

CONVERSE



Spring 2016

**A DECADE OF
VOICE, VALUE
AND VISION**

*Celebrating the Legacy
of President Betsy Fleming*



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2 President's Message

FEATURES

3 A Decade of Voice, Value and Vision Celebrating a Distinctly Converse Experience

4 Alumni

8 Student

12 Faculty

16 Academics

20 Athletics

24 Giving

28 A Lasting Legacy Q&A with President Betsy Fleming

34 Greetings from The Alumnae Association

35 Class Notes

48 A Final Farewell



“The highlight of the decade for me... has been realizing the power of ‘we.’ Motivated by a singular resolve, you and me, indeed all of us individually and collectively, have gained in strength because of that focus.”

Dear Converse Friends and Family,

As I reflect upon our last decade together, which is so beautifully captured in the stories, photographs and milestones recorded in this issue of *Converse Magazine*, an immense sense of pride and gratitude wells from deep within me (and tears make their way down my cheeks). Thank you for taking this bold journey with me. You have served as captains and confidantes, crew members and course-correctors—hard-working, astute and fully engaged in advancing the new vision we established for Converse to be “nationally recognized as an excellent master’s university, acclaimed as a center for creative thinking and learning and as a community that produces engaged citizens who effect positive change.”

The magnitude of our individual and collective accomplishments during these years has taken me back to a quintessential liberal arts course that I took my freshman year, “The Literature of Social Reflection.” Its diverse readings sparked an understanding of the value of being driven by a higher purpose. I recall a passage in Walker Percy’s *The Moviegoer*, “What is the nature of the search? You ask. The search is what anyone would undertake if he were not sunk in the everydayness of his own life. To become aware of the search is to be onto something.”

Over the past decade, Converse has been onto something—stepping back from our own separate everyday lives in order to fulfill a larger purpose, that of transforming lives and communities by providing a distinctively Converse educational experience. Together, we have nurtured a culture that pushes boundaries, willingly takes risks and creates new pathways of opportunity in order to accomplish our mission. Our results in terms of undergraduate enrollment growth, physical plant enhancements, academic and athletic program development, and expanded national visibility have been truly exceptional.

The highlight of the decade for me, however, has been realizing the power of “we.” Motivated by a singular resolve, you and me, indeed all of us individually and collectively, have gained in strength because of that focus. The greatest testament of our might is the confidence, competence and courage of our students and alumni, and the creativity and commitment of our faculty and staff. Converse demonstrates that there is nothing more powerful than an individual with purpose and passion, committed to making a positive impact on the world.

What professions and the world’s communities need most today are individuals with a breadth of knowledge, individuals with judgment and taste, individuals with the ability to think critically and creatively, individuals with sensitivity for the problems of others and a strong sense of ethical principles. Developing those individuals is what we do at Converse—past, present and future. It is challenging work. But as Teddy Roosevelt urges, “Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight of inaction that knows neither victory nor defeat.”

I am deeply grateful for our mighty daring over the past decade. And, my excitement increases as I consider the future of Converse, particularly the growth on the horizon involving academic and athletic programs, new housing, and the Converse International School.

Thank you, Converse, for all that you have been, for all that you are, and especially for all the promise and potential you hold for the future! My cup runneth over with pride, gratitude and joy.

