **Beth Peer Fraim** can be found in Norfolk, VA, where husband Paul is mayor. She was featured recently in a Norfolk newspaper with her work as a reading volunteer and her involvement with the Literacy Partnership, Inc., an initiative of the Norfolk city government and school system, that works with early childhood as well as work force literacy. **Grazier Connors Rhea** reports that it has been fun to see friends from Converse at Wofford over the past couple of years. Her son, Copeland, is a junior and has several fraternity brothers (KA) who have Converse mothers: Andy Halligan - **Pam Williams Halligan**, Hugh DuBose - **Carol Redding DuBose**, Ansel and Parks Bunch - Jean Parks Bunch '77, Blake Boyd - Lee Taylor Boyd '76, Lewis White - Sally Mahony White '75, Hayes Stanton - Betsy Hayes Stanton '73, Michael Davis - Kathy Graham Davis '77. Copeland worked at Pawleys Island last summer and roomed with **Sally Bates McWilliams**' son who is a KA at the University of SC but Grazier did not know that until the summer was almost over. Husband Toy has owned a party rental business in Rock Hill, SC, for the past three years after being an investment banker with Bank of America for 20 years. She says it has been a great change and nice to not have to travel all of the time. Daughter,

Evelyn, graduated from Clemson in 2002 and works for Bank of America in Charlotte, NC. She hopes to see lots of Converse classmates at the reunion in April! Also, she reminds us to remember to give to the Converse Annual Fund before then so that we can have a high percentage of giving. Any amount will count. My computer is back online, so please feel free to contact me via E-mail.

CLASS OF 1975

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representative:

Mrs. Avan Yates Moore

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Ms. Elise Warren

Ms. Melanie Smith Kearse



Happy spring to all of you! It's hard to believe that we will have a class reunion a year from now. Begin thinking about it so there will be lots of us there. I apologize in advance if this is short but I have waited until the last minute before the deadline to be sure I had all the news and I almost waited too long! **Jamie Gaines Crockett** wrote shocking news that she is lucky to be alive. It seems she survived two near death experiences in one year. After surviving a head on collision that left her car dangling over a cliff in July, she was rescued in August from nearly choking to death by a bystander who knew the Heimlich maneuver. Jamie, we are glad you are okay and hope that your new career is going well. After teaching for several years and loving every minute of it, (Jamie's quote: "Yipee, I get to go to work today!") she is leaving to take an appointed job as one of three Registrars in Shelby County. This should be interesting she says since she has been elected for eight years to the Shelby County Republican Executive Committee and her new boss is a Democrat! Not only did I receive a Christmas card with **Ruthie McCutchen Knight's** beautiful daughters on it, she also sent a wonderful article from the Spartanburg newspaper written about **Polly Ann Maxwell Cleveland's** husband, Arthur. The Cleveland family has a long history in Spartanburg development and love for the city and Arthur has very successfully continued that tradition as he has just completed a seven year, \$120 million dollar project, which includes a 250 room hotel and conference center. The article detailed Arthur's dedication to Spartanburg, his work, his family and his determination to never give up. Of course, some of Polly Ann's humorous quotes were included and since we all know that behind every successful man is a woman, we congratulate you, P.A. **Betsy Wigington** sent word that all is well and she is enjoying life every chance she gets in her cabin in Cashiers, NC. In addition, she spent the big 50 in Italy (three weeks no less!). She does still

claim St. Maarten as her home away from home where she spends Thanksgiving. A real voice from the past appeared in my mail box as I got a note from **Sally Sheftall**. She wrote that she works two part time jobs—one in a gift shop in Jacksonville, FL, and the other at Doug Milne Co. She says the only problem is the bakery across the street from the gift shop—it's hard to stay away. She is now living in a cozy condo after selling her mother's home after her death. At Christmas, I also heard from **Martha Zachry Lever**, **Carolyn Cathey Brinson**, and **Joy Joyner Poe**. We are talking beautiful families here, I assure you. Both of Joy's boys are in college and she is working in a pre-school three days a week. I think the most creative card I received was from **Libby McKnight Engler**. The past met the present with a picture of her two children as toddlers on the front and I opened it to find two gorgeous twenty something year olds! She credits her daughter with the idea and it was a great one. As you read this we are preparing ourselves for Thomas, (our youngest) to graduate from high school and head to FSU this summer. It's difficult to believe the empty nest is about here. I keep hearing that once I get used to it, it's not a bad way to live. I'm not sold on that idea yet. Robert is still doing well in NYC and Charlie is keeping busy with his criminal justice studies. Send news. Love, Avan

CLASS OF 1976

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representative:

Mrs. Leah Colley Welty

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Converse Fund Class Chair: Vacant



Mackey Tarrant was in touch with **Capi Rhea-Darby**, whose daughter, Seyward, goes to college at Duke. How exciting **Connor Hill Gantt's** oldest daughter had triplets. Another daughter, Mackall, is at Converse. **Claire Connors Wharton** and Carl are doing well in Tryon, NC. Mackey hopes to see Claire and family during the Easter Tryon Steeplechase. She hears from **Sarah McKenzie Dyson**, "Spat", who lives in Beaufort, SC. Spat stays busy cooking gourmet meals, playing tennis, volunteering for the Tour of Homes and the Medical Auxiliary Ball. Her husband, Gregg, is a stockbroker there with Salomon Smith Barney. **Bonnie Boineau Crawford** looks fabulous and is staying busy with her two beautiful daughters, Mary and Beverly. Mackey's sister saw **May Dowling Peach** and says she looks great. Mackey stays busy doing development and commercial brokerage. **Lindsay Bridgforth Hodges** sent greetings at Christmas. Her daughter, Mary Dudley, was 16 in July and is a high school cheerleader, on the dance team and an officer in her high school sorority. Elizabeth (9) takes piano, is very creative, and is nicknamed Elizabeth "I've

got an idea" Hodges. **Meredith "Mernie" Rawles** and Hannah went by train from Virginia to New York City on Christmas day and stayed at the Plaza on an "Eloise" package. They shopped, saw *Mama Mia* and did some sightseeing. **Jean Miller Stimpson's** family continues to grow as her daughter, Virginia, and husband, Garner, are expecting their first baby in June. Billy still loves New York and is working for Deutsche Bank. Sands graduated from Marine Boot Camp at Parris Island in October and is stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. He loves the Marines but will be back at Auburn in the fall. Nancy is in the 10th grade. Jean talked to **Sister Rutland** and **Molly Liles Carter** and both are doing well. Well girls, the big 50 hit me New Year's Eve. A lot of you have, or will, experience 50 this year. Welcome to the club! You're in good company. ENJOY! Leah

CLASS OF 1977

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

Mrs. Chris Wood Lynn

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Mrs. Robbie Dana Reading

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Columbia, SC 29206, 803-782-2659

E-mail: mdr119@sc.rr.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Pamela Ellis Hall



Hope all of you had a good holiday - what happened to all of those letters Robbie and I were supposed to get? Thanks to those of you who did include us! **Jane Boatwright Schwab** wants us all to join her on Saturday, April 24 at 2:00 pm for the dedication of the Belk lobby in memory of **Becky Gilbert Chancellor** and **Debra Burt John**. You need to see what Jane and her committee have done. It's amazing and we all appreciate you! **Leslie Scoles Provence** writes that her dad has joined her family in Greenville, SC. They all went to NYC for Thanksgiving and had a grand time. **Betsy Brewer Grimes** has launched her own business, Share the Wonder, which includes paintings, prints, cards, and commissioned works. She discovered lots of latent talent in watercolor class. Her three children are all in various schools: Rob at USC-S, Annie at Salem, and Patrick, a senior at Spartanburg High. All three of them have a real interest in politics - Annie met the president recently. **Bet Tarrant's** tennis team won the state championship at Hilton Head, SC, and then traveled to Chattanooga, TN, in October where they missed the southeastern finals by one game. Next year, for sure! She and **Katherine Graves King** met in Charleston, SC, where Kat and her new husband were visiting son Collier at the College of Charleston. **Pam Ellis Hall** sent a great photo of herself and Jimmy with their 14-year-old basset Annie. Jimmy is still traveling, which

