

# CONVERSE

## MAGAZINE



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Renovating our beloved Pell and Dexter Halls will help facilitate an engaging First-Year Experience that is designed to rival that of any other college. Get the scoop on the plans!

### Growing the Experience

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The growth of Converse's athletics program over the last 10 years is truly historic, with student-athletes now comprising a quarter of the freshman class. These women want it all, and Converse offers exactly that. Follow the journey of the Valkyries and learn about next steps that aim to set the bar even higher.



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There's nothing like women and men in high heels, dashing through downtown to catch the public's attention. Converse SGA challenged Spartanburg to pull out their favorite pumps to raise awareness for the continued need for women's equity.



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Faculty and students in Converse's art therapy program spent their spring break in Haiti, working with children at an orphanage and training medical staff on techniques to aid healing following the earthquake in January 2010. See how they are brightening hope in Haiti.



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Up-and-coming printmaker Andrew Blanchard has stormed the national and international art scene over the last six years, most recently being included in the prestigious *New American Paintings*. Read about how he found his groove and has come full circle to shepherd his students into careers as working artists.

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*Top Photo: Move-in day*

## Growing the Converse Experience

The results are astounding! This fall, Converse welcomed 213 new undergraduate students from 24 states and three countries—our largest first-year class in more than a decade with one of the strongest academic records in recent history. Over 650 prospective students visited campus last year—again a number for the record books.

Across this campus, throughout the ranks of alumnae, friends and college-bound girls, buzz about the Converse experience has heightened to a deafening pitch! So, what's driving this positive energy?

Converse is delivering on her promise. In 2007, we launched a strategic vision and plan to build on our strengths in order to become a leading center for creative thinking and learning, and a community that produces engaged citizens who affect positive change. We have pushed beyond barriers, energizing our people and programs with new ideas and unexpected solutions, and stepping out in distinctively “Converse” ways to accomplish what sometimes seems beyond reach. We are creating a truly exceptional collegiate experience oriented towards the personal and professional success of students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Over the past several years, our community has proven that we have the courage to be uniquely Converse. We have had the guts to make some difficult decisions, and those choices have been pivotal to our success in growing the Converse experience.



“Success of a community depends on a diversity of talent, not a singular conception of talent.”

~ Sir Ken Robinson

Competing at the highest level of any women's college in the nation, Converse has experienced explosive growth of our Division II athletic program—from five sports to nine including golf this year. Today, Converse Valkyries are 125 student-athletes strong. We are attracting young women with academic ability and athletic talent, and building winning programs in all sports. Our facilities are also bursting at the seams, so the next step is to expand as recently approved by the Board.

Courage and connections have driven Converse's recent academic success—from the launch of a nursing program partnership with Vanderbilt University to two Converse students and one alumna receiving Fulbright Assistantships in just three years. Faculty members like printmaker Andrew Blanchard continue to earn national recognitions. The new MFA program in creative writing has drawn student and faculty talent from 17 states across the nation, infusing Converse and the greater Spartanburg community with creative energy. This summer, our first class of graduates included the editor of the *Spartanburg Journal*, the editor-in-chief of the national literary journal *South 85 Review*, and a documentary film producer who won “Best Drama” at the Melbourne Independent Film Festival last year.

Among the most impactful ways we are growing the Converse experience is our bold, 10-year master housing plan. Our new apartment housing, The Heath, has exceeded student expectations, garnering rave reviews from design experts and the entire Converse community since opening in January. The critical next step is to create a uniquely Converse “First-Year Experience” through the renovation of Pell and Dexter Halls. With only 74% of freshmen persisting to their sophomore year, Converse must build on the momentum of The Heath by providing state-of-the-art housing that is specifically designed to enhance community and nurture the spirit of sisterhood that develops during the first year of college.

To continue to grow the Converse experience, Converse needs EVERY MEMBER of our family to boldly step up and ask: how can I help to make GREAT happen at Converse? How can I contribute to the Converse momentum?

Creativity expert Sir Ken Robinson asserts that “Success of a community depends on a diversity of talent, not a singular conception of talent.” If each and every one of us fully invests ourselves in the process, together we can leverage this tipping point in Converse's history. Our diversity of talents promises a powerful formula for great triumphs ahead—in building up our academic and co-curricular programs, in enhancing our facilities, and in growing our students, our alumnae and the entire Converse community to our fullest potential.

Will you help make GREAT happen at Converse?

With all best wishes,

Elizabeth A. Fleming, PhD  
President

Throughout this issue of the Converse Magazine, you will find several ways you can help Grow the Experience.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# GROWING

## The First Year Experience

*Change is inevitable, growth is intentional.*

~ Glenda Cloud

In 2009, Converse embarked on a 10-year master housing plan that will ultimately impact every room on campus. This January, the first phase of this ambitious plan was completed with the successful opening of The Heath. “We raised \$12.7 million in 90 days,” said President Betsy Fleming. “We moved very quickly. Individuals, families, the community mobilized to support an amazing senior living experience. And now, we need to transform our first-year housing. We are in the midst of a master plan to make Pell and Dexter the center of the first-year experience.”

The current state of Pell is a stark contrast to the state-of-the-art apartments on back campus and college housing at competitor institutions. The primary objective of phase two is to develop an enhanced sense of community within Pell and Dexter Halls that will aid in campus-wide recruitment and retention efforts. According to Fleming, the window of opportunity to impact recruitment for fall 2012 demands immediate action. “This is an urgent need in terms of competing against other selective institutions for high-quality students. We need \$6.7 million to jumpstart this project. This is only going to happen with alumnae stepping up, coming together to make an incredible difference to the life and the vitality of Converse college. This really is the chance of a lifetime for alumnae to move Converse to the next level of excellence.”



*Current landscape*

### The First-Year Experience

“When we talk about the First-Year experience at Converse we’re really talking about much more than housing,” says Molly Duesterhaus, vice president for student life and dean of students, “we are talking about a wholistic approach to meeting the needs of our incoming students.” Students decide within six weeks of their arrival on campus whether to stay or transfer to another college. “We just have a few weeks to make a positive impact.”

According to Duesterhaus, it is critical to place first-year students at a campus center in an environment that will encourage them to discover, together, what Converse offers intellectually, socially and culturally. “We’ve been building this community structure, and Pell and Dexter will be renovated in such a way as to enhance that community.”

Retaining the historical elements of the exteriors of both buildings, the renovation will provide a distinctive collegiate experience in an historic setting blended seamlessly with modern amenities. The interiors of Pell and Dexter will be set up in a modern double room structure. The new design will reconfigure common spaces to strengthen community: smaller “pods” of 10 to 14 students will share community bathrooms, but larger common rooms, a kitchen area and seminar rooms will provide functional spaces for groups to gather. Walkways and green spaces between the residence halls will be expanded, facilitating the merger of indoor and outdoor living spaces, and the beauty of the Gwathmey Garden will be extended into a sculpture garden connecting Montgomery Student Center, Wilson, Pell and Dexter.



## A Critical Need

One of the oldest buildings in South Carolina, Pell Hall (originally called "the annex") was the second building to be constructed on campus and was completed in September 1891 in time for the College's second session. Originally, it contained several recitation rooms, two calisthenics rooms, literary society halls and residence rooms. After the death of retired President Robert Pell in 1941, the annex was renamed Pell Hall. Although minimal renovations were undertaken in 1941 and again in 1960, Pell suffers from extensive deferred maintenance. "The housing we had 45 years ago doesn't work for the 21<sup>st</sup> century college student," said Duesterhaus. "They spend 24 hours a day, seven days a week living in these spaces and the quality of our housing doesn't measure up with what they are seeing on other college campuses." However, Pell and Dexter are two of the most beloved spaces on campus and Converse is committed to restoring them. "Both buildings were determined to be structurally sound. We want to preserve and enhance those buildings for another hundred years," said Duesterhaus. Renovations at Pell will begin once fundraising is complete, with targeted occupancy in 2013. Dexter Hall's renovation will begin after Pell is complete. Once renovated, Pell and Dexter Halls will be home to 180 new first-year students each year.



*New main entrance for Pell and Dexter*



*Current conditions in Pell*

# Project Overview

## Birds-Eye View of the Pell & Dexter Renovation

- This view of the project site illustrates the transformation of the area connecting Wilson Hall, Pell and Dexter with a dining terrace for the campus Community and a "First-Year Commons"
- The beauty of Gwathmey Garden will be extended into a sculpture garden connecting Montgomery Student Center, Wilson, Pell and Dexter
- Pell and Dexter will have main entries with covered porches from a shared courtyard, connecting the two freshman halls in a dramatically different manner than exists today
- Walkways and green spaces will be expanded, facilitating the merger of indoor and outdoor living spaces



1 1/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium

## Step Inside... Small-Scale Communities

- Expanded corridors and common spaces to build community
- New opportunities to customize spaces each year through casual seating, photo boards, memo boards
- Distinct neighborhoods that enhance sisterhood



# Mobilizing Alumnae

## Help Grow The Experience

There are many ways you can help - following are a few examples! Visit [Pell.converse.edu](http://Pell.converse.edu) to see the project video and get involved.

**FORWARD** the video to as many Converse friends as possible – use email, Twitter, Facebook, your blog and any other tools you use.

**TELL** your classmates and friends about the project. Encourage them to visit [pell.converse.edu](http://pell.converse.edu) to learn more.

**AMPLIFY** the “buzz” about the project. Get creative! Emphasize the importance of alumnae support in making this project a reality.

**ASK** your Converse friends to join you in making a gift. Why not join forces to name a space in Pell that honors your friendship with a lasting legacy?

**SHARE** your personal story with Converse about the powerful impact of the First-Year Experience and its importance upon student retention.

**IDENTIFY** alumnae who could effectively rally classmates to make a group gift.

**CONNECT** Converse with foundations, philanthropists or other organizations that may be interested in helping transform the First-Year Experience.

**HELP** Converse identify alumnae who lived in Pell or Dexter.

**HOST** an event in your hometown to spread the word about the project.



### PHASE I NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Location	Quantity	Individual	Total
First-Year Commons	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Outdoor Dining Terrace and Wilson Porch	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Pell-Dexter Courtyard	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Historic Town House	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Promenade	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Dexter Terrace	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sculpture Garden	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
<i>Residential Spaces</i>			
Pell Community Room	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Pell Main Entry Porch	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Pell Atrium	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
Residential Communities	6	\$250,000	\$1,500,000
Living Room	3	\$100,000	\$300,000
Tower Triple Room	3	\$100,000	\$300,000
Graduate Assistant Studio Apartment	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
Media Room	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Seminar Room	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Sitting Room	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Study Room	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
Elevator Lobby	3	\$25,000	\$75,000

■ Funded

The current landscape



The new Dining Terrace rendering



Learn more at [pell.converse.edu](http://pell.converse.edu)

GROWING THE FIRST-YEAR

# GROWING

## Athletics

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

~ Vince Lombardi



With the first organized basketball team at Converse dating back to 1898, the women of Converse have valued athletic competition for over a century. In the 1919 edition of the student publication *Concept*, it reads, "Athletics have had a foremost place in our activities for the past few weeks. We are carrying seven sports: Basketball, baseball, hockey, archery, track, swimming and tennis." While the uniforms have changed

drastically, and the collection of sports offered has varied from time to time, the spirit of competition and teamwork has remained strong throughout the history of the College. However, the explosive success and growth of the athletics program experienced in the last 10 years is truly historic. Since the construction of The Sally Abney Rose Physical Activity Complex and The Weisiger Center in 2001, Converse has dramatically expanded from 35 to over 125 student-athletes. 25% of the freshman class is competing for the Valkyries and when Converse reaches full rosters in each sport, it is anticipated the College will house 158 student-athletes.

In July, the Converse community celebrated yet another milestone with the addition of a golf program to the expanding roster of sports. "Women's golf is a growing lifelong sport. Conference Carolinas has 11 other members with teams, and the conference championship winner automatically qualifies to play in the NCAA national tournament," said Director of Athletics Joy

Couch. "Converse prioritizes balancing athletic achievement with academic success and a well-rounded student life experience. Golf is a sport that fits well with that philosophy." Converse will launch the golf team with six student-athletes in 2012, and expand to a team of 12 the following year.

Converse has made steady progress towards its goal of building a winning athletics program since gaining full membership in Conference Carolinas in 2007. In 2009, lacrosse and swimming were added to the roster of sports. Both teams made significant national accomplishments in their first three seasons, with the swim team achieving an undefeated season and garnering Converse's first Honorable All-American this spring. In 2010, an IHSA-affiliated equestrian team was added to the roster. As one of only two women's colleges in the nation playing at the NCAA Division II level, the Valkyries are clearly leading the charge. "The tremendous momentum built over the past few years has attracted the

### Help Grow The Experience

- Wear a Valkyries t-shirt
- Put a Valkyries bumper sticker on your vehicle
- Attend a game
- Support the booster club



attention of many talented student-athletes,” said Converse President Betsy Fleming. “These women are looking to Converse as a college where they can compete on a high level while also excelling in academics and enjoying a vibrant student life.”

## Why Division II

The addition of golf will give Converse nine total varsity sports, eight of which compete at the NCAA II level. Division II membership is focused on an “academics first” philosophy and the division’s commitment to academic excellence supports a primary focus of NCAA schools—preparing student-athletes to go pro in something other than sports. At the same time, the level of play in Division II athletics has had a dramatic increase over the past few years. Several Olympians and professional athletes hail from Division II colleges and universities.

A regionalization philosophy is used to select teams for Division II national championships brackets. This emphasis on being the best team in your geographic area helps schools prioritize scheduling of regional opponents, limit missed class time and manage travel expenses. Division II athletics events are affordable; fans are in close proximity to the action and the environment is “fan friendly.” According to Couch, each of the

“These women are looking to Converse as a college where they can compete on a high level while also excelling in academics and enjoying a vibrant student life.”

~ President Betsy Fleming

Valkyries competitions provides an opportunity for the campus community to unite, wear their Valkyries t-shirts and intimidate the competition with blazing team spirit. “Athletics is a vital part of the Converse community, and an opportunity to bring people together in the same way as theatre productions, 1889 week and Big Sis/Little Sis. Many friendships and bonds have begun in the stands of an athletic event.”

## Women Who Want it All

At Converse, the athletic department encourages the growth of each student-athlete—emotionally, socially, physically and academically. “Our student-athletes major in every program, they are involved in most campus activities and classes,” says Couch. “They live in our residence halls, participate in the traditions of Converse and value the educational opportunities Converse gives them. They, too, grow into strong Converse women.” With coaches who are just as committed to seeing their athletes earn degrees as they are to teaching the intricacies of their sport, Converse student-athletes can expect success in the classroom as well as in competition. In fact, the drive for academic excellence within Converse athletics has led the average student-athlete GPA to be consistently greater than 3.0. During the 2010-2011 season, athletes from each of the seven teams were named Conference Carolinas Academic All-Conference award winners. “We want to empower women to be leaders and we believe that aligns so well with athletics,” said sports information director and head cross country coach Andrew Burnette. “It’s really cool for our women to be the main focus for the campus.”

The Valkyries are leaving their mark across campus and showing the community how to successfully balance it all—academics, athletics, service and of course, fun. Swimmer Jenni Russell '13 is ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the 200 breaststroke, a member of the Nisbet Honors Program and considers herself Beyoncé’s #1 fan. Shannon Bishop '13 is a member of the cross country team, a Model League debater, a Chapman Travel Scholarship recipient...and an expert Converse fountain hopper. Basketball player Jasmine Middlebrooks '13 is Class Treasurer, a Soup Kitchen volunteer and amateur disc jockey. Additionally, each member of the athletics program takes the opportunity to empower future Valkyries during its annual Girls Day event.

## Team Effort

Throughout the life of the College, the Converse community has rallied to support the ever-evolving needs of athletics. In fact, part of the money necessary to build the Dexter swimming pool in 1915 was raised by students who sold sandwiches and fudge and sought donations from businesses in Spartanburg and from alumnae. In 2001, The Sally Abney Rose Physical Activity Complex and The Weisiger Center opened its doors on the land donated by Ben Johnson and was funded by gifts from Ed and Agnes Binder Weisiger '63, and The Abney Foundation in honor of Sally Abney Rose '37. In 2008, Lisa Bell Weisiger '84 and Ed Weisiger, Jane Spratt McColl '60 and Hugh McColl, and Jane Boatwright Schwabb '77 and Nelson Schwab provided a joint gift that covered the start-up costs of the lacrosse program. In 2009, Ed and Agnes Weisiger '63 established The Weisiger Cup and Weisiger Outstanding Scholar Athletes Award to advance Converse’s commitments to women in science and to building an athletic program that prioritizes academic excellence. The awards are presented each year at the College’s Founder’s Day service in April (read about this year’s award winners on page 27).

Looking forward, Converse plans to expand the athletic facilities and programmatic support to accommodate the tremendous growth since 2001. Locker rooms, storage, restrooms, seating, equipment, program start-up funds, maintenance and staffing are among the most pressing needs. Currently, there is no seating for tennis, lacrosse or soccer spectators. Equipment must be transported from The Weisiger Center to the field for each game and practice. “The future of a strong athletic program will involve a high level of commitment from the College and its alumnae, faculty, staff, students and Valkyries Booster Club members” says Couch. “This spring we completed an Athletic Master Plan, which focuses on the need to grow our facilities to match the growing number of athletes at Converse. We are looking for the donor(s) who will again step up to make this a reality.”



# ATHLETICS

## Student-Athletes to Watch



Katy Vaughan '13

Samira Gillcrese '14

## Student-Athletes to Watch



Kyra Woodyard '14

Kathleen Coleman '12

## Student-Athletes to Watch



Sallie Thompson '13

Kathleen Coker '14

## Student-Athletes to Watch



Lacey Bevilacqua '13

Brianna Hoffman '13

## Games Not to Miss

**JAN 10**  
2012

Hosting North  
Greenville at  
7:00 pm

**FEB 04**  
2012

Hosting Pfeiffer  
at 3:00 pm

## BASKETBALL

In addition to challenging for the Conference Carolinas championship, the basketball team is a part of the competitive NCAA Division II Southeast Region. The Valkyries tip-off their four-month season in mid-November with a schedule that includes opponents from everywhere in the Southeast.

## CROSS COUNTRY

In a rigorous sport such as cross country, runners spend their summers preparing for the competitive fall season that is both mentally challenging and physically demanding. The cross country squad competes in Conference Carolinas and NCAA Division II 5k and 6k races. The team consistently earns the NCAA Division II All-Academic Team award and during the 2010-2011 season placed third at the Conference Carolinas Championships.

## Games Not to Miss

**MAR 03**  
2012

Hosting  
Regionals at  
Motlow Creek

**MAR 31**  
2012

Zones at  
Virginia  
Intermont

## EQUESTRIAN

The equestrian team competes in all English disciplines as a member of the Intercollegiate Horseshow Association (IHSA), the oldest and largest nationally competitive college riding program in the United States. Student-athletes have a unique opportunity to participate in building and advancing the program while riding with a collegiate team and working with highly skilled, professional trainers at Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello, SC. Converse offers a unique and exciting alternative to the traditional intercollegiate equestrian program.

## Games Not to Miss

**MAR 21**  
2012

Hosting Catawba  
College at 6:00  
pm

**MAR 31**  
2012

Hosting St.  
Andrews at  
12:00 pm

## LACROSSE

Converse has the only NCAA Division II lacrosse team in Spartanburg. Players train year-round and rely on agility, quickness and strength to compete in a sport that is a combination of basketball, soccer and hockey. The first student athlete in Converse history to finish a season leading the NCAA in a statistical category, student-athlete Bridget Dullea led the nation in goals per game for the 2010 season. Valkyries lacrosse competes in the spring.

### Student-Athletes to Watch



Hilary Parkin '12



Jana Gentry '13

## SOCCER

The soccer team faces the annual challenge of high-level competition in the Conference Carolinas. With a demanding schedule that includes some of the nation's top Division II programs, the entire coaching staff and playing roster have embarked upon a year-round training and playing regime with the aim of rising into the conference elite. During the 2010-2011 season, the Valkyries soccer team was awarded the inaugural Team Sportsmanship Award for the Conference Carolinas in women's soccer.

### Games Not to Miss

**FEB 15** 2012 Bluegrass Mtn Conference Championships

### Student-Athletes to Watch



Rhiannon Gluhosky '14



Meghan Calvaruso '15

## SWIMMING

The swim team, in only its second year of existence, became the first sports team in Converse history to finish an undefeated dual-meet season. In addition to their success in the pool, the team excelled in the classroom achieving All-American with an overall 3.32 team GPA. Competing against all of the swim teams in the Bluegrass Mountain Conference and the Southeast region, the Converse swim team trains year-round. The team's rigorous season takes place during the winter, lasting from January until March. New starting blocks and a Colorado timing system and scoreboard, installed over the summer, enabled the team to host its first ever DII home meet in October.

### Games Not to Miss

**FEB 17** 2012 Hosting Mount Olive at 2:00 pm

**MAR 24** 2012 Hosting Lees-McRae at 1:00 pm

### Student-Athletes to Watch



Olivia Self '13



Taylor Bland '14

## TENNIS

The tennis program competes in the Conference Carolinas pre-season tournament as well as the ITA Championships and additional matches during the fall. Year-round training prepares the athletes for the spring championship season against teams from the conference and throughout the Southeast Region. With outstanding facilities and experienced players, the tennis team is rising to meet the competition.

### Student-Athletes to Watch



Val Thoms '12



Bri Scalf '12

## VOLLEYBALL

The Valkyries volleyball team has continued to field success since the team's first season in 1998, including a 16-match winning streak during the inaugural season. The team began its four-month season in late August, and participates in a number of tournaments with nationally ranked teams.



GROWING ATHLETICS

# GROWING

## Academics

Education is all a matter of building bridges. ~ Ralph Ellison

The Converse legacy continues to grow through several academic initiatives that are garnering headlines and national awards. During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Nisbet Honors Program celebrated 10 years of elevating academically gifted students. This summer, Converse witnessed the first graduating class of the low-residency MFA program in creative writing, the only degree of its kind offered in South Carolina. Last spring, Converse applauded the accomplishments of Stephanie Jennings '11, our second student to receive a Fulbright Scholarship in the last three years, only to cheer again this summer when it was announced that alumna Andrea Weatherman '05 received a Fulbright Assistantship.

## Embracing What Seems Impossible

by Lyn Riddle of the *Spartanburg Journal*



Converse College graduated its first Masters in Fine Arts in creative writing on Saturday, July 30 and I was one. It's been a two-year effort – at once exhilarating and exhausting. There were moments I was not quite sure I was going to see the ceremony in Twichell Auditorium. That's because low-residency certainly doesn't mean low work. It equals, at the very least, a part-time job. It's also not for people who think every word they write shines like expertly cut diamonds. Faculty and your friends in workshop stand by to erase that image. And, after about three decades in the news business, I showed up to learn to write fiction. I've been saying to my journalism students at Furman University for a long time, "Good writing is good writing." That is true. But writing from your imagination is a whole lot different from writing from your notebook. And, while journalism can be literary, it most often is not.

The first time I heard about the MFA program was when I interviewed Converse President Betsy Fleming about the school's efforts to step into the world of creativity, to make its mark as a place where reaching for what seems impossible is commonplace. I knew then I would apply once the program started. June 2009 brought the first residency, 10 days of lectures and workshops. The 16 of us met in the lobby of a dorm on campus, and I am pleased to say, I was not the oldest one. Interestingly, it was a mix of folks with established careers – some in areas very different from writing – and recent college graduates. One woman was from southern California, another Seattle. A woman whose husband is a certified rocket scientist came from Florida. Most were from the Upstate. Phillip Belcher, the executive director of the Mary Black Foundation in Spartanburg, was a poetry student. He already had graduate degrees in law and theology. Kasey Ray-Stokes, a creative non-fiction student from Savannah, GA., had made award-winning films.

"I don't know of any other experience I've had that can compare to an MFA workshop. No editor combed through my work with such specificity."

Sometime on the fourth day into the residency I realized this was nothing short of a marathon. The day started as early as eight if you had a meeting with your mentor, craft lectures, lunch, a three-hour workshop, another lecture, night readings, homework. Twelve-hour days...at least. I don't know of any other experience I've had that can compare to an MFA workshop. No editor combed through my work with such specificity. The word ransacked comes to mind. I left my first workshop feeling as if I had been flat run over by a truck. And the driver backed up. It was brutal. But then something amazing happened. We were told to rewrite a few pages of the 20 we handed in. And when, later in the week, we reviewed that, it was called exquisite. A phrase I wrote was considered inspired. I was a student. I was learning.

I left there with a reading list of about a dozen books and five due dates for writing assignments and book critiques. That semester, the work was to be sent to my mentor by email, other semesters hard copies were required. I, for one, helped FedEx with my tendency toward working right up until the deadline. And, yes, I'll admit one particular semester I missed a couple. During the second year, I returned to the business that took me to Converse in the first place, a novel I had dallied with for years. My characters were too perfect or too flawed—no one is all bad or all good. My scenes were limp. My dialogue needed fine-tuning.

Night after night, I finished editing the *Greenville Journal* and *Spartanburg Journal* and turned to my fictional world of Holly Hill, South Carolina, and the people who had become very real to me. The novel is half finished, bound by the Converse MFA office in a neat navy blue. My thesis...the impossible doesn't quite yet seem commonplace, but certainly achievable. Half a novel awaits.

Members of the inaugural MFA residency faculty and students in 2009.



## Fulbright Awarded to Stephanie Jennings '11

by Stephen Largen of the *Spartanburg Herald Journal*

Converse treated student Stephanie Jennings '11 with a level of attention and coaching more commonly associated with a star athlete. Soon after she arrived on campus four years ago, a group of professors realized Jennings had great academic potential. Their confidence in her paid off when they learned that she had been awarded a prestigious Fulbright scholarship. "It was sort of a long-term type of recruitment by several of her professors who had been telling her for several years that she needed to look into this," said Edward Woodfin, an associate professor of History and Politics.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is an international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. Jennings started the application process last fall, which included several essays and an interview by a campus committee. A major portion of the interview was conducted in the language of her target country — Germany. She made it through each test and traveled to Germany in September for 10 months to work as a high school English teaching assistant.

Jennings' interest in Germany began as a kindergarten student studying German at a local Montessori school. She also interacted with many students whose families had come to Spartanburg from Germany. "I would go to their houses and listen to them speaking German to each other," she said. At Converse, Jennings took German classes taught by Mirko Hall, an assistant professor, who also is a Fulbright scholar. In addition to her German studies, Jennings became interested in politics and participated in the college academic debate program, Model Arab League. Joe Dunn, chairman of the History and Politics Department, Woodfin and Hall helped steer Jennings toward the Fulbright program.