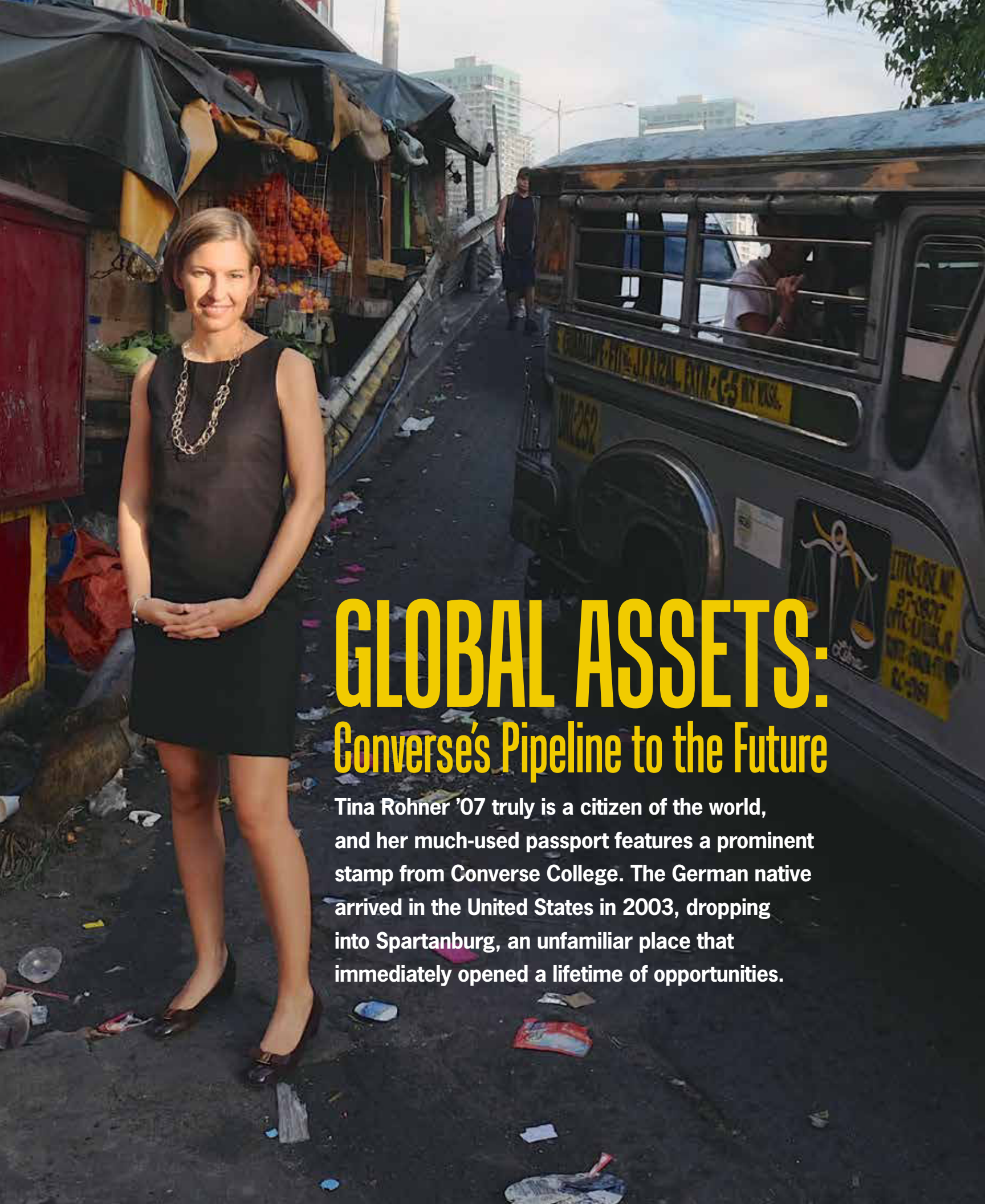
Betsy

Elizabeth A. Fleming
President



A Decade of Voice, Value and Vision

In this special issue of *Converse Magazine*, we celebrate a decade of bold moves and courageous transformation under President Betsy Fleming's leadership. As the College prepares for President Fleming's departure, we invite you to take a stroll down memory lane as we highlight milestones that have helped to shape the Converse of today.

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a black sleeveless dress and a gold chain necklace, stands in a narrow, cluttered alleyway. To her right is a large, dark-colored bus with yellow text and a logo on its side. The alleyway is filled with trash and debris, and a makeshift stall with a blue tarp is visible on the left. In the background, a person is walking away, and modern buildings are visible under a clear sky.

GLOBAL ASSETS: Converse's Pipeline to the Future

Tina Rohner '07 truly is a citizen of the world, and her much-used passport features a prominent stamp from Converse College. The German native arrived in the United States in 2003, dropping into Spartanburg, an unfamiliar place that immediately opened a lifetime of opportunities.



I was very shy growing up. I was never what you would call a leader,” Tina Rohner says via Skype from the Philippines, where she works for Asian Development Bank (ADB). “But at Converse, you have the opportunity to take on all these different leadership roles. And because it’s all-women, it offers an environment where you feel like you can speak up, everyone listens to you, and they’re very respectful of you—even if you have an accent.” (She also speaks French and Mandarin Chinese.)

Rohner selected Converse from her home in southern Bavaria, liking what she saw from “virtual” visits via the Internet. She was awarded a full tennis scholarship, and was drawn to the College’s embrace of international students. “From the first day, I had a lot of friends and people who helped me,” she says.

Among numerous activities, she was a standout on Converse’s nationally-acclaimed Model League team, where students debate as diplomats; the NCAA Division II tennis team; and Student Government. She also was awarded opportunities for advanced studies in Dubai, at Georgetown University and Bard College. “I felt like I had a ride from heaven because it just was all right there at your fingertips,” she says.

“There are great opportunities around the world, and I’m happy to help anyone at Converse who’s interested in any kind of advice I can provide.”

After completing undergraduate degrees in economics and politics, she turned down offers from Harvard and Yale to pursue master’s degrees in public affairs and public policy in Paris and Singapore, where she worked for Goldman Sachs. Today, she travels from Armenia to Pakistan for ADB, working on investment strategies to support the company’s mission for a “poverty free Asia.” In 2013, ADB reported \$4.7 billion in investments that helped connect 600,000 people to telephone service and 70,000 households to clean water.

Rohner, 31, is also committed to helping fellow Converse alumnae tap into a world of opportunities. Marisa Esformes ’14 introduced herself to Rohner during Reunion Weekend, and Rohner was so impressed she recommended Esformes for the prestigious Goldman Sachs Rising Leaders Forum in Hong Kong. Selected from among 67 candidates worldwide, Esformes thought she could never afford to attend. Next thing she knew, “Everything was set in stone and paid for. Tina sent me a full itinerary, with airfare, and she even got me an apartment,” says Esformes, now an international art broker in Miami. “It was awesome enough that she recommended me. I was so thankful for what she did and her exact line was ‘Promise me one day you’ll pay it forward.’ That was the contingency.”