Pam swears is the secret to a happy marriage. Pam did get a photo card from **GINNY McCommon McKay** over the holidays, but no narrative. It looked to her as if Callaway graduated from college, Claire was a deb, and Dixon earned his Eagle Scout award. Is all this right, Ginny? Pam did get a long letter from **Carter Desportes Hall** in Howardsville, VA. David is in landscaping, which really did a booming business after Hurricane Isabel. She is still with Wachovia as a financial specialist. Son Wyatt is 16 and into diving, weight lifting, and instant messaging. And he still manages to be a straight A student! The whole family went to the Homestead for Christmas and enjoyed some good quality family time. **Paula Dean Bailey** is a school nurse in Sterling, VA with two teenage daughters. They toured England and Scotland over the summer. **Phyllis Ashley Beasley** is the trauma system coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. She was quoted in the Myrtle Beach paper about the shortage of trauma surgeons in the state. **Ann Reed West Springs** also sent Pam a photo of her two daughters Lauren and Mary Alice, but no news. Next time, ladies, I promise I will make stuff up! **Joy Harris Reinicke** sent a Christmas letter. Her daughter Jessica is a junior at Columbia International University. Joshua is a freshman in high school and will travel to Mexico on a church mission trip this summer. Joy's husband, Kaynee, is with Chesapeake Civil Contractors while Joy is in her fifth year working at Ruffner Academy. **Mary Jane Simmons Candler**, **Rhondy Valdez Huff**, **Marguerite Callahan**, and I had a wonderful time at the November wedding of Clare Stokes, daughter of **Josie Rudolph Stokes**. We all decided we're still pretty cute and a ton of fun. Mary Jane introduced her son to the Nu-Way and, true to form, he loved it! Josie was a lovely and gracious "mother of the bride", which gives us all something to which to aspire. **Nancy Nix Jones** sent an E-mail (see how easy it is to keep in touch?) and brought me up to date with her family. Harrison is in the 1st grade; Hunter is in the 9th and obviously quite a swimmer. Nancy completed her coursework for her Ed.S. and is doing an internship in school psychology. Even in the midst of all her continuing education, Nancy was able to run in the 10K Peachtree Road Race. She and her family shared a house at Kiawah in July with **Donna Wilson Dornes'** family and had fun beachcombing. Nancy stopped in Greenville, SC, to visit with **Julie Killian Garrett** who is now a practicing marriage and family therapist. Julie's twins are freshmen: Manning at Clemson and Margaret at Georgia. Nancy was Donna's guest at her Spartan High reunion, where Nancy caught up with **Rebecca Koon**, who has two new acting credits: *Radio* and *The Notebook*. **Harriett Waldrop Strom** is still in Greenville, SC, working for Carolina First. Her sons Neil and Garvin are "all grown up." **Amanda Gerttula** is in St. Petersburg, FL, where she has a business known as Pinkfiddle. She plays solo violin as well as with small ensembles at parties, wedding receptions, etc. in the St. Petersburg/Tampa, FL, area. In August **Paula Wagner Gay** and her daughter Paula Frances were in Atlanta, GA, for Paula Frances was

preparing to enter Emory. Daughters Mae Joyce, senior at Duke, and Elizabeth, a junior at Hotchkiss, are all in the states. Paula and Frank left Saudi and moved to Doha, Qatar just in time for the war. She has completed her Master of Science in Business and is now working on her MBA, the second part of a dual degree. I get jokes from **Babi Smith** via **Rhonda Logan Wills** so I know they are both alive and well in Charlotte, NC, but no news. I hope all of us made a New Year's resolution to stay in closer touch and are sticking to it. See you at the 'Verse!

CLASS OF 1978

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representative:

Mrs. Kay Ferguson Theis

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Ms. Martha P. Morton

Mrs. Kay Ferguson Theis



Let me apologize for no notes in the previous issue. I hadn't heard from as many of you as I would like, and just missed the deadline. I have received many E-mails from **Dawn Williamson Wilbanks** who married Ben Wilbanks right after our reunion last April. She has indicated that life is grand. The newlyweds took Dawn's son Neil and ventured out west this past summer 6000 miles in a motor home. Retirement, marriage and living on the water (Perdido Bay in Alabama) are great combinations, Dawn says. She hates having to get Neil on the school bus at 6:40 each morning, but the perks are fishing, boating, and eating out a lot! **Julie Gaw Armstrong** E-mailed last summer that she is working at Christ Church as the Director of Women's Ministries and teaches a bible study for women who are widowed or divorced and she really enjoys what she is doing. Julie's daughter Rachael is in college in Columbia, SC, son Bradford is a senior at Wingate University and daughter Anne is an 8th grader who enjoys soccer, basketball, and helping her friends with bible study and prayer. Julie reported that **Peggy Seals Sansbury** and husband Rhett have a freshman daughter at Presbyterian College. Peggy is the assistant teaching leader for Bible Study Fellowship in Myrtle Beach, SC, and that helps relieve the "empty nest syndrome" she is experiencing. **Blanche Gramling Weathers** told me **Julie Purcell Thompson** is the fabric guru at Luxury Fabrics in Columbia, SC. Blanche also reports that this past fall was football, football, and more football. Her son Gill, a senior, was captain of the team and chosen as Best Lineman. He was selected to play in the South Carolina - Georgia All Star game for the independent schools. He was also voted "Best All Around" by his classmates. Edward (10th grade) was on the varsity football team, has turned 16, needs a car and is also playing JV basketball. Julius (7th

grade) enjoys football and is the "coolest" with his peers and contemporaries. Blanche and husband Hugh had the opportunity to head to the Florida Keys this January for some R & R. Hugh stays busy with the dairy farm and trucking business. **Lee Ullman Hutson** wrote this fall from Columbia, SC that her daughter Mary Lee is looking at Converse and the College of Charleston. Her son Henry escorted the homecoming queen and is in ROTC. Both attend AC Flora High School in Columbia, SC. Lee saw **Lib Laney Peebles** at a "Knock off Gucci/Prada/Louis Vuitton purse party" hosted by Leila Freeman Byars '79. Lib has a new neighbor; **Cathy Propst Bourne** and husband Davis bought a house just around the corner from Lib and Billy. Lee has seen **Kaki Manning Zeigler** and **Jeanne Davis Powell** at church. Kaki's nest is empty with two boys at University of the South and daughter Elizabeth in Maine at a boarding school. **Annie Home Collins** was on her way to Wofford homecoming when I E-mailed her this past fall. She and husband Marc were partying at the Pike house. Thanks to **Martha Anderson Bywaters** who sent me a cute Christmas card of her boys. **Page Morton**.... retired?? Actually her job at IBM has gone by the wayside and she is thinking of retiring. I saw Page at a party recently given by some of our Junior League friends. We were handed brightly colored boas to wear as we arrived. Page also had surgery on her Achilles tendon this past summer. Was it the spin class or the rock climbing that did you in, Page? Life here in Texas is good, and my boys Spencer (10), and Marshall (6 1/2) are keeping us busy. Spencer plays basketball, tennis, and baseball and loves chess. Marshall has started wrestling and it looks promising...we call him the "moose." He eats everything, is very opinionated, hardheaded, and has a hilarious sense of humor. Hmmm, sounds like a Ferguson to me! Let me hear from you all. Kay

CLASS OF 1979

25th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

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E-mail: camdentire@charter.net

Converse Fund Class Chair:

Mrs. Cecilia France Arthur



Hello classmates! My bags are packed, and I hope yours are too! As you know, our 25th Class Reunion is just days away (April 23-25), and I strongly encourage you to be "back-on-campus" for this fun-filled weekend. For starters, come find me and Hunter at the hotel where our adjoining rooms have been designated the hospitality suite for refreshments, hugs, and

chatter! Please bring along some goodies and/or beverages to share with your classmates if you can. **Jeanne Jackson Mize** wouldn't miss our reunion for anything, even if it means tearing herself away from her computer and E-mail for one weekend. Her oldest son, Joseph, is currently studying at the University of Salzburg in Austria, and she likes to keep in touch. (I am so glad PCs and E-mail didn't exist for my mother when I was studying abroad!) The Mizes spent Christmas in Florida scuba diving and soaking up the warm temperatures before braving the winter temperatures in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina and the Austrian Alps! **Jean Arthur Hungerpiller** is especially excited about our reunion because she has been reliving her college memories for months through her oldest daughter, Brittain, who is a freshman at Ole Miss. When Jean isn't busy keeping the students at her school on the right track and out of trouble, she's busy keeping up with husband, Kent, who plays a lot of golf and works very little; Kenton (10th grade) who plays very little golf and works a lot at being a boyfriend; Emily (6th grade) who is the family diva; and DuPre (4th grade) who is 100% boy! I had dinner with **Katherine Shurley Hargett**, **Beth Ardrey Simpson**, **Kathy McCuen Huntley**, and **Julie Brice Benton** during the holidays, and they are excited about coming to our reunion, too! The Huntleys will be scooting about Fripp Island this summer in style with the golf cart Santa brought them. Beth is bored after settling into another new home, and has decided to teach again. Katherine hopes our classmates from Dallas are coming to the reunion so she can ask them about the young man her daughter is dating. Julie and her husband, John, spent a week in Italy last November at a cooking school. They sure needed an excuse to go to Italy because I know Julie does not cook, nor does she want to cook! She learned how to cook one dish, and John did very well learning several dishes. Last October I had the good fortune to return to France after 26 years, and I spent three weeks visiting regions I had never seen as well as returning to Provence where we lived during our study abroad program. I spent my last five days with Julie traveling to Mont St. Michel, the Normandy Beaches, Monet's house/garden and touring Julie's new "hometown", St. Germain en Laye, complete with a chateau and gardens from which you can see the Eiffel Tower! It was so thrilling to be back in France again, and Julie's lovely home and hospitality put the finishing touches on a great trip! **Donna Naismith Justice** writes that her oldest son, John, is a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill and a member of the ATO fraternity. Her other son, Sam, is a junior at boarding school in Dobbs Ferry, NY. In addition to his regular courses, he is taking voice and guitar, which come in handy with his rock band practices after school! This now makes Donna and husband, Johnny, empty-nesters, but they stay busy visiting the boys, their parents, travelling and finishing their new home on Sea Island where they hope to live full-time someday. **Ellerbe Page Halligan**, **Margaret Rinehart Smith**, **Anne Cushman Prettyman**, and **Lea Stallworth Moore** all wrote that they plan on attending our reunion, and I hope you

are, too! Bring lots of news and photos! Ceya

CLASS OF 1980

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2005
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
 Mrs. Susan Secord Marion