Dunn, Jennings '11 and Hall

Jennings is the third Converse student in three years to be selected for the Fulbright program. President Betsy Fleming said getting students involved in the programs has evolved into part of the college's central mission. "It is an effort that's truly driven by faculty and their work to mentor students towards achieving the goals that they set for themselves," Fleming said. For her part, Jennings says she's grateful for the opportunity to pursue her passion abroad and for the mentors and professors who steered her along the way. "I couldn't have done it without them."

Follow Stephanie's Fulbright experience  
<http://peregrinerover.wordpress.com>

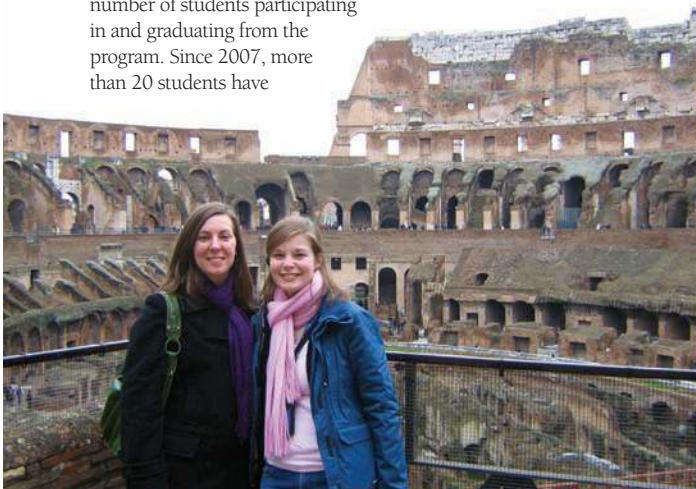
## Nisbet Honors Program Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Designed to attract and retain academically gifted students, the Nisbet Honors Program celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2010-2011 academic year. Established by an endowment from Marian McGowan Nisbet '62 and her husband Olin, the invitation-only Nisbet Honors Program offers students opportunities to study and work in a world with other gifted scholars, perform independent research and receive priority in study abroad programs, including being eligible for special scholarship aid. "The Nisbet Honors Program gave me the chance to take unusual classes one would not normally see in college programs," said Elly MacPhail Keyser '09. "I took a class about music of the 1960s and how it reflected and influenced social change in America. Classes such as this were fascinating! They challenged me to analyze and synthesize information in new, different and creative ways."

During the last decade, Nisbet Honors has seen a steady increase in the number of students participating in and graduating from the program. Since 2007, more than 20 students have

completed the honors program each year, with 120 students consistently on the roster. According to Laura Feitzinger Brown, Nisbet Honors Program co-director, the success of the program would not be possible without the generosity of the Nisbets and the dedication of the entire Converse community: "Our faculty support the program by developing and accessing new honors courses, sacrificing precious summer research time to mentor an honors student researcher and helping honors students prepare for graduate school. Staff members assist in critical support roles from areas such as Dean Barker's office, Admissions, Communications, Registration and Financial Aid. Most importantly, though, the students make the program. Bright, motivated students and their ideas have made the program grow."

Initially, the program's coursework consisted of only freshman honors seminars and senior honors thesis projects. The program has since expanded to include more course requirements to enrich students' education and to prepare students better for life after Converse. Since its inception, the program has also grown in scope, with milestones that include creating a study-travel scholarship, funding student researchers so they may travel to present research at professional conferences and being selected to join the Principia Consortium. The Consortium is an exclusive group of college honors programs permitted to send students to the University of Glasgow, an especially strong European university, for a special study-abroad honors program. Brown and co-director John Theilmann are optimistic that the Nisbet Honors Program will continue to grow. Remarks Brown, "Students really love our honors courses and wish we could offer more. I hope that in the future of the College, we will be able to fund more academic scholarships to attract even more of these great students."



GROWING ACADEMICS

# GROWING

## The Experience

*Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning.*

~ Benjamin Franklin

For well over a century, Converse has cultivated a community of dynamic and courageous women who overcome the challenges life throws at them in their pursuit of growth and progress. In the alumnae essays that follow, Monica Rogers Smith '85, Harriet "Sister" Marshall Goode '59 and Valerie Dowling '05 share in their own words the experiences that have enabled them to seek their life's passions. From building a business that garnered Oprah Winfrey's attention, to creating a legacy of work that celebrates sisterhood, to working to engage women in civil and political life, these women are truly growing the experience.

### Monica Rogers Smith '85

Owner and President of The Pink Monogram

Monica Rogers Smith '85 never dreamed she would own her own business. She was a first grade teacher and mother who started sewing when her daughter was born. A year or so later, Smith bought an embroidery machine and started monogramming as a hobby and for friends. By 2003, she was making purses and other items to sell and provide for local fundraisers, and in June 2004 she launched the monogrammed clog. "The interest was amazing," she said. "Every time I went out, people would stop me and ask where I got my clogs." And so, The Pink Monogram was born. Since that time, Smith and her business have been featured in *GSA Business* magazine, the TBS show "Movie and a Makeover," *Southern Living*, *Pregnancy Magazine*, *Elegant Bride*, as well as numerous fashion and gift blogs. A big surprise and honor came in 2008 when The Pink Monogram's products were featured on *oprah.com* as part of The "O" List.



In 2010, Converse presented Smith with the Converse 100 Award for her representation of the character and achievement that Converse alumnae hold as their ideal. In addition to growing her business, Smith is involved with Camp Greenville, Meals on Wheels and The Greenville Hospital System. "Staying involved is important to me," says Smith. "I've even been able to use the business to sponsor local little league teams. We established the Homerun Hitting Club. Anyone who hits one out of the park gets a monogrammed bat bag."

### Harriet "Sister" Marshall Goode '59

Award-Winning Painter

For almost 30 years, Harriet Marshall Goode '59 has used her canvas as a stage to produce visual short stories. The intoxicating and sometimes haunting women in her paintings have garnered awards from juried competitions across the country and represent people Goode has known or pulled from her imagination. Goode explains, "For years, I painted from life, but now I prefer to be in the studio alone, no model, no company. I invent these women, some with vulnerable personalities, some with the strength to transport them to another planet; but they all tell a story, sometimes in a language I don't even understand." In addition to being an award-winning painter, Goode served as the assistant director of the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston and was a commercial art gallery owner.



In 1999, Converse presented Goode with the Career Achievement Award. She has also received The Medal of Honor in the Arts presented by Winthrop University, Volunteer of the Year Award by the Rock Hill Arts Council and the Keepers of the Culture Award by the Museum of York County. In 2007, The Dalton Gallery of the Center for the Arts in Rock Hill held a 50-year retrospective of Goode's work. That same year, Goode's piece "Once in a while she would fall into an oblivious state," was acquired by the South Carolina State Museum. Today, she maintains a studio in her home in a restored bank building on Main Street in Rock Hill where she concentrates on painting every day and exhibiting in several commercial galleries.

### Valerie Dowling '05

Political Director for the National Federation of Republican Women

Valerie Dowling has served as the Political Director for the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) since 2009 in the capacity of political liaison to members nationwide. Prior to joining the NFRW, she served President George W. Bush in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs from 2008 until the end of his administration in January 2009, working with state and local elected officials. She also worked in the Office of Presidential Correspondence from 2007-2008. Dowling interned in First Lady Laura Bush's Projects and Policy Office during the Summer of 2006, working on her domestic and global initiatives. She has worked on several state and federal campaigns in the State of South Carolina.



# Growing a Business

by Monica Rogers Smith '85



I was a Greenville County first grade teacher for over 20 years, but my girlhood dream was to start my own business. One day I decided to follow that dream. To see where I am now compared to where it all began, you need to know I was a mom who monogrammed and embroidered before I was a businesswoman. This “hobby” turned career began simply enough. Although I’d never really sewn before, I caught the itch to embroider after finding out that my second child would be a girl. Dressing my daughter has always been my inspiration and a fun activity we can share, and I began designing garments that I always looked for in stores, but could never find.

“The pioneer wave of internet retail had passed them, and I was riding it.”

Smocking dresses for my daughter naturally led to personalizing clothing for me and those around me. People noticed the designs and craftsmanship of the items that I often wore to my sons’ baseball games, and soon other moms began to ask me to personalize their items. Can you monogram these bath towels? A bat bag? How about a belt buckle? Ever thought about monogramming a jacket? A yoga bag? The answer was YES!

As I began to earn income from my hobby, I needed a workspace and a staff. A corner of our sprawling basement gradually became a bright, white sewing room decked with spools of decorative ribbon, a rainbow of threads and my first commercial embroidery machine. My signature product was my monogrammed clogs that customers could design to their own taste and needs, and I made them that way because that was the product I wanted for myself. I found my first staff right next door, when a fellow educator began to help me answer my telephone in the afternoon. In the evenings, my husband Jon helped me keep my books.

One summer, in a leap of faith, I resigned my teaching position and began to sell my monogrammed products on my own internet site. I named my site “The Pink Monogram” and designed a hot pink logo that clearly stated that my monogramming had shaken off embroidery traditions. Website traffic grew so rapidly that the next winter I moved my business into a retail space, with a showroom of embroidery-ready gifts in front and whole roomful of embroidery machines in the back. When the showroom opened in an upscale shopping district, I was invited to join the local merchant association, where experienced brick-and-mortar boutique owners with no concept of internet sale potential sympathetically explained that my little monogram shop would only last a few months. The pioneer wave of internet retail had passed them, and I was riding it.

In 2007, I was honored by *Greenville Magazine’s* nomination for Business Person of the Year. In 2008, we made the “O” list on *oprah.com*, which placed our internet site among the leaders in monogrammed gifts. In July of 2009, *Southern Living* produced a feature about The Pink Monogram and our product line. The Pink Monogram was featured in *Oprah Magazine* in July 2010, when we launched our line of High Heel Monogrammed Clogs, an Oprah favorite. Challenging? The answer is YES!



From taking that leap of faith to start a business to being lucky enough to get noticed by Oprah and answering the call from my customers, the opportunities have been unimaginable. The strength and spirit seen and felt while I was at Converse always provide me with a source of calm and inspiration. And, I believe that staying focused, being lucky and finding the right partners are the key ingredients to following your dreams.

To learn more about Smith and The Pink Monogram, visit [www.thepinkmonogram.com](http://www.thepinkmonogram.com)

GROWING THE EXPERIENCE



## Growing Sisterhood

by Harriet "Sister" Marshall Goode '59

Throughout my career as a painter, I have often been asked, "Why do you paint women? Only women?" Well, actually I have painted men, small landscapes and a few still life paintings. But... I never stray far away from the women.

I've thought about this a lot and I don't have an erudite answer beyond my early interest in fashion design. As a child, I wanted to be Coco Chanel #2. I spent hours upon hours making paper doll clothes before I graduated to actual fabric and sewing clothes for an 18-inch mannequin given to me by my uncle who owned a store. That became a passion, which turned into designing and making my own clothes. And, I believe my interest in figurative drawing stemmed from this fascination with fashion design and the need for a vehicle to show my ideas.

My first real instruction in drawing and painting began at Converse in Mr. Cook's art lab, (now the Black Box Theatre) where focus was on painting portraits of other students, so I was still using women as subject. After Converse, I continued studying art in Charleston while working at Gibbes Art Gallery, now Gibbes Museum of Art. I also worked as a free-lance artist for an ad agency and a museum diorama specialist. Once I became a mother, I took time off from painting to raise three children and my creative outlet during those years was in designing and making dresses for my daughters and me... returning to my Coco #2 dream.





In the early '80s, once the youngest of our children graduated from college, painting became top priority again and I rented a downtown building for my studio. Since that day, I've pretty much been a full time studio painter with concentration on figurative work. Although my training at Converse was in portraiture, by the '80s, getting a likeness of the model lost its importance and I preferred creating pictures of imaginary women, my "spirit sisters," women in whom I found identity, a bond, whether real or imagined.

For years, I continued painting this way, women wearing pretty garments (Coco's influence) in comfortable poses, but it wasn't long before this style became predictable, and I looked for ways to grow and change. By using exaggeration, my figures became more abstract, even amorphous. To some, this might have seemed counter intuitive, but it was necessary to make changes and adjustments in order to keep my work from seeming automatic.



“The faces staring back at me from my paintings seemed strong and often were a reflection of my own life experience, which dealt with some of that thick and thin stuff.”

As I aged, so did the women in my work. When I was in my mid 60s, I studied my own face with its sags, lines and wrinkles and added these character marks to the figures in my paintings, giving them qualities of strong women who, like all of us, have lived through the thick and thin that life doles out.

When my women showed more character and age, I knew I'd lose some audience, but making art that pleases someone else has never been my goal. I suppose I lost some patrons who favored paintings of pretty women but I believe I gained respect among people who identify with the emotion of the women as they have changed over the years.

I was unaware my paintings were considered "powerful" until someone who purchased my work from an exhibition commented on it. The faces staring back at me from my paintings seemed strong and often were a reflection of my own life experience, which dealt with some of that thick and thin stuff. Once strength and power in the women became part of my concept, other changes occurred gradually. For instance, my palette changed from colorful to more subdued, almost monochromatic. The size went from standard canvas dimensions to 7 by 2 foot wood panels, and the design elements became minimal, sometimes metaphorical.



Knowing people respond to my work on an emotional and cerebral level is deeply satisfying to me, but I have never tried to paint to please anybody else. At 74, I'm still in my mid-career phase, still painting every day, still learning and growing. One of my greatest joys is visiting with young painters, seeing their work and giving them encouragement. Make certain you're doing the work you are passionate about, I tell them, and work. Work, work, work. They return the encouragement by listening to me, accepting me as an "elder" and a peer at once.

Painting is my job, my career, and is immensely satisfying. Part of that satisfaction comes from the fact that my husband Martin has been a completely supportive partner and my most vocal cheerleader since we were married in 1969. He's retired. I'm not. I still go to the studio every day.

I just want to leave my mark.

To learn more about Goode and her work, please visit [harrietmarshallgoode.net](http://harrietmarshallgoode.net)



## Growing Partnerships

by Valerie Dowling '05

As a Converse student, I was first awakened to the plight of women around the world. In my History and Politics classes, we examined the current and historical struggles of women globally. This knowledge led to a passion in my career to work to engage women in civil and political life.

My job as the Political Director for the National Federation of Republican Women enables me to work to engage women in civic and political life. I work to connect women with the resources they need to launch successful bids for political office as well as serve as a liaison for Republican women to the national political arena in Washington. One very important component of my job is to build partnerships with our counterparts that share similar missions and goals in Washington.

The National Federation of Republican Women has partnered with the bipartisan International Republican Institute and Women's Democracy Network to help to share our grassroots experience and expertise with civil and political leaders in emerging democracies around the world.



In March, I learned I had the opportunity to be a part of the International Republican Institute's (IRI) international delegation to monitor the historic presidential elections in Nigeria as they seek to establish fair and free elections. I was especially interested to see the role of Nigerian women in the election process.

In April, I flew to Abuja, Nigeria, with a team of 40 individuals from all over the world including Bangladesh, Canada, Estonia, Mexico and Kenya. After we arrived, our delegation spent the first day in briefings to gain a better understanding of the political climate, the partisan structure and the history of Nigeria's emerging democracy. The message was clear that the hopes of the Nigerian people rested in this election marking a turning point in their young democracy by being transparent and orderly.

“In Kaduna, women turned out in numbers to make sure their voice was heard to help determine the direction of their country.”



I was part of a team that deployed to Kaduna state where we spent the day before the election meeting with local stakeholders to find out how the National Assembly elections had gone the previous week and their expectations for the upcoming Presidential elections. On Saturday, we began Election Day early and spent the day observing various phases of the election process at over 20 polling stations in urban and rural settings.

It was amazing to see the dedication of the Nigerian people as they arrived early, stood in line for hours to be accredited and then vote. In many cases, people remained throughout the afternoon to observe the ballot count. In Kaduna, women turned out in numbers to make sure their voice was heard to help determine the direction of their country.

During my tenure as a student, Converse challenged me to engage my community, state, nation and world. I have used the confidence Converse helped to develop in me as a student to pursue my dreams to make an impact on the world around me. I will always treasure the time of discovery and confidence that my years at Converse fostered.

# SERVICE

## Commitment to

*Light is the task where many share the toil.*

~ Homer

During the 2010-2011 academic year, 530 members of the Converse community contributed a total of 10,350 service hours. And while the numbers alone are impressive, it's the stories on the following pages that are the true testament to the community's unwavering commitment to affect positive change in the world. Whether they are forgoing the typical "Spring Break" experience for the chance to visit an orphanage in Haiti, sporting their favorite high heel shoes to run for women's equity or hosting a concert to benefit the victims of the tsunami in Japan, Converse women are making a difference.

## Converse Receives National Recognition for Service

Converse is among 12 South Carolina colleges named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community. The award, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), is the highest federal honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. This is Converse's third year receiving the distinction. "It is thrilling to see Converse's commitment to service learning recognized on a national level," said Converse President Betsy Fleming. "The Converse experience is designed to cultivate leaders with global awareness, sensitivity to the problems of others and a strong sense of ethical principles. We care deeply about enabling students to effect positive change in the world, and teaching them to do so begins right here in our hometown as we pursue partnerships that serve the community."

During the 2010-2011 academic year, 530 members of the Converse community contributed a total of 10,350 community service hours. Service-learning components were integrated into 31 academic courses, involving 262 students in 3,574 hours of service work. Selected students also participate in the college's two-year Bonner Leader Program, volunteering 750 hours over a two-year period with Spartanburg community agencies such as the Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home, Children Shelter of the Upstate, Habitat for Humanity and Interim Hospice. Bonner Leaders bring their service work full-circle through weekly training and reflection activities. Converse sponsors many individual service projects throughout the year, with this past year's most intensive effort being a partnership with The Haven for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, during which 76 participants contributed 648 hours of service.

## High Heel Hundred Shines Spotlight on Women's Equity

Converse College Student Government Association presented the "Hub-City High Heel Hundred," a 100-meter dash in your favorite pumps, on Thursday, September 8 in downtown Spartanburg. Men and women alike celebrated the women in their lives and raised awareness for the continued need for women's equity by sporting their favorite heels to race. A children's race (without heels) also added to the fun.

The Hub-City High Heel hundred sought to promote awareness of the continued need for women's equity. "The gender pay gap is a very real issue impacting society as a whole, and yet it is often overlooked," says SGA President Samantha Nicholson '12. "Women excel in their careers and continue to break glass ceilings—often while juggling the demands of family life or other obstacles. Ilene H. Lang, a former tech CEO now working for Catalyst, a leading research organization that studies women in the workforce, once said: 'Imagine that there's a big race and your daughter or your granddaughter or your sister—whoever it is—is really good at track and field, and she trains with the best of them. She goes to the start line, and you look up and she's not on the start line. She's 100 feet back. Would you accept this? So that's the challenge: women are starting out behind the start line. And they don't catch up.' Let's bridge this gap and pave the way for the future generation to start on common ground."

Proceeds of the "Hub-City High Heel Hundred" benefited the Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home, which helps girls learn how to trust, teaches them key social and life skills, and provides the necessary support for girls to make academic progress and set long-term goals for their lives.



COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

# Art Therapy Class Brightens Hopes in Haiti

by Linda Conley of the *Spartanburg Herald Journal*

Converse Art Therapy students used their spring break to help people in Haiti. They visited an orphanage and a hospital in Port-au-Prince to show how Art Therapy can help with healing. Estimates indicate more than 200,000 people died and more were injured or left homeless from the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on January 12, 2010.



The trip was arranged through Lumiere Ministries, a medical mission program in Gastonia, NC. Four representatives from Converse and two from Emporia State University in Kansas spent a week working with the medical staff at Kings Hospital and children in a nearby orphanage. "When the hospital heard we were interested in bringing Art Therapy to Haiti, they were very excited," said Geri Hurlbut, team leader and coordinator of the Converse Art Therapy program. "We went to train the nurses and staff, but some doctors and patients participated in sessions."

After the group arrived in Port-au-Prince, the students and faculty said they were shocked to see some of the conditions. They didn't expect to see hundreds of people living in tent cities and buildings reduced to rubble. There are signs of rebuilding, but not much compared with the structures destroyed in the quake. They remembered watching television programs showing the disaster, but said it was different to actually see and tour the sites. "My first reaction was culture shock because I didn't expect to see masses of people living on the street, but I had a wonderful support group with me," said Amanda Cheek, Converse II adult student. "We all tried to be honest about our feelings from seeing the devastation."

Kelly Pyle, a Converse alumna and teacher at Montessori Academy of Spartanburg, also said it was hard to see people living on the streets. "It really puts things into perspective what we have to be grateful for here in the United States," Pyle said. "It is truly an eye-opening experience." Once the Art Therapy students said they got over the shock of seeing so much poverty and destruction, they focused on trying to help. They showed the hospital staff how Art Therapy can be used with patients, so they can describe their symptoms or express their feelings about the disaster. Part of the training included exercises with Art Therapy students and medical staff working together.



During one session, they made t-shirts with symbols on them and shared with the class how they came up with their ideas. "Many of the staff used flags or other patriotic symbols in their artwork, or they used biblical symbols showing their faith," said Ann Pitman, Converse II adult student. "The people really love Haiti and had a lot of national pride. They are very strong people. Even though I couldn't speak French very well, I got to know them by reading their art."

When the team wasn't working with the medical staff, members spent time with children from a nearby orphanage. The group used similar exercises with the children to allow them to express their feelings. During an exercise, the children built houses using Popsicle sticks and other art materials. The Art Therapy students said it took several attempts before the children could make organized structures. Converse students believe one of the reasons it was hard for the children to build a house is because they have become accustomed to living in an atmosphere with so much pain and confusion caused by the disaster. "If they (children) can build a house mentally, they can do it in real life," Hurlbut said. "It helped them structure their goals. They took every task very seriously and wanted to complete them."



Despite the challenges the children are facing, the Art Therapy students said they are encouraged by the children's optimism about the future. The children continue attending school, and many want to become doctors and counselors. "The children want to go into medical fields because they see the need and want to help," Hurlbut said. "There was a great deal of optimism, and people were very positive, but a lot more work needs to be done. I don't want people to forget about Haiti."

## Spring Break Mission Trip: Students Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Florida

Converse students helped families obtain affordable housing during spring break with Habitat for Humanity's national alternative break program, Collegiate Challenge, in Miami, Florida. "This was Converse's third time traveling during spring break to volunteer with Habitat," said Jason Loscuito, College Chaplain. "We had eleven students and three staff members this year who were delighted to be of service to this community."

From hauling and moving over 3,200 pieces of lumber to hanging dry wall to breaking up concrete, the week was physically demanding, and at the same time emotionally fulfilling. Molly Dugan, former assistant director of residential life, explains, "We met some amazing people this week... both that work for Habitat and that are homeowners. We worked hard, and we touched peoples' lives (even if it wasn't seen in the immediate). I think everyone had a good time, even if we are a little sore, sun burnt and exhausted. I know I enjoyed myself and would do it again in a heartbeat. This week truly was a labor of love!"

For the past 22 years, more than 182,000 students have spent their school breaks volunteering across the country through the Collegiate Challenge program. "We recognize that these students could have done a number of things during their spring break and are grateful for their support,"



said Cody Logsdon, Habitat's manager of youth volunteer engagement at Habitat for Humanity. "The work these students will do during their spring break will have a lasting impact in communities across the country."

Habitat's Collegiate Challenge is one of the many programs Habitat has to engage youth ages 5 to 25 in Habitat's work. Since 2007, State Farm has served as the national corporate sponsor of Habitat for Humanity's youth programs, with a sponsorship commitment of more than \$1.1 million in grants each year.

## Converse Ranks Highest

In August, Converse received national recognition for fulfilling its mission to develop engaged citizens who affect positive change in the world when *Washington Monthly* released its annual ranking of colleges based on "their contribution to the public good," with Converse as the highest ranked master's university in South Carolina. Converse was ranked #43 out of 553 colleges nationwide in this category, a significant jump ahead of its #127 ranking last year, placing the College among the top 10% in the nation. "We all benefit when colleges produce groundbreaking research that drives economic growth, when they offer students from low-income families the path to a better life and when they shape the character of future leaders," says *Washington Monthly* of its ranking criteria.

Criteria for the rankings include:

- **Social Mobility** (recruiting and graduating low-income students),
- **Research** (producing cutting-edge scholarship and sending undergraduates on to attain PhDs), and
- **Service** (encouraging students to give something back to their country).

The criteria align well with Converse's strengths and strategic priorities. "Our mission is to produce engaged citizens who affect positive change in the world," says Converse President Betsy Fleming. "We prioritize making Converse accessible to all capable young women, and that commitment is reflected in this year's incoming class. 15% of these women are first-generation college students and 45% are eligible for Pell Grants. They are high academic achievers as well, with four valedictorians among them, an average GPA of 3.8 and middle SAT range of 1000-1180." Fleming continues, "Converse also has an uncommon and very favorable 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio that enables us to involve students more deeply in research, leadership and service. For the last four years, our faculty and students have been awarded more research funding from South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities than any other institution in the state. Half of the Class of 2011 participated in independent research or creative projects at Converse, and more than half participated in leadership and service opportunities.