Says Rohner: “There are great opportunities around the world, and I’m happy to help anyone at Converse who’s interested in any kind of advice I can provide.”

Now she’s trying to bring another ace tennis player to the College from Singapore. “We’ll see if I also have my first official recruit at Converse,” she says with an optimistic laugh. “My door is always open, and I love helping these young ladies.”

A Decade of Alumni Milestones



Nearly 800 alumnae and guests convene on campus for Reunion Weekend 2014 to celebrate Converse's 125th anniversary and to recognize 125 Outstanding Alumnae. Converse heralds its 125th by setting a new 25-year undergraduate enrollment record for the fourth consecutive year, with nearly 300 new undergraduate students enrolling for 2014.

The 2010 Founder's Day keynote address is given by renowned artist Berry Bate '75, whose year-long campus sculpture installation, *The Emerging Spirit*, opened in conjunction with the service. The exhibition's 12 metal sculptures reflect the distinctive qualities instilled by women's colleges, which lay the foundation for a lifelong sense of unity, support, spirituality, strength and self-actualization.



Tapp Hancock '80 and John "Jed" Dearybury '03 MAT join Converse's legacy of award-winning K-12 teachers and school administrators by garnering national and state Presidential Awards of Excellence. For her patented Han-5 approach to teaching mathematics, Hancock receives the 2006 national award including a \$10,000 grant to promote math and science education. In 2012, Dearybury becomes the South Carolina state award winner. Administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation, the Presidential Award of Excellence is the nation's highest honor for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science.

In 2010, alumnae were invited to join students for Converse Impact Service Day, resulting in more than 125 alumnae and current students working simultaneously on projects to improve communities across the country. Volunteers worked with local nonprofit organizations, many of which were selected for their focus on advancing and supporting women and families.



Candy Moore '93 (second from left) graces the cover of *Atlanta Tribune* as one of four “Superwomen Making A Difference in Our Community” for 2015. First and foremost in Moore’s feature article is a nod to Converse and the mentoring relationships, rooted in her college years, that continue to propel her today. Moore is Senior Vice President and Southeast Community Development Manager for Wells Fargo in Atlanta, Georgia.



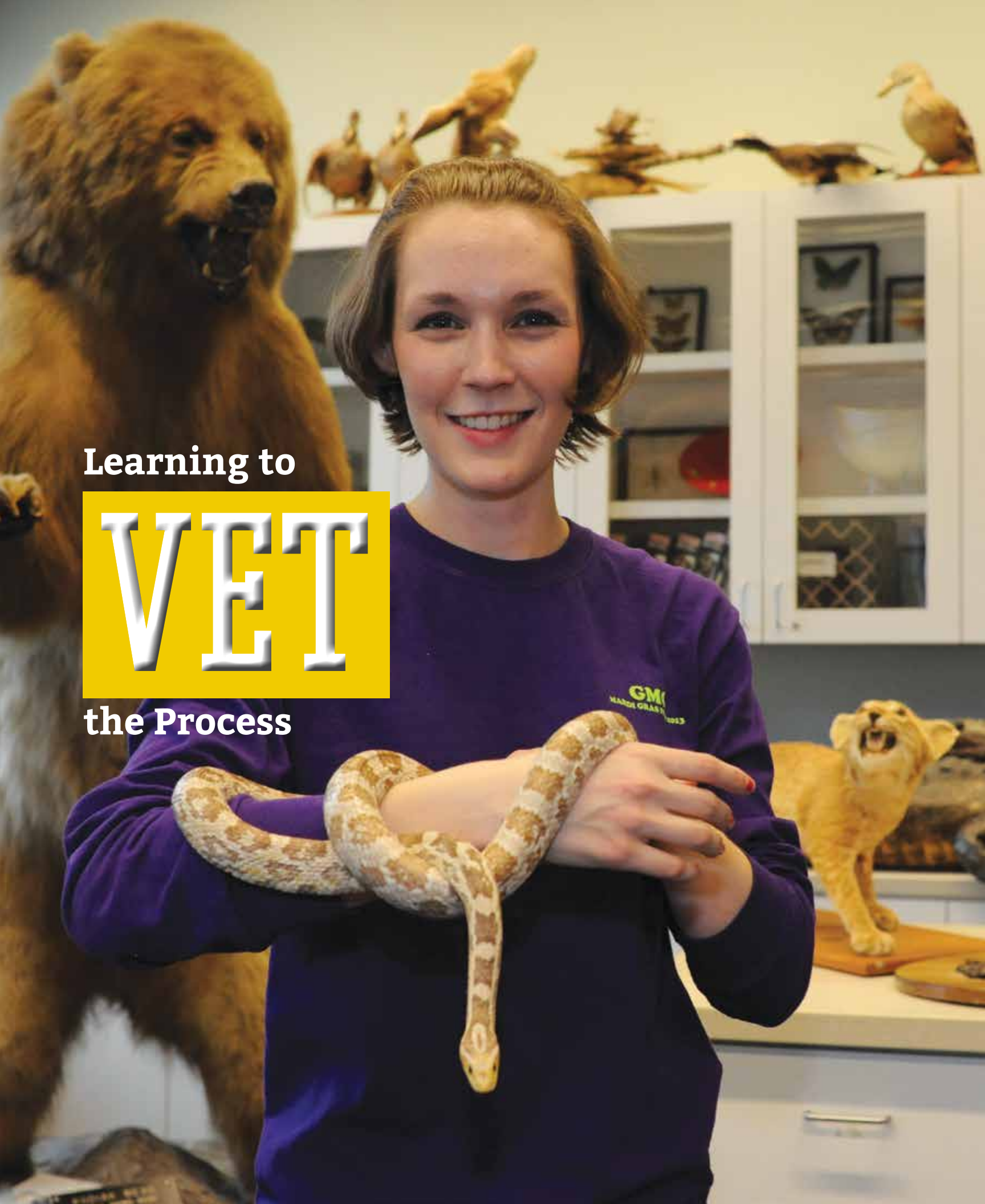
Ellen Bryant Voigt '64 is named among 23 MacArthur Fellow “Genius” grant recipients for 2015, receiving \$625,000 for extraordinary achievements in her creative pursuits. In her 2007 Converse commencement address, Voigt urged graduates to “use your mind and mind your soul. You leave here with a valuable, privileged asset: a liberal arts education, which has as its goal to teach one how to think.” Converse honored Voigt as one of 125 Outstanding Alumnae in 2014 and with an honorary degree in 1989.