CLASS OF 1981

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2006
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
 Mrs. Kimberly Waugh Gravlee



Carla and I are not getting news from you! E-mail anytime with juicy or boring news about our classmates. I did see **Amy Warren Beaty**, **Marianna MacIntyre Taylor**, and **Libby Campbell Patterson** this summer in Beaufort, SC. Marianna has a beach house there and we all got together. Libby has moved into her new house in Hilton Head, SC, Amy continues to do well in interior design, and Marianna and I have our hands full with teenagers! Libby had seen **Elaine Baldwin Hunt** at Disney World in the Epcot China Pavilion...you never know! Elaine is living in Rock Hill, SC, and has two girls who are very active in soccer, scouts, and horseback riding. Also, Libby had heard that **Merry Carmichael Trask** is working as an EMT driving an ambulance! She reportedly decided to do that because she "had caused so many accidents, I thought I should help someone involved in one!" Paul is still developing and managing real estate. **Ann Cromley James** vacationed in Central America where she underwent acupuncture! Anne, do you recommend that? **Julie Martin Hanes** and Frank are back from Brazil and are running a bed and breakfast in Vermont! **Carla McKelvey Clausen** said that she, Gary, and her mom had a great Christmas in New York City where they saw snow and the Rockettes. **Sally Jeter Hammond** is working for Spartanburg

Regional Hospital in Spartanburg, SC, and those of you in that area might catch her doing television ads. Take care and send us news! Susan

CLASS OF 1982

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2007
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
 Ms. Becky Nutter Cassidy



I hope all of you had a happy holiday season. This year was definitely the happiest one for me. In November, I traveled to Samara, Russia to meet a little girl that I wanted to adopt. I returned the week of Christmas with my father to bring her home. As I write this, Elina has been my child for six weeks now. She's a beautiful two-year old who brings joy to all of her family. We are enjoying our time getting to know each other and trying to communicate. I spend my days playing with toys (sometimes by myself), changing diapers, trying to discipline with compassion, finding high calorie foods that Elina will eat and I won't, refereeing cats and kid, walking the mall with a two-year old in tow, and reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* over and over and over again. Elina has a heart condition that will need to be corrected. She is off the chart with her low weight, and her language skills are about a year behind, but I am confident all of these issues can be overcome with time, good medical care, love, and lots of ice cream. Please forgive me for not sharing other news of our classmates in this issue. I promise I'll write more next time. Drop me a line and let me know how you're doing. And if anyone knows how to get a two-year old to brush her teeth, I'd love to hear from you!

CLASS OF 1983

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2008
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 Mrs. Lou Pittman Lindsey
 Mrs. Ellen McKay Lowry



Editor's Note: The Alumnae Office would like to thank Karen Correll Edwards for the following introductory statement and members of the Class of 1983 and other Converse friends for their kind offers of help and support.

These class notes were received in the Alumnae Office on January 21, 2004. On January 28 Elizabeth Holliday Collins Johnston suffered a fatal heart attack. Beth's funeral service was beautiful and comforting. A number of Converse friends from our class and other classes were there to grieve Beth's death and celebrate her life. In attendance were Ellen McKay Lowry, Elizabeth Foushee Cunningham, Claire Kountz Shapack, Belle Maxwell Croft, Kathryn Benson O'Connor, Karen Correll Edwards, Robin Fuller, Pam Cuttino Parker, Beth McFarland Wilson, Ruth Ballard Sudreth '82, and Claudia Barton Coleman '82. Beth was dearly loved and will be missed greatly. Please keep Beth's parents, her sister Kim Collins Cotty and husband David, and Beth's two young sons, Curtis, Jr. and Jack, in your prayers. Beth's parents' address is Mr. and Mrs. James M. (Anne) Collins, 560 South Valley Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387. The following are Beth's last notes (unedited) for us, her Converse friends that she treasured.

I am embarrassed to say I missed the last deadline for updates but I was in the process of having a pacemaker put in and it "slipped my mind" until it was too late! Typical! I was glad to hear from some of you over the holidays although I do think some of us are getting a little slack about keeping in touch as we are getting older. I did hear from **Leslie Redden Vereide** and she and her family are still in Vienna, VA. **Beth McFarland Wilson** and her husband Lynn have moved to Seneca, SC, on Lake Keowee. I miss her terribly, as do my children, because she was here in Southern Pines! I received a beautiful picture of **Mary Walker Norfleet Fry**, husband Kirk and precious daughter, Alix. As usual it was great to see a picture of **Liz Lane Portwood's** gorgeous children. It looks like little Elizabeth is a talker! I was sorry to learn that Liz's brother Hugh has been very ill and is very much in need of our prayers. I also received pictures from **Kathryn Benson O'Connor**, **Claire Kountz Shapack**, **Karen Correll Edwards**, and **Ellen McKay Lowry**. (I call her twins "little Ellen and little Sam.") All children appear healthy, perfectly gorgeous, and happy. The adorable picture of **Pam Cuttino Parker's** baby "Bradley" and Santa Claus certainly made me miss little ones. The rest of us are facing driver's ed and college! I was overwhelmed by the photo of **Heidi Heacock Yates' family** with her four girls who all look like beauty queens. Thank you to those who sent updates. Please continue to stay in touch and let me hear from all of you. I also managed to get together with **Ginny Howerton** when she came up from Florida. It is nice living in a resort community and would love to hear from you if you come to town. Our next deadline for class notes is May 21st!

CLASS OF 1984

20th Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2004
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
 Mrs. Elena Pribyl Rush



I write this in the midst of a winter storm - a day to bake cookies and sit in front of the fire. When you read this, spring will be on its way and our 20th reunion just around the corner. My first news is of a serious nature. Our classmate, **Eleanor Herndon VanLandingham** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She has finished chemotherapy and is doing very well. The doctors have also discovered a spot on her liver, but it has not changed in six months. I strongly believe in the power of prayer and would ask everyone to please keep Eleanor, husband, Billy and their children in your thoughts and prayers. If anyone would like to send a note of encouragement, just give me a call or send an E-mail and I'll pass on their address. I had a terrific E-mail from **Marie Ireland Aimone**. Marie is in her 15th year as director of Camp Burnt Gin, South Carolina's camp for children who have physical disabilities and chronic illnesses. It is her goal to expand the camping program to include a session for young adults with disabilities. To realize this goal, she spends a great deal of time writing grant proposals and raising money. She also continues to be involved in the American Camping Association as an accreditation visitor. Marie's husband, Gene, continues to act with Trustus Theatre and will be appearing in USC's spring production, *Love Labors Lost*. Marie and Gene are also very busy with their two boys, Michael (7) and Christopher (3). They are both involved with drama work and Marie serves on the community service committee for Michael's class. The kids make quilts to give to a daycare for homeless children. Marie said since her last sewing venture was in middle school, she is in charge of the scissors! **Kate Moore Geskos**, my Yankee field hockey buddy, found me in the never-never land of the web. She is the mother of a beautiful little girl, Isabella, now 2 1/2. Kate is the senior art buyer at Mullen. Thanks to Wofford's success in football (Southern Conference Champions), **Elena Pribyl Rush** has had the opportunity to catch up with some of our classmates. **Melinda Murphy Graham**, husband Will, and their three children have relocated to Charlotte, NC, where Melinda is teaching 5th grade at Charlotte Latin. Elena also says **Cathy Froneberger Siarris** is making a mark on the arts scene with several recent performances and on the education scene as director of the Converse Fine Arts Camp. Elena's daughter, Anne-Elizabeth, is duly impressed that mom knows someone so talented. Elena has been nominated to serve on the Alumnae Board as an 80's decade representative. Many thanks, Elena, for your willingness to serve. **Jody Cole** has truly been making her mark in San Francisco, CA. She is very involved in the LGBT community and served as co-chair of a \$15MM capital campaign to build a community center in San Francisco.

Needless to say it was a huge success! She also co-produced The Hopland Women's Festival, California's only music festival for women. Thankfully, Jody has a retreat when not involved in her many fund-raising endeavors, called Wildfair Ranch, north of SF. On a 100 acre ranch, she and her partner, Katharine Chase, have a dog, two cats and four horses. The ranch is without electricity, but does have running water and plumbing and quite honestly sounds like paradise. Katharine manages the ranch and is also a singer/ songwriter and musician. **Gayle Schrier Smith** and husband Leigh have added to their clan (see Life Events). I must say that despite what must be an incredibly hectic life, Gayle writes the most beautiful Christmas card. She gives a glimpse of a day in her life and while it is busy and full, what abounds is love, family and friends - the things that matter. Beth and I have had a great year with work. I took on an additional part time job that turned out to be full-time helping another attorney with her real estate closings. I have also become active in my church - a small, farming community Presbyterian church that dates back to 1756. Beth and I had an exciting trip to a dude ranch in Tucson, AZ. I must admit me on a horse is not a pretty sight! We are healthy and happy, working on our house and taking care of our dogs, Milo and Corky. I mark the passage of time by the Christmas cards from friends as I see their children growing up, the fact I just got my first bifocals prescription and our 20th college reunion is upon us! So girls, let's turn back the clock! Shake out the pink and green, dust off the loafers, find those add-a-bead necklaces and beach tunes, start collecting pictures of family and get ready for a great time in April. Teri and I hope to see everyone there!