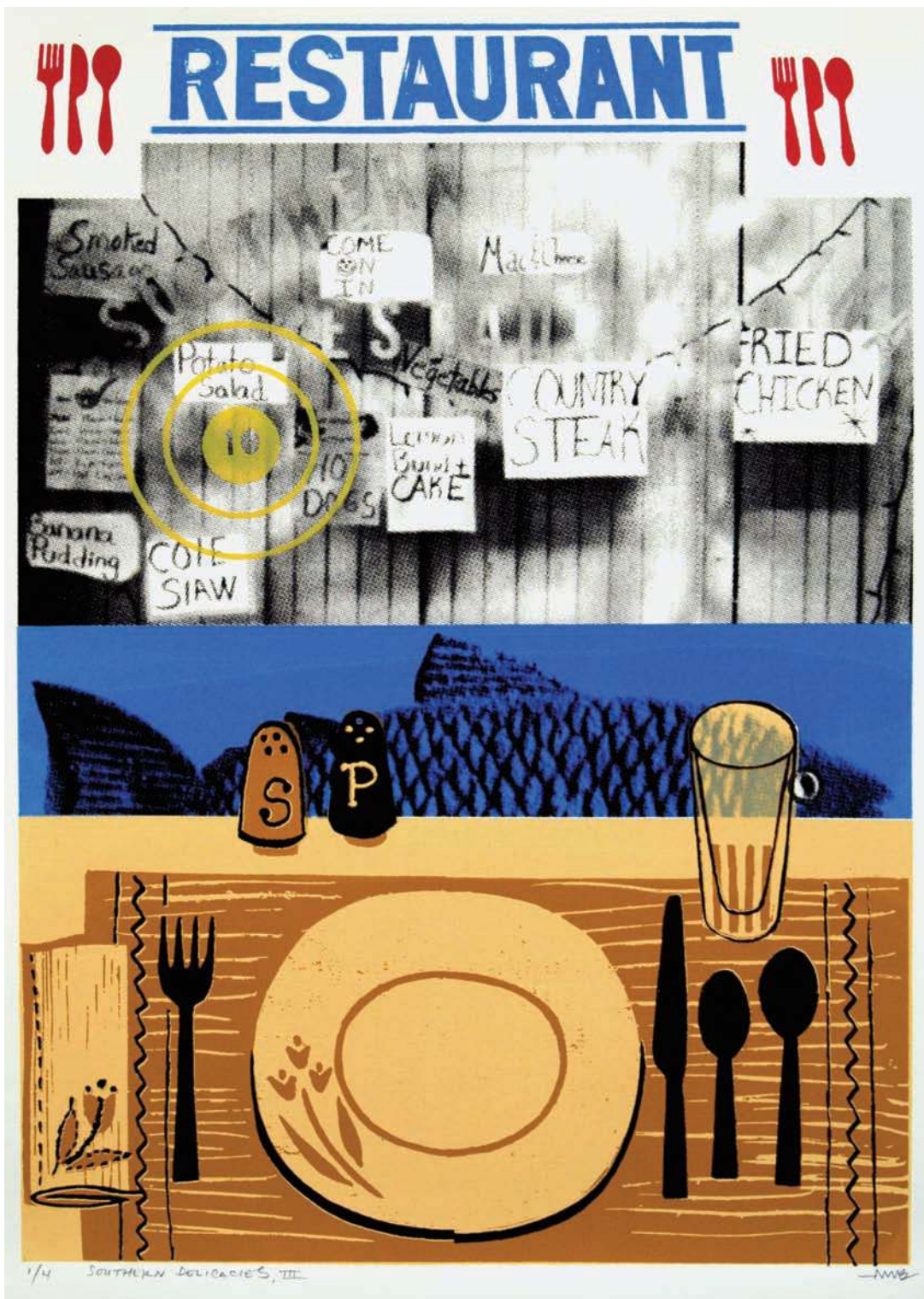
## Student Concert Benefits Red Cross

Students from Converse and Wofford colleges sent a message to those in Japan affected by the March 11 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated portions of that country: "Stay strong, Japan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you." The students backed up their words by organizing two benefit concerts for Japan Relief 2011—one on each of the campuses—with proceeds going to the Japanese Red Cross. "Seeing the severity of the damage the tsunami caused Japan, students of Japanese 101 and 102 (myself included) could not turn a blind eye to what had happened, so we decided to take action," said Bianca Montanez '12. "With the help of the school administrators, faculty, students, sponsors and everyone who supported the event, we were able to produce \$3,300. All the proceeds were donated to Japan Red Cross with the hope that the small amount of money would alleviate some of the people's suffering."



Student organizers of the events from both campuses study Japanese Culture and Language at Converse under Dr. Masumi Nakashima, who assisted with the plans. Nakashima found her students' determination inspiring. "We had 50 volunteer performers that included faculty, staff and students from Converse and Wofford. I am so impressed with the leadership and passion of the Japanese Culture students. Without their efforts, we would not have been able to make the concerts such a success." Both concerts were free, with donations being requested. In conjunction with the performances, 300 t-shirts were sold as well as handmade bracelets—made with red and white beads to resemble the Japanese flag.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE



1/4 Southern Delicacies, III

"Southern Delicacies, III"



## Southern Gothic

In the last six years, the lithographic and photo silkscreen prints of Associate Professor of Printmaking and Photography Andrew Blanchard have garnered a worldwide audience by appearing in over 70 national and international juried printmaking exhibitions. In addition, his prints have been collected throughout the United States, as well as in France, Bulgaria, South Korea and the United Kingdom. In the summer of 2011, Blanchard achieved yet another milestone when he was featured in the Southern Edition of *New American Paintings* magazine. The prestigious publication is a juried art exhibition-in-print that is carried by all of the national chains, major galleries and museums in the United States. Each edition results from a highly competitive juried competition and presents the work of 40 painters. Thousands of artists enter the competitions every year, but only a limited number make it through the jurying process. "This feature means phenomenal exposure on a really grand level," says Blanchard. "N.A.P. is the 'go-to' periodical in the contemporary art world. All of the jurors carry weight; most are top-notch museum directors or critics, not just your average 'Joe.' It's on par with *Art News*, *Art in American* and *Art Forum*, the heavy hitters in arts' related magazines. It means a lot!"

Three original works from Blanchard's 'Southern Gothic' suite are featured in the magazine. For Blanchard, the inspiration behind these pieces is a departure from his earlier works, which were more biographical and laden with metaphor and analogy. He explains, "The work I submitted to *New American Paintings* is far more about place, in particular, the American South. They are about ruralism versus urbanism, the documentation of the Old South changing into the New South, a D.I.Y. network

**Milliken Art Gallery Exhibition Schedule**

Owen Riley Jr. ~ Letting the Light In  
January 5 – February 2, 2012

SC Governor's School of the Arts  
and Humanities Faculty Show  
February 9 – March 8, 2012

Young Women in Art  
March 10 – March 17, 2012

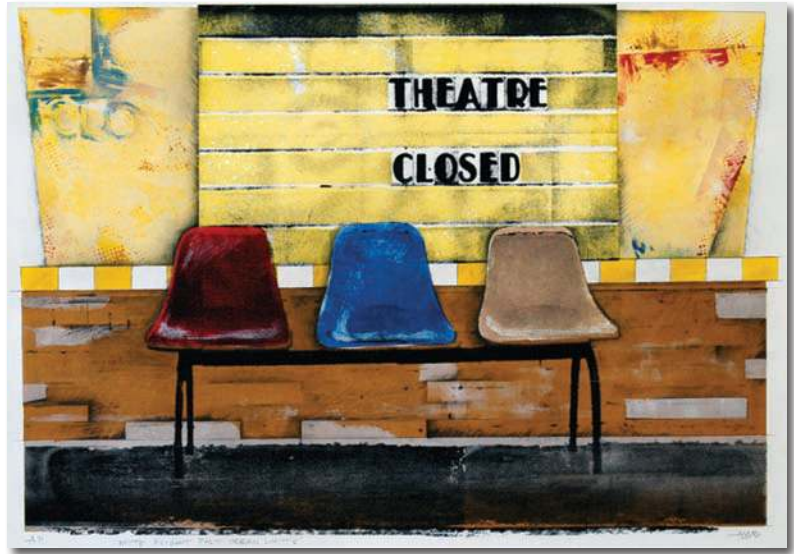
2012 Juried Student Art Show  
March 22 – March 30, 2012

SOUTHERN **GOTHIC**

“This collection is about honoring those unique practices and at the same time, poking fun at how we see ourselves, how we hear our own drawls and dialect and ultimately, how we all get along in a part of the country that is quite the underdog in America.”



To learn more about Andrew Blanchard, please visit [andrewblanchard.net](http://andrewblanchard.net)



“White Flight Past”

of yard sales and fish fries, and even some of the rough, hard to describe Southern pleasures—like lifting your truck or car with huge tires. This collection is about honoring those unique practices and at the same time, poking fun at how we see ourselves, how we hear our own drawls and dialect and ultimately, how we all get along in a part of the country that is quite the underdog in America.”

For Blanchard, art has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. “I was in late junior high or early high school when I created my first print. Before that, I just drew a lot. My father was a portrait painter in the French Quarter before I was born. He always was drawing growing up. My aunt, too, was an illustrator in New Orleans. Her studio was always stocked with the coolest pens and graphic markers. . . I guess it runs in the family.”

### Son of the South

Andrew Blanchard was born in the wild swamps of Louisiana, and was raised in Waveland, a small beach community on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Like most boys who grew up close to a beach, he fished and “swam until the ring of the dinner bell.” However, unlike most boys, Blanchard spent hours by himself surrounded by relics of the South’s past. “Growing up in an antique and junking family on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I was accustomed to spending many long hours in dusty buildings biding my time flipping through old books, stacks of records, important-looking documents and the like. Vintage advertising on aged memorabilia, as well as old signage, really puts me in a reminiscent state; conjuring up my youth spent without folks my own age amidst piles of other people’s stuff.”

It was also at a young age that he became fascinated with the bold, curvilinear woodcuts of another Coast native, Walter Anderson. “Well, as an impressionable young artist, I was mainly attracted to Anderson because he was crazy!” says Blanchard. “I mean, here is a man who rows his boat out to one of the barrier islands on the coast of Mississippi to live for weeks on end, even during hurricane season! It’s known that he would tie himself to the larger trees to ride out the storms. Somehow he still managed to make a huge body of work in a short time.” Blanchard continues, “His woodcut prints just have this bold image that really stopped me in my tracks. He incorporated both subject matter and design-pattern into one visual and I thought that was very spectacular as a kid. Besides, using cutting tools on a slab of wood in order to get a print was and is so intense for me. You get so involved while cutting and then, printing the block. I wanted to experience that right after I learned of him, around ninth or tenth grade.”



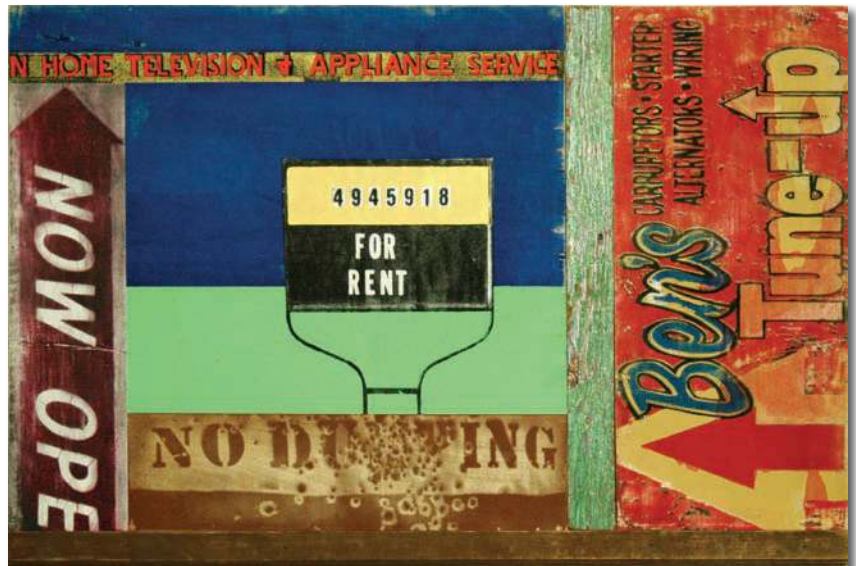
## Southern Grit

Blanchard's desire to create intensified as he discovered lithography in the fall of 1996 during undergraduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi. From the beginning, he says litho was a hard process to nail down. "Scumming and filling-in, laboriously long print sessions and manually graining stones became integral to my work ethic as a new printmaking student. I am not certain that I would be here today if it were not for my persistence and these demanding inherent struggles." Blanchard earned a BA degree in 2000 with an emphasis on Printmaking and a minor in Photography. Shortly thereafter, he traveled to Paris, France to work and study with Frederic Possot, a master lithography printer. This experience solidified his desire to be a lifelong artist-printmaker. "Frederic invited me to stay for a bit while he was visiting my undergrad print class at the University of Southern Miss. I had just graduated with my BA degree, so I took up his offer. Frederic was very driven and hard working, though he balanced it so well by enjoying long coffee breaks. We would meet up for lunch and two coffee breaks each day. Lots of artists and printers would meet up at this Parisian 'meat and three.' I was really taken with how they worked and seemed to get so much completed in such a short time." And just as the antique relics of the South influenced him during his childhood, Blanchard was completely taken with the legacy of printmaking in France. "I worked at the oldest lithography atelier/printshop in Paris. Most everyone had very long careers, even born into this occupation, and I knew right then that I had chosen wisely in terms of profession. I went to grad school directly thereafter." In 2004, he earned his MFA degree from The University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS.

## Sit back and enjoy the show

After graduate school, Blanchard applied to further his education at the Tamarind Lithography master printer's training school in New Mexico and was one of only eight in the world to be accepted that particular year. While taking a few days to mull over his acceptance to Tamarind, he received a job offer from Converse and didn't look back. "In the printmaking community, you either make prints full time, become a master printer who collaborates with other professional artists in which you are the printer/manual laborer, or, last but not least, you teach. I've gone the route of all three. Being a professor at Converse allows me ample amounts of time to make my own work (seasonally), and a way to stay wired into a hopeful and energetic, young setting where learning, experimentation and critical feedback all connect with what I need in my own work."

Throughout his career as an artist and professor, Blanchard says he has been blessed to have a great group of mentors guiding him along the way. And, he sees his role at Converse as his chance to bring his experience full-circle. "As a professor, my ultimate purpose is to be a legitimate example of what a solid, up-to-date working artist is. One who continues to evolve his own work, as well as being a facilitator and mentor." Blanchard is also vigilant when it comes to encouraging his students to submit their work for juried exhibitions and shows across the United States. "Well, the rad thing is, for the last six years, I've entered many of the same exhibitions as my students. Some times, they beat me...and that's what I want. Some times we show together too, both accepted. That's happened a few times!" Blanchard continues, "Each year, my goal is to teach my students how to make prints, how to enter their work in national and international juried shows and then...all I do is sit back and observe, well, kind of. Thankfully, each year my printmaking and photo students show all around the United States, and right now, one was chosen of three students in the entire nation to be included in an upcoming New York art publication coming out this fall of 2011. That speaks for itself."



"Southern Scrawl, III"

SOUTHERN GOTHIC

# CONVERSE NEWS

## Former LPGA Golf Pro to Lead Inaugural Golf Program

When the Valkyries inaugural golf team tees off in the fall of 2012, former LPGA golf professional Sara Anne McGetrick will lead the way. McGetrick, who joined the Valkyries as head golf coach this summer, brings years of experience and expertise with her. "As a renowned golfer and teacher of the game who is also a native of Spartanburg, Sara Anne is well positioned to build a winning team for Converse," said Director of Athletics Joy Couch. "She will recruit the inaugural class over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, and the team will hit the ground running with the fall 2012 season."



for Furman University under legendary coach Mic Potter, a 1994 National Golf Coaches Hall of Fame inductee who currently leads the women's golf team at the University of Alabama.

After earning a BA in Sports Management from Furman in 1985, McGetrick turned pro and played on the LPGA tour from 1986-1992. During her time on the tour, she garnered a top three finish in two different events including a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at the 1989 Hawaiian Ladies Open. "I am very excited and grateful to have the opportunity to return to Spartanburg and build a golf program at Converse," McGetrick stated.

"Converse has an incredible reputation academically and a very exciting athletic program that continues to grow exponentially. With such a great golfing environment in Spartanburg, a golf team at Converse will be a perfect fit, and I feel confident that we can build a top notch program."

McGetrick comes to Converse after serving for a year as head women's golf coach at Valor Christian High School in Highlands Ranch, CO and teaching golf professionally in the area for 20 years. McGetrick attended Spartanburg High School as a prep, where she played on the boy's golf team because the school did not sponsor girls' golf at the time. She went on to play

## Corey White Named Swim Coach

This spring, Converse announced that Corey White, assistant coach for the Valkyries swim team, was promoted to head swim coach. White took over the position after two years as the program's graduate assistant coach and plans to build upon the early success of the three-year-old program established by head coach Susan Kunkler. "Converse hired Coach White with the intention that he would grow under Susan and eventually lead our program," said athletic director Joy Couch. "During his time here, Coach White has been vital as a recruiter and in working with our team on all aspects of their training. We anticipate a seamless transition for our program."



White has had the opportunity to swim for and learn from many renowned coaches throughout his career including Kyle Schack of Northwestern University and Matt Pearce of Grand Blanc High School, who have produced numerous All-Americans at the college and high school level. "I am excited to continue to build

upon the success Coach Kunkler and I have established over the past two years," commented White. "I've learned from Coach Kunkler about how to inspire young people in and out of the pool, which is what makes average coaches and programs into great ones. Her passion was infectious to me and our team, and for that I'll forever be grateful and honored to have worked alongside her."

## Converse Welcomes Buikus for Lacrosse

With her contagious enthusiasm for women's athletics and proven experience on the playing field, new head coach Kelly Buikus is primed and ready to take over the helm of the Valkyries lacrosse team. "I am excited to join the Valkyries staff this season," commented Buikus. "Converse offers the highest level of competition for women's colleges in the country and provides great opportunities for its young women both academically and athletically. I am looking forward to the challenge ahead, and I am grateful for the opportunity."



Buikus spent the past two years as the head coach at Wilson College, a women's college in Chambersburg, PA, while also serving as the assistant athletic director. "Kelly brings a great deal of experience at women's colleges, and I know she will have great success here at Converse," stated athletic director Joy Couch. "Our young program will continue to have the opportunity to move in the right direction under her leadership, as we continue to push to break into the top tier of the Conference Carolinas in lacrosse."

## Keiner to Lead Tennis

In July, Jennifer Keiner was named head tennis coach for the Valkyries and took the helm overseeing all aspects of the growing program. "Converse has a tremendous academic reputation and a great tennis facility," said Keiner. "Those aspects combined with many others make this a tremendous opportunity to build a top-notch tennis program. I am excited to be the coach here, and I am looking forward to working with everyone at Converse."

Keiner comes to Converse after spending the past three seasons as the women's assistant tennis coach at the University of Cincinnati under head coach, Angela Wilson. While at Cincinnati she played an integral role in helping the team gain three consecutive Big East tournament bids. She has also served as a tennis instructor at Western Tennis & Fitness in Cincinnati, OH for the past two years, and is a certified instructor by the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). "I immediately knew that Jennifer was going to be a great fit for our tennis program," stated Director of Athletics Joy Couch. "She has experience coaching in one of the best conferences in the nation, and has proven she can recruit and coach at the highest level."



## Celebrating Outstanding Scholar Athletes

During Founder's Day 2011, Converse made the third annual presentation of The Weisiger Cup to an outstanding senior athlete and the presentation of two scholarship awards to incoming freshmen who have been named Weisiger Outstanding Scholar Athletes.

### The Weisiger Cup

Katherine Buehler is the third annual recipient of The Weisiger Cup, which recognizes a graduating senior who has an exceptional record of leadership and community building skills on the court, in the classroom and across campus. Katherine's name will be added to the sterling silver trophy that is permanently housed in The Weisiger Center.

A Biology major who serves up a fierce dose of skill, sportsmanship and teamwork for the Valkyries volleyball team, Katherine has excelled in all aspects of Converse. On the court, Katherine has commanded the respect of her teammates, opponents and coach. She has led the team as captain and has been named Best Offensive Player, Most Valuable Player and recipient of the Coaches Award.



(L to R) President Betsy Fleming, Agnes Weisiger, Katherine Buehler '11 and Joy Couch

A participant in the Nisbet Honors Program, Katherine has conducted undergraduate research, served for two years as historian for the national Biology honor society Tri Beta and was honored with the CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award. She has been a campus active leader, participating in the Daniels Leadership Program and serving on the Honor Board for three years and as chair of Civitas. Katherine expects to pursue a career in nursing.

### Weisiger Outstanding Scholar Athletes

Weisiger Scholar Athletes must excel in academics, be expressly interested in the study of science and also be dedicated to playing an NCAA Division II sport. This year's Weisiger Scholar Athletes are Meghan Calvaruso of Louisville, Kentucky and Nichole Tackett of Taylors, South Carolina.

Meghan attended Eastern High School in Kentucky, where she served as team captain for the swim team and was named Most Valuable Player for the past three years. Meghan was also a member of the National Beta Club and the National Honor Society. This fall, Meghan will become a member of the Valkyries Swim Team and plans to study Biology. She hopes to attend medical school, pursuing a career as a physical therapist.

The second Weisiger Scholar Athlete, Nichole Tackett attended Blue Ridge High School, where she was a member of the soccer team, the Beta Club and the National Honor Society. This fall, Nichole will join the Valkyries soccer team. With plans to study Biochemistry, Nichole hopes to attend medical school and become a cardio thoracic surgeon. She has been invited into Converse's Nisbet Honors Program.

## Tarpon Sharks Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This past spring, the Tarpon Sharks Synchronized Swim Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a performance titled "Synchronized Celebration." For the finale of this historic performance, the club's president, Sarah Jones '12 adapted the dance from Michael Jackson's Thriller video to water, which she says, "Was challenging but fun, everyone really seemed to enjoy it."

Rehearsing from fall to spring, the Tarpon Sharks work together to bring the annual spring show to life in March. Jones explains, "We learn technique during the fall. In the spring, we pick music, choreograph and practice our routines. During closed weekend (two weeks before the show), we make all the decorations, and from then on, practice is really intense. We also work hard on our advertising."

For those not experienced in synchronized swimming, the club provides instruction in figures and formations. To participate, students must be able to swim at least one length of the pool using the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. According to former coach Margaret Moore, most students who participate in the program have never done synchronized swimming but, "once they do it, they love it." Jones couldn't agree more, "I've always loved swimming and performing, and this is the perfect combination. It's good exercise, and I have a lot of fun bonding with the other members."



# CONVERSE NEWS

## Model Citizens

by Stephen Largen of the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*

A trio of students from Converse's powerhouse Model Arab League team helped export the debating and research skills they honed in Spartanburg to high school students in the Middle East. Seniors Stephanie Jennings, Katie Hudson and Monica Lineberger, the head delegates of Converse's Model Arab League debate team, went to Amman, Jordan, this spring to work with students from Montessori schools there.

Model Arab League is an academic debate forum in which students take on the roles and interests of Arab nations. Converse's program has been around since 1988, when it was started by Department of History and Politics chairman Joe Dunn. Several years ago, members of the Converse team went to Jordan to help teach debate skills to students, but the relationship had become dormant in recent years until a teacher last year reached out again to Dunn.

While several of the schools, including some from Egypt, pulled out of the youth conference in Amman due to concerns about travel amid unrest in

the Middle East, the Converse students said the experience was still rewarding despite the presence of just two Jordanian schools at the four-day event. "What was amazing is that they did it all in English, and they're high school students," Lineberger said. The trio also stated that not only the students they helped teach but also the people of Amman were welcoming and surprisingly inquisitive about their interest in Jordan and speaking Arabic. "They were very open," Jennings said. "They really enjoyed having us and made no secret of that." She went on to say, "It's one thing to sit here and to research on the computer about the political situation there. It's another thing entirely to go there and experience and meet people and hear their perspectives on it. Now more so than ever, we're going to be able to get into that role and understand that role."



Jennings, Lineberger and Hudson

## Erin Templeton Honored for Excellence in Teaching



(L to R) Sara Fisher, Erin Templeton and President Fleming

Dr. Erin Templeton, assistant professor of English, received the Excellence in Teaching award from South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Inc. (SCICU) this spring. Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeff Barker comments, "Erin Templeton approaches every challenge with determination and a ready smile. Her students benefit from her depth and breadth of knowledge, from her active scholarship brought into every class, from her work on the frontier of digital humanities, and from the friendly, inviting atmosphere she fosters."

Templeton joined the faculty at Converse College in 2007 as an assistant professor of English and creative writing. Dr. Templeton's teaching philosophy, she says, is an application of Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle: "There is no way to predict behavior (human, atomic or otherwise) with complete confidence. My pedagogical experiences have provided me with a remarkable laboratory in which to test and experiment with Heisenberg's theory: the literary classroom." Using uncertainty as the touchstone of teaching takes a skilled practitioner, and Dr. Templeton has shown that she has what it takes.

## Converse Partners with Vanderbilt University for Advanced Nursing Degree

This summer, Converse and the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing announced a new partnership that will give Converse students the opportunity to pursue an advanced Nursing degree. The five-year program results in a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Converse and a Masters of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt. "At a time when there is a great need for nurses across our nation, the Converse-Vanderbilt Nursing Program provides an exciting opportunity to help meet that need," says Jeff Barker, vice president for academic affairs at Converse.

Students in the Converse-Vanderbilt program will spend three years at Converse completing General Education and Biology coursework followed by two years completing Nursing coursework at Vanderbilt. They will benefit from dividing their academic career between the liberal arts environment of a small college campus and the Health Sciences center of a major university. The combination of study on two differently oriented campuses will provide training in Nursing Education, complemented by extensive study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Graduates will be prepared to function in an advanced nursing practice role and also have the necessary foundation to pursue doctoral studies in Nursing.

The master's degree in Nursing leads to careers in advanced practice nursing, which includes nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse executives and informatics nurse specialists. These practitioners are leaders in health care, are generally better compensated and are expected to play a key role in

a changing health care delivery system. Only four South Carolina institutions offer advanced nursing degrees, with Clemson University being the only one in the Upstate.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), "The United States is projected to have a nursing shortage that is expected to intensify as baby boomers age and the need for health care grows... With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010, more than 32 million Americans will soon gain access to healthcare services, including those provided by RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)." The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that nursing is the top occupation for job growth through 2018.

## Leader of the Pack

Converse student Brittany Pack '12 has been named to the newly-created South Carolina Youth Council for Policy Change. The 10-member council includes students from colleges and universities across the state who will advocate for improvements in sexual health education. Council members will work in partnership with the New Morning Foundation's e-advocacy network, Tell Them, to build a coalition of advocates that support age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education. "It's an honor to have been chosen for the youth council," said Pack. "This is an issue that I feel very strongly about and I can't wait to see how my campus and other campuses will come together to make a difference for our whole state."

Members were selected through an application process and will serve a one-year term. In addition to receiving a monthly stipend, they will benefit from intensive training on leadership development, public speaking, writing, grassroots organizing and government affairs. "We are thrilled to be able to work with our state's young people in this capacity. This future generation of leaders represents a powerful voice in creating a healthier South Carolina," said Emma Davidson, Tell Them program manager.

According to New Morning Foundation, the Council's formation comes at a critical time for South Carolina's young people who face some alarming statistics: 3 in 10 young women in our state will get pregnant before age 20. One in five new HIV/AIDS cases reported in South Carolina is among people age 25 and under. And, youth ages 15-24 account for almost half



Brittany Pack '12

of new sexually transmitted infection cases. Student advocates will be tasked with beginning a dialogue among their peers on these issues. New Morning Foundation cites research that shows frank conversation about personal responsibility, pregnancy prevention and family planning is the best way to reduce unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infection rates, including HIV/AIDS.