Egyptian phenomenon Wael Farouk '06 MM makes his debut at New York’s famed Carnegie Hall in 2013. His performance includes an original composition by Converse professor Dr. Scott Robbins, entitled *I Colored a Wanted Music I Can Always Hear*. Recruited to Converse by Dr. Douglas Weeks, Babcock Professor of Piano, Farouk developed a sense of family among the Converse and Spartanburg communities. Many of these friends supported Farouk by funding about a quarter of his cost to rent Carnegie Hall, and several traveled to attend his performance.




In 2014, Natasha Senanayake '11 wins the inaugural Commonwealth Music Competition on the eve of the Commonwealth Games Glasgow. Senanayake, originally from Sri Lanka, receives a recording contract, a 2015 Commonwealth Gala Concert performance of her winning composition, and a year-long role as “Commonwealth Music Ambassador.” Senanayake is the second Converse graduate from Sri Lanka to earn international recognition in the music world, joining Tharanga Goonitelleke '05, who became the first Sri Lankan to attend The Juilliard School, an artist with New York City Opera, and an associate of Trinity College of Music in London.



Learning to

VET

the Process



Amberleigh Dryman was 14 when she visited Morocco with her mom. Growing up in Greer, South Carolina, she was around all kinds of animals, from dogs to ducks, but it was in Casablanca where she took a carriage ride that drove her toward her future.

“The horse we were riding behind actually collapsed,” the Converse senior recalls. “Nobody was hurt, but obviously the horse didn’t survive. There was nothing we could do for it. I knew there was nothing they would do, and I decided right then that I could make up for not being able to help that one animal by helping other animals.”

This spring, Dryman, 21, graduates with a bachelor’s of science in biology and a minor in history. She earned it in just three years, having collected 64 college credits at Greer Middle College Charter High School.

Her numerous jobs include: Spartanburg Science Center; Cleveland Park Animal Hospital in Greenville; and Converse’s Mickel Library. She also created her senior-year January Term experience, a three-week trip to Thailand to work with elephants. “I’m kind of an insomniac,” she says, “but I’m good at adaptation.”

While Dryman has traveled to at least as many countries as her age, Converse has been the trip of a lifetime. “I learned more at Converse about independence and living my own life. Going in, I was really unsure of myself, but Converse taught me to take hold of my own life and my own choices.”

She even chose to endure three rigorous interrogations to prepare for an entrance interview with London’s Royal Veterinary College, where she was recently accepted.

“Amberleigh is the only student who asked for more than one mock interview,” says Cathy Gowan, Converse’s Director of Internships and Corporate Relations. “She has taken advantage of every opportunity and has adapted it to help her pursue her dream.”

The Royal College interview proved unexpectedly brutal. Ten stations with five-minute challenges included one where she had to instruct an interviewer how to build something with Legos without using any illustrations; in another, she had to interview the interviewer about why he should attend the college.

She has faced obstacles considerably more difficult than those. When she was 13, her father died of cancer. “Amberleigh has known adversity and has used this to encourage herself to reach her full potential,” Gowan says.

Leslie West, Director of Professional Development and Career Services, agrees: “She radiates eloquent confidence and continually challenges herself through academics, involvements, and giving back to the community. Her zest and purpose for life is contagious.”