CLASS OF 1985

Next Reunion Alumnae Weekend, 2005
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
 Mrs. Mary Helen Richbourg Earle
 Mrs. Susan Peel Hollingsworth



Krisila sent a mass E-mail to our E-mail group and we got a few responses, which is great. If she doesn't have your E-mail address, please send her an E-mail so you can stay connected with the rest of us. **Treva Thomas Hamlin** sent a nice E-mail concerning her latest addition (see births). Little Hayden joins older brothers Hunter and Alex. She said her house was crazy this Christmas with legos and GI Joes. She recently spent her 40th birthday celebrating with **Tricia Rogers Meadors** and **Paula Brooker Guess** at

the beach. I think Treva was the last of us to hit that 40th milestone! **Elizabeth (Buffy) Tronnes Wong** had planned to visit Treva in December (from California) with her two children, Lydia and Ian, but their plans fell through. Treva is hoping they will make it this summer. Buffy sent a Christmas card and included a picture of her children. Lydia (14 mos) has the biggest cheeks—a definite Tronnes trait. **Marie Elam Soutter** sent a picture of her family in her Christmas card with some family news. Shelby is a 2nd grader with straight A's on her 1st quarter report card. She also plays indoor soccer and dad, Alan, is the coach. Her other daughter, Cassidy, is in 5K and broke her arm, sidelining gymnastics for several months. Marie is still with Weyerhaeuser and was recently accepted to Leadership North Carolina (a leadership development program), an exciting opportunity. **Teresa Shuman Clements** is living outside Atlanta, GA, where she teaches 3rd grade and is the grade level chair. She is also professional chauffeur to Eileen (15), 10th grader and varsity cheerleader; Abbey (13), 8th grade-band, soccer, Jr. Beta Club and tumbling classes; and Olivia (12), 7th grader, Beta Club and tumbling classes. **Cindy Bruce Bryant** sent a picture of her three children: Charlie, Nolen and Adeline. Cindy, David and family are living in Georgia. **Melissa Yergey Daly** sent an E-mail and said that she just finished running her first marathon at Walt Disney World. She finished with a respectable time for the first time out. She will be running in six triathlons this year and will also be participating in a 100-mile ride with Lance Armstrong in Austin, TX, in October. **Susan Schrum Ladue** is living in Charlotte, NC, and is doing great. She is going on her 6th year of being cancer free and the doctors now say she is cured! HOORAY! She and Collin have been married 12 years and have a son, Collin (4 1/2) and a daughter, Louise (2 1/2). She is a stay at home mom but also runs her own company from home selling inspection stickers and color dots used by garment manufacturers for quality control in garments. **Joan Dailey Towles** and son Parker (2) are students at the Washington Conservatory of Music. **Elisabeth Green Church** sent a picture of her children Bradford and Meg. At 13, Bradford is over 6'1" and wears a size 14 shoe. Meg (12) is shorter than Elisabeth for the time being. I always enjoy receiving Krisila's Christmas card as she has such a newsy letter that she sends with it. And it's one of the first to arrive in the Christmas season—she must write it in July! Blake started high school this year, which was harder for mom than Blake (prior to this he had been at Krisila's school for two years). Parker is now in 4K at Spartanburg Christian Academy. She learned to swim this summer and wanted to have a pool party every day. Krisila is busy with teaching (she just passed the National Board Certification in music), volunteering as a Crisis Pregnancy Center counselor, selling Creative Memories scrapbooks, and participating in many church activities. We also received Christmas pictures of the following: **Melissa Cureton Prickett's** children, Sarah, McIver and twins Austin and Lucas; **Ellen Lanford Asherman's** boys, Ben, Lucas, and twins Turner and Ford; **Becky Britton Noyes'** children, Charles, Neyle, Myers, and twins Becca and Betsy (do twins run

in our class?); **Kim King Dixon's** boys, Robert and Drew; **Kelley Maloney Liggitt's** children, Kent and Kate; **Blair Harper Hurlburt's** children, Patrick and Bailey; **Amy Kimbro Thomas' girls**, Caroline and Taylor; **Deans Richardson Fawcett's** children, Margaret Deans, Gavin, Patrick, Donald, Anne and Rutherford; **Suzanne Crosswell Short's** children, Michael, Sullivan, Sarah Katherine, and Laughton; Paula Brooker Guess' boys Connor and Paul; **Lisa Beckman Ashmore's** children, Kathleen and Beattie; **Marsha Cabbage Somheil's** children, Christopher and Mary Margaret; and **Kelly McElroy White's** children, Bailey and Mary Slade. I hope everyone received a call and gave generously to the Converse Fund. Let's try to get our class participation higher. Keep me and Krisila posted on you and yours. We look forward to hearing from you. Vandy

CLASS OF 1986

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

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- Converse Fund Class Chair:**
Mrs. Miriam Creech Brice



Ann Lanier Jackson and her husband Brian are living in Jacksonville, FL, with their two boys, Robert and Joe, who keep them busy, busy, busy. In October she got together with a couple of classmates—**Amy Tibbals Morales**, **Debbie McCrory Pannell**, and **Courtney McGahan-Towne**—at the Morales' beach condo at Jacksonville Beach, FL. Debbie has just moved to St. Simons Island with her family and so they hope that more of these weekend beach trips are on the horizon. Ann got a Christmas card from **Dawn Brendle Jackson**. Her husband (also a Brian Jackson) has a new job in Conway, AR, and they are moving (downsizing and simplifying as she put it) to an older home in Conway. Also Dawn went on a mission trip to Brazil. "In May I (Dawn) had the privilege of going to Word of Life in Atibaia, Brazil with our church's music/drama ministry. There isn't enough space to describe the experience I had, but suffice it to say that I will never be the same again!" Dawn is also home schooling her 4th grader Lydia and taking care of their menagerie of animals. **Lisa Holcombe Shellhaas** and her son Gates took a fabulous Disney cruise with her entire family this fall. **Junie Taylor Laughridge** and her family will be moving to Camden, SC, soon where they have purchased

a horse farm. Junie homeschools her children Emily and Zachary. **Allison Hunnicutt Hauser** writes that she was recently nominated for membership in the Jacksonville Women's Network, a group of professional Jacksonville women who are recognized for their leadership roles in both business and charitable organizations. She has also recently received an AV designation from Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest professional and ethical rating available for an attorney. Dorothy Pagano '87 came to Jacksonville via Boston to celebrate the New Year in St. Augustine Beach with Allison and husband, Ted. Allison writes that she is having fun being a devoted aunt to Macy Shae Barkocy, the one year old daughter of her sister, Ashley Hunnicutt Barkocy '93. "We are trying to make sure Macy understands the importance of a Converse education, but we think she may be a bit young for our marketing efforts!" Allison also tells us that Ann Lanier Jackson's husband Brian arranged a surprise 40th birthday party for Ann at Roy's Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach in early December. Fortunately, all participants were able to keep the secret and Ann appeared very delighted and surprised to welcome many of her friends and neighbors to a lovely dinner. Guests included Allison and her husband Ted and Amy Tibbals Morales. **Cheryl Litton Barber** and husband Don are hosts of a weekly national television program called goodnews! It is growing rapidly from humble beginnings as an alternative Sunday School class and is now in over 19.5 million households each week and expanding with a PAX regional broadcast starting in March to an additional 4.5 million households. It's a talk/entertainment program with amazing guests from film, television, music, sports, and business. Past guests have included: Kathy Ireland, Mary Lou Retton, John Smoltz, some of the cast and producers of *Lord of the Rings*, Third Day, Franklin Graham, Craig T. Nelson, Sean Patrick Thomas, the cast of *Seventh Heaven*, *Finding Nemo* and more. You can get some history and more information from www.goodnews-tv.com or call Cheryl @ 770-844-0973. She's also covered red carpet and backstage at four consecutive Dove Award Ceremonies, the Stellar Awards, and the Movieguide Awards as part of Oscar week. The show has won two "Allen Awards" for excellence in faith based broadcasting, been featured in national publications, and they are having fun, with this and their three daughters! Please call or E-mail us soon with more news. Katie, Jennie and Monica

CLASS OF 1987

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representative:

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- Converse Fund Class Chair:**
Mrs. Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins



I had the best time checking my mail at Christmas. Thanks to all of you who sent news and pictures of your beautiful families! **Catherine Frick Eldridge** is enjoying her job as accountant for a shoe store in Newberry, SC. She says it's a great experience to get out of the house and into a shoe closet! **Kenda Holt Rusevlyan** sent a picture of her children, Leigh and Jack. Leigh looks just like Kenda! Kenda runs into **Mary Marshall van Sant**, who is working for the Shoals Chamber of Commerce in Florence, AL. She has built a house on her family's farm, and spends her free time fox hunting and showing her horse. I received a great picture of **Allyn Talbot Johnson's** dog! Allyn and her husband visited her mom in Saluda, NC, over the holidays, although it was hard for them to leave the warmth and sun of Florida! **Beth Woods Sessum's** Christmas card had a great picture of her kids, Clare and Todd, playing in the snow, which certainly wasn't taken in their yard in Tampa! **Anne Johnson Goff** is busy with three children, but found time to run for (and win!) a second term on the local school board. She also works part-time at a CPA firm and plays the piano and organ at her church. **Terri Minton Lessenberry** and her family have moved into a new home in Simpsonville, SC, and **Rachel Hean Dobson** and her family have bought a new house in Macon, GA. **Stacy Abeyta Tucker** and her family continue to renovate the historic farmhouse in which they live near Huntsville, AL. She was experiencing some health problems last fall; please keep Stacy and her family in your prayers. **Sherrie Moss Board** is busy with her duties as PTA president at her children's school. She and **Rebekah Jennings Murphy** vacationed at Litchfield Beach, SC, after Christmas. **Julie Norville** has left her job at CIGNA in Atlanta, GA, to spend some time at home. **Adele Penland Boyce's** husband, Tom, won a radio contest, and the prize was a trip to Las Vegas that included spending money and tickets to the Radio Music Awards Show. They attended a post-awards show party, rubbed elbows with some celebrities, and had a wonderful time! **Holly Manly Gosnell** spent the Christmas holiday traveling with her daughters, who play in the award winning Blue Ridge High School marching band. The band was invited to play at halftime of the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, FL, and also in the Macy's Parade at Universal Studios. **Teresa Gagnon Maino** took her daughter to Converse's Festival of Lessons and Carols. It's nice to know some things don't change! **Molly Levy Campbell** is working at the Aiken Center as an Adolescent Addictions counselor. **Anne Trenning Sasser** has released her new CD, *All One World*. If you would like to hear it, you can get in touch with Anne at atrenning@yahoo.com. I had a great holiday; our neighbor and I surprised our eight year olds with a trip to New York in December. We had a blast, and the children are already planning to dress as Katie and Matt for Halloween 2004! Happy spring to you all, and don't forget to send your news!

CLASS OF 1988

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

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Converse Class Fund Chair:
Mrs. Laura Lynn Graham



I'm pleased to report our first E-mail information request brought great response. **Tiana Fowler Ronstadt** writes that she is enjoying her 14th year as a financial advisor and national accounts representative with the Hartford. She and husband Jeff live in Tucson, AZ, with daughter Mia Graciela Ruth (1). In Greenville, SC, **Patti Maxwell Snow** has found a way to mix her artistic abilities with advocacy. The wonderful result is Carolina Cancer Awareness, a business that creates and sells "awareness gifts" to those affected by cancer and other diseases, and donates 25% of profits to related causes. Check out www.carolinacancerawareness.com and find out more information. **Scott Boulware Oxner** works with Patti as head of manufacturing and custom work. **Barbara Dekle Lauff** says she'd love to have art work by Scott or **Ginny Agee Speirs** on the wall in their new upscale bar in Atlanta, GA, called *blue olive*, co-owned by Barbara and husband Fred. Also in Atlanta is stay-at-home mom **Sonya Maybry Ledbetter**, with husband, Bill, and two sons, William (8) and Matthew (4). Living in Lexington, KY, **JoEllen Jones Grigsby**, has left the thoroughbred racing and breeding industry to earn a BS degree in interpreting for the deaf, a return to her calling. In Lilburn, GA, **Kelly Florence Shaw** and husband, Doug, are subdivision developers. He's an architect and designs the homes. She's a paralegal, developer/builder, and runs the project. They have four children: Amelia (11), Wesley (9), Corey (4), and Simon (2). **Stacie Olexy Sharp** reports "blessings as well as bumps" this year. In addition to being mom to Jackson (7) and Addison (5), she plays on two tennis teams, volunteers extensively with The Cancer League, and had the opportunity to sing the national anthem with husband, Dennis, at minor-league baseball games. **Cindy Hume Kirschner** is still working part-time at DuPont as a senior research chemist (and full-time as mom!), on top of a dizzying list of volunteer activities at church, school, and in the community. If you're in New York any time soon, don't miss **Kimilee Bryant** as "Betty" in the play *Landscape of the Body* by John Guare. Kimilee reports that **Kristin Austin Smith** visited her in December. Among other December visits, Dave and **Linda Layman Redding** hosted a holiday dinner for Brian and **Carissa Mosteller Burns** and Randy and **Sydney Jordan Warren**. Carissa reports dinner was delicious and the girls roundly beat the boys in Trivial Pursuit (yet another good use for that Converse degree!). **Kim Davis Buchanan**, Furman, and their three girls visited **Becky DuBard Grantland** over Christmas. Also

stopping by were **Alice Fuller Littlejohn** and daughter Charlotte; **Margaret Moise Weishuhn** and her three (Will, McFadden, and Mary Roland); and **Page Poston Sullivan** (left her two at home). Kim indicated her family has made the transition well to life in Sewanee, TN. **Linda Smith Lawson** is working in Spartanburg School District 7. She lives in Union, SC, with husband, Guy, a respiratory therapist, and their two daughters, Ashley Brooke (9) and Asia Briana (4). You ladies are living some fascinating lives and accomplishing some extraordinary things, even if your lives may seem 'ordinary' to you. Keep those E-mails coming! If you would like to get connected, please E-mail Sydney or me at one of the above addresses and we will add you to the list.

CLASS OF 1989

15th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

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Mrs. Savannah Elizabeth Joyce
Rev. Kelli Waters Taylor



It was good to hear back from so many of your regarding our reunion. We hope to have a good turnout. **Susan Nickles Moore** has moved to Mooresville, NC, after her husband, Mike, retired from the Army. He took a position as an instructor at the NASCAR Technical Institute. She stays busy with Matthew (3) and Nicholas (6), who started kindergarten this year. She is also doing contract work as a pediatric speech pathologist at an elementary school, preschool and a private clinic. **Susan Williams Lynch** is now very busy (see births)! She is home-schooling her children and this gives them extra time to dote on their new sister. **Rawles Terrell Kelly** and her family have returned to the states and are living in Charlotte, NC. **Cindy Cox Winston** stays busy these days showing and handling Belgian sheepdogs. Her daughters Hannah (11) and Kate (7) are also getting involved and having fun with this, too. Cindy explained this was the same breed of dog that lived with her in the dorm the two weeks before we graduated. Her Belgian sheepdogs are AKC breed champions and have been ranked nationally so I would watch for her at the Westminster Dog Show in the future! When she is not showing dogs, she is a substitute teacher at First Assembly Christian School in Memphis, TN. **Judy Bean Slack** and her family are settled in Williamsburg, VA. Her three years old triplets will start pre-school in the fall. **Melissa Casper Smith** and husband Darin live in Atlanta, GA, where she is teaching high school math and



**ELISABETH KINNEY
McNIEL '89**

As Chairperson of The Kinney Foundation, Inc., Elisabeth Kinney McNiel '89 continues an extraordinary family legacy of community service that began in 1972 with her two great-uncles.

"Drs. P.M. Kinney, a general practitioner, and C.A. Kinney, a surgeon and OB-GYN specialist, were longtime residents of Bennettsville (SC) whose mother and sister attended Converse," explains Elisabeth. "During their lifetimes, Marlboro County was a very poor and rural area where cotton was king. Each practiced medicine here for over 50 years, and decided that because the people of Marlboro had been so good to them in both their professional and civic lives, they wanted to make lasting contributions to her citizens for years to come. They established The Kinney Foundation and began funding it in annual installments while both were still alive."

Even though the Kinney doctors have since died, the family is committed to continuing their vision. "Our primary objective is to serve the needs of Marlboro County - needs we are able to see first-hand," said Elisabeth. "For example, we provided seed-money for Hospice of Marlboro, the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault, and the downtown Bennettsville revitalization effort. Our grants are not used to support annual budgets but are used to provide support for capital improvements, new initiatives and programs. Ideally, we want to provide seed-money that will spark others to join us in community service. There are many places just like Marlboro that need love, and creating a foundation like my great-uncles did is an innovative way to meet that need."

working as a church organist. She keeps in touch with **Stephanie Scruggs Schramm** and **Melissa Mathews Levitt**. **Kim Mullinax Allen** sends word of a mini-reunion with **Shea Hanner Mayfield**, **Celanie Smith Martin**, and **Margaret Boyd Franklin**. They got together over the holidays while Margaret was home for Christmas from Fort Sill, OK. Margaret's husband, Herb, has been in Iraq since last March but was able to come home for Thanksgiving. While Margaret counts the days until Herb's return, she is doing great under such responsibility with three children by herself. Kim said that it was great to see everyone and that Shea is a pillar of strength with the circumstances of Ellis' health. Our prayers are with them. **Angie Williams Cash** was in the January issue of *Lifetime Magazine* (it can be found in most grocery stores). It is the same company that does the Lifetime Television for women. They did a profile on three women sellers on Ebay who have turned it into a career and she was one of the sellers featured in the article along with pictures. She hopes to see everyone at the reunion. My husband surprised our family with tickets to the Music City Bowl in Nashville, TN over New Years where we watched Auburn beat Wisconsin. We even met the Auburn players and Coach Tuberville and the boys loved it! Don't forget April 23-25 when we'll gather for Reunion Weekend. We hope to see everyone there! Kathryn