## Rhyme, For a Reason

by Cindy Landrum of the *Spartanburg Journal*

Music Professor Scott Robbins was one composition into his latest CD project when he decided the world didn't really need any more polite Emily Dickinson songs written for voice and piano. He decided to do something radically different—and unexpected—for "Bees: 5 Poems of Emily Dickinson." He set the 19<sup>th</sup> Century poetry to the electronic sounds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century using GarageBand, a music program that comes on Apple computers. "Usually Emily Dickinson is set to music that is serene, very concert sounding, very proper," Robbins said. "The world does not need any more of it. I wanted to set her poems in an environment that wouldn't be obvious."

"Bees: 5 Poems of Emily Dickinson" is the first CD Robbins has produced himself. It is available on Amazon.com and iTunes. Soprano Donna Gallagher '10 sings on the CD. "The only musical instrument used on the CD that doesn't come with an Apple computer is Donna's voice," Robbins said. "Granted, that's a lot of it." Robbins compared a musician using GarageBand to a pro golfer playing the Master's with a \$6 set of toddler clubs or a triathlete completing the bicycle portion of the race on a Big Wheel. "GarageBand is much, much worse than Facebook as far as the time you can spend on it. But if you mess around with it long enough, you can actually make music with it," he said. "That's part of the neatness of it. Anybody with an Apple computer could have written this piece."

Robbins said he chose the five poems because they were short and had a "sort of rhythmic-ness to them." And one, "Birds...Hours...the Bumblebee" it is so repetitive that Robbins thought it should be a rap. "I guess it was a bad gene in me," he said. "I started thinking of it as a joke, but then I realized it should be a rap." He realized he couldn't ask a clinically trained singer to do the rap. "They either wouldn't do it at all or they would do it badly," he said. That left two options: he could find a real rapper or he could do it himself.

Once he figured out he could electronically alter his voice, he decided to do it himself. "I wound up doing it on my front porch at 5:30 am," he said. "The newspaper had already come and there were no lights on in the neighborhood. I made sure nobody could hear me." During the song, Robbins has four different versions of his voice rapping at once. "Birds...Bees...the Bumblebee" is the only track in which Gallagher's voice is not featured. Instead, she's the atmospheric background voice.



Donna Gallagher and Scott Robbins

Gallagher said the CD was different than anything else she's performed. "I really enjoyed feeling a little bit like a pop star," she said. According to Gallagher, the most challenging part was singing along with pre-recorded music. "I'm used to being the one who leads and having the pianist follow me or singing with an orchestra and following the conductor," she said.

Robbins allowed Gallagher to interpret his works within limits. "Most of the time, the composer has written exactly what the composer wants. With Scott, he gave the pitches and left the rhythms up to me," she said. "That allowed me a huge amount of freedom. I had never experienced that before when doing somebody else's music." But as Robbins said, nobody has put Dickinson to music like this.

# CONVERSE NEWS

## Founder's Day 2011



Pat Hickerson '64



Converse celebrated Founder's Day with a rousing convocation that highlighted accomplishments made during the 2010-2011 academic year, heralded as "The Year of I CAN" by President Betsy Fleming at Opening Convocation last September. "The Converse brand of 'I CAN' demonstrates that when willing to think and do differently, great accomplishments can be made in the face of adversity," said Fleming. Her remarks were punctuated by cheers from the audience as she recounted a selected list of accomplishments that included the completed construction of The Heath apartments in the midst of a challenging economy, Rhiannon Gluhosky as the College's first All-American athlete and a recent packed-house concert at Converse given by Tharanga Goonitelleke '05, who is the first Sri Lankan to attend The Juilliard School and is now an artist with New York City Opera.

Alumna Pat Parsons Hickerson '64 was keynote speaker. An embodiment of the "I CAN" spirit, Hickerson was a trailblazer for women in the U.S. Army, leading with determination and perseverance through decades of change and retiring as the nation's highest-ranking female officer. Hickerson encouraged Converse to continue to advance education for women, stating, "I'm very proud to be a Converse graduate. I'm excited about Converse today with its extraordinary progress and emphasis on leadership and innovation. I'm a strong advocate for the value of women's colleges and the education they provide."



(L to R) Fleming, Hickerson and Nancy Milliken

## Roger Milliken honored with The Dexter Edgar Converse Award



Upon moving to Spartanburg to establish headquarters for Milliken & Company in the 1950s, Roger and Nita Milliken began a deep friendship with Converse College that would span more than half a century and leave an indelible mark upon the lives of countless young women. Converse honored Nita Milliken in 1993 with its highest honor, the Dexter Edgar Converse Award, and the distinctive bond Converse shares with the Millikens came full circle this spring as the College bestowed that same honor upon Roger on Founder's Day. An extraordinary man whose curiosity, love of Earth and passion for the value and benefits of independent educational, Mr. Milliken passed away on December 30, 2010 at the age of 95. His daughter, Nancy Milliken, accepted the award on the family's behalf.

For more than six decades, the Millikens provided generous, steady financial support to Converse that included annual operating support, major gifts to campaigns and building projects, and the establishment of the Milliken Scholarship Program in 1978. Since that program's inception, more than 300 top-achieving students have graduated as Milliken Scholars. Converse's Fine Arts Building bears the Milliken name. An active supporter of the College's LEED designed buildings on campus, Mr. Milliken was most recently engaged with the renovation of Kuhn Hall and plans for the new apartment housing.

Today, the Milliken name at Converse is synonymous with vision, growth and excellence. "I am privileged to have known him as a colleague and a friend," said President Betsy Fleming. "I often looked to him to embolden Converse's commitment to innovation and change. He seemed to find great delight here—whether it was in helping the College to take calculated, ambitious risks, walking at my inauguration in his blue Yale regalia, relishing the talent at School of Music concerts, or talking about politics, trees or a great new book. His legacy will live on here."



Nancy Milliken

## Live Life at an 11!

Their senior theme was “Live Life at an 11,” and the Class of 2011 is primed to do just that as they embark upon careers and graduate school programs that will take them throughout the world. Their plans include advanced study at such schools as the USC School of Medicine, Yale University School of Music, New York School of Interior Design and Charleston Law; jobs with such employers as ESPN, Ethan Allen and Preservation Hall, volunteer positions with the Americorps VISTA program and a Fulbright Assistantship to Germany.

Of the graduating seniors, 21% plan to attend graduate school and 37% had already secured full- or part-time employment by the time they graduated. Half participated in independent creative projects or research, 56% participated in leadership and service opportunities and 32% participated in study/travel while at Converse. 42% are first-generation college students.

Before receiving their diplomas, the class received sage advice from commencement speaker and fellow Red Devil Candy Moore '93, senior vice president and community development manager for Wells Fargo. Moore encouraged them to begin forming a personal board of advisers to offer life advice and support. “The most influential women in the world have a board of advisers. . .you have to prepare to be great. . .you do not need to do it alone,” she said. Moore also challenged the Class of 2011 “not to take being knowledgeable, ambitious, attentive, creative, innovative, and interactive casually. More is expected of Converse women.”



(L to R) President Betsy Fleming and Candy Moore '93



The following awards were presented during the service:

- Elford C. Morgan Award for highest academic record in School of Humanities & Sciences – Gillian Gurish '11
- Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for Outstanding Citizenship – Madison Webb '11
- Kathyne Amelia Brown Award for excellence in teaching – Dr. Kevin DeLapp, assistant professor of philosophy
- Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award – Brent Glenn, associate professor of theatre
- Curriculum Innovation Award - Department of Religion & Philosophy





# A Pivotal Time

Driven by his desire to develop the strengths of others, Robert C. Stewart joined the senior management team this summer as vice president for institutional advancement, with a primary focus on building investment and partnerships that drive forward strategic goals of the College. “Bobby joins Converse at an exciting and pivotal time as we launch projects that will significantly distinguish student life, including a new first-year experience within historic housing facilities here on campus and an athletics master plan to grow our program offerings and expand facilities,” said Converse President Betsy Fleming.

Stewart, a native of Greenwood, SC, earned a BA from Wake Forest and a JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He joined Pfeiffer University in 2004 as assistant men’s basketball coach and assumed the role of director of athletics following the first season. He served as special assistant to the president before being appointed to lead the advancement division. At Pfeiffer, he developed a diverse staff into high-performing working groups, expanded investment in the institution, established innovative partnerships with

corporations, businesses and foundations and managed a portfolio of high-level donors. “I believe my greatest strengths lie in my ability to enhance team dynamics and effectiveness as well as to develop those around me to meet and exceed their potential,” Stewart said. “At my core I am a coach, and I spend every day of my life coaching others. My greatest successes are actually not my own but are the results of people I have been honored to mentor and help develop.”



The decision to join the Converse community felt right to Stewart for several reasons. “I am blessed to have had four tremendous women in my life who have shaped me into the person I am today, and all four of these women attended single-gender institutions – including one at Converse,” he said. “As I considered this opportunity I became increasingly excited about being part of an institution where the commitment to excellence is palpable. Converse is a place that exudes academic distinction, produces incredible student outcomes and has an extraordinary sense of community. Our nation has only a handful of institutions that really define people, and Converse is one of them.”

“Our nation has only a handful of institutions that really define people, and Converse is one of them.”

Stewart’s wife, LaClaire, is a native of Charleston and joined Greenville Hospital System as a pediatrician. “From a family perspective, it is wonderful to return to this area where my wife and I are near our families.” Stewart joins Converse alumna Cathy Inabnit ’68 in leading the advancement division. Inabnit has served as vice president for institutional advancement since 2007 and recently transitioned to associate vice president for development. She has successfully led efforts to raise nearly \$40 million in gifts and commitments and has significantly expanded leadership giving at Converse. Inabnit previously served as director of regional development at Georgia Tech, enjoying a 25-year career there before returning to her alma mater. “This transition is ideal in that Converse will be able to maximize the complementary strengths that Bobby and Cathy bring to our advancement division,” said Fleming. “Cathy has done a tremendous job of building relationships and expanding our base of leadership-level donors. As she turns her full focus to this area, Converse is well-positioned to meet our ambitious goals ahead.”



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Mr. and Mrs. John E. Trexler  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ussery  
(Josephine Carr '61)  
Annemarie Varin  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Whitefield  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Williams III  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Wood  
Dr. and Mrs. James L. Young, Jr.

NATALIE ROWLAND SEGARS '91  
Stacy Reese Milburn '91

LLOYD AND PAULINE SIGLER  
David L. Sigler

SUSAN FRANCE SPITLER '79  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. France

DR. JOHN W. STEVENSON  
Linda Ballard Johnson '65

HOLLY BENISEK SUCIC '93  
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Benisek

CARL SUNDSTROM  
Nancy Sundstrom Cobb '81

SARAH FEARNSIDE TANNER '68  
Ann Marshall Giese '68  
Elisabeth Lucas Marchant '68  
Caroline Cottingham Mitchell '68

VAUGHN HODNETT THOMAS '63  
Emily Kerr Stay '63

LOU BOMAR THOMSON '39  
Mr. and Mrs. MacFarlane L. Cates, Jr.  
Elizabeth Syfan Chapman '53  
James David Cobb  
Roberta T. Daniel '71  
Nancy Brown Foster Duke '55  
Fortnightly Flower Club  
Nancy Smith Gage '82  
Walton Vandiver Gregory  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas Hollis  
(Max Barnard '51)  
Elizabeth Harper Hopkins '49  
Virginia Manning Moses '44  
Robin Colyer New '75  
Marguerite Gignilliat Old '57  
Carolyn Duer Pennell '50  
Sally Gignilliat Stebbins '58  
The Thursday Study Club  
Mr. and Mrs. George C. Todd, Jr.  
Dr. Melissa A. Walker

DR. J. FRANK TOMS  
Dr. Judy Gordon Collier '67

JEAN SACKETT WARREN '48  
Terry P. Adams  
Katherine Watt Clark '78  
Grazier Connors Rhea '74  
Anne Roberts '75

PEGGY THACKSTON WHITE '51  
LeNoir White Medlock '90

WILLIS JOSEY WOODHAM, JR.  
Roberta T. Daniel '71  
Nancy Smith Gage '82  
Grazier Connors Rhea '74

CAROLYN STEPHANIE WORTH  
Karen E. Worth '77

RHITA BISSELL WRIGHTSON '86  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. F. Habisreutinger  
Edith S. Jones  
Jean F. Sydnor

MYRA FAUST WYMAN '32  
Katherine Loughrey Hasell '80

MARION JUSTICE YOUNG, JR.  
Elizabeth Harkins Biosca '64  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Rhea III  
(Grazier Connors '74)

## HONOR/MEMORIAL GIFTS

# ALUMNAE NEWS

## Alumnae Association President's Message

It is my pleasure to serve as your Alumnae Association President for the next two years (2011-2013). I am a proud 1989 graduate of Converse and a native of Bennettsville, SC, where I still work and reside. In this volunteer role I also have the privilege of representing you on the College's Board of Trustees as an ex-officio member, joining other alumnae, business leaders and friends of Converse.

Members of the Converse Alumnae Board, Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees cannot do their jobs of growing the Converse experience alone. We need and welcome your participation, ideas and support! Within our alumnae ranks are diverse areas of expertise based upon our varied fields of study as well as work and life experiences. Your knowledge and abilities are valuable resources for our College! You each represent the ideals that Converse College embodies and have much to offer as a role model for current and future students.

How can you help grow the experience? You can stay informed about what is taking place at Converse by visiting the campus and engaging in the excitement and energy that abounds. If you cannot visit in person, you can still keep up-to-date through the College's website ([www.converse.edu](http://www.converse.edu) - subscribe to RSS feeds for Converse news!), bimonthly alumnae e-mail newsletter (*View from the Tower* - if you aren't receiving it, send your e-mail address to [nancy.gage@converse.edu](mailto:nancy.gage@converse.edu)), the Alumnae Association Facebook page, and by following our Twitter feed @connie1889. Take advantage of the incredible array of cultural, social or athletic events both on campus and when Converse comes to your area. Consider serving as an alumnae mentor to a current student (email [nancy.gage@converse.edu](mailto:nancy.gage@converse.edu), if interested). Support our faculty and students by participating in our Annual Fund campaign every year ([www.converse.edu/give](http://www.converse.edu/give) - our new fiscal year began in July). And last but not least, please share what you know about Converse with fellow alumnae, prospective students and other friends of the College to help energize them as well.



Converse is truly on the move – building acclaim on a national level as the #1 Best Value in the South for 2011 by *U.S. News & World Report*, the #1 Master's University in South Carolina for research & service by *Washington Monthly*, and among the top 20% of colleges in the nation by *Forbes*. As alumnae, we should be very proud!

I look forward to seeing you at a Converse College function soon,

Elisabeth Kinney McNiel '89  
President

## Ginger Corbin Church '92 Named Director of Alumnae

Bringing with her a deep love of Converse and an infectious smile, Ginger Corbin Church '92 has been appointed director of alumnae. "In order for Converse to reach her full potential, the College must strengthen the alumnae community and increase alumnae participation. An alumnae director who can connect with alumnae of all generations and engage them in taking an active role in the College's mission will ensure success in these initiatives. Ginger Church is such a leader," said Bobby Stewart, vice president for institutional advancement.



Since graduating from Converse, Church has focused her career in the areas of human resources and fundraising. She has also been an active volunteer within the Spartanburg community through Oakbrook Preparatory School, the Girl Scouts and her church. "As a 1992 graduate of Converse, I proudly and enthusiastically represent the College," says

Church. "I look forward to helping alumnae connect with Converse through creative engagement opportunities and use of resources that enable them to easily interact with not only the College but other alumnae as well."

1. **What is your fondest memory of Converse?** One of my fondest memories of Converse is the extremely early and brisk morning students assembled on the front lawn to see the *Today Show's* Willard Scott! He was broadcasting live from Converse in celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> year!
2. **Describe the different ways alumnae can support Converse.** First, tell your Converse story to prospective students and recommend them to our Admission Office. Next, stay connected with Converse. Attend alumnae events, 'Like' the Converse College Alumnae Association on Facebook, join our LinkedIn group - Converse College Alumnae and Alumni Network, and follow us on Twitter @Connie1889. And, finally, support Converse with a financial gift to the Converse Annual Fund.
3. **Why is alumnae support so critical to the future of Converse?** Alumnae support is vital to ensuring a successful future for Converse, especially as we enter the next phase of our master housing plan. With our historic residence halls mostly in the same condition as they were 60 years ago, our housing is not competitive with what students see on other campuses. Our mission is to design an outstanding first year experience, and it begins with the renovation of our beloved Pell Hall. We need alumnae support to answer the call and secure Pell as a Converse treasure for the future.

# Travel with Converse

Please contact the Alumnae Office for more information or to reserve your spot today!



Travel Contact: Ginger Church '92, director of alumnae  
E-mail: [ginger.church@converse.edu](mailto:ginger.church@converse.edu)  
Phone: 864.596.9055



## Canadian Rockies by Train June 28–July 6, 2012

Relax and discover the delight of overnight training aboard VIA Rail's *The Canadian*. Enjoy first-class meals and awe-inspiring Canadian Rockies vistas during the day. Spend the night in the comfort of your own bed inside a private sleeping room that includes a private washroom. From the moment you board VIA Rail's *The Canadian*, you'll embrace the nostalgia of a golden era. Destinations include:

- **Vancouver, British Columbia:** A sightseeing tour of Vancouver begins at Stanley Park, Canada's renowned urban rainforest. Continue on to Chinatown, the city's waterfront, and Gastown, a turn-of-the-century center comprised of pubs, art galleries and the world-famous steam-powered clock.
- **Jasper, Alberta:** Whisk past the peaks of the Monashee Mountains and the stunning sight of Pyramid Falls cascading down Mt. Cheadle.
- **Jasper (Maligne Canyon):** Take in the dramatic Maligne Canyon is one of Jasper's most spectacular landmarks, and the backdrop of the sparkling waters of Maligne Lake.
- **Jasper (Ice fields Parkway/Lake Louise):** Waterfalls, imposing cliffs and snowcapped peaks paint the breathtaking canvas – so have your camera handy! Enjoy a stay at the world-famous The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.
- **Banff:** En route to Banff, view the spectacular Moraine Lake and the awe-inspiring Valley of the Ten Peaks. Arrive at the grand The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, known as the "Castle in the Mountains," for a luxurious two night stay.
- **Calgary:** Leave the wonders of the Rockies for the prairies of Alberta en route to the Kananaskis Valley, and relish a visit to a local ranch and traditional Albertan barbecue.



Approximately \$4,699 per person, based on double occupancy, includes round trip airfare from Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

## Betsy Crane Griffith '72 Appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees

This fall, Converse welcomed a new chair of the Board of Trustees, Betsy Crane Griffith '72. In her position, Griffith will focus on growing alumnae engagement and deepening alumnae involvement with and investment in the College. "It is exciting to have the honor of chairing the Board of Trustees during such a dynamic and pivotal point in the life of my alma mater," said Griffith. "The Board is committed to building on the incredible energy that has heightened at Converse over the past few years. The momentum continues as we look to renovate Pell and Dexter and implement a First-Year Experience that distinguishes Converse even further. We need every member of the Converse community to join in making this happen!"

An inspiring business woman, Griffith served as the keynote speaker during Converse's 2004 Founder's Day program. In 2006, she retired as Executive Director for Morgan Stanley, a New York-based global investment bank. Griffith lives in Princeton, New Jersey, with her husband, John, and son, Hunt. She enjoys gardening, cooking and serving on The Garden Club of Princeton Executive Board. Griffith has also worked with Princeton University and Princeton Day School in a collaborative effort entitled "Women in Leadership," a course developed to guide young women's outlook on their future careers.



ALUMNAE NEWS



# Reunion Weekend 2011





ALUMNAE NEWS

# Remember when... there was the Crow's Nest

This pavilion was a gift of the Class of 1914 and became the traditional site of the senior class-day program during commencement events. After their last chapel, the senior class would proceed in cap and gown to the Crow's Nest and present a program for the student body. This pavilion was located approximately where the Gwathmey Wing of the Library sits today.



## How to get your news in Life Events and Class Notes

Send your news to the Class Representative(s) listed with your class. If your class has no representative listed, send news to the Alumnae Office, 580 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC, 29302 (nancy.gage@converse.edu).

Class Representatives may submit notes for every issue of the magazine. Class Notes includes information submitted to the Alumnae Office by June 30, 2011.

Class Representatives are volunteers elected by their class and are responsible for the accuracy of their Life Events and Class Notes.

Make sure we have your correct E-mail address! Please send E-mail addresses to: nancy.gage@converse.edu.

 Class representative

# 30's

IN MEMORIAM

Nell Scruggs Reid '30, May 9, 2011  
Elizabeth Johnson Campbell '31, July 6, 2011  
Lillian Bowron Streit Brewer '31, December 18, 2010  
Allene Gaston Salley '33, July 27, 2011  
Mary Lib Davenport Vaughn '35, June 4, 2011  
Laura O'Neal Mauldin '35, February 12, 2011  
Lucile McCuen Haynie '36, January 30, 2011  
Eleanor Thomson Roy '36, January 17, 2011  
Virginia Howard McGahey '37, March 29, 2011  
Catherine Marshall McClintock King '37,  
March 16, 2010  
Irene Weston Croft '38, March 28, 2011  
Lou Bomar Thomson '39, March 22, 2011  
Hazel Massie Choate '39, May 24, 2011

We sent you an e-mail,  
but it bounced back!

If you are not receiving e-mails from Converse about activities and events in your area, please update your information:

E-mail your information to [nancy.gage@converse.edu](mailto:nancy.gage@converse.edu)

Go online to [converse.edu/alumnae](http://converse.edu/alumnae) and click on "Keep Us Current"

Don't wait—stay connected to Converse today!

## Remember when...1937



CLASS NOTES

# 40'S

## IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Howard Sitterson '40, November 29, 2010  
Helen Purdie Clark Jackson '41, March 23, 2011  
Pauline Douglas Siceloff '41, December 4, 2010  
Eleanor Gellert Cowell '41, January 9, 2011  
Elena Irish Zimmerman '42 MMus '43, January 4, 2011

Laura McCants Dana '42, February 28, 2011  
Elizabeth Yates Chalmers '42, April 9, 2011  
Mildred Willson Burnett '43, April 21, 2011  
Vivian Workman Huggins '43, July 1, 2011  
Josephine H. Cureton '45, November 7, 2010  
Maude Ogburn Hudson Henderson '45, April 11, 2011

Janet Scott Heinbokel '45, March 23, 2011  
Anna Hart Cheatham '46, January 15, 2011  
Sarah Fant Jones '46, March 26, 2011  
Louise Landstreet Alexander '46, February 15, 2009

Harvey Newsom Harrelson '46, March 31, 2011  
Mary Elizabeth O'Sullivan '46, February 9, 2011  
Josephine Stock Baumer '46, December 7, 2010  
Ida "Holly" Hollingsworth Lucas '47, February 12, 2011

Jean Roddey Early '47, April 14, 2011  
Lois Robbins Cole '48, January 20, 2011  
Vivienne Roser Hammond '48, June 17, 2011  
Martha Claire Harper '49, April 8, 2011  
Martha Rainsford Reiser '49, February 1, 2011  
Mary Jo Turner Stone '49, April 23, 2011

## SYMPATHY

Harriett Easterby Faris '40 on the death of her husband, John Paschal Faris, Sr., May 4, 2011  
Helen Gellert Gary '44 on the death of her sister, Eleanor Gellert Cowell '41, January 9, 2011  
Jean Hooper Crook '44 on the death of her husband, James R. Crook, February 9, 2011  
Bessie Rice Ball '44 on the death of her sister, Sadie Rice Maynard, February 8, 2011

Pauline Thomson Rice '46 on the death of her sister, Eleanor Thomson Roy '36, January 17, 2011

Elinor Ragsdale Wylie '47 on the death of her sister, Virginia Ragsdale Stevenson, April 25, 2011

Eunice Rice Horton '47 on the death of her husband, J. Wright Horton, July 20, 2011  
Geraldine Roser Crenshaw '47 on the death of her sister, Vivienne Roser Hammond '48, June 17, 2011

Emily Russell Clark '47 on the death of her husband, Charles Clark, March 6, 2011

## MARRIAGE

Ida Jo Graham Allegood '48 to Thomas N. Lewis, January 2, 2011

## CLASS OF 1943

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Barbara Brown Lee  
706 N Summit Crest Court  
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864.582.4668

## CLASS OF 1945

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Mary Fabisinski Roberts  
1506 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Way  
Gainesville, FL 32605, 352.376.7175

® Margaret Fulton Walker  
208 Crest Drive  
Mt. Olive, NC 28365, 919.658.2167  
mfultonwalker@bellsouth.net

## CLASS OF 1946

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Mary Helen Garrison Dalton  
3064 Ridgewood Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327, 404.355.0434  
mhdalton7@aol.com

## CLASS OF 1947

65<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Mary Young Cousar  
4615 Arlon Lane  
Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904.387.1793  
cousarj@bellsouth.net



## CLASS OF 1948

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Eleanor "Skippy" Herbert Hale  
5171 Yacht Club Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904.387.9592  
skippyhale@gmail.com

® Alice Mobley Lipscombe  
107 Conyers Street  
Sumter, SC 29150, 803.773.8265  
elipscombe@sc.rr.com

Skippy Hale caught up with Dorothy Wright Creal. She hadn't talked to her since we graduated in 1948. She is living in Toronto, Canada, and has three daughters living there. One is a Crown attorney ("vedy" British) specializing in murder cases. A granddaughter is teaching in China. She was preparing her apartment for sale before moving into a retirement home there. She enjoys duplicate bridge. Eva McBride Curry lives in Tallahassee, FL where she is a retired state social worker and the mother of five children. She enjoys the Senior Center there where she engages in tai chi, line dancing and watercolor painting. Virginia Ellison Evans lives in Cameron, SC and has four children, sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. All were together at Christmas making for a raucous, fun time. Her son has taken over her husband's construction company since his death in May. Robin Robins Watson, having had the youngest child in our class, lays claim to the youngest grandchildren aged six, four and eight

months, children of Eloise, her Gyn/OB daughter. Robin and Billy will be moving into a retirement home near Raleigh, NC. Peggy Gay Simmons has two children in Atlanta, GA. Gay is still very active in Converse alumni affairs, and her son is a preacher. Her other son is a doctor in LaGrange, GA. Carolyn Isbell Henderson is enjoying living in a retirement home in Macon, GA. More and more of us seem to be doing this. Skippy can't bear the idea of moving, or she might be looking at retirement homes herself. Izzy enjoys duplicate bridge. Skippy also play duplicate. Dottie, Izzy and Skippy need a fourth.....any takers? Skippy is starting a drawing class next week.