While Dryman plans to work primarily with farm animals one day, she’s also rolling toward yet another goal. Inspired by the Coen brothers’ classic, *The Big Lebowski*, she finds spare time to strike up a bowling league.

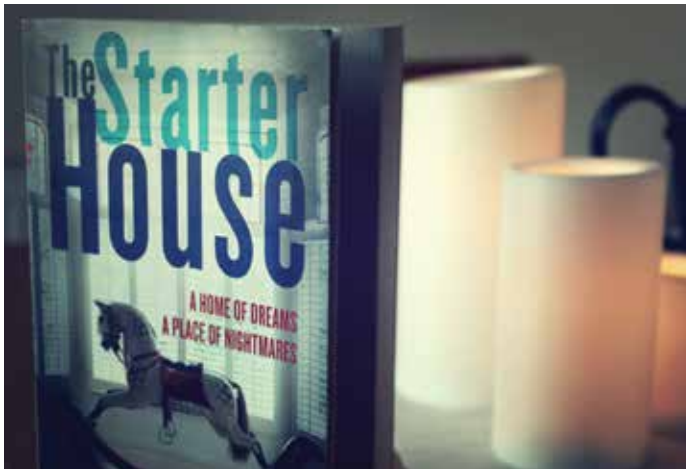
To crib from the film: Amberleigh abides.

“I learned more at Converse about independence and living my own life. Going in, I was really unsure of myself, but Converse taught me to take hold of my own life and my own choices.”

A Decade of **STUDENT** Milestones



Traveling alongside a dozen community leaders from the Upstate of South Carolina, Jess Lee '12 and Sally Jeter Hammond '81 bike more than 150 miles around the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Their trip to Tanzania is coordinated by the non-governmental organization Globalbike to help break the cycle of violence against women and girls in Africa. Lee credits Converse's commitment to being creative and collaborative in every pursuit for fueling her passion for social entrepreneurship.



Sonja Condit Coppenbarger '12, a low-residency MFA student, completes a book-length manuscript, *Starter House*, that is published by one of the world's leading publishing houses, HarperCollins. Coppenbarger joins the young program's growing list of alumni being published by notable presses and journals (Simon & Schuster, *The New York Times*, *Colorado Review*, and *Sewanee Review*) and winning prizes for their writing (South Carolina Poetry Initiative Book contest, AWP Intro Prize).



Rachel Epperly '15 and Keeli Wofford '15 raise awareness about rape and domestic violence by bringing The Clothesline Project to campus in 2014. The students receive a Converse Creative Collaborative Grant to fund the week-long program. Victims and supporters paint empowering messages and imagery on T-shirts, which are displayed on a clothesline spanning the quad, and Converse holds a public screening and panel discussion for the documentary *It Was Rape*. Media outlets across the nation publish images of the Converse clothesline.



Ashley Blount '13 is named one of 16 Fellows by the prestigious John Jay Institute, a Philadelphia-based program designed to equip men and women for faith-informed public service. Prior to this award, the Nisbet Honors Program student served as congressional intern for the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, spent a summer aboard the University of Virginia's Semester at Sea program, and participated in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute for political science at Duke University.

Brittany Pack '12 is selected for the 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. Members benefit from intensive training on leadership development, public speaking, writing, grassroots organizing and government affairs.

A summer internship with the Syrian Enterprise and Business Center in Damascus affords Nora Nassri '08 experience working with the Vision 2025 team to help Syria gain economic strength. Nassri is also accepted into the Globalization and International Affairs Summer Program at Bard College, along with fellow Converse student Tina Rohner '07.



The University of South Carolina's School of Medicine commissions Ayako Abe-Miller '12, student of Mayo "Mac" Boggs, to create a 1,700-pound steel sculpture for its new campus. The sculpture, *Balance and Harmony*, was selected from a national field of entries. Just shy of graduation, Abe-Miller learns how to shoulder the "ins" and "outs" of managing a major sculpture commission.



Tiana Pires '10 becomes the first student to complete Converse's Individualized Major program. Pires created a major in oral and written communications studies, combining the disciplines of psychology, English and theater, with guidance from her faculty advisor. The Individualized Major offers a creative pathway for customizing the academic experience.

Converse's faculty-mentored undergraduate research program propels Megan Madison '09, Stephanie Jennings '11 and Meagan Kusek '12 to earn Fulbright Teaching Assistantships; and Veronica Obregon '12 and Lindsay Eller '13 to be named Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship finalists. The Fulbright Program offers research, study and teaching opportunities in over 140 countries, and the Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious award in the country for undergraduate science, math and engineering students. The awards reflect the drive and ability of Converse students and the faculty's commitment to mentorship and academic excellence.

He♥rt and Science: A Formula for Success

Neval Erturk stays busier than bubbles boiling in a beaker. An award-winning researcher, grant-winning engine and energetic collaborator, she chairs Converse's Department of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, teaching genetics, science and gender, and cell biology, among other courses. She also harnesses multidisciplinary creativity, once helping design a mock crime-scene investigation on campus to teach forensics and a theater production using actual scientific materials.