CLASS OF 1990

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

- Mrs. Lawson Edwards Hough
- Ms. Lesa Underwood



As Stephanie mentioned in the last newsletter, we want to hear from members of the class of 1990. Even if it is just to let us know your E-mail address, please send something to one of us as we have a small database of E-mail addresses for our class. **Ann Morrow Boyd** gets the award for running into classmates during her travels. Last newsletter, we reported that she had seen **Nancy Welch Steed** at the Cloister. This time she ran into **Rebecca Lesto Shunk** at the airport. They had a good time catching up on all that is going on in their lives. **Karen Richardson Wright** ran to her computer over the Christmas

holidays to report all of the fun activities she has been enjoying with her family - a trip to DC, Bain's 6th birthday party, family bowling, etc. Another classmate, **Elizabeth Rogers Munneryn**, also responded to Stephanie's plea for news. Elizabeth and husband, Ron, live in Bennettsville, SC, where Elizabeth has been practicing law for the past eight years. She says, "There is nothing like being a small town lawyer. No two days are the same." Ron is the director of economic development for Richmond County, NC, about 25 miles from Bennettsville. **Sheri Starnes Balcerzak** says that she loved getting Christmas cards with pictures from everyone. Sheri and her children went to Disney this fall and had a blast. She heard from **Adele McLean Acres** who has been living in California for the past couple of years. **Sandy Elferdink Burton** is now living in Palm City, FL, about 90 minutes south of Disney (a major destination for our classmates this year). Brittany is now in middle school and Sandy is still selling real estate; so if anyone is moving to Florida, let her know. **Gwynne Brown Goodlett** has also been busy this year with her twins, Mazie and Spears, in Toccoa, GA. They also visited Disney this fall with former Disney employee, **Tricia Berry Hensley** and husband, Bill. I am sure that they were phenomenal tour guides! To make their fall even crazier, their home was on a Tour of Homes fundraiser for a neighborhood park. She says, "it's amazing the holes you can fill in with Christmas trees!" **Winnie Brown King** visited **Mary Kenyon Robards Jones** and **Lawson Edwards Hough** in Columbia, SC, after a USC football game this fall. Always the world traveler, **Lesla Underwood** visited New York City and Memphis, TN, during the holidays. She was hoping to see Elvis walking down Beale Street, but he was nowhere to be found. I was thrilled to receive a Christmas card from **Kellie McKelvey Karnes** who has had a "turbulent" year in Atlanta, GA. Hope this year goes more smoothly for her! **Anne Simmons Conder** opened her own law practice in June 2003 in Camden, SC. Our other class rep, **Melissa Sanders**, has been busy with her new position at Emily Ray. She is now purchasing all of their raw materials, which means traveling to gem shows in New York. Thanks for all your scoop. We hope to hear from more of you soon!

CLASS OF 1991

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representative:

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E-mail: teamdelong@comcast.net
- Converse Fund Class Chair:**
Mrs. Maria Macaulay Sellers



I hope this finds you relaxed, in a stress-free and peaceful environment with birds chirping and the sun shining and your favorite tunes playing

in the background.....we can dream, anyway! I have thought of many of you as you have welcomed new people into your lives and also several who have had losses over the past few months. Over the holidays I went to Columbia, SC, and visited **Debbie Moise** at work at Alphabet Soup, then jaunted down the road to see **Mindy Arbogast McBurney** helping fretful shoppers in the Talbots Petites department. I also picked up some goodies from **Beverly Moore Sessoms'** business out of her house—That's My Name! She has a cute stationary and bag tag line. That was a great Converse day! I also saw **Beth McCrary Smith** over the holidays in Chattanooga, TN, and witnessed her in action as a mother of three, but with the figure of a 16-year-old! In October a crowd gathered again at Murrell's Inlet, SC, for the kind of weekend I described in my intro! Our hostess was once again, **Laura Johnston Stacy**. This year **Stacy Reese Joyce** joined us from Manhattan, NY, **Charlotte Page** and **Jenny Howard** came from Brevard, NC, and **Molly Chappell McPhail** from Spartanburg, SC, as well as many returning faces from last year. Thanks to **Dianne Prince** for sending news. She is still working at the Program Challenge Center (gifted and talented students) in Rockdale County, GA. Last summer she took a trip with **Suzanne Silk Strickland** and her son, Drew, to Los Angeles, CA for 10 days. Thanks also to **Melissa Surret Hammond** for writing about many new 3rd floor Dexter babies (see Births). I also heard from **Katherine Van Horne Trexler**. She and her husband were trying to move back into the Eastern Time zone from Birmingham, AL. I was glad to communicate by E-mail with **Wendy Jolley-Kabi** upon her return to the states. Welcome home! She sure did our class proud in the last *Bulletin*. **Elizabeth Wagstaff Middleton** and her family moved from Florence, SC, to Greenville, SC, after Christmas. They are settling in very well. Keep in touch, everyone, and stay healthy!

CLASS OF 1992

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2007

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- Mrs. Anna Wimberly Pierce
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E-mail: mpierceman@aol.com

Converse Fund Class Chair:

- Mrs. Elaine Anderson McDowall



We hope this update finds you well. We haven't heard from many of you at all so please E-mail us your news. While at a family wedding in Florence, SC, over Christmas I ran into **Shana Munn Herndon**. She was helping her friend, Jack Brantley, with his wonderful catering business. She is living in Lugoff, SC, and loves being a stay-

at-home mom. **Anna Wimberly Pierce** wrote that she is slowly getting used to the new routine that comes with twins and an older brother. Look for Anna to start writing these updates in the future, but just not yet! She and many other Connies attended **Natalie Audish Scott's** wedding in Kiawah, SC, this summer. **Cami Burton Hutchinson** was a bridesmaid. The others in attendance were **Susannah Gramling Hubbell**, **Marcy Hindes Swan**, **Rebie Mays Bland**, **Paige Pooser Merrill**, **Troy Blanton McCormick**, **April Leonard Tegeler**, **Chesley Woods Sneed**, **Ashley Burnside Brantley**, **Ashton Bozard**, **Traci Dozier**, **Elizabeth Lesto Zadig**, and **Melissa Koger Watson**. In January Susannah, Marcy, Rebie, Natalie, Anna, Ashley, Ashton, Traci, and **Laura McLeod Green** met at Anna's lake house at Lake Burton, GA, for their annual White Elephant reunion. I heard from **Ginny Lott** over Christmas and she is teaching full time in Georgia. The Alumnae Office received an update from **Lori Boyd Hudson** in late December. She was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia this past summer and received a bone marrow transplant at Vanderbilt Medical University in October. She is recovering well in Nashville, TN. She encourages all Converse alumnae to donate blood and platelets regularly and if possible, get on the National Bone Marrow Registry. It has saved her life! I have been very busy with my new business making children's clothes and we are doing well. However, we did have to come up with a new name. Officially we are Little Biddy by EA Designs. Check out the Life Events section for even more news about our class.

CLASS OF 1993

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2008

Representatives:

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Converse Fund Class Chair:

- Ms. Candy Moore



CLASS OF 1994

10th Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

- Mrs. Katie Abbott Kluttz
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- Mrs. Kaysi Hasden Dixon
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Converse Fund Class Chair:

- Ms. Jada Carol Wood



In the past few months, the class of 1994 has been busy as usual. **Wendy Morrow Duke** sent us an update. She and Scott began SportsReach Southeast, a sports ministry that uses athletics to share the gospel in areas that are not open to traditional methods of evangelism. They have trips planned to Brazil, China, and Tunisia this summer and are in the midst of running basketball camps during the holidays. Their daughter Savannah is cancer free and received a prosthesis leg from Shriner's Hospital. They also have their hands full with John Philip (JP), nine months old. Wendy reports having talked to **Amy McAlister Pecoraro** and **Hope Turpin** from time to time. We caught up with Amy and learned that since college she worked several years with a staffing firm, but never used her teaching degree. She is married and stays busy with Luke (3 1/2) and Gabriel (1 1/2) in Simpsonville, SC. Amy tells us that Hope is working as pharmacist in Greenville, SC. We also learned that **Sara Samuelson** is teaching and developing the gerontology program at North Greenville College. Since our last update on her, **Dawn Barnard** is now living in Washington, DC and working for a CPA firm, Beers and Cutler. **Erin Zickos** is living in Atlanta, GA, and has been named executive director of an assisted living community. She visited **Kelly Richardson Weekes** in Greenville, SC. **Chesnut Clarke Allen** and her family are still in Spartanburg, SC, but in a new location. **Tonia Martin Hudson** passed the National Boards in Early Childhood last year and is teaching kindergarten in Saluda, SC. **Alison Murphy** was recently quoted in the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* in a story about her supper club. This supper club not only celebrates food and friendship, but has also published a cookbook of supper club recipes with all of the profits going to local charities. We hope your reservations are made and your bags will soon be packed in order for you to join us for our 10th Reunion April 23-25! There are lots of activities planned and we're looking forward to seeing all of you! Be there!