## CLASS OF 1949

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Kitty Peeler Carson  
401 Springdale Drive  
Union, SC 29379, 864.427.3353  
ladykc@bellsouth.net

I was delighted to hear from Rella Anderson Carp's daughter Sharon who reports that Rella is living at Greenbrier Meadows, an assisted living facility in Martin, TN. There she is active at church and attends many concerts around the community. Children David and Sandy in Texas are proud of daughter Charlotte getting a PhD at TCU and son Chris serving as an Air Force pilot. Daughter Susan is now retired from teaching and living in the Martin family home. Sharon's family lives in Columbia, SC, where son Will finished high school this year. He plans to major in violin and math. Donald, Janie and two-year-old Gioia are in Jackson, TN, close enough to Rella to keep her delighted in family. I received word from Ed Gore, husband of Jean Dodge Gore, that Jean has fond memories of her Converse years, where she is also in assisted living in St. Louis, Mo. It was a happy time at reunion 2011 in April when Lib Harper Hopkins of Tampa, Mary Johnson Nanney Brady and Marianne Ellison Bartram, both of Spartanburg, joined me for Golden Club Luncheon and Alumnae Board meetings. We do hope more of you find it possible to get together for 2012 reunion whether it is our reunioneing year or not, as time waits for no one. Would be so good to see you—you would be so delighted with the campus. I thank each of you, from the bottom of my heart, for the donations you have given to the 2011 Annual Fund. I am still so elated when we won that award our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion year that it makes me strive for a repeat performance. Please remember that our class numbers are small and it takes fewer gifts to increase our percentage. Please give each year—as little as a \$5 gift would count percentage wise and that is what grant awardees look for when assigning their awards. Please, send me news for the next magazine. It will only cost you the price of a stamp, brief phone call, or quick email to give priceless pleasure to your old buddies.

# 50's

## IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Smart Brock '51, November 11, 2010  
 Eunice Sullivan Pracht '51, June 6, 2011  
 Martha Jordan Fields '52, June 9, 2011  
 Frances Marston Duke '52, July 19, 2011  
 Joan Hope Ewers Greene '53, February 14, 2011  
 Jane Winn Pollitzer '53, May 7, 2011  
 Tommie Goff Maxwell '55, December 31, 2010  
 Lynne Griffith Bowen '55, April 9, 2011  
 Rosie Wilson Lawing '55, April 9, 2011  
 Ellie O'Shields Ross '56, February 22, 2011  
 Shelia Mayberry Thompson Stroud '58,  
 November 7, 2010

## SYMPATHY

Nancy Reep Tait '50 on the death of her husband,  
 C. Downing Tait, Jr., April 20, 2011  
 Polly Hill Woodham '51 on the death of her son,  
 Willis Josey Woodham, Jr., June 25, 2011

## CLASS OF 1950

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

## CLASS OF 1951

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

At the 2011 reunion in April, the Class of 1951 was represented by Polly Hill Woodham, Ann McCaskill Leonard, Carolyn Byrd Tipton and Nancy Ouzts Demo.

## CLASS OF 1952

60<sup>th</sup> Reunion - April 27-28, 2012

® Suzanne Earnhardt Smith

370 Montgomery Drive  
 Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.582.2415  
 sesmas@charter.net



Make plans now to join the Class of 1952 for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion on the Converse campus on April 27-28, 2012.

## CLASS OF 1953

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Marilyn Mateer Sherrill

114 Briarwood Court  
 Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.583.8066

## CLASS OF 1954

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Bet Shepherd Ancrum

35 Honeysuckle Woods  
 Lake Wylie, SC 29710, 803.831.0205  
 bancrum@bellsouth.net

® Margaret Jackson Bundy

518 Briarwood Road  
 Lancaster, SC 29720, 803.285.6002  
 mjbundy@comporium.net

® Ann Douglass Nichols

205 Birchwood Drive  
 Union, SC 29379, 864.427.3647



In summer '11 news, **Tut Ouzts Cobb** rented a huge house at Pawley's so that she could invite all four children and their spouses and all ten grandchildren, plus *their* spouse and/or dates. If they all showed up (there was no report on that at press time), her "Full House" would beat any poker hand anywhere. **Mary Joe Erwin Worth** called in June, and it turns out she has slowed down a little but is still working. Tom has "retired" but is always busy on some project or another, and she loves the real estate business so much that she just won't quit—guess she's one of the class Energizer Bunnies. Who else among you fits that description? Write and tell us so we can brag on you to everyone else.

## CLASS OF 1955

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Jo Ann Guyton Davison

1722 Peggio Lane #1  
 Missoula, MT 59802, 406.829.6376

I'm writing these notes while I volunteer at Traveler's Rest in Lolo, MT. This is where Lewis and Clark camped in 1805 and 1806, the only archaeologically verified campsite of their cross-country trek. **Julia Blair Brenaman's** long ordeal is finally coming to a happy ending. She broke her leg before Christmas 2009 and spent several months in the hospital. Early last November, while awaiting an operation to make it possible to walk, she developed a severe infection that sent her to the hospital again for several months. This spring she was able to have the operation and finally discharged from the hospital on May 4. At home now, she can put her left foot flat on the floor for the first time in years, and she is practicing walking. Remember **Elizabeth Getaz Whitener** ("Ibby") who transferred to Duke University after our freshman year? She writes from "The Pines at Davidson," a retirement community in Davidson, NC, that after graduating from Duke in 1955 she taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Winston-Salem, NC for a year before marrying Dr. Donald Whitener, an obstetrician-gynecologist, in June 1956.

She had two daughters: Ellen Marie Whitener, PhD, a professor at University of Virginia (who died tragically) and Elizabeth Graham Goode, an attorney in Charlotte, NC. Ibby has two grandchildren. She says she enjoyed her year at Converse and now enjoys auditing classes at Salem College and Davidson College. In September, I plan to meet **Mary Brobston Cleverdon** and John in Glacier, where they will detrain from the "Empire Builder" on their way to Portland to visit their daughter. Two days later, they will resume their epic train journey.

## CLASS OF 1956

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Ann Hudgens Karegeannes

137 Mabry Drive  
 Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864.579.3801  
 karja56@aol.com

® Pegilie Price Walter

616 Wotan Road  
 Columbia, SC 29229, 803.419.0986  
 walter@umcsc.org

April 2011 was a good month for the Class of 1956 as twelve of our classmates gathered at Converse for our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. In attendance were **Carolyn Belcher Hansard, Carolyn Byers Brockwell, Pat Vines Darnell, Maggy Combs Holland, Tolly Gilmer Shelton, Ann Hudgens Karegeannes, Ellen McLaughlin Rose, Pegilie Price Walter, B.J. Woodward Grant, Margo Hester Roff, Nancy Weld Wise and Jane Bolding Crook**. It was a great weekend of remembrance and renewal as we shared aspects of our lives and our memories of you who were not with us. We remembered six of our deceased members at a Saturday memorial service. It was exciting to celebrate with Carolyn Hansard and her family as she received the Career Achievement in Music Award at the Awards Luncheon. She has a scholarship in Music Education named for her, which was established by her former students. During our time on campus, we were treated to

(Continued)

## CLASS NOTES

# 50's

(Continued)

information sharing sessions from President Betsy about building renovations in Pell and Dexter in order to attract freshmen as well as improvements in other buildings. We came away with a renewed optimism about Converse's future. Many of you are still travelers with your families and friends as you explore new places both here and abroad. Tolly says she is renewing her interest in genealogy because of her mother's commitment to it. We were a reasonably healthy group that gathered in April. We wish good health to all of you in the "Class that Outrates Them All." Stay in touch.

## CLASS OF 1957

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Marguerite Gignilliat Old

314 Jackson Avenue

Lexington, VA 24450, 540.463.5436



Make plans now to join the Class of 1957 for our 55th reunion on the Converse campus on April 27-28, 2012.

## CLASS OF 1958

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Elaine Finklea Folline

740 Kilbourne Road

Columbia, SC 29205, 803.254.9503

® Nancy Hayes Wilkerson

2122 Norton Road

Charlotte, NC 28207, 704.376.4776

nwilkerson@bellsouth.net

When Elaine called, Clare Hull Harvey was getting ready to leave with a friend to go to her Alabama lake house—just 45 minutes from Rome, GA. Clare has retired from teaching, having begun with second grade, then first grade, then kindergarten. Two of her sons have five Subway restaurants in Rome, and one is a veterinarian. Frances Hasell

LaBord (Shinger's) daughter Laurens is newly eligible for national competition in dressage, and Shinger's son Jean and his wife drove her to Camden a couple of weeks ago to watch Laurens' ride. Laurens' daughter Rhett just graduated from Ashley Hall, and Daisy Barron Leland sent Shinger several wonderful pictures from graduation, as Daisy used to teach there. Shinger's daughter Eleanor and her husband have a precious year-old daughter all living in Savannah, with weekends in Yemassee to enjoy the creeks. Shinger says her life is very peaceful now, and she plans her days to be available when anyone calls for help—but she takes a minute to muster up the energy. Betty Anne Nelson Richardson's three children gave her a birthday party at Pawley's this summer. With her daughters Anne Richardson Seabrook '82 and Deans Richardson Fawcett '85, there are four grandchildren going to Wofford. Grandson Richard just returned from New Zealand where he was in college when the terrible earthquake happened. A classmate's family took him in until another college accepted the exchange students. Congratulations to Janet Joyner! Her poem "Cassandra" won the Dubose and Dorothy Heyward Prize of the South Carolina Poetry Society and "Miss Rosalee" won second place in the Gladys Owings Hughes Heritage Free Verse competition of the NC Poetry Council. Both will be published in the yearbook, or magazine, or each society.

## CLASS OF 1959

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® Harriet "Sister" Marshall Goode

131 East Main Street

Rock Hill, SC 29730, 803.327.4746

goodeharrietm@comporium.net

® Mary Jane Pearce Holland

814 Greenway Drive

Florence, SC 29501, 843.665.2003

mjh@sc.rr.com



Jean Watkins Bay teaches English as a second language to immigrant students and will visit family and Converse buddies, Ann Ledbetter Chamblee and Jenny O'Steen Pusser. Carolyn Swain Rice and George are still providing insurance solutions for senior citizens. They are going to Costa Rica to visit their missionary daughter Nancy Dickerson. Carolyn Turner Kelly spoke with Mary Jane Pearce Holland who is recovering from a stroke. Carolyn said Mary Jane still struggles with words but is progressing nicely. Marigene Player Simmons goes to her cabin on Lake Murray and visited Tag Siddall Johnson at Lake Lure. Ann Ledbetter Chamblee is battling multiple myeloma after a nine year remission but her treatments are going well. Sally Mason Maynard and Gary spend a lot of time at DeBordieu in the spring, the best time at the beach! Angela McKinnon Hammond went to Cape Cod where she took pictures for reference when she returns home and gets out her watercolors. Sallie Murphey McCutchen's daughter Sallie McCutchen Free '87, who lives on John's Island, met Daisy Barron Leland's '57 daughter, Libby Leland Puckette '86 at church. Donna Kinser Jones had a great tour of the Scandinavian countries with the "Road Scholar" group. Winnie Harris Hobron stays in touch with Roberta Thomas Smith. Ruth Junker Mitchell chaired a benefit concert, "A Special Evening With Condoleezza Rice" at the Kennedy Presidential Library, featuring Dr. Rice on piano and Michael Reynolds, on cello. Rosann Ferguson Hooks went with the Benevolent Missions International Eye Care Team to American Samoa for the third time, and her daughter went with her this time. Sister Marshall Goode still paints every day.



# 60's

## IN MEMORIAM

**Arah Nan Brown** '62, January 29, 2010  
**Ann Farmer Lascell** '63, June 16, 2011  
**Sara Jeffries Spear** '63, July 11, 2011  
**Rena Noel Everett** '64, July 20, 2011  
**Sally Riddle Carter** '64, December 22, 2010  
**Susan Hope Jordan** '65, February 2, 2011  
**Barbara Smalley Gay Wingo** '68, January 5, 2011

## SYMPATHY

**Jo Ann Goff Adams** '60 on the death of her sister, Tommie Goff Maxwell, December 31, 2010  
**Cherie Lewis Linko** '61 on the death of her husband, Stephen E. Linko, March 14, 2011  
**Mary Ada Ruff Poole** '61 on the death of her sister, Frances Rachel Ruff, May 12, 2011  
**Sissie Brown Aderton** '63 on the death of her husband, Mack Aderton, April 27, 2011  
**Elaine Smith Thompson Hrazdil** '63 on the death of her son, Craig Brewster Thompson, March 18, 2011  
**Lyn Roy Douglas** '64 on the death of her mother, Eleanor Thomson Roy '36, January 17, 2011  
**Nancy Greenwood Riddle** '66 on the death of her husband, James Irvin Riddle III, April 19, 2011  
**Kathleen Hatcher Cook** '66 on the death of her brother, Milford B. Hatcher, Jr., May 13, 2011  
**Catherine Roy Stone** '66 on the death of her mother, Eleanor Thomson Roy '36, January 17, 2011  
**Louise Vaughn Vallotton** '66 on the death of her mother, Mary Lib Davenport Vaughn '35, June 4, 2011  
**Elisa DesPortes Wheeler** '68 on the death of her father, Fay Allen DesPortes, May 16, 2010  
**Margaret Duggan** '69 on the death of her mother, Mabel Rogers Duggan, August 20, 2009

## MARRIAGE

**Penelope South Kosztlynik** '61 to Joe Strother Ham, March 5, 2011

## CAREER CHANGE

**Caroline Grimball** '68, Benefits Counselor, Colonial Life Insurance Company, Columbia, SC

## CLASS OF 1960

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

📍 **Donna Culbertson Fritz**  
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Hello to all you “golden girls,” can't believe it has been over 51 years since we graduated! Hope everyone is well and enjoying life with family and friends. I received a nice note from **Virginia Dyson Hooper**; she and husband Sam were in Lake Lure, NC for a reunion of Beta Theta Pi

Fraternity from Duke and had a wonderful time. Now they are planning a trip to San Antonio for Sam's Air Force reunion. **Betty Ann Land Hughes** will also be there and then plans to visit her Converse roommate **Kay Kuykendall Scott** while she is in Texas. Virginia's “baby son” at 43 married for the first time in April; she said it was beautiful with tiki torches, and south sea island décor, not traditional, but lots of fun! It is good news to hear that Virginia is doing great and her health continues to improve. **Carole Jones**' grandson Dustin Johnson continues to do well on the PGA Tour; since joining in 2007 after graduating from Coastal Carolina, he has won four tournaments. Congratulations to **Pat Slemmons Dillard**; her son-in-law Trey Gowdy was elected to the US Congress this past November. Max and I see **Jackie Hackler Hollis** and her husband Richard often. It is great having them back in Spartanburg. Jackie does a lot of volunteer work at the Church of the Advent and enjoys taking art lessons. She has some beautiful paintings. I continue to work at Wakefield's and enjoy my volunteering; I serve on the Foundation Board of the Charles Lea Center and am president of the board of directors of the Bethlehem Center. Both make me realize how blessed we are. Please let me hear from you; this is a wonderful way to keep in touch.

## CLASS OF 1961

Next Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

📍 **Betsy Blythe Frazer**  
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📍 **Frances Taylor Meissner**  
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Twenty-two sprightly members of the “Grand Old Class,” clad in caps and gowns, led the processional into Twichell to start Reunion Weekend last April. We were joined by others for a grand 27 classmates who celebrated all or part of our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on campus. Nine brave husbands attended. We were inducted into the “Golden Girls” and wined and dined at President Fleming's house (formerly known as the Carmichaels). It was great fun reminiscing and seeing old friends, some after many years. Those who attended were **Sylvia Harley Arant, LaClaire Williams Laffitte, Mary Elizabeth Spoon Murdaugh, Sara Bookhart Delapp, Betty Lake Orr, Margaret Griffin Burch** and Leland, **Frances Taylor Meissner** and Chuck, **Irene Page Craig, Donna Sherman Sanders** and Fred, **Mitzie Shomo Emory** and Bob, **Laura Simpkins Stock, Marietta Williams Gordon, Louise Earle Oxner** and Dewey, **Sally Watkins Marshall** and Allen, **Lorraine Mahaffey Waterfall, Betsy Blythe Frazer, Sydney Herlong Johnson, Elsie Whetsell Stevens** and Bob, **Alice Haskell Sanders, Jane Harper, Mary Beirne Kerr Nutt** and Bob, **Linda Page Hudgins, Jo Carr Userry, Leonette Dedmond Neal, Suzie Gasque McIntyre, Sara Kirkland Purcell** and Jim and **Martha Brockinton Roberts**. Martha, “Miss April” in her retirement community calendar, is pictured immersed in a bubble bath with rubber ducky in hand! Linda went to Botswana with the Peace Corps to teach art in 1992, and subsequently taught English in China. Jane (“Jensy”) graduated from UNC Law School at 40, practiced law, and was a district court judge for 16 years. **Susan Hawkins Bruns** has moved to Murrell's Inlet, SC. **Mary Schuyler Campbell** still breeds her Pekingese. Her 7-year-old champion Penelope won Best of Opposite Sex at the Westminster Kennel Club Show 2011.



Class of 1961

(Continued)

## CLASS NOTES

# 60's

## CLASS OF 1962

50<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

📍 **Dixie Crum Stone**

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Our classmate, **Jolene Willard Bryant**, taught for 35 years in Spartanburg, but has now retired, as has her husband, Jerry. After her retirement, Jolene worked at Converse for five years as a supervisor of student teachers. Their daughter, Laura Palmer, is an assistant principal at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy at Spartanburg High School. Laura is working toward her PhD and superintendent certification. Grandson Austen Palmer is a senior in high school and he is the drum major for the Spartanburg High School Viking marching band. **Patsy Davis Nates** and her husband Jim welcome his youngest daughter and her husband as they return to South Carolina after three years of mission work in Senegal, West Africa. The young couple will be in the states for a year, raising support so they can return to Africa. While they are here, their large blended family is happy to have them back in the states. Also, Patsy enjoys serving on committees at her church and she is on the Board of Directors of "Light the Way," an organization that helps the homeless. **Anne Gilliam Carroll's** husband Don has been an Honorary Counsel for Finland for several years. They have been to Finland on business on several occasions. This past March, Don was knighted by the Ambassador of Finland and received The First Order of the Lion. It was presented to him in Baltimore, MD. Anne continues to be a Docent at The Baltimore Museum of Art. This museum has the largest collection of Matisse in the world. Anne and Don also have a beach house in Delaware and spend their summers at the beach.

## CLASS OF 1963

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

📍 **Lou Hoffler Bright**

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📍 **Betty Moore Henderson**

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📍 **Emily Kerr Stay**

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Novelty, OH 44072  
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Some of us travel—**Sylvia Crouch** to Africa; **Nancy Brown Davis** to Germany, Israel and Jamaica; **Lish Early Willey** to Bhutan, Nepal and India; **Carlisle Caughman Harvard** to Turkey; **Cecil Lewis Caldwell** to Alaska, Mexico and Belize; **Peggy Rainwater** to Kenya and Vietnam; and **Agnes Binder Weisiger** around the entire world. Others of us work. **Jane Gibson Brown** is Director of Technical Writing at NC A&T State University in Greensboro. **Hattie Liddon Andersen** teaches music in Denmark, but plans to retire soon. (Hattie would love to join some classmates in making beautiful piano music at our 2013 reunion.) **Jane Parks Knight** retired from teaching recently. **Betty Reynolds Oare** judges horse shows coast to coast. **Nell Higdon Hudson** runs her pediatrician husband's office. **Dorris Callicott Douglass** heads the Special Collections Department of the library in Franklin, TN. Peggy Rainwater's husband e-mails that she's home from six weeks in a Washington, DC, hospital, recovering from pancreatic surgeries. We hear about some of us indirectly through the grapevine. **Susan Yeomans Good** e-mails from Charleston, SC that she hears from **Ida Walker Cranz** and **Jenna Ward Curtis**. Hattie Andersen and Nell Hudson saw **Bowie Swetenburg Frazer** a while back and report that Bowie is still the graceful lady we loved at Converse. Cecil Caldwell reported on a visit with **Genevieve Steele Cummings** and **Lyn Sauter Little** last summer. **Charlotte Savitz Ciraulo** loves living the West Coast life in Los Angeles. **Sallie Huckel Baker** is running out of wall space for all the paintings she's producing. **Mary Win Corcoran Watson** and **Anne Waters Green** love those little grandchildren. And, **Gibbie Scott Walters** declares that she has absolutely nothing to report!

## CLASS OF 1964

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

📍 **Liz Harkins Biosca**

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📍 **Sarah Miller McDaniel**

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**Sarah McDaniel's** son Hugh was married in May at Grace Chapel on Wadmalaw Island, SC. **Liz Biosca** has a new grandbaby, Mary Grace born in June. **Martha Ann Paden Arnold** and Harold live in Charleston, SC where their two children work with Harold. They and two grandchildren enjoy their house at Pawley's. **Maudie Patton Cantrell** and her husband are building a house near Lake James. They are in Charlotte, NC near two married sons and three grands who keep her busy along with DAR, bridge and church. She enjoys seeing **Vickie Talley Eubank**. **Charlotte Boone Halicioglu** and her husband recently

moved to San Diego, CA to be closer to their sons. She and Timur are both retired—he from research at NASA Ames and Stanford and Charlotte from editing a newsletter for the Electric Power Research Institute. **Ellen Bryant Voigt** says that any of you basketball fans who follow the NBA may know about its Development League. The *Bakersfield (CA) Jam*, affiliated with the *Lakers* and the *Clippers*, is coached by her 34-year-old son, Will. **Malinda Willard** retired from North Greenville University as Professor of English but is teaching part-time on an adjunct basis. She previously served as director of the Converse II program. **Pat Crow Bartee** and husband Bill are both retired and live in Atlanta, GA and have two daughters. **Pat Crosby Helwig** and husband Grif live in Jacksonville where Pat still teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade English. They have two children and two grandchildren. Send News!

## CLASS OF 1965

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

📍 **Peggy Clotfelter Allen**

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Athens, GA 31606, 706.546.9960  
margaallen@charter.net

📍 **Anne Coffey**

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Greensboro, NC 27455  
annecoffey2@aol.com

**Betty Rose Townsend Sexton** and Tim have a new grandson, Langdon, born in February in Richmond, VA. They are helping by babysitting older brother Townsend. **Ann Trammell Holmes** is now awaiting the birth of the tenth grandchild! What a fabulous life she and Michael have. **Marion Rivers Cato** sends news from the Cato Ranch, Sheridan, WY. Having spent the past six months in Charleston, SC, she and Wayland are now enjoying their cattle ranch until the end of the year. They were in Charleston long enough to enjoy Spoleto and see Spoleto board member **Susu Phifer Johnson** and husband George. Marion reports she drives to the ranch each year by a different route enjoying our country along with her Miniature Schnauzer and a friend for company. This year the route took her by Cincinnati and **Missy Keller Hatt's** and husband Earl's home. Missy has retired from teaching and she and Earl enjoy wonderful trips, their historic district home and beautiful garden. Marion writes Missy looks wonderful and is still a magnificent cook! **Anne Coffey's** family is looking forward to celebrating her twin granddaughter's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Magic Kingdom! It will be hot but oh so much family fun! Please do not forget to contribute to the Annual Fund drive. Our monetary support is of great importance in continuing the college life we so treasured for future students.



## CLASS OF 1966

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

® **Mildred Gee Akers**

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® **Linda Whitnel Crimm**

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Attending our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion in April was a very pleasant experience. **Mildred Gee Akers, Gay Cooper Nightingale** and **Linda Whitnel Crimm** drove up from Jacksonville, FL in time to attend Founder's Day on Friday morning. It was truly exciting to be back on campus. We checked out Wilson parlors, the renovated Montgomery and the beautiful Phifer Science Hall. Classmates started arriving for the cocktail party/BBQ supper Friday evening. On Saturday morning during breakfast with President Fleming, we heard about the plans to restore Pell and Dexter exteriors, and to renovate the interiors, as well as saw sketches of new apartment housing, which we later were to tour. At our class meeting in Kuhn, we gathered our chairs in a circle so we could catch up on each other's lives, which was a highlight of the weekend. **Jean Thomas Russ** and **Mardee Goettee Brooks** attended from Atlanta, GA and **Ann Loving Hunter** came from Goldsboro, NC. **Margaret Hines Fisher** drove from Gastonia, NC and **Milner Smith Phillips** came from Birmingham, AL. **Jane Pitts Autrey** arrived from Charlotte, NC and **Anne Henry Stover** from Greenville, SC. **Carol Geyer Furtwangler** drove up from Charleston, SC, and **Dianne Kennedy McLees** came down from Tryon, NC. **Katharine Stephens Slemenda** joined us from Spartanburg. Our weekend concluded with a dinner at the Pinecrest Inn in Tryon Saturday night. **Happy Green McLeod** drove down from Tryon, NC to escort our caravan up to the inn. We missed all of you who were not able to attend. There were

lots of funny dorm reminiscences and memories shared about our lives while at Converse. Please put our e-mail addresses in your computer address book and let us hear about you and your family. We promise to share your original thoughts; otherwise, we will have to resort to fiction.

## CLASS OF 1967

45<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® **Margot McCord Campbell**

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**Nell Stevenson Chastain** has a new grandson named Cooper. **Judy Carter** is retired and in Western North Carolina. She continues to enjoy her horses and has the youngest one in training to start showing this summer. **Robbie King Staubes'** adopted daughter (granddaughter) Hope has had a great year in first grade. **Brooks Sanders Hamilton's** son got married this past April. The most meaningful pastime for her is counseling at Salem Pregnancy Care Center. **Ann Armour McCoy** is busy caring for her 95-year-old aunt, working in her yard and volunteering at the hospital and library. She took a month long trip this fall to Greece and the Mediterranean. **Kay Wyatt Cheves'** daughter was married May 14 at Amelia Island, FL. **Cassandra Jones Husted** enjoyed a two-week trip to Jakarta and Bali, Indonesia with her husband Bob last summer. They enjoyed visiting their son and his lovely family, which includes two grandchildren. **Anne Jones Holloway** continues to live outside of Fredericksburg on a lovely historic farm. **Jannell Kirkland Hicks** transferred to University of Louisville to obtain a BS in Dental Hygiene. In 1986, she completed her Master's degree in Health Services Administration (MHSA). This year she was appointed a member of the MUSC, College of Health Professions, Alumni Advisory Board. **Lucia Cleveland Johnson** reports this spring has been full of Etiquette—she did a formal dinner for juniors and seniors at Converse along with a presentation on

job-hunting.