Underscoring her burgeoning department's heft and reach, the National Institutes of Health in 2015 awarded Converse a \$626,000 grant to expand two initiatives: a K-12 Science, Technology and Research Scholars (STARS) program and a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative at Legacy Charter Early College High School in Greenville.

Catching up with the native of Turkey is like chasing molecular pollen. And in many ways, she does that, too. In summer 2015, she hosted Legacy students at Converse to study such topics as nutrients in food and pigmentation in leaves.

And she immerses herself in Converse students. "I like teaching," she says, "but I LOVE mentoring. I meet students when they are freshmen, and I get to observe them as they grow into mature scientists and sophisticated thinkers."

She inspires them in the lab, too. "In the last 10 years, we made it a priority to engage our students in undergraduate research. Research helps students clarify their career goals, as well as boosts their confidence as scientists."

When her students voiced skepticism about Chinese supplements touted for their cancer-curing properties. Erturk took on a two-year mentoring project. She guided them as they did their own experiment on supplements,

feeding mice herbs and documenting the effects.

"You should see the students when we have these experiments and the results come out," she later told the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*. "Things that were all theory throughout the semester all of a sudden become reality, and it's a life-changing experience for them."

She brings that same excitement to increasing opportunities for women. In 2013, the American Association of University Women reported more than half of biological scientists in the US are women. While that's a huge increase from 42% in 1990, Erturk says, "Women are still underrepresented in sciences. They are particularly outnumbered at leadership positions in the STEM workforce. Converse being a single-gender institution that promises to train leaders in all disciplines is very attractive to me."

She appreciates Converse's leadership, as well. Joining the faculty a year after Betsy Fleming's arrival, Erturk, says she found the president's vision impressive.

Add to that insatiable curiosity: Despite her workload, Erturk also takes history and political science courses at Converse. "I love staying busy, but my life is not centered around science," she says. "I love being in the classroom with our students and learning from my colleagues. I realize how demanding the Converse faculty is. I see firsthand how hard our students study to meet those demands and how they give their best."





“I like teaching, but I LOVE mentoring. I meet students when they are freshmen, and I get to observe them as they grow into mature scientists and sophisticated thinkers.”

A Decade of Faculty Milestones



In recognition of his impact at Converse and beyond, Mayo “Mac” Boggs receives the 2013 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Award for Arts in Education, the state’s highest honors in the arts, from the South Carolina Arts Commission. For more than four decades, Boggs was a pioneering force on the Converse campus and in the arts community. In 2014, Boggs lost a courageous battle with heart disease at age 71.



International Painting Annual No. 4, published in 2015 by Manifest Creative Research Gallery in Ohio, features printmaking professor Andrew Blanchard. A driving force in boosting student submissions into juried art exhibitions, Blanchard is an active artist beyond the classroom. His work has been included in more than 100 national and international juried printmaking exhibitions, and is included in private collections across the globe.

Working with award-winning and published faculty is a key benefit for creative and professional writing students at Converse. In 2012, *In the Garden of Stone* by professor Susan Tekulve wins the South Carolina First Novel Competition, and in 2014 it garners a gold medal in the Independent Publisher Book Awards as the best novel in the South published by an independent press.



The National Endowment for the Humanities taps Dr. Melissa Walker, George Dean Johnson, Jr. Professor of History, to lead workshops on the American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry for teachers from across the country in 2007. Although repeat funding is rare, the NEH awards grants for Dr. Walker’s workshops in both 2007 and 2009 through its Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop program.

The South Carolina Music Educators Association inducts Dr. Patricia Foy, Professor of Music Education, into its Hall of Fame in 2010. Dr. Foy is founder of the South Carolina Music Technology Institute, for which she has been awarded grants totaling more than \$500,000 from the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Arts in Basic Curriculum Project to train K-12 music teachers in the use of instructional technology.



Two Converse professors are honored by the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants for teaching excellence and active involvement in the accounting profession. The association names Professor Roger Luttrell as South Carolina Accounting Educator of the Year for 2009, and Dr. Ann Pletcher (pictured above) for 2010.

Converse faculty publish more than 50 titles over the decade ending in 2015, raising the College's reputation for the active pursuit of scholarly excellence. Publication examples include:

- *The Battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens: The American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry*, Routledge, Dr. Melissa Walker (History and Politics)
- *I Have Done the Work: The Times and Life of James Hutchison Kerr*, Southeast Missouri State University Press, Dr. Joe Dunn (History and Politics)
- *Camp and Combat on the Sinai and Palestine Front: The Experience of the British Empire Soldier, 1916-18*, Palgrave Macmillan Publishers, Dr. Edward Woodfin (History and Politics)
- *The New Testament as Literature*, Oxford University Press, Dr. Kyle Keefer (Religion and Philosophy)
- *Moral Realism*, Continuum Press, Dr. Kevin DeLapp (Religion and Philosophy)
- *Toward Any Darkness*, WordTech Communications, Prof. Rick Mulkey (English and Creative Writing)
- *Musical Revolutions in German Culture: Musicking Against the Grain, 1800–1980*, Palgrave Macmillan, Dr. Mirko M. Hall (Languages and Literatures)
- *Child Abuse and Neglect, 2nd edition*, Psychology Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Dr. Monica McCoy (Psychology)

President Betsy Fleming and Provost Jeff Barker travel to China in December 2015 to meet the Converse International School's first enrolled students, who will arrive on campus in fall 2017. The Converse International School is a separate administrative unit of the College established to support cohort partnerships with universities in other parts of the world.