CLASS OF 1995

Next Reunion
Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

- Mrs. Sarah Johnson
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- Mrs. Amanda Pyles Denney
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- Miss Harriett A. Reid
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Converse Fund Class Chair: Vacant



CLASS OF 1996

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

Representatives:

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Ms. Jenny Williams
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Starr Lockhart Carr
Mrs. Pam Hughes Foster
Ms. Heidi S. Ruehl



Rhett Boyd Leake has retired from BMW and is enjoying being at home with her daughter Annmarie. In her new home in Hendersonville, NC, **Amy Shipman Elkins** hosted a baby shower for **Anna Snow Cheek**. OtherConnies and futureConnies in attendance were **Page Vaughan Keller**, **Holland Keller**, **Jennifer Minor Tuckwiller**, **Ann Watts Tuckwiller**, **Carter Cheek** and **Elizabeth McLean Brown**. In Flat Rock, NC, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Anna attended Amy's surprise 30th birthday party, hosted by Amy's family. Anna is enjoying her work as an interior designer with Chapman Design Group and volunteering with the Junior League of Anderson. **Kristin Johnson Welsh** is enjoying her new job with Duke University. **Meredith Coley Graham** enjoyed her Christmas visit with **Ryan Revis Stewart**, **Amy Quinn Amey**, **Beth Farmer**, and **Sonja Coyle Akers**. Baby Frank and I had lunch with **Lathrop Hart Mosley** and **Debbie Gardner Guilfoyle** in December. Debbie and husband Jon are renovating their new home in Spartanburg, SC, and Lathrop enjoys working for Converse. **Jenny Williams**, **Holly Hepfer Reed**, **Dawn Willis Durham**, **Susie Sparrow Dekle**, **Heidi Ruehl**, and **Emma Carmichael Harrill** enjoyed their 30th birthday celebrations over dinner in Greenville, SC. **Kerry Ashley** writes that she, her son Avery and daughter Megan are doing well. Don't forget to read the Life Events section for more news about our classmates.

CLASS OF 1997

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

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Mrs. Shannon Gosnell Bishop
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Gretchen Barwegen Bagwell
Mrs. Emily Gowdy Canady
Ms. Leigh Ann Ward



Greetings Class of 1997! **Jennifer Schwartz Henderson** and husband Casey are living in Fayetteville, GA, and both are employed by Delta Airlines. **Heather Eldridge** was a bridesmaid in Jennifer's fall wedding and others in attendance were **Laura Marchant Williams**, **Kim Varnadoe Bearden**, **Shannon Gosnell Bishop**, **Stephanie Shelley Lake**, **Rachel Chartrand Berry**, **Sarah Montgomery McSwain**, **Ginger Crawford Phillips**, **Caroline Taylor**, and **Jennifer Jackson**. **Merri Christy Harmon** and **Andrea Sparks** were present to welcome **Dawne Copeland Bendig's** new addition into the world (see Births). **Shannon Gosnell Bishop** writes that **Kathryn Kennedy Sims** is enjoying life in Lake City, SC. Rumor has it that she and her husband, **Joey**, have bought the cutest house in town. They also have a four-legged child named Grits, who keeps them quite busy. I hear you won't recognize Kennedy the next time you see her! **Susan Miskelly** and I had the opportunity to visit a couple of times within the past few months. She has recently bought a townhouse in Rock Hill, SC. Thanks to everyone who submitted information! Catherine

CLASS OF 1998

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2008

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Mrs. Olivia Thornton Charney
Ms. Alex Gavalas
Mrs. Clayton Kearse Walton

1998 CLASS PARTICIPATION



Happy Spring! **Becca Smith Caswell** has been appointed acting director of the Office for Students with Disabilities at the University of Chattanooga. **Lynn Hudson Waldrop** continues to enjoy teaching in Lexington, SC. **Clayton Kearse Walton** introduced her baby girl, **Ann Clair**, to some Christmas shopping in New York with, now New Yorker, **Olivia Thornton Charney**. Olivia is studying at the New York School of Interior Design. **Pagent Presley** has a new job as a 1st grade school teacher in Houston, TX. Please keep **Theresa Szarowicz** in your prayers as she continues to battle leukemia. **Paige Eubanks** has recently had a career boost at Spring Hill College. She is now part of the Inaugural Board of Directors for the National Association of Donor Relations Professionals. They meet once a year at the New England Stewardship Conference. **Jenny Orr**, **Erin Rich**, **Ann Gerber**, **Connie Reeves Sellers**, **Alex Gavalas**, **Susan Pittman Parker**, **Heather Godsey**, **Alison Palmer Johnson**, **Jennifer Reese Boyd**, **Shannon Campbell**, **Helen Walker**, and **Brooke Champion Farmer** met in Blowing Rock, NC, for their annual holiday get together. It was just like the old days again! **Shayle Abelkop** is in Cincinnati, OH, and works for a training and consulting company. She loves Cincinnati and loves the snow even more! **Betsy Pringle** was awarded with a recent promotion at Blackbaud in Charleston, SC. She and **Marti Glenn** are rooming together in Betsy's new townhouse. Also in Charleston is **Alex Gavalas**, who is still working at the Harbour Club. In Spartanburg, SC, **Kristen Pruitt Taylor** received her personal trainer certification and has started her own practice. She is also teaching at Chapman Elementary School and Gold's Gym. Congratulations to **Susan Pittman Parker** for being voted "Most Dedicated Teacher" at her high school in Atlanta, GA.

CLASS OF 1999

5th Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

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Ms. Tricia Tulchin
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Katherine Dod Williams



We hope you have made your plans to be present for our 5th Reunion April 23-25. You should have your letter, etc. with all the details. We are looking forward to lots of fun and a great turn-out! Give one of us or the alumnae office a call if you have questions. See you soon!

CLASS OF 2000

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2005

Representatives:

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Ms. Kiley Rikard
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E-mail: kileyrikard@hotmail.com
Converse Fund Class Chair:
Mrs. Allison Parish Hill



Greetings from Georgia and lots of updates. **Stephanie Elizondo Craft** and husband Gabe are currently living in Japan where he is teaching. **Elizabeth Langford Hansen** and husband Bowe are living in Atlanta, GA, where she works in the International Tax Department of Deloitte & Touche, LLP. **Allyson Lowder Sanders** is in nursing school in Charlotte, NC. Also in Charlotte is **Britney Jeffords** where she manages a downtown retail shop. **Anne Jenkinson** is in Charleston, SC, working for Enterprise. **Caroline Wyrosdick** is in Savannah, GA, working for the Girl Scouts of America. **Elizabeth Moore** is a senior therapist with the SC Early Autism Project, Inc. She is traveling around the world as she continues to work on becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. **Elizabeth Anne Fuller** has returned to her hometown of Greenville, SC, and is working for a commercial interior design company called Workspaces, Inc. **Stephanie Borick Grace** ran her first marathon in Houston, TX! **Emily Clark** is in Dallas, TX, working as a CEO's assistant. **Jessica Condit** has developed the first middle school Young Life in Columbia, SC. **Dana Luttrell Garner** is pursuing a MA in accounting at USC. **Laura Phillips** is currently working for the Ritz Carlton in Atlanta, GA. **Mary Kinsey Hicks** and **Mandee McKelvey** are attending the University of Louisville where each is pursuing a master's in expressive therapies. **Amy Baer Crabb** is in Hendersonville, NC, running her own wedding planning business. **Ginny Flowers Munson**, her husband, and daughter (**Tillman Anne**) have moved to Fort Mill, SC. **Angie Ackermann** is in Spartanburg, SC, working for the Spartanburg County Public Library. **Meredith Sims** is the RC of Cudd and is also working on her master's in education at Converse. **Angela Abrams** is a 5th grade teacher at Chapman Elementary in Spartanburg County

where she was just named teacher of the year. As for me, I am the 3rd grade level chair at J.H. House Elementary School in a suburb of Atlanta, GA. It has been wonderful hearing from all of you. There is more news about our classmates in Life Events so check that out! Keep the information coming and have a wonderful spring! Kiley

CLASS OF 2001

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2006

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Ms. Kathy Anne Poore
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Converse Fund Class Chair:
Ms. Julie Lynn McSwain



Greetings! We're happy to announce that **Nicole Johnsey** has returned safely from her two year trip to China. **Ami Price Gilbert** has been accepted into the University of Chicago's MBA program. She also hosted a New Year's celebration in Chicago for fellow Converse alumnae including **Stacey Mulligan**, **Laura Massey**, **Rebecca Crandall**, **Wendy Converse**, and **Marcella Palmer**. During her Christmas break from law school, **Stephanie Livesay** spent some quality time with her brother prior to his deployment overseas. Be certain to see Life Events for additional news of our classmates.