## CLASS OF 1968

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

® **Carol Early Graham**

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® **Caroline Gordon Grimball**

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® **Barbara Baker Kennedy**

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® **Ann Wallace Nichols**

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**Ann Keller Dukes** writes from Chattanooga, TN that on April 27, 2011, a series of tornadoes swept through the Tennessee area and many people lost everything. All she lost were trees, but in the clean up, she fell and broke her right arm/wrist. It was a bad break that required surgery and inserting a plate, but the healing is going well. **Mary Calton** is spending a lot of time with her daughter, Maria and granddaughter, Sophia. She and Don just returned from a month long vacation out west. She said that they spent more on dinner each night than on the motel room but found the Pacific Northwest a truly "magical place" especially when they splurged in Seattle and Portland. **Ann Wallace Nichols** and her architect husband, Nick, will officially retire to Brevard, NC this summer since they were able to sell their condominium in Atlanta, GA. They have just returned from a three week trip to Italy where Ann reported that Nick spent most of the time designing their "dream" mountain house on napkins. **Caroline Grimball** reports that passing the SC Insurance Exam was "stressful" but is enjoying the opportunity to meet people and help them with their supplemental insurance needs in her new job at Colonial Life Insurance.



## CLASS OF 1969

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

® **Cathy Riley Howle**

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® **Ashley Fine Nagle**

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® **Cissy P. Smith**

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Atlanta, GA 30327, 404.352.5249  
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This year proves to be a busy one for us all. **Nancy**

(Continued)

# 60's

(Continued)

**Joiner Hiatt** writes that she had three grandchildren in eight months! Nancy continues to make great progress in her fight against breast cancer—good for you, Nancy! At long last, we heard from **Kendra Johnson Golden** who makes her home with her husband, Jim, in Port Townsend, WA on the Olympic Peninsula. While now retired, she has had three careers—teacher, lawyer and development for a non-profit for the arts. They have a second home in Chapel Hill, NC where her daughter, son-in-law

and two grandchildren live. A son lives in Boise. Loved hearing from you, Kendra. **Cathy Mancke Tisdale** is expecting her first grandchild in late June. Since her daughter lives in Montgomery, AL and Cathy is still in Columbia, SC, the roads will get a workout for sure. **Cathy Riley Howle** writes that **Nancy Fowler Willis** has a picture on Facebook of **Barbara Nance Sherer** and her. Those who have not sighted Barbara in a while will be glad to know she looks great, as does Nancy! **Adelaide Capers**

**Johnson** stays busy with three grandchildren who are all living in the Greenville, SC area. **Becky Stowe Ruff** writes that she and family spent time at Ocean Isle Beach this summer and had a chance to visit with **Gene Clarkson Brabham** and **Betsy Brooks Geer** over at Litchfield. That's all the news for now. Please send in news so we can put it in the next Class Notes!

## Remember when...1965



# 70'S

IN MEMORIAM

Euzelia Allen Boyd '70 MAT, April 19, 2011  
 Geraldine Zimmerman '70 MAT, January 21, 2011  
 Carolyn Lamb Sexton '74, July 12, 2010  
 Janie Ruth Marsh Putnam '74 MAT, May 12, 2011  
 JoAn McClure Smith '76 MAT, March 8, 2011  
 Claudia Walker McCain '76, February 22, 2011

## SYMPATHY

Gregory Faris Morton '70 on the death of her father, John Paschal Faris, Sr., May 4, 2011  
 Linnie Hicks Mitchell '70 on the death of her husband, Roy Truslow Mitchell, February 3, 2011  
 Kay Lind Morris '70 on the death of her sister, Patricia Lind Harris, July 8, 2011  
 Gail Speed '70 MAT on the death of her husband, Dr. George Maurice Speed, July 24, 2011  
 Laurie "Randy" Barili Harris '72 on the death of her husband, David Jesse Harris, April 20, 2011  
 Nancy Walker Holmes '72 on the death of her mother, Martha Bratton Walker, June 13, 2011  
 Margaret DesPortes Cunningham '74 on the death of her father, Fay Allen DesPortes, May 16, 2010  
 Harriett Faris '74 on the death of her father, John Paschal Faris, Sr., May 4, 2011  
 Ellen Forde Grigsby '74 on the death of her mother, Mary Ellen Haughton Forde, December 29, 2010  
 Martha Adger Woodham '74 on the death of her brother, Willis Josey Woodham, Jr., June 25, 2011  
 Frances Green Swink '75 on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Lee Wright Green, May 14, 2011  
 Elizabeth Vaughn Sharpe '76 on the death of her mother, Mary Lib Davenport Vaughn '35, June 4, 2011  
 Susan Chappell Woodham '77 on the death of her brother, Willis Josey Woodham, Jr. June 25, 2011  
 Deirdre Perot Lightsey '78 on the death of her father, Dr. Phanor L. Perot, Jr., February 2, 2011  
 Marian Potts Foster '78 on the death of her husband, William Gene Foster, Jr., June 10, 2011  
 Mary Woodham Randall '78 on the death of her brother, Willis Josey Woodham, Jr., June 25, 2011

## CAREER CHANGES

Haidee Clark Stith '76, Executive Vice-President, On Point Services LLC, Columbia, SC

## ADVANCED DEGREE

Anne Collins Conover '73, D. Min., Wesley Theological Seminary, May 2011

## CLASS OF 1970

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2015

Janice "Smack" Mack  
 6 Indigo Cove  
 Greensboro, NC 27455-3424  
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Please send us your news for the next magazine. Smack and Linnie

## CLASS OF 1971

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

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Jane Byrd Melton  
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 Clemmons, NC 27012, 336.778.1760  
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Mindy Thompson Orman  
 1040 Gateway Lane  
 Nashville, TN 37220, 615.373.5965  
 ormanphoto@comcast.net

We had a great time at our reunion with about 20 classmates attending. We decided that we want to stay in closer contact so I will begin a class newsletter just for us to accommodate the long, interesting emails I have received from classmates. Send me your email contact info and your news so that I can pass it on in entirety and we can stay better connected. Alanna Ivey Wildman's son Reid graduated from USC Law School in May. He will be joining Johnson, Smith, Hibbard and Wildman. Sara Levi Freeman and husband are living in Dallas, TX and enjoying their granddaughter and two sons. Susie Bass Bowen and husband Jay live in Nashville, TN. They have six grandchildren and two sons, Scott, a Presbyterian minister in Alabama and Jim, a lawyer in Nashville, TN. Mindy Thompson Orman and Scott are in Nashville, TN where their photography business is in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. She is also an agent with Prudential Realty. Daughter Martha Grace works for IBM in Raleigh, NC, Alice is in

New York working on her degree in ESL and will be married next spring. Son Will is a student at Boston University. Mindy and Scott visited him in Italy this spring during his semester in Padova, Italy. Russell Holliday and Hal Cottingham are enjoying time in Cashiers and often see Genie Cox Mann and Bud who also have a home there. Russell and Alice Henry Legette took a golfing trip to Scotland last summer. Genie Cox Mann and Bud are in Columbia, SC and now have seven grandchildren. Lynda Booth Corn and husband, George, live in Hamilton, MT. Lynda has taught English to middle schoolers for 27 years and has been president of her local teachers' union for ten years. George has practiced law in Hamilton for 31 years in public and private practice. Daughter, Ramey and husband, Jesse, live in Missoula, MT. Ramey works for a non-profit for At-Risk Youth and Jesse attends UM Law School. Son, Judson and his wife, Eva, attend the University of Washington in Seattle. Judson is in Med School and Eva is working on her PhD. Liz Lesesne has been traveling and teaching cooking classes. She lives in Asheville, NC close to her girls and grandsons. Nancy Beers Parsons retired from National Geographic after 38 years. She and John are readying their cruising sailboat for another sailing season on the Chesapeake Bay. I (Nancy) am in Winston-Salem, NC and recently started a note card company, The Sussex Collection, using my own drawings. I'll let you know when my web site is up. Let me hear from you. Nancy Lide

## CLASS OF 1972

40<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Jill Rushforth Coker  
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 Greenville, SC 29607, 864.281.0314

Florence Twitty  
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 Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.585.5018  
 honsingt@aol.com



(Continued)

## CLASS NOTES

# 70's

(Continued)

**Sue Schweder Newlin** received the honorary Doctor of Chiropractic Humanities degree from Sherman College of Chiropractic during the college's 119<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony on June 18, 2011. Sue was honored in recognition of her 37 years of service and unselfish support to the college and the chiropractic profession. Sue retired from Sherman on June 30. Make your plans now to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on April 27 and 28.

## CLASS OF 1973

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2013

☎ **Peggy Kelly Lancaster**

510 Connecticut Avenue  
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.582.0587  
plancaster@spart7.org

## CLASS OF 1974

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2014

☎ **Amanda Horton Dorman**

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☎ **Libba Elmore Rhoad**

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zqueen123@aol.com

Belated congratulations are due to **Carol Puckett** for being honored as the 2010 Converse commencement speaker. Carol currently lives between homes in Jackson, MS and Black Mountain, NC. She is a consultant for two luxury hotels and a book publisher. She invites her classmates to check out her blog for Viking Range: [facebook.com/lc8b5anYyTQ-9KdVkaqdovz-D7Wg/www.carolsvikinglife.com](http://facebook.com/lc8b5anYyTQ-9KdVkaqdovz-D7Wg/www.carolsvikinglife.com). **Elodie Hale Craig** had her first grandchild (granddaughter) in December. **Libba Elmore Rhoad** had her second grandchild (and first granddaughter) in December as well. More recently, **Beth Guess** has moved back to her house on the Edisto River in Denmark, SC. Check out your classmates on Facebook; it's an easy way to send me news.

## CLASS OF 1975

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

☎ **Libby Knight Borders**

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libby.borders@gmail.com

It seems our biggest news this year is the many weddings we have attended! **Julie Forbes Lybrand's** daughter, Leigh Ellen, married in March and the couple will attend law school and medical school in Columbia. Those in attendance from our class were **Elise Warren**, **Sandy Kopp Roberts**, **Kathryn Perry Bumgardner** and **Frances Barr Strickland**. Elise also visited with **Vickey**



**Key Wile** in Atlanta, GA as part of her wedding trip excursion. Julie's twin daughters, Laura and Rebecca, graduated from USC and the University of Alabama, respectively. **Jamie Gaines Crockett's** daughter, Elizabeth, was also married in March in Birmingham, AL and her other daughter, Catherine, is working in DC. In May, **Nancy Orders Smith's** daughter, Lindsey, married at Litchfield Beach, SC. Another great Connie reunion was had when **Polly Ann Maxwell Cleveland**, **Betsy McPhail Weathersbee**, **Gina McGinnis Long**, **Lillian Montgomery Lawrence** and I joined in the celebration! One week later, my son, Blanding, was married in Pensacola, FL and the reunion continued! **Sheron McNeill Finnerty** wrote to say that Brian graduated from Appalachian School of Law and has been hired by a firm in Tallahassee, FL. Sheron and daughter, Mary Catherine, spent some time together on a mission trip to Honduras and her son, Pat, works in Jackson Hole, WY. **Laura Bingham Ritch** reports she has helped those in Alabama who were devastated by the tornadoes that ripped through that state. Thank you, Laura, for that important service. I would like to remind everyone to think of Converse when contemplating donations. It's the **percentage** of our class, not the amount, that's so very important! Take care until next time! Love, Libby

## CLASS OF 1976

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

☎ **Lisa Williamson Anderson**

3301 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22305, 703.549.5609  
Lawhunt2@aol.com

☎ **Liz Gordon Martin**

4528 Ivy Hall Road  
Columbia, SC 29206, 803.787.1979  
lizgm@aol.com

☎ **Claire Connors Wharton**

105 Thousand Pines Lane  
Tryon, NC 28782, 828.859.9397  
ccwharton@mac.com

We had a great reunion. **Delois Brown-Daniels** and **Sue Ellen Germany Lucas** were honored for their achievements and work in the community. Delois entertained us and informed about her ministry at a Chicago hospital. She has two teenage children. Del has a great way of seeing the miraculous and the funny side of life. Sue Ellen is an RN in Alabama, where she has been instrumental in health care in her community. Thanks to **Christi Von Lehe Sellars** for her service to our class as she steps down from class rep. Christi set up a class dinner Saturday night at a local restaurant and it was great to spend some time together just the '76ers. Christi is a music teacher at Wofford and loves it. **Claire Connors Wharton** led a breakout session at reunion about writing and the skills/abilities we learned at Converse that have helped us through our lives. **Susan J. Martin** added to the reunion with her heartfelt piano recital, a beautiful personal version of Amazing Grace. Susan has had a battle with her health, but is now on the upside. She is the music director for her church. We had good time at Morris Hall as we said good-bye with mimosas and listened to the set up for Darius Rucker. Claire is in Tryon, NC with her husband Carl. She enjoys being a grandma. She has published a book *Pearl*. **Liz Gordon Martin** has read it and recommends it. Bosie and Liz live in Columbia, SC with only one left in the nest. Rivers is 15, Beth is at the College of Charleston and Holly and Sally are employed with benefits. Liz enjoys being a nurse in the ICU at Providence Hospital. **Lisa Williamson Anderson** came from Virginia, where she has been caring for her father and working hard at her business. **Dana Whitaker Boney** is a grandma and an assistant to a judge in Greenville, SC. Her family was devastated with a house fire this year, but starting to get it back together. **Grace Bailey Heck** was only able to come for Saturday as she is busy renovating her home in Augusta, GA.

## CLASS OF 1977

35<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012



### ® Donna Kaiser Croft

1110 Summersill Lane  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, 843.881.2924  
closjune@aol.com

### ® Lucille Hudson Stembridge

5595 Sequoia Drive  
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sopranolucy@att.net

Rhondy Valdes Huff volunteers for her church, and has served on the boards of the Preservation Society of Charleston and Life Management Center (an educational consulting, tutoring and testing center). Her son, Joe graduated from Porter-Gaud and will start at Wofford this fall where Josie Rudolph Stokes and Chris Lynn Wood will become his mother figures. Rhondy contributes her good response to chemo treatments for breast cancer is because every day for those first awful months she got a card or letter from one of her Converse classmates. Rhondy heard from people she had not seen since graduation and everyone's thoughts and prayers were appreciated more than anyone can know. Katherine King was fortunate enough to 'catch' (as midwives say) her first grandchild on November 9, 2010, Hamilton Charles Autry King! Ansley Hassel Boggs and Mac recently celebrated their 16<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and 72 (41 for Mac and 31 for Ansley) years at Converse. Ansley, last spring, made her acting debut with Theatre Converse in the *Rabbit Hole*. Ansley shared the experience with her stepson, Will, who also had a part. Sarah Sholtz Dewar and Bob have finished building a home in the country in Valdosta, GA. Sarah travels frequently to visit her granddaughter Hadley and parents Melonye and John in Mount Pleasant, SC. Daughter Caroline lives out west. Sarah teaches PE at a private school, grades K-4 and coaches JV and Varsity tennis. A friend of Sarah's in Valdosta ran into Jean Parks Bunch in Newman a couple of weeks ago. Wendy Barton Benson's daughter Caroline is heading to BAMA in August!! Wendy and family are having a great summer hanging at their lake house at Lake Toxaway, NC and especially at their Ranch in Cartersville, GA.

## CLASS OF 1978

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2013

### ® Lee Ullman Hutson

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lhutson@sc.rr.com

### ® Blanche Gramling Weathers

Post Office Box 489  
Bowman, SC 29018, 803.600.5829  
blanchee@oburg.net

Melinda Benson retired after 31 years of teaching and an Assistant Principal last July. She spent four weeks in Italy becoming certified as a teacher of English as a second language, spent the next two weeks traveling to Prague, Budapest and

Vienna. Then she returned to the US where she lived on Dauphin Island, AL (near her hometown of Mobile, AL), then Josephine (next door to Dawn Williamson Wilbanks) and has now settled in old Mt. Pleasant, SC. Linda Saunders vacationed this summer in Honduras on a deserted island with only a generator for power. Julie Gaw Armstrong went to Myrtle Beach, SC in January for Peggy Seals Sansbury's daughter Margaret's wedding, where she and Rilla Altman Thomas and Geneva Richardson Cromer had a great time catching up. Laura Dew Smith just returned from a two week cruise around the Mediterranean, for her 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Kaki Manning Zeigler's daughter Liz graduated from Tec in Early Childhood Education and is teaching at Trinity. Her son, Townsend, is living in Italy teaching; her son, Sanford, is moving to California to complete his residency at Stanford. Harriet Smith O'Neill recently visited Barbara Duffy Feemster in Savannah, GA. Julia Webb Davis' daughter, Kathleen, was married in December 2010. Lib Laney Peebles, Cathy Propst Bourne, Jane Taylor Lassiter and Blanche Gramling Weathers were all present for the wedding. The same gang met in Charleston, SC in January 2011, joined by Lee Ullman Hutson and Barbara Duffy Feemster. Julie Purcell Thompson and husband are busy renovating their home on Lake Murray, SC. Martha Anderson was ordained as a transitional deacon in the Episcopal Church on April 9, 2011 and will be ordained to the priesthood in six months. Jeannie Davis Powell and husband Hartley hosted several classmates at the Carolina Cup this spring.

## CLASS OF 1979

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

### ® Margaret Horne Darr

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Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864.583.7464  
buddymoonshine@charter.net

Red Devils rule until it comes to being in touch! Please accept this challenge to e-mail me right now so you can be included in the next magazine! Betsy Reppeto Bond sent the only class Christmas card; she keeps up with Mindy Meredith Wald and Jan Cole Daulton in Dallas, TX, and Robin Brownlee Giddings and Clare Nissen McGill. Katie Grace (12) and Tim (10) keep Betsy busy! Facebook connections: Carolyn Moore Atkinson is selling real estate in Hartsville, SC, Leesa Land Ray stays busy in Decatur, AL, Judy Johnson Honeycutt is teaching in St. Louis, MO (hope to see her when she's home this summer). Dianne Deaver Snodgrass lives in Savannah, GA but never stays home! Marnie Law George, Tallahassee, is proud of her new Eagle Scout! Monta Moody Anthony was spotted in Charleston, SC with her brood in tow. Hunter McClintock Bell nor Darlene Jordan Lathan had changed a bit, when spotted shopping in Greenville, SC! Kent Walters Pryor, Atlanta, GA keeps busy with her athletes, Ellie and Jonathan. Mimi Wimberly Brown, in Roswell, volunteers lots with children. Sarah Mercer Chatel, Converse Board of Visitors member, has visited twice; hopefully she and Peter will return. Ceci France Arthur, Sally Pennell Chambers, Ellerbe Page Halligan, Karen Whitmire Copley, Annette Haynie, Carol Porter Stephen and Mary Butler Wyant are Red Devils I've had fun seeing around town. With our oldest, and only daughter, getting married, it wouldn't be the same without the friendship of Nancy Bain Cote, Charlotte Smeak Verreault and lots of other 'Connies! Nancy's Anna loves Peabody in Nashville, TN, her Abby and Charlotte's Bailey are beautiful teenagers of driving age!! Be in touch before our next deadline...Happy summer to all! Margaret

Remember  
when...1972



CLASS NOTES

# 80's

## IN MEMORIAM

**Janis Lynn Hampton** '81, January 25, 2011  
**Delores Spell Reeves** '81 MED, June 26, 2011  
**Mary Louise Gee** '83 MED, January 25, 2011  
**Janet Sue Bedenbaugh Gibbons** '85 MED,  
March 30, 2011

## SYMPATHY

**Joann Gibson** '81 on the death of her sister, Sarah Gibson Sims, June 26, 2010  
**Jane Rinehart Crosby** '81 on the death of her step-son, John Sitton Crosby, April 9, 2011  
**Marsha Trump Newer** '81 on the death of her father, William Preston Fuller, February 25, 2011  
**Shirley Crabtree** '82 on the death of her mother, Shirley Ann Crabtree, March 15, 2011  
**Jane Hastings James** '84 on the death of her mother, Gwendolyn Pace Hastings, August 27, 2010  
**Gretchen "Gigi" Dawson** '85 on the death of her father, William Thomas Dawson, February 22, 2011  
**Beth Sitton Dawson** '85 on the death of her son, John Sitton Crosby, April 9, 2011  
**Joy Davis Doolittle** '87 on the death of her son, Ronald David "Trey" Doolittle III, April 4, 2011  
**Kathryn Owens Johnson** '89 on the death of her father, James C. Owens, March 30, 2011

## MARRIAGE

**Margaret "Meg" Curry** '86 to Clay Johnson, April 2, 2011  
**Virginia "Ginia" Celeste Hairston** '89 to David Kevin Croker, March 12, 2011

## CAREER CHANGES

**Patrice Miller Ligon** '80, Director of Music and Worship Arts, Grace United Methodist Church, Abbeville, SC  
**Connie Pease Happell** '82, Pastor, Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO  
**Ann Jolly Fowler** '84, Account Manager, American Credit Acceptance, Spartanburg, SC  
**Laura Chappell Bauknight** '87, Consultant, SE Consulting, Spartanburg, SC  
**Wallis Crum Bond** '87, Third Grade Teacher, Brennen Elementary School, Columbia, SC

## ADVANCED DEGREE

**Patrice Miller Ligon** '80, MWS, Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, June 2011  
**Jean Mitchell Nimmer** '89, MAT, Converse College, July 2011

## CLASS OF 1980

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend 2015  
® **Holly Holstein Caprell**  
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## ® Liz Hughes

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## ® Margaret Craig Schafer

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Greetings Class of 1980. I hope that everyone is doing well. **Louise Bixler Moore** dropped a line from Charlotte to say hello and share some news. Both Louise and **Linda Cullen Kincheloe** are actively involved with North Carolina Dance Theatre in Charlotte, which allows them to see each other and regularly keep in touch. Not only did Louise mention that **Ginny Williams Sanders** had recently been in Charlotte, NC checking out our schools with her son Wesley—I also got an email from Ginny! Ginny reports that it was great catching up with Louise at Starbucks in Charlotte. She writes that her daughter, Lauren, is working in Arkansas and that her youngest son, Will, has just finished his freshman year at Alabama. Ginny and her husband, Randy, get to a lot of Alabama football games. **Sissy Swann Ivey** sends word that she has recently moved and is currently unpacking. She is still in Sparkle City. Gee, if only we had known, Sissy, we could have helped! **Liz Hughes** has just recently transitioned from the magazine world to the web. For interior design and home décor resources in North Carolina, check out *North Carolina Design Online*. As for **Margaret Craig Schafer**, the Schafer clan gathered July 4<sup>th</sup> in Alabama so everyone could welcome the newest addition to the family, Benjamin Craig Schafer, son Kirk's baby, born in February. Becoming grandparents is new and interesting, but definitely fun! **Debbie Childress** is the Atlanta outside sales rep for Travis & Co. at ADAC. Debbie misses her friend and client Sally Caughman '68's energy and constant questions about where to have dinner in Atlanta, GA. Sally always wanted Debbie to show her new and exciting fabrics.

## CLASS OF 1981

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend 2016

## ® Cornelia D. Christian

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Lynchburg, VA 24503  
cornelia.christian@comcast.net

## ® Libby Campbell Patterson

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## ® Marianna MacIntyre Taylor

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Wow! 30-Year Reunion! There must be some mistake. We can't possibly have graduated that long ago! The weekend was fabulous (especially since RED DEVILS don't age!). It was so much fun seeing everyone that could make it. What a treat to catch up with fellow classmates; particularly those who we hadn't seen since graduation. At the class meeting we took turns filling the attendees in on where we were and what we were doing (you know... all the good stuff!). **Lanie Folline Epting** and **Martha Bell Smith** then handed the agent torch to **Libby Campbell Patterson**, **Marianna MacIntyre Taylor** and me (**Cornelia Christian**). Thank you, Lanie and Martha, for being our class leaders. Your time and energy are greatly appreciated. Saturday night was a blast, starting with our class dinner at the old cabin. Kudos to **Sally Jeter Hammond** and **Marianna** for reserving the cabin for our party, before the Darius Rucker concert and kudos for planning our delicious dinner (sorry the shrimp went so fast—there were lots of us there!). Everyone had a blast and left with great memories (dancing on The Cabin Porch!). **Maureen Nickles Kelokates** wins the BIG prize for *Most Miles Traveled*. For those of you who couldn't make it, you were sorely missed and we all hope you will be there for the next reunion (where we will give out even bigger prizes!). Please keep Libby, Marianna and Cornelia abreast of what is happening in your lives. Email is great and we also have a class page you can



post to on Facebook (Converse Class of '81), thanks to **Sally Herlong**. Of course, we also accept hand written letters and Christmas cards. On a final note, don't forget to support Converse.

## CLASS OF 1982

30<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012



Ⓡ **Becky Nutter Cassidy**

3320 Calumet Street  
Columbus, OH 43202, 614.261.6401  
racassidy@sbcglobal.net

Ⓡ **Holly Beach Hussey**

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Roswell, GA 30076; 770.619.3369  
hbb123@att.net

**Julie Holcombe Boggan** relocated to Atlanta two years ago. Her husband, Mike, is the Senior VP and General Manager for US Foodservice where he has worked for 28 years. Daughter, LaBruce (24) is getting married and will be living in Charleston, SC. Stephen (21), is a senior at Clemson. **Nancy Smith Gage's** daughter will be a freshman at Mount Holyoke College this fall. **Jill Muckleroy Ornelas** celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. She and Julian live in her hometown of Nacogdoches, TX where they own a rental property business. Jill also has an interior design business, while Julian spends time as a jazz drummer in a jazz combo and teaches drums. I got the most wonderful email from **Sharon Gray Smith**. She and husband, Rick, recently celebrated their 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sharon just completed her 17<sup>th</sup> year homeschooling their six children in grades K-12. Their only daughter, Chelsea, is a senior at Converse with plans to attend medical school. Matt is a brick mason in Lexington, and Tyler is a rising sophomore at Wofford. They also have Josiah (16), Jacob (14) and Benjamin (12). Stay tuned for more news about Sharon's interesting life! **Amy Caroline Whisnant** lives in Germany and sings all over Europe. This past season she worked in various locations throughout Germany, as well as Warsaw and Sardinia. Best of

all, **Amy Caroline** is making plans to come back to Converse for our 30<sup>th</sup> reunion in April 2012! If she can make the trip, so can we! **LaMurl Turk Morris** led her sixth mission trip to Tanzania to train teachers, teach children and work with an orphanage in June. LaMurl serves as Fine Arts Director at Prince Avenue Christian School.