The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education select three Converse faculty members as South Carolina Professor of the Year between 2007-2013. Dr. Melissa Walker (pictured above) is honored in 2007; Dr. Monica McCoy, Professor of Psychology, in 2010; and Dr. Joe Dunn, Charles A. Dana Professor of History and Politics, in 2013.

Religion and Philosophy: AN ABSOLUTE VALUE

Schools of philosophical thought took centuries to evolve. At Converse, the Department of Religion and Philosophy has exploded with renewed life within the last decade, propelling philosophy to become one of the College's fastest-growing majors. And in a moment just short of transcendence, the department received one of the nation's most prestigious awards: An Arthur Vining Davis Foundation grant to support the development of an Interfaith Studies Program.

Converse has come a long way from the days when, as department chair Dr. Kevin DeLapp explains, "Philosophy had been kind of a latent minor. We hadn't had a full-time philosopher on staff for almost 15 years, and no major in 40 years."

DeLapp joined the faculty in fall 2006, his endowed chair position having been created in honor of President Fleming's father, Dr. Harold E. Fleming, a Spartanburg physician who died in 2009.

"Dr. Harold Fleming was a lifelong believer in the power of philosophy, that it's at the heart of the liberal arts, and that it was something that had been missing from Converse," DeLapp says. "I don't think we would have received this grant if our department hadn't flourished so much over the last 10 years."

While philosophers are often pegged as ponderers – seeing many sides to every issue – there's no question about the relevance of philosophy and religion degrees in today's marketplace. In fact, many business leaders are speaking up on the value of a liberal arts education.

In the wake of a U.S. presidential candidate's recent comment in fall 2015 that "we need more welders than philosophers," fact-checkers went all Socratic. They cited a salary database showing graduates with bachelor's degrees in philosophy earn \$97,000 a year, while welders

with associate's degrees take home less than \$60,000 annually. Moreover, philosophers increasingly fill the employment ranks of mega-companies like Google and Apple.

"I think if you have a good understanding of life, culture and society, you have a good perspective on starting a business, instead of an education purely in business," Flickr co-founder Stewart Butterfield told University of Victoria students. "You can always pick up how to read a balance sheet and how to figure out profit and loss, but it's harder to pick up the other stuff on the fly."

That "other stuff" is a way of life for the Department of Religion and Philosophy. Faculty help students to develop strong critical thinking skills that can be applied to a wide variety of professions.

Adjunct Instructor Bailey Szustak '13, a philosophy and studio art major with a minor in art history, completed an internship her senior year with The Johnson Collection, a Spartanburg-based collection of art from or inspired by the American South. The internship, initiated by DeLapp, was a unique opportunity for Szustak to combine all of her areas of study, and to approach both philosophy and art from a different angle of entry.

"Philosophy teaches us how to break down abstract and complex ideas and apply them in the real world, enabling stronger reasoning and comprehensive understanding. This ability to "think well"—and to communicate those thoughts clearly and effectively—is essential for success in any field," Szustak says.

Associate Professor of Religion Dr. Kyle Keefer agrees. "The role of the department has been largely one of challenging students at personal and intellectual levels in their exploration of the world's major religious and philosophical traditions. The College has really moved toward trying to live out the Founder's Ideal of being truly, but liberally, Christian."





“Like all Humanities, philosophy teaches us how to break down abstract and complex ideas and apply them to the real world... this ability to ‘think well’ is essential for success in any field.”

A Decade of **ACADEMIC** Milestones



Converse Model Programs (Model Arab League and International Model NATO) celebrate consistent achievement as national leaders over the decade. In 2011, program standouts Stephanie Jennings '11, Katie Hudson '11 and Monica Lineberger '11 are tapped to train high school students in Amman, Jordan on the art of diplomacy and debate, deepening their own understanding of Middle Eastern culture through the trip. Converse Model Programs have defeated institutions such as Harvard, UC-Berkeley, Northeastern, Ohio State, and the three U.S. military academies.



A partnership formed with Greenville Health System's cancer center in 2014 expands music therapy access to hospital patients and their families while providing clinical training with board certified music therapists for Converse students. Collaboration is an integral component of Converse's Music Therapy Program, which was established in partnership with Spartanburg Regional Health System. Converse is home to one of only two accredited music therapy programs in South Carolina.