CLASS OF 2002

Next Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2007

Representatives:

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Mrs. Kelly Fulmer Reams
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Converse Fund Class Chairs:
Ms. Kathy R. Seay
Ms. Amy E. Schmidt



Erla Reynisdottir returned to Iceland in May of 2003 after working a year with the Converse IT's department after graduation. She landed an IT position three weeks after she arrived, becoming the system administrator for the IT department at a Naval Hospital close to her hometown. She's back on the basketball court and having lots of fun. She says her team is doing very well. **Kristin Kisker** is currently working at Beaufort Elementary with the deaf education program. **Erin Jennings** auditioned for the US Air Force Heritage Band at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia (which is one of the top bands in the US) and was accepted. In July she was off to basic training and then the band. In December they were to go to Iraq to give a couple of concerts. **Johnna Weathers** is a teacher at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. **Amanda Harmon** is in her final year of graduate school at MUSC in epidemiology, has proposed her master's thesis, and is interviewing for medical school. She ran her first marathon at Walt Disney World in January. **Marlee Beckham** is at Clemson University in graduate school and is a teaching assistant, in charge of the comparative anatomy labs. **Elizabeth Oswald** has started her own business, Artworks by Elizabeth, and is doing really well. **Erin Camp** is an interior designer in Columbia, SC. She recently did an interior design segment on her local TV station (WIS-TV). **Carrie Page** is living in Louisville, KY, where she is pursuing a master's degree in music composition at the University of Louisville. **Ericka Tyner** was accepted to the artist diploma program at the Royal Academy of Music, and if everything goes as planned, she will be studying horn performance in London next year. **Elizabeth (Liz) Loberger** is in southern California where she appeared with Opera Pacific Chorus in a recent production of Wagner's opera, *Parsifal*. Earlier this year, she sang with the Pacifica Chorus in a performance with the Kronos Quartet. **Kristen Cheeseman Dittman** appeared as Musetta in the second act of Puccini's *La Boheme* in November at UC Santa Barbara. **Tiffany Thornton**, still based in New York, snared a role in the current national tour of *Titanic: The Musical*. **Gretchen Hatoway** is making great strides with her bands in the Williston-Elko schools near Aiken and has gotten involved with her church there. **Laura Macias** is working on an orchestral piece that will be performed at the orchestra's spring concert, and teaching keyboard harmony. **Michelle Evans Jarrell** won a concerto competition at Converse, and sang with the Converse Symphony Orchestra in February in Twichell Auditorium. **Brandis Cutler** is working as a programmer analyst for Southern University at Shreveport, LA. **Alyson Geery** is living in Mexico City, working as a missionary/ graphic designer. As a graphic designer, her main project is preparing a set of comic books to teach and encourage Christians to start churches. **Amy Schmidt** has been living in the Bay Area since May. She is enjoying a new career in Interior Design. She has over 600 clients in the area and works independently but also in conjunction with several high-end

design firms. **Kylee Heap** is working at Gallagher Research Services, a pharmaceutical marketing research firm, based in Spartanburg, SC. She is an active member of the Junior League, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the Spartanburg Human Resources Association. She is studying for the national exam to obtain her SPHR certification (Senior Professional in Human Resources). **Lauren Mele** is working toward a Master of Social Work degree at the University of South Carolina. She is the coordinator of the Girls' Empowerment Program at the YWCA of the Midlands.

CLASS OF 2003

1st Reunion

Alumnae Weekend, 2004

Representatives:

Ms. Valerie Brock

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Converse Fund Class Chairs:

Ms. Nicole R. Giraudin

Ms. Imelda L. Shoffner



Greetings class of 2003! What a terrific response we received for this edition of class notes! **Chelsea Jaccard** is teaching visual arts to primary level deaf students in the northern region of Ghana in West Africa for the Peace Corps. Her work is challenging as there are no supplies and poor facilities, but the kids are great and always excited about working. She is also doing side projects, such as week-long bike rides to small villages to educate people on HIV/AIDS. **Maria Perry** is working for the Peace Corps in Palau, a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean. She says it is absolutely beautiful there. Bananas, mangos, and papayas grow everywhere. Monkeys swing and tropical birds soar and the Palauan people are friendly and kind. Her work for the Palau National Olympic Committee includes things such as planning and holding Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World), scoring/officiating at National Volleyball League games, coaching the Olympic swim team, starting a synchronized swimming program, and working with every athletic group from triathletes to canoe paddlers. **Kristi Faris** is teaching English at the American Language Center in Fez, Morocco, and taking Arabic classes twice a week to improve her proficiency. The experience is forcing her to face a culture completely opposite of her own, religiously, politically and socially. **Kate Ford** is working as a high school assistant in Montélimar in the south of France. She spent Christmas in Sicily with her Italian roommate and family before returning to France to meet

her parents and show them around. **Dona Roy** is pursuing a PhD at the University of South Carolina, where having completed a challenging semester last year, she is now a fully funded candidate. Dona is also a teaching assistant for undergraduate classes in International Politics and Gender and Politics where she is learning the first steps in becoming an engaging lecturer. Dona's other big news is that she finally received her driver's license. **Shanta Holley** is applying to graduate schools for an MFA in poetry and is working at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. **Carrie Tucker** is working hard in Admissions at Converse recruiting students from North Carolina and Virginia. **Martha Jo Smith** is in law school at the University of South Carolina where she occasionally runs into **Lisa Williams**, who is a caseworker for SC Medicaid. Bridesmaids for **Kimmie Koopman Durham** were **Ryan Summerford**, **Kristen Arthur**, **Beth Pressley**, and **Mamie Dillard Boyter**. Ryan is in graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill. Kristen is a graduate student in political science at the University of Georgia, focusing primarily on American law and courts. She also teaches discussion classes at UGA in American Politics and has found that teaching at this level is her true passion. Beth is living in Spartanburg, SC, and working as an intern with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). She is nearing completion of a master's in elementary education at Converse. Mamie teaches at Jesse Bobo Elementary School in Spartanburg, SC. **Valerie Brock** is also at the University of Georgia pursuing a master's in public administration, focusing on policy analysis. Like Kristen, Valerie is also teaching discussion classes at UGA in American Government and loves it! **Sheena Spencer** is at Webster University working on a MA degree in business management and is also working at Wofford College in residential life and multicultural affairs. **Fanchon Charnigo** is currently teaching 20 piano students in Atlanta, GA. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall to pursue a master of music education degree in piano pedagogy. **Alison Hurley** is enjoying pharmacy school at MUSC. **Sarah Zacharias** is working as a life skills teacher at the Tennessee School for the Deaf in addition to being a full-time graduate student at the University of Tennessee. Although Sarah thought she was in the south when she came to Converse, she claims the Tennessee accents completely beat the ones she heard at Converse! **Mandy Mullinax** is pursuing a MAT in secondary biology at Converse. **Shana Baird** is pursuing a master's in art therapy at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Virginia Beach, VA. **Kathryn Brackett** is earning a master's in creative writing with a specialization in fiction from the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. **Sarah Rowan** is working for Vector Marketing Corporation with Cutco. Her goal is 100K in personal sales for the year while saving for Bible school at Hillsong in Sydney, Australia. **Jessica Case Holland** is currently employed at Barnes and Noble and applying to law schools for fall 2004. **Jessica Little** was recently accepted to the

University of Oklahoma for fall 2004 in order to pursue a master's in music in piano performance and pedagogy. She is currently teaching piano lessons and serving as music associate at Tate United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA. **Andrea Ezell** is earning a master's in art education from Winthrop University. **Robyn Hill Sanderson** is an admissions counselor at Converse and recruiting students from the upstate of South Carolina. **Melanie Brown** is surviving the perils of graduate school and lake effect snow at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI as she pursues a MA in pure mathematics. She also performed a work for solo clarinet in a MM Composition recital in February at WMU. **Emily Clark** is working as a kindergarten teacher at Mary H. Wright Elementary in Spartanburg District 7. **Anna Steenerson** is attending the University of Indiana in pursuit of a master's in vocal performance. Anna's Indiana opera debut began with her cast in the lead role of Baby Doe in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, which was performed in February. **Anna Shecut** is pursuing a PhD in nursing from the University of South Carolina. After graduation, **Cheryl Moore** moved to Chelmsford, MA, where she is working as an elementary music teacher for the Taunton Public School system in Taunton, MA. **Jennifer Bradey** moved to Washington, DC following graduation and is working for the National Rifle Association in the federal affairs division on Capitol Hill. She gives highest praises to the Converse alumnae in the area who took her under their wing when she needed a job and a place to live! **Melissia Heatherly** is currently working as a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Florida State University where she is pursuing a master's degree in higher education. Melissia was the maid of honor in the wedding of **Carla Nelson Martin**. **Megan Russell** and **Nicole Giraudin** were bridesmaids. **Patricia Crisan** also graced the wedding with her beautiful piano skills. **Stacey Battle's** beautiful jewelry is on sale in the Converse campus bookstore. **Lauren Bowers Mile** and husband Charlie work for Wachovia and currently reside in Charlotte, NC. **Cara Potts** recently accepted a job teaching music at the South Carolina School for the Blind in Spartanburg, SC. **Amber Dillard** is working at Georgialina Physical Therapy in North Augusta, SC, as a patient/referral coordinator. **Amanda McKinley Sanders** and husband Matthew are living in Boiling Springs, SC, and she is teaching art at New Prospect Elementary School. Please continue contacting us with news you would like to share. On another note, we urge that each of you go to the Alumnae section of the Converse web page and update your information under the "Keep Us Current" tab. As Reunion approaches, we will be contacting many of you via E-mail — for most of you, we do not have current E-mail and mailing addresses. If you have any questions about class notes or Reunion, please don't hesitate to contact either of us. We hope to see you all in April! Take care, Valerie and Joy