## CLASS OF 1983

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Ⓡ **Barbara Lindsay Hines**

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robbarb@bellsouth.net

## CLASS OF 1984

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

Ⓡ **Jody Cole**

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Ⓡ **Lynn Gully Orlando**

lynn.orlando@magellancharter.org

Ⓡ **Kevin Jenkins Plonk**

kjplonk@yahoo.com

## CLASS OF 1985

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

Ⓡ **Krisila Newman Foster**

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Boiling Springs, SC 29316, 864.814.4476  
krisilafoster@charter.net

Ⓡ **Vandy Major McFadden**

201 Clamp Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016, 803.333.8956  
vmcfaddin@bellsouth.net

Ⓡ **LeAnne Rowland O'Donnell**

901 Willow Oak Court  
Nashville, TN 37221, 615.673.6302  
lrodonnell@comcast.net

**Tricia Rogers Meadors** sent news of her four children: Blakely graduated from Tulane University, Maggie graduated from AC Flora and is headed to Clemson this fall, John Jr. (10<sup>th</sup> grader) plays

Lacrosse, and youngest, Perry (8<sup>th</sup> grade) takes ballet six days a week. Perry was in The Richland One honors dance company with **Julia Ivey Cagle's** daughter, Lelia. **Deborah Rogers** and **Betty Snell Wells** had a girls weekend at the beach with **Celly Padgett Kahn** and **Adele Barody Weatherford**. **Jeanne O'Neill Robinson's** son, Neal graduated from Presbyterian College and her younger son, Walt, will be a sophomore at USC. **Kelly Maloney Liggitt** sent news of a February girls getaway at **Suzanne Crosswell Short's** beach house at Debordieu. In attendance was **Kelly McElroy White**, **Amy Kimbro Thomas**, **Gigi Dawson**, **Marsha Cabbage Somheil**, **Vandy Major McFadden**, **Becky Britton Noyes**, **Blair Harper Hurlburt**, **Deans Richardson Fawcett**, **Paula Brooker Guess**, **Julia Ivey Cagle** and **Karen Link Domenico**. From **Happy Smith Mason**, her oldest son, Lex will attend Baylor University this fall. Elliott (16) was selected for the National Underclassmen Ultimate 100 Combine for recruitment. Youngest, Ben, has the fastest pitching in the Dallas 10-year-old division. Happy plays in several USTA tennis tournaments and works in her Interior Design business. **Rachel Cauthen Rohrer** lives in Richmond. Husband, Phil is a marketing manager with Afton Chemical Corporation. Daughter, Kathryn, graduated from Wake Forest in May and begins her masters at James Madison University this fall. Son, Philip is a sophomore at Wake Forest. **Tina Hardison Hammond's** daughter, Amanda, is a high school senior and plans to attend Georgia Southern. Tina teaches 1<sup>st</sup> grade and her husband, Barry, was inaugurated as a fellow into the American College of Dentists.

## CLASS OF 1986

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

Ⓡ **Kathryn Donald Shook**

105 Delmar Terrace  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
kdshook@att.net

Ⓡ **Julie Staggs**

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Atlanta, GA 30388  
Jstags4@gmail.com

We had a wonderful turnout at our 25<sup>th</sup> reunion!! Thanks to Betsy and Kristy for planning the weekend and being our representatives for the last five years. **Ann Cullen Catington's** Mary Frances (8<sup>th</sup> grade) made the school dance team. AC is an oil and gas paralegal. **Brenda Demory Law's** daughter, Molly, finished her freshman year at Gardner-Webb University in May. **Marley Jones Wolfe's** Charlie (12), swims and plays piano. She had pneumonia for the fourth time this past year; she plans to get the vaccine soon. **Page Lacy Mitchell**, husband Mark and son Harrison (7) live in Florence, SC, where she is an RN and labor/delivery nurse. **Betsy Mamoulides Hockaday's** daughter, Meghan, will attend Appalachian State University. Her younger daughter will begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade. **Beth Spencer Dixon** is in her 10<sup>th</sup> year as a District Court Judge in Salisbury,

(Continued)



## CLASS NOTES

# 80's

(Continued)

NC. Roy will be attending UNC-Greensboro in the fall on a golf and academic scholarship; other children are Spencer (sophomore), Susannah (freshman) and her twin sister Grace (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Grace was born with Cornelia deLange Syndrome so they are very involved in the special needs community. **Mary Smith Yeager** teaches at Mount Paran Christian School in Kennesaw, GA. Her oldest, Grace (high school) is a competitive swimmer and lifeguard, son John (middle school) plays every sport and her youngest, Belle, is a competitive Cheerleader. This fall Mary returns to school to earn another bachelor's degree in science from a branch of UGA to add to her MEd. Her goal is to teach Secondary Biology and/or go into medicine (her lifelong dream). **Kathryn Donald Shook's** daughter, Sellers, will attend Birmingham Southern College this fall; son, Henry (11<sup>th</sup> grade), is on the baseball and basketball teams. **Debbie Moore Stirewalt** and **Susan Sommers Kirlough** met in Florida for their reunion. Debbie's husband is a Lutheran pastor at a church in Florida. Debbie teaches high school math. Susan teaches at Lexington Elementary in South Carolina. Both of their daughters (born a day apart in 1992) were freshmen this year in college.

## CLASS OF 1987

25<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

📍 **Elizabeth Smoak Groce**

123 Woodland Way  
Greenville, SC 29601, 864.232.2641  
egroce@woodwardmedical.org

📍 **Lynn Dye Smith**

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Augusta, GA 30909, 706.737.2886  
lyndsmith@comcast.net

Don't forget our reunion weekend, April 27-28, 2012. Check out our Facebook page: Converse College Class of 1987. **Elizabeth Shelton Roddy** posted the first pictures to our page. **Wallis Crum Bond** attended a Converse Supper Club in Columbia, SC, with **Peggy Hair Alford**. Wallis also spent Memorial Day with **Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins**, **Julie Norville** and **Rebecca Jennings Murphy**. **Laura Chappell Bauknight** is running for re-election to the Spartanburg County School Board. Last fall, Laura and **Cindy Kuhlke Cannon**, **Lynn Dye Smith**, **Elizabeth Smoak Groce**, **Marion McNair Coleman**, **Donna Mason Burnside** and **Sarah Lanford Harrelson**, along with their husbands, danced the night away in Charleston, SC celebrating **Nancy Davenport's** birthday! Laura and Donna recently visited **Clarkson Parrent Bowling** in Atlanta, GA. Clarkson is happy in her new house in Atlanta with her son, Tucker (2 1/2). Also chasing a toddler is **Jerry Ann Conner**, mother of Samuel Thomas Voyce (2 1/2). Jerry Ann is practicing law in Newnan, GA. **Teresa Gagnon Maino** spent a month at Folly Beach, SC this spring, where she saw

**Adele Penland Boyce**, **Pam Sims Mosley**, **Molly Levy Campbell**, **Debbie Strange Baker** and **Mary Redmon Hutson**. Also at Folly Beach, **Allyn Talbot Johnson** is heavily involved with Boykin Spaniel Rescue. **Dawn Pridgen** ran in the Cooper River Ridge Run, where she smoked Martha Lynn Gaskins! **Ellen Creech Nordstrom** is in Hendersonville, NC following several years in Alaska. **Beth Woods Sessums** is in Alabama, **Mary Kay Seckinger** is in Denver and **Janet Bean** is in Seneca, SC where she recently saw **Terri Minton** and **Adele Boyce**. **Wendy Rogers Blackburn** is in Litchfield, SC. **Nancy Newman Ginn** is in Augusta, GA teaching high school math. **Cindy Newman Huffman** has run a successful business for 10 years.

## CLASS OF 1988

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

📍 **Kristi Klim Holler**

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Rock Hill, SC 29732  
jandkholler@comporium.net

📍 **Alice Fuller Littlejohn**

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alkenlj@charter.net

Classmates, please join "Converse College Class of 1988" on Facebook to share news year-round with your classmates. We have 35 group members so far.

## CLASS OF 1989

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

📍 **Wallace Davison**

1720 Wandering Way Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
wallacedavison@yahoo.com

📍 **Joy Johnson**

1850 N Elm Street  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
nisajoyj@yahoo.com

📍 **Rawles Terrell Kelly**

3139 Shillington Place  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
k\_rawles@bellsouth.net

The Class of 1989 and their children had a busy start to 2011! **Laura Romano Labow** was named coach of the year by the Soccer Association of Boca Raton. **Elizabeth Hyatt Robinson** took her three boys to Disney World for New Year's. **Kim Jackson Cameron** joined them for a day of fun. **Elizabeth Cantey Rhodes'** daughter Eliza has been accepted into the SC Governor's School of Science and Mathematics in Hartsville, SC. **Christine Hull Manley** and her husband James have their hands full with daughters Amanda, Melissa, Sydni, Alex and Rachel plus grandchildren Jayden, Jordan, Jocelyn and Lilli. **Annette Brandt Funk** and her husband Dale are enjoying life in Anchorage, AK. Daughter Lena enjoyed a trip to New Zealand with her flute choir group and will be a high school

senior in the fall. Their son, Elan (8<sup>th</sup> grader), is traveling with his soccer team to Portland and Seattle. **Tania McDuffie**, her husband and two boys are in the middle of a cross-country trip in their vintage camper. They are visiting lots of national parks and cities. Tania is doing all this while teaching an online math class for Converse. **Margaret Boyd Franklin's** son Jonathan graduated from high school and will attend the University of Alaska for his freshman year. He plans to transfer to the University of South Carolina when his father returns from his deployment in Afghanistan. **Debbie Saar Valis'** son Alex graduated from high school and is headed to Furman. **Cindy Cox Winston** got the chance to catch up with **Nicky Jent Greenway**, **Margaret Gordon** and **Tania McDuffie** when her daughter competed in the Converse Scholars weekend in February.

## Remember when...1985





# 90's

## SYMPATHY

**Gage Robertson McManus** '90 on the death of her grandmother, Nina Cochran Gage, July 18, 2011

**Laura B. Kennedy** '93 on the death of her father, George Curtis Kennedy, Jr., March 28, 2011

**Emily Watson Chariker** '95 on the death of her father, James Everett Watson, June 11, 2011

**Kathryn B. Kennedy** '97 on the death of her father, George Curtis Kennedy, Jr., March 28, 2011

**Nakia Martin Alexander** '97 on the death of her mother, Eddie Mae Martin, July 2, 2009

## MARRIAGES

**Robert William Hair** '92 to Steven Joseph Ralston, June 17, 2011

**Chesnut Clarke Allen** '94 to Josh Denton, December 17, 2010

**Alison Rose Block** '99 to Ernesto Martinez, January 22, 2011

**Tricia Tulchin** '99 to Trevor Boozer, June 11, 2011

## BIRTHS

Mary Mackenzie Wilbourne, March 9, 2011, daughter of Steve and **Patti Floyd Wilbourne** '93  
Leila Abbott Klutz, December 2, 2010, daughter of Brad and **Katie Abbott Klutz** '94

Stewart-Henry Van Hook, December 3, 2010, son of James and **Caroline Caldwell Van Hook** '94  
Daniel Woody McIntyre, March 10, 2011, son of Roy and **Cheryl Woody McIntyre** '95  
Michael Peyton Trask, November 10, 2010, son of Dale and **Amanda Thomas Trask** '97

Olivia Ruth Yuting Kovach, adopted March 1, 2011, born February 17, 2001, daughter of Mark and **Kimberly Wannall Kovach** '97

Cassandra Latrice Merriweather, February 28, 2011, daughter of Shawn and **Carey Dancho Merriweather** '99

Lainey Anne League and Miles Richard League II, February 1, 2011, twins of John and **Emily Early League** '99

Canaan Adam Clobes, February 2, 2011, son of Shannon and **Kim Howell Clobes** '99

Brogdon Randolph Mitchell, May 6, 2011, son of Scott and **Mary Catherine Potter Mitchell** '99

Eleanor Savannah Cooper, May 15, 2011, daughter of Jon and **Beth Robbins Cooper** '99  
Annison Elizabeth Frye, May 16, 2011, daughter of Matt and **Deanne Tyner Frye** '99

## CAREER CHANGES

**Jane Walters Phillips** '91, Performance Improvement/Education Coordinator, St. Luke's Hospital, Columbus, NC

**Ginger Corbin Church** '92, Director of Alumnae, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

**Missy Van Doren Weaver** '97, Document Specialist, Williams Lea, Washington, DC

**Stephanie Eldridge Avakian** '99, Management

Assistant in the Department of Women's Oncology Breast Program, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL

**Nikki Maples-Reynolds** '99, Senior Project

Manager, ICF International, Fairfax, VA

**Erin Randle Foil** '99, Director of Accountability and Student Information, Davie County Schools, Mocksville, NC

## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Polly Butler Cornelius** '91, DMA, UNC Greensboro, 2011

**Renee Hart Kennedy** '92, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

**Anita Gilbert Williams** '95 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

**Rachel Marie Chartrand** '97, MAED, University of Phoenix, June 2011

**Jennifer Coggins Reese** '97, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

**Brian Tery Harris** '97 MEd, EdS, Converse College, July 2011

**Hadley Rowland** '97, MA, Boston University, 2011

**Kimberly Wannall Kovach** '97, MLS, East Carolina University, December 2010

**David Allen Bollinger** '98 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

**Brian Wilson Bolin** '99 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

**Katherine Medlock Scott** '99, MEd, Converse College, July 2011

## CLASS OF 1990

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

® **Rosemary Glaze Sullivan**

14 Southington Overton, Hampshire RG25 3DA, England  
mamiesullivan@hotmail.co.uk

® **Cheryl Owens Verdell**

138 Samantha Drive  
Inman, SC 29349  
dverdell@bellsouth.net

**Lesa Underwood** has been very busy working with the Spoleto Festival for five months. She is looking forward to a trip to Europe this summer.

**Lila Willingham Shirley** was excited to see **Karen Caton Granger** come into her café. **Kristen Ewing Lopez** and her family are visiting her husband's family in California for several weeks. **Cheryl Owens Verdell** and husband, David, just celebrated their twentieth anniversary. Please send Rosemary and Cheryl any news you may have. Join our group on Facebook-Converse College Class of 1990.

## CLASS OF 1991

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

® **Dorsey Daugette DeLong**

3070 Greendale Drive NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327, 404.609.9405  
teamdelong@comcast.net

® **Dianne Prince Swann**

711 Lake Drive  
Snellville, GA 30039, 770.929.0077  
dswann@rockdale.k12ga.us

See our 20<sup>th</sup> reunion picture below.

## CLASS OF 1992

20<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

® **Angela Wilkes Gage**

5119 Woodland Hills Drive  
Brentwood, TN 37027, 615.750.2669  
gage0920@comcast.net

® **Anna Wimberly Pierce**

34 Carlton Drive NE  
Atlanta, GA 30342, 404.252.8324  
mpierceman@aol.com

Hello, Class of 1992! I (**Anna Wimberly Pierce**) hope that you are all doing well. I have not heard from many of you so I went trolling on Facebook for news! **Alden Sims Reding** is living in Alpharetta, GA. **Angie Dempsey Wells** teaches first grade in Spartanburg, SC, and has three boys, ages 10, 10 and 13. **Catherine Adams Gallagher** has



Class of 1991

(Continued)

## CLASS NOTES

# 90's

(Continued)

put her attention to detail to work; she is now a professional organizer with her own company called "Organized4Good." **Donna Garofalo Brown** is a school counselor in Greenwood, SC. **Elizabeth Hughes** is spending much of her time volunteering with high-school-age students. **Heather Neal Stone** is a therapist/counselor in Greenville, SC. **Sheila Clark Crossley** is the guidance counselor at Savannah Christian Preparatory School in Savannah, GA. I looked at many of your pages but did not come up with a lot of information. I am a Facebook neophyte. A group got together at DeBordieu Beach in the spring. **Ashton Bozard**, **Traci Dozier Waite**, **Marcy Hindes Swan**, **Cami Burton Hutchinson**, **Natalie Audish Scott**, **Paige Pooser Merrill**, **Elizabeth Lesto Zadig**, **Elizabeth Pressley O'Connell** and **Troy Blanton McCormick** were all there for fun and reminiscing. Please note that my (Anna's) e-mail has changed. I no longer have access to any of your e-mail addresses. I would love it if you would take the time to e-mail me just to catch me up and let me begin rebuilding my database. Just in case you didn't notice, we are coming up on our 20<sup>th</sup> class reunion—has it been that long? Please mark your calendars for the weekend of April 27-28, 2012 and plan to be in Sparkle City. We do need somewhere lovely to have our class dinner so be thinking of places! Anna

## CLASS OF 1993

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Ⓡ **Maureen Zeff Dunn**

Post Office Box 264  
Columbia, SC 29202  
mczdunn@aol.com

Ⓡ **Jane Manning Hyatt**

2429 Jackson Street, Apt. 3  
San Francisco, CA 94115, 415.655.9220  
converse1993@hotmail.com

Ⓡ **Candy Moore**

2221 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite D-370  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
epmoore1993@yahoo.com

We don't have much news to report, which is surprising considering the majority of our class celebrated a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone! Hope you had, or will have, a fabulous celebration. **Candy Moore** was the 2011 commencement speaker at Converse in May. Candy encouraged the 2011 Red Devils to begin forming a personal board of advisers to offer life advice and support. **Laura Kate Jones Brandstein** reports that she launched KindredStones.com in February. Kindred Stones is a custom-designed jewelry line, made with unique and powerful gemstones known for their special energetic properties. Collected from all over the world, these beautiful precious and semi-precious stones have the ability to harness



energy in extraordinary ways—to attract love and relationships, to celebrate a new baby, to inspire new levels of creativity, and everything in between. She has an awesome family collection that you can design yourself online at [www.kindredstones.com](http://www.kindredstones.com). Pick out your chain, the length and your stones online making it so much more meaningful; we hope all the Connies will check it out! **Jane Manning Hyatt**

## CLASS OF 1994

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

Ⓡ **Kristen Harris Cavin**

1410 Westhaven Blvd  
Franklin, TN 37064, 615.591.6795  
kristencavin@comcast.net

Ⓡ **Holly Miller Smith**

Post Office Box 522197  
Miami, FL, 301.869.3522  
hollybahamas@gmail.com

Ⓡ **Mary Ames Voyles**

1013 Oak Creek Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.585.8591  
maryamesv@bellsouth.net

The Class of 1994 continues to be "out and about" in some very interesting places... **Ashley Dover Sorrow**, **Ashley Gross Milliner**, **Kirsten Kerr**, **Elizabeth Burnette Killen**, **Martha White Waters** and **Hope Daniel Johnson** met in Sparkle city for a girl's weekend and a Darius Rucker concert. They report that they talked about all the fun that was had at our last reunion. **Dawn Barnard** and **Mandy Snow Vaudrey** had a big time at the Jimmy Buffett concert. Several classmates report being amazed at having older children... **Gray Tatum Covington** reports that she now has a child who drives! **Chesnut Clarke Denton** reports that she has one child heading to high school and one to middle school. Also with a child heading to middle school is **Christie Franck Towns**, who lives in Tennessee. Another classmate in Tennessee is **Kristen Harris Cavin** who loves her work as a newborn hearing

tester. **Cathy Goodman Tate** is teaching art lessons and is selling work at a gallery called The Art Bar on Main. **Katie Abbott Klutz** continues to work as an online educator and was recently nominated for online educator of the year. **Kathy Parrish Nelson** and her husband relocated to Greenville, SC where she works as a pharmacist with the hospital. **Catherine Fuller Fleming** continues to sell medical devices and live in Charleston, SC. During spring break, **Kelly Richardson Weekes** and her husband went on a cruise and stopped in Nassau, The Bahamas to visit **Holly Miller Smith** and her family, who relocated there in October of 2010. Holly looks forward to seeing anyone visiting the island. It was great to hear these bits from classmates. Please keep in touch. Holly Miller Smith

## CLASS OF 1995

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

Ⓡ **Laura Kate Moore Garner**

101 Cooper Street, Apt. 2E  
New York, NY 10034, 646.483.3878  
laurakatem@yahoo.com

**Kim Kitchin Haynes** has been busy this year promoting awareness about Angelman Syndrome. Kim, her family—Ben, John Carswell, Ellie and Brayden joined by some of their friends participated in the Angelman Syndrome Foundation's Annual Walk in Columbia, SC, on May 21, 2011. The "AngelEllie" team raised over \$1,800 in donations for the foundation: <http://www.angelman.org/>. A big "thank you" goes out to all of the Class of 1995 gals that made donations! **Keri Knecht Grosso** was on the road again this time moving south from Sandwich, MA to Lutz, FL. Keri, Tom, Kate and Sophie stopped off in Charlotte, NC, for a visit with **Kathi Phillips Washington** and family. **Laura Kate Moore Garner** spent Easter with **Cheryl Woody McIntyre** and the growing McIntyre family. All is well in Youngsville, LA and Cheryl, Roy and Laura Kate had fun catching up, fishing and hiding

Easter eggs for Charlie (5), Roger (3) and David (1). Baby Daniel (born March 10<sup>th</sup>) will be up and running soon with three big brothers to follow.

## CLASS OF 1996

Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2016

Ⓡ Pam Hughes Foster

20 Babbs Hollow Road  
Greenville, SC 29607, 864.254.0853  
pam@usmedals.com

Ⓡ Jenny Williams

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Spartanburg, SC 29302, 864.573.6018  
jennywilliams\_99@yahoo.com

First, I wanted to thank so many of you who returned to Spartanburg to celebrate our 15-year reunion in April. It was a wonderful celebration—maybe the best yet! I know that each of you was impressed to see a transformed campus. For those of you who could not make it, you were sincerely missed. On behalf of the class, a huge thank you is in order to **Carrie Hill Coleman**, who hosted the class at her home on Saturday night for our class cocktail party. Much appreciation also to **Evangeline Tucker English**, **Mani Wallace Reed**, **Charlotte Smith**, **Emma Carmichael Harrill**, **Leigh Edmunds McLaurin**, **Dawn Willis Durham** and **Susie Sparrow Dekle**, who collectively contributed to the dessert and drinks party held on Friday night at **Jenny Williams'** house. **Hannah Roberts Brockow** works as a full-time translator in Montreal. On the side, she has been performing on the Celtic harp, since 2006. In April, **Debbie Gardner Guilfoyle** traveled to Nevada, where she received her certification to be an Equine Assisted Therapist. Still working on her independent license, Debbie hopes to officially go into private practice soon. Carrie Coleman will transition from teaching the two's every day to teaching two days a week (fitness and Spanish) to all the children at First Presbyterian Weekday School in Spartanburg. Carrie hopes this change will give her more time to help at Pine Street School with her daughter's class and to go on field trips with both of her kids. We love staying in touch and hearing from you, so, please keep sending your updates/news and check out our Class of 1996 Facebook page.

## CLASS OF 1997

15<sup>th</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

Ⓡ Catherine Alexander Girard

1812 Savage Drive  
Plano, TX 75023, 214.789.7475  
crgirard@gmail.com

Ⓡ Shannon Gosnell Bishop

331 Gramercy Boulevard  
Spartanburg, SC 29301, 864.576.1069  
shannonbishop@gmail.com

Ⓡ Jennifer Coggins Reese

117 Sun Valley Drive  
Boiling Springs, SC 29316, 864.599.5383  
Jreese1975@hotmail.com



**Hadley Rowland** is currently job searching after graduating with her Masters. **Katie Doyle Proctor** went to DC to audition for Jeopardy! and thinks she did okay. She should be in the contestant pool for 18 months so be on the lookout for her on the show! She was able to meet up with **Nikki Willoughby** one night for dinner and stayed with **Leslie Anderson Cline** one night as well. Katie also finished the Walt Disney World Marathon in January. She saw **Nicole Van Note Gower** and her kids while she was there. They stayed for a week after the race to have fun with Mickey Mouse at Walt Disney World. Can you believe our 15-year reunion is coming up? **Nakia Martin Alexander** is working on her second master's degree in Public Policy Management from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She will graduate in May of 2012. Nakia is still caring for and facilitating rehab for her special needs husband of almost seven years, **Freddie Alexander**, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in August 2005. Mark your calendars to attend the reunion at Converse on April 27-28, 2012.

## CLASS OF 1998

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

Ⓡ Shannon Gordy Haynes

20 Sunset Drive  
LaGrange, GA 30240, 706.882.7189  
littleheartsoflagrangr@yahoo.com

Ⓡ Laura Matthews Pappas

13710 Harcum Road  
Phoenix, MD 21131, 410.667.0203  
lpappas@entertainment.com

## CLASS OF 1999

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

Ⓡ Stephanie Eldridge Avakian

12932 Kings Lake Drive  
Gibsonton, FL 33534, 813.677.6518  
Flipper913@gmail.com

Ⓡ Emily Harbin

328 Lake Forest Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29307, 864.529.0462

echarbin@gmail.com

Ⓡ Jennifer Marie Nockels

323 Stillwater Circle  
Boiling Springs, SC 29316, 864.583.5236  
jennockels@gmail.com

The Class of 1999 continues to reunite for weddings. **Katherine Nicole Medlock**, daughter of Kathy Willis Medlock '73, married Brian Jeffrey Scott in Spartanburg, SC. Music for the wedding was provided by **Emme Hines**, **Haley Marshe Calore** and **Nissa Carithers Zimmerman**. **Alison Block** married Ernesto Martinez in Miami, FL, with **Shwetha Gupta Silver** and **Stephanie Eldridge Avakian** attending. **Tricia Tulchin** married Trevor Boozer in Sarasota, FL, with **Angela Karamitsos Valentin** providing a reading. For more wedding details and new babies, see the Life Events section! **Sarah Farnaby** is beginning a PsyD Program in Clinical Psychology with a focus in Forensic Psychology. **Shwetha Gupta Silver** has opened her own dental practice, Terrell Mill Family Dentistry, in Marietta, GA. Alumnae in the Atlanta area should stop by for a checkup. **Alvetta Smith** was working at Tokyo DisneySea when the earthquake hit! Thankfully, she was not hurt! Also, some classmates have recently relocated. **Meryl Grant** and **Jill Harris** are now in Waltham, ME and **Rachel Hills Valencia** moved to Palo Alto, CA. After several moves and the passing of her father, **Rachel Burgess Van Gorden** now lives in the DC area and works at the International Spy Museum. **Becca Roland Hyleman** is relocating to Costa Rica and continues to volunteer raising awareness for a shelter for abused women in Guatemala called "El Refugio," which is in need of funds. Check out her Facebook page for more details or to help! And finally, after nearly two years, lots of chemo, radiation and two stem cell transplants, **KC Hammond Crawley** has been diagnosed cancer free. She is back at home in Melbourne, FL with her four kids!

## Remember when...1993



## CLASS NOTES

# 00's

## IN MEMORIAM

Anne Ellerbe Rabb Knopf '00, May 1, 2011  
Martha Elisabeth Depp '05, '07 MEd, March 24, 2011

## SYMPATHY

Jamie Frick Stacy '01 on the death of her grandfather, David William Cecil, April 17, 2011  
Rachel Hunt Donahue '03 on the death of her mother, Joyce M. Hunt, June 17, 2011  
Ashley Parris White '04 on the death of her mother, Carol Ann Greene Parris, March 28, 2011  
Joslyn Rachel Emmel '08 on the death of her grandfather, John Lawrence Warwick, Jr., March 31, 2011

## MARRIAGES

Louisa Keller Jenkinson '03 to Randall Lowndes Charpia, March 5, 2011  
Cara Maureen Potts '03 to Julius Stevens, June 13, 2010  
Sara Chehalis "Haley" Brown '04 to Chad Tollison, May 22, 2010  
Jean Elizabeth Eichelberger '04 to William Earl Campbell, March 26, 2011  
Holly Ann Jordan '06 to Ryan Steven LaFountain, May 15, 2011  
Sarah Elizabeth Bridges '07 to Jonathan R. Hyslop, January 23, 2010  
Ashley Lauren Carry '08 to David Rayne Brumfield, April 16, 2011  
Hannah Ruth Eisengrein '08 to Josh Leftwich, May 28, 2010  
Ashley Nichole Gaston '08 to Derek Marshall, December 18, 2010  
Marian Earle Margiotta '08 to Alan Michael Frazier, December 4, 2010  
Candice Amanda Sinclair '08 to Tyler Bishop, April 2, 2011  
Johanna Maria Torres '08 to Daniel O'Donnell, April 9, 2010  
Alexandra Margot Valois Burdette '09 to Austin Webb Trousdale III, June 11, 2011  
Katherine Elizabeth Klammer '09 to Bennie Bradberry, May 15, 2010  
Beatriz Serpas '09 to Zachary Michael Powell, May 28, 2011  
Brandy Elane Willenberg '09 to Christopher Troisi, December 11, 2010

## BIRTHS

William Hunter King, October 12, 2010, son of Johbe and Caroline Brice King '00  
Harper Drew Hyche, June 5, 2011, daughter of Drew and Mary Kinsey Hicks Hyche '00  
Evelyn Moore Pearson, March 28, 2011, daughter of Joe and Elizabeth Moore Pearson '00  
Isabella Payton Torres, May 12, 2011, daughter of Paul and Felica Baker Torres '01  
Alice Crandall, February 17, 2011, daughter of Jason Griffin and Rebecca Crandall '01

Cecily Anne Ray, January 27, 2011, daughter of Brian and Jessica Hundley Ray '01  
Tristan Matthew Kramer, April 11, 2011, son of Matt and Maryeah Jager Kramer '01  
James Parker Moss, January 18, 2011, son of James and Julie McSwain Moss '01  
Savannah Katherine Sapp, July 20, 2010, daughter of David and Kathy Anne Poore Sapp '01  
Graham McLean Marsh, Jr., May 8, 2011, son of Graham and Marlee Beckham Marsh '02  
Abigail Caroline Cochran, June 17, 2011, daughter of John and Amy Chadwick Cochran '02  
Zoe Iris Palmore, April 25, 2011, daughter of Anthony and Anna Dis Sveinbjornsdottir Palmore '02  
Miles Grayson Guenther, May 26, 2011, son of Paul and Emily Threatt Guenther '02  
Jackson Thomas Bishop, February 9, 2011, son of Jeremy and Beth Pressley Bishop '03  
Magnolia Danielle Bridges, February 28, 2011, daughter of Jason and Alisha Wilson Bridges '03  
Morgan Elizabeth Caraway, July 30, 2010, daughter of Kyle and Elaine Wright Caraway '03  
Oliver Frank Hart Warren, July 27, 2010, son of William and Rebecca Hart Warren '04  
Chole Rose Mashburn, May 21, 2011, daughter of Matthew and Katie Rybka Mashburn '04  
Amelia Hogan Wilkerson, June 5, 2011, daughter of Chipper and Kristin Carlton Wilkerson '05  
Robert Hayden Buchheit, September 9, 2010, son of Paul and Alison Dalbec Buchheit '05  
Virginia Grace Gonzalez, February 11, 2011, daughter of Domingo and Chasity Mahaffey Gonzalez '05  
Susannah Grace Duffy, February 25, 2011, daughter of Bethany Nichols '05  
Amelia Marie Grant, May 2, 2011, daughter of Matt and Danielle Romano Grant '05  
Grantham Loren Ludtke, July 29, 2010, son of Tim and Grace Wepner Ludtke '07

## CAREER CHANGES

Allyss Beck Haecker '01, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Vocal Studies, Newberry College, Newberry, SC  
Tina Sollazzo Agnew '01, Quality Supervisor, BioPharma Solutions, Bloomington, IN  
Mary Katherine DeGraw '02, Systems Consultant I, SunGardHE, Ewing, NJ  
Amber Dillard Hammond '03, Interactive Designer/Account Strategist, DemandEngine, Savannah, GA  
Melissia Heatherly Brannen '03, Director of Student Activities, Columbia College, Columbia, SC  
Cara Potts Stevens '03, Minister of Music, Southern Heights Baptist Church, Green Forest, AR  
Susan Byrnes Long '04, Realtor, Ebby Halliday Realtors, Dallas, TX  
Elizabeth A. Moseley '04, Assistant Director, Charleston Passport Center, Charleston, SC  
Bethany D. Nichols '05, Special Events Coordinator, National Federation of Republican Women, Alexandria, VA  
Sarah Peavler '05, Senior Accountant, HCA-Physician Services, Brentwood, TN

Jessica Fosdick '07, Executive Assistant, McMillan Pazdan Smith, Spartanburg, SC  
Jennifer Kaeser '08, Director of Development, St. Paul's Newman Center at Wichita State University, Wichita, KS  
Elizabeth Martin '08, '10 MMFT, Therapist, WestGate Teaching and Consultation Network, Spartanburg, SC  
Jessica Looney '09, Resident Director, Merrimack College, Andover, MA  
Maggie McDermott '09, Executive Assistant and Head Curator, White Stone Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
Christine Stowe '09, Administrator, Jan-Pro International, Alpharetta, GA

## ADVANCED DEGREES

Ashley Dawn Bendall '00, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Greta Basdon '01, MBA, University of Maryland University College, May 2011  
Joselyn Buckner '01, PhD, University of Kansas, May 2010  
Damesha Lincoln Lindsay '01, MAT, Converse College, July 2011  
Julie McSwain Moss '01, PhD, University of South Carolina, May 2011  
Katharine Ruth Crawford '02, MAT, Converse College, July 2011  
Carrie Leigh Page Drake '02, DMA, Arizona State University, May 2011  
Jennifer Gentry Stepp '03 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Melissa Kaye Lawter '03, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Jefferson Robert Stepp '03 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Boisha Washington Wofford '03 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Edwin Brice Laughter '04 MEd, EdS, Converse College, July 2011  
Courtenay Mims '04, MBA, The Citadel, May 2011  
Courtenay Mims '04, Cert, MUSC, May 2011  
Jennifer S. Olson '04 MEd, EdS, Converse College, July 2011  
Jennifer Lindsay Johnson '05, MAT, Converse College, July 2011  
Andrea Weatherman '05, MA, Bowling Green State University, May 2011  
Catherine Woodrum Pogue '05, '07 MEd, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Rosalind Ann Brown-Fowler '06, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Cynthia Ledford Singleton '06, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Lindsay McDade Nix '06, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Samoria Tishaye Roundtree '06, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Amanda Morgan Stephens '06, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
Nancy Hannon Clark '08, MAT, Converse College, July 2011  
Lindsay Daniel '08, JD, Mercer University, May 2011

Desiree Alexis Gomez '08, MAT, Converse College, July 2011  
 Dena Gomez Erickson '08, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Myra Kathryn Hendley '08, MMFT, Converse College, July 2011  
 Lucy R. Johnson '08, JD, Mississippi College School of Law, May 2011  
 Jennifer Kaeser '08, MFA, Wichita State University, May 2011  
 Danielle Krena Hobson '08 MAT, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Jennifer Lynn Lewis '08, MLA, Converse College, July 2011  
 Linda Lorraine Boling '09, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Sarah Elizabeth Gray '09, MFA, Converse College, July 2011  
 Marian Bryce Hanna '09, MEd, University of South Carolina, May 2011  
 Rachel Harmon Robles '09, MA, Western Carolina University, May 2011  
 Betsy Kerr Airgood '09, MEd, Augusta State University, May 2011  
 Bailey Lanford Taylor '09, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Jessica Looney '09, MS, Canisius College, 2011  
 Tori Elizabeth Miller '09, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Morgan Amelia Osburn '09, MFA, Converse College, July 2011  
 Jeffrey Ray Schrecongost '09 MLA, MFA, Converse College, July 2011  
 Beatriz Serpas Powell '09, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Sara Elizabeth Sipe '09, MMFT, Converse College, July 2011  
 Teresa Evette White '09, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
 Kathy Zimmerli Wofford '09, MAT, Converse College, July 2011

## CLASS OF 2000

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

- Ⓡ Amanda Crane Cox  
8 Grouse Ridge Way  
Greenville, SC 29617, 864.294.6403  
acranecox@yahoo.com
- Ⓡ Kiley Ellen Rikard  
708 East Church Street  
Monroe, GA 30655, 770.266.7460  
kileyrikard@hotmail.com

Hey Pink Panthers!! Hope everyone had a fun and restful summer! We have a few updates we know you'll be interested in! Sarah Lumpkin Wyatt is doing Adventure Based Counseling at Holston Home for Children (experiential therapies like equestrian therapy, ropes course interventions, etc.). Cheryl Schilhab Mallant moved to Seattle, WA to work as the assistant director of Bellevue Children's Academy. Rachael Hicks Jamison has lost a little sleep lately welcoming Evelyn



Claire into their life in April! Angela Lee Sox understands, as she welcomed little Noah in April as well. Tasha Pangle Forshee is in the process of moving to England with her girls, Madelyn (5) and Reagan (1) and her husband, Ryan (who serves in the army). There was a mini-Connie reunion where Maria Oliver Solomon, Ginny Flowers Munson, Allyson Lowder Sanders, Angie Ackermann Hart, Anne Jenkinson, Mary Kinsey Hicks Hyche, Britney Jeffords Greeson, Elizabeth Anne Fuller Easterling, Jennifer Frith, Lynn James Galloway, Meredith Sims, Laura Phillips, Jessica Eggimann and Kari Killen celebrated a baby shower for Elizabeth Moore Pearson! Make sure you check out the births section of the magazine to see news on Caroline Brice King, Elizabeth Moore Pearson and Mary Kinsey Hicks Hyche. Thanks to you all for your prayers and support of Stephanie Elizondo Craft, who lost her home in Japan. Stephanie received temporary housing and Gabe is back at work! Hope life is treating you all well and we look forward to a time when we can all be together again!

## CLASS OF 2001

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend 2016

- Ⓡ Erin Stone Wesol  
3804 Green Ridge Court #102  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
erinwesol@yahoo.com
- Ⓡ Marion Sibley Yates  
3700 Campus Drive Suite 202  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
annoyingskeen@gmail.com
- Ⓡ Kristen Bottenfield Willimon  
Willimon MD, PO Box 763  
Avon, CO 81620  
kwillimon@yahoo.com

What a year it has been for the Class of 2001! We celebrated our 10 year reunion and are keeping busy. Tina Sollazzo Agnew and family moved into new house and are having fun decorating. Allyss Beek

Haecker took a new position at Newberry College. She and husband Arthur are buying a house in Newberry, SC. Jenny Woodruff moved to Portland, ME with her boyfriend Luke, where they will share an apartment and pursue their academic studies and careers. Nicole Johnsey Burke lives in Nashville, TN. She's beginning to homeschool her oldest, Carolyn (4) and keeps a daily blog at www.burningbushes.org. Kristen Bottenfield Willimon and husband Cliff moved from Vail, CO to Atlanta, GA this summer. Autaum Morant is a sponsored athlete with Team MARATHON Bar and will represent them in three Rock-n-Roll series events this summer. Marion Sibley Yates loves working as a critical care nurse in California, where she moved from Atlanta, GA in 2010. Marion is a landlord for several rental properties on the east coast. Felicia Baker Torres and family are headed back to Virginia after three years in Russia. Cori Williams Spicer is the network administrator at Converse and has been involved with Converse campus technology for 10 years. Veronica Wells Day and husband Jonathan are planting Encounter Church in Greenville, SC. Greta Basdon enjoys her job as a system integrator with Verizon. Jocelyn Buckner had an article published in the spring 2011 *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. She spent three weeks in May on a research trip to New York and Washington, DC for a book she is writing. Kim Hayes Roberson teaches at SCSBD and she is working toward her master's in Special Education. Erin Stone Wesol enjoyed meeting up with Rebecca Jenkins Barry '99 and Jessica Eggimann '00 in April and works at First Steps Academy in Virginia.

## CLASS OF 2002

10<sup>th</sup> Reunion - April 27-28, 2012

- Ⓡ Laura L. Causey  
450 Orion Avenue  
Metairie, LA 70005, 504.813.9413  
llcausey@yahoo.com
- Ⓡ Kerri L. Olson  
2213 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Place  
Renton, WA 98056, 612.730.6087  
kerri.olson@delta.com



(Continued)

## CLASS NOTES

# 00's

(Continued)

Mark your calendars for our 10<sup>th</sup> reunion on April 27 and 28. Make plans now to attend in 2012!

## CLASS OF 2003

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

® **Megan Russell Bates**

208 Wilson Road  
Anderson, SC 29625, 864.231.7687  
gem1813@hotmail.com

® **Melissia Heatherly Brannen**

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® **Allison Turner Watson**

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**Melissia Heatherly Brannen** was recently selected as the Director of Student Activities at Columbia College. While sad to leave USC, she is excited to return to a women's college environment where she will work with student activities, leadership programs, orientation and fellow classmate Mary Carlisle. Melissia visits the upstate often—especially over the past couple of months for birthday parties for her two daughters, **Carla Nelson Martin's** son and **Megan Russell Bates' son**. She is looking forward to visiting **Nicole Giraudin Martinez** this summer, who is enjoying her new full time job as a stay-at-home mom to her daughter. **Anna Steenerson** will be performing in the Upstate in September. Lookout for emails and Facebook invitations from some of us, who plan to go see her! **Alison Turner Watson** is staying busy these days working as a board certified music therapist (MT-BC), recreation therapist, activities assistant and ABA therapist! She recently completed work as a music therapist with a collaborative grant research project between Converse College and the Community Healing Arts Program of Spartanburg

Regional Healthcare System; the team presented the project results at the recent Southeastern Region-American Music Therapy Association conference. The project results will also be submitted for publication in the *Arts in Psychotherapy* journal. She is also performing with several local groups and selling her line of handmade jewelry, Ally's Dilly Dallys. **Chelsea Jaccard**, who is a foreign service officer with USAID, is heading to Uganda! We wish her the best as she leaves in August for a two-year post. Keep the updates coming, ladies. We are looking forward to our next reunion in 2013!

## CLASS OF 2004

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

® **Casey Addis**

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® **Kate Carr**

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® **Jennie Zehr**

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## CLASS OF 2005

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2015

® **Danielle Beckford**

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® **Heather Engelman**

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® **Libby Long Richards**

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**Joy Bertling** is enrolled in a PhD program in Art Education at the University of Georgia. **Andrea**

will be in Germany next year on a Fulbright grant. **Kara Hagood DiPrima** and her husband recently moved and are expecting a little girl in August. **Shakira Anderson** currently teaches in an oral deaf program in Durham, NC and will be traveling to Kenya on a mission trip to affirm teachers there in what they are doing. **Nicole Martin Pruitt** is working as a youth pastor and an Army chaplain in a reserve unit in Salt Lake City, UT. **Allison Dalbec Buchheit** is currently a Research and Development Associate at Contec, where she did her internship while at Converse. **Debra Rogers** moved from South Korea to Malaysia, where she is working as a teacher trainer for a company out of the Arab Emirates. **Carolyn Bone** is practicing law at the Parise Law Firm, P.A. in Columbia, SC. She got engaged to S. Coleman McNair on June 11. **Martha Elisabeth Depp** went to be with the Lord on March 24, 2011 due to cancer. Her public blog is still available for viewing at <http://ajourneytothedoor.blogspot.com/> if you would like to read her story.

## CLASS OF 2006

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend 2016

® **Mallory Beckett**

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® **Claire Marie Slocum**

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See our 5<sup>th</sup> reunion class photo below.

## CLASS OF 2007

5<sup>th</sup> Reunion - April 27-28, 2012

® **Grace Bagwell**

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® **Valerie Dowling**

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® **Deidre D. Tindal**

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Mark your calendars for our 5<sup>th</sup> reunion on April 27 and 28. Make plans now to attend in 2012!

## CLASS OF 2008

Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2013

® **Nancy Hannon Clark**

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® **Sarah Whitfield Marion**

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® **Elizabeth Martin**

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® **Erin Norah McGraw**

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Class of 2006



✉ **Nora Nassri**

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✉ **Johanna Nicole Whitmer**

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Our class has been busy since the last issue of the magazine! Check out the life events section for an update on all of the changes. **Lindsay Daniel** finished law school and received several accolades at graduation, including the Dean's Distinguished Service Award, the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers' (GAWL) Outstanding Law Student and a scholarship from the GAWL Foundation. Lindsay is fully ensconced in studying for both the Georgia and Tennessee bar exams and is hoping to find a job in the Atlanta area. **Ashley Gaston Marshall** got married in December and now has two stepsons. In April, she and her husband bought a house in Reidville where she is working at a medical office doing insurance and billing. **Nancy Hannon Clark** will graduate from Converse again in July with her MAT in middle level social studies. In addition to school, she stays busy with her daughters. In August, **Megan Mitchell** is starting a PhD program in Neuroscience and Animal Behavior at Emory University. **Jennifer Kaeser** is glad to be finished with graduate school and has gotten a job as director of development with the Catholic student center for Wichita State University. She loves her new position, which includes communications and alumni relations. Our globetrotting classmate **Natalie Lineberger** lived in San Sebastian, Spain for ten months

teaching English and is now au pairing for the summer in Tampere, Finland. She has also traveled to Morocco and Portugal and had a mini-reunion in France with classmates **Yosi Weldemedhin** and **Mahal Woldetsadik**, her sister, Monica Lineberger '11, Dr. Jeri King and other Converse students traveling during January Term. As always, it's wonderful to hear from all of you!

## CLASS OF 2009

### Next Reunion - Alumnae Weekend, 2014

✉ **Daniela Burrows**

burrows.dmarie@yahoo.com

✉ **Katie Mayes**

mayes.katie@gmail.com

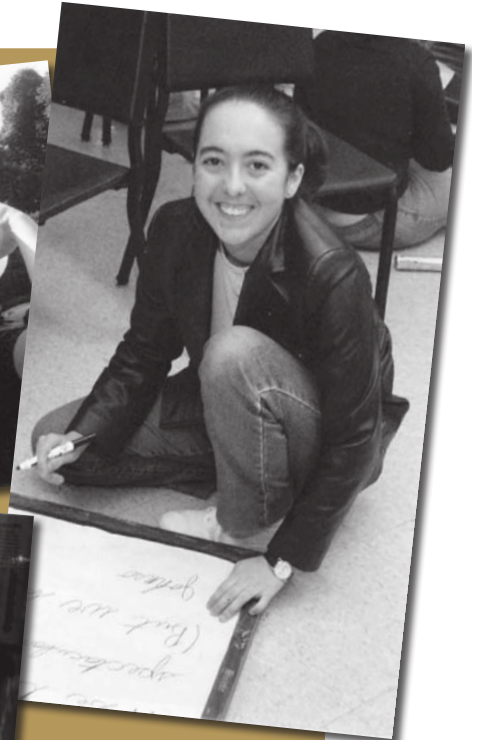
✉ **Anna Sharp**

als1224@gmail.com

**Maggie McDermott** will be attending Drexel University for a Master's of Science in Arts Administration. **Crystal Daniels** lives in Lithonia, GA with her son and teaches 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. **Melissa Russo** works as Office Administrator for an engineering company in Spartanburg. **Katie Moore** lives in Dunwoody, GA and works as an Online Content Manager/Social Media Specialist at Network Communications, Inc. **Arin Ball** works as a camp counselor at the Youth Center at Andrews Air Force Base (Maryland). **Katie Mayes** is an assistant at Eastminster Day School (Columbia, SC) for three year olds. **Meenakshi Gurung** works in Spartanburg as a Financial Analyst for American Credit Acceptance. **Laura**

**Miles** is the Outreach Coordinator at Hands On! Regional Museum in Johnson City, TN. She's moving to Washington, DC in the fall to attend George Washington University for an MA in Art Therapy. **Allison Jones** is finishing up her Master's in Psychology, with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis in Developmental Disabilities from Auburn University. **Brittney Moreno** works at Wachovia/Wells Fargo. **Cassandra Morrow Harris** works as a preschool teacher for deaf and hard of hearing three and four year olds in Spartanburg County. **Katherine Klammer Bradberry** attends Clemson University seeking a MEd in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. **Erica Harper** lives in Charleston, SC and teaches 3D art at Windsor Hill Arts Infused Elementary School. **Elizabeth Dempsey** is the General Music Teacher at Denmark-Olar Elementary School and the Director of Choral Programs at Denmark-Olar Middle School. **Sarah Moser Beason** is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a four year joint MPP/JD program at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. **Elly MacPhail Keyser** is the Vacation Bible School Director at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia; she is working on putting together a network of preschools, to which she will travel to lead music programs. **Brooke Franklin** is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a Master's in International Relations program with a concentration on Food and Russian Policy at The Catholic University of America. She works at the American Society for Nutrition as the International Operations Assistant.

## Remember when...2007



## CLASS NOTES

# 10's

## SYMPATHY

**Ashleigh Sieradzki '10** on the death of her brother, David Sieradzki, June 27, 2011  
**Katie Brock '13** on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Smart Brock '51, November 11, 2010

## MARRIAGES

**Elisabeth LaClaire Atkins '10** to Bryan Sloan, January 29, 2011  
**Anna Marie Estes '10** to Trevor Strom, January 1, 2011  
**Kayla Marie Evatt '10** MAT to Evan Garrett Landreth, October 9, 2010  
**Ashley Anne Gladson '10** to Curtis William Murphy, June 11, 2011  
**Brooksie Elizabeth Heath '10** MAT to David Pinckney Berry III, May 28, 2011  
**Susan Ashley Holder '10** MAT to Ryan Randall Renken, June 18, 2011  
**Alaina Leighanne Johnson '11** to David Bruce Fowler II, June 11, 2011

## CAREER CHANGES

**Jennifer Brown '10**, Business Analyst, COINS, Latham, NY  
**Caroline Burnett '10**, Inside Sales Support, Staubli Corporation, Duncan, SC  
**Nicole Dumouchel '10**, Fourth Grade Teacher, Flowerton Elementary School, Summerville, SC  
**Kourtney McKinney '10**, Art Teacher, Inman Intermediate and New Prospect Elementary, Spartanburg, SC  
**Ashleigh Nix '10**, Materials Analyst, Syncreon, Duncan, SC  
**Anna Owens '10**, Teacher of Middle Eastern Studies and 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Geography, Wilson Hall, Sumter, SC  
**Carlton Steller '10**, Art Teacher, Beck Academy, Greenville, SC  
**Karissa Terry '10**, NICU Nurse Extern, Northside Hospital, Atlanta, GA  
**Susan Martin Arnold '11**, Second Grade Teacher, Greenville County Schools, Simpsonville, SC



**McKenzie Morgan '11**, Special Education Teacher, Spartanburg School District Three, Spartanburg, SC

## ADVANCED DEGREE

**Kristen Abigail Childers '10**, MEd, Converse College, July 2011  
**Anna Estes Strom '10**, MBA, Winthrop University, 2011

## CLASS OF 2010

### Next Reunion – Alumnae Weekend 2015

- Ⓡ **Elizabeth Powell**  
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- Ⓡ **Ashley Shearsmith**  
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The Class of 2010 celebrated their first reunion this past April. Members of the class came from all over to join their fellows at familiar haunts, such as Wild Wings and Wades, and to discover new ones,

like The Coffee Bar on Main. Those that attended also had a blast at the Darius Rucker Concert! The Class of 2010 is representing Converse well as many members are engaging in new pursuits. Many are embarking on programs for higher education. **Olivia Menjares** will be attending Charleston School of Law in the fall. **Chelsey Boggs** will also begin law school this fall at Georgetown University. **Ridgley Beckett** has been accepted at Princeton Theological Seminary for an MDiv/MA in Youth Ministry. **Audery Ponder** is working on an MA through Liberty University, **Monica LeBlanc** is working on her teaching certificate through Palm Beach State College, and **Lee Cantey** is back at Converse for an MAT in Art Education. **Anna Estes Strom** will be graduating from Winthrop University in August with an MBA-Accounting degree. **Ashley Gladson Murphy** and her husband, Curtis moved to Greer, SC. Several members of the Class of 2010 are giving back to their communities through service. **Mary English** is working with AmeriCorps NCCC and **Morgan Anderson** is moving to Miami to do a year of service with City Year, an AmeriCorps program focusing on dropout prevention in low-income schools. **Zareen Khan** is working this summer in Washington, DC as a Government and Public Affairs intern for the Financial Services Roundtable.

## Remember when...2011



## CLASS OF 2011

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion – April 27-28, 2012

- Ⓡ **Whitney Stonikinis**  
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- Ⓡ **Hope Williams**  
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 Easley, SC 29642, 864.320.1902  
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As you "Live Life at an 11," make your plans now to attend our FIRST class reunion on April 27 and 28. Send your news to Whitney and Hope.