Converse opens South Carolina's only low-residency MFA program in creative writing in 2009. A faculty of critically acclaimed American poets, fiction and nonfiction writers from across the nation is assembled, distinguishing the program's master-writer/apprentice mentoring relationship model. The program can serve students nationwide, thanks to year-round long-distance access to faculty and two intensive residencies that bring faculty and students together on the Converse campus.



Converse's commitment to an exceptional and customized learning experience is reaffirmed by the evolution of academic programs over the last decade. Advancements include the launch of online MEd and EdS degrees; the addition of majors in healthcare administration, musical theatre, music therapy, and contemporary music (media applications); new concentrations in genetic counseling, sports management and collaborative piano; new certificate programs in music business and technology, arts and cognition, and business and professional development; and specialized accreditations awarded for music (NASM), art and design (NASAD), education (NCATE/CAEP), interior design (CIDA), and marriage and family therapy (COAMFTE).

With an eye towards seeking unexpected solutions and fostering unconventional partnerships, Converse launches an internal Creative Collaboration Grant program in 2009. Now in its seventh year, the program has provided a total of \$165,000 to 58 teams of faculty, staff and students for innovative projects like: Full STEAM Ahead: Catching Criminals through Chemistry and Art, ICE Forum for Advancing Women in Entrepreneurship, and Okra 2 Opera: The Conference on Southern Culture.

Following a rigorous review process in 2012, Converse's Interior Design Program becomes one of only two in South Carolina to be awarded accreditation by the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). Converse interior design students regularly gain professional experience through partnerships with such industry leaders as Hubbell Lighting, which hosts Converse students for seminars at their Lighting Solutions Center; and NXT Health, which involved Converse students in flooring research for its award-winning Patient Room 2020 project.

Converse's emphasis on mentoring relationships, undergraduate student research and service has big impact: The high number of graduates who go on to complete PhDs, national and state awards to fund research projects, and top national rankings. Over the last decade, Converse has been awarded \$183,000 for 67 student research projects from South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU), and also supports student research through the Nisbet Honors Program. This success caught the attention of *Washington Monthly*, who named Converse the #3 master's university in the nation for student research, service and social mobility in 2012. The magazine's annual rankings assess schools that "contribute to the public good," and fair particularly well in the number of students who go on to receive doctorates.





MAKING GREAT

“When it comes to the ideal athlete, it’s as if Ashly Sutherland stepped out of central casting.”

Ashly Sutherland thinks fast, talks fast, and runs fast—fast enough to be the first Valkyrie in Converse history to race in a national competition. Now a senior, the speedster still runs as hard for Converse as she says Converse runs for her.

“The funny thing about it is that I almost didn’t even run in college,” she says. “I didn’t know that was an option for me because in high school, I was decent but I started so late. All my competitors had been running since middle school and they were all powerhouses.”

At Gaffney High School, she was a cheerleader. Whenever one cheerleader dropped another at practice—Sutherland was usually on top—the coach disciplined them with a run. The “race bug” bit, then colleges started chasing her. She turned down full scholarships for track and cross country, in part because she was more interested in Converse’s renowned theater department.

“It’s crazy, right? But running wasn’t my life at the time. I didn’t feel pressured to come to Converse. I really liked that Converse cared about me as a student, not just as a number on a team.”

She fast became the Valkyries’ No. 1 runner, shattering records, winning awards: Conference Carolinas All-Academic Team with a 3.9 GPA and Athlete of the Year, among many. In November 2013, she was Converse’s first national competitor at the NCAA Division II cross-country finals in Spokane, Washington.

“No matter what my time was or the place I finished in,” she wrote in a published journal, “I ran the race that God set out before me, and that is all I could ever ask for.”

She runs 1,500 meters in less time than it takes to boil an egg and holds a school record in the mile. And she’s captain of the Cross Country team. Off the track and field, she has participated in several plays, including *The Yellow Wallpaper*, a senior capstone production.

Says Brandon Morton, head coach of Converse’s Track and Field and Cross Country teams: “She has been the model of what we want every student athlete to be here at Converse by putting in the work academically and athletically. Everyone wants to compete alongside a champion like Ashly.”

Even the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* cheers: “When it comes to the ideal college athlete, it’s as if Ashly Sutherland stepped out of central casting.”

After graduation, she will marry a fellow runner, while taking a year off before graduate school, where she plans to combine psychology and theater, perhaps in art therapy.

“Converse has a way of making you feel like you really are making a difference, because when you do something important they congratulate you. I’m not one to boast about what I’ve done. I never want to be seen as cocky because I derive all my strength from God. At Converse, they’re proud of what I’ve done. They’re really like my family.”

STRIDES

A Decade of Athletic Milestones



Freshman swimmer Jenni Russell '13 makes history in 2010 by becoming the first Converse athlete ever to qualify for a NCAA National Championship. The swim team goes on to produce two All-American athletes, another NCAA National Championship qualifier, a top 25 national ranking, and to achieve scholar All-American Team status every semester.

Valkyries soccer captures the College's first ever Conference Carolinas Season Championship with a 3-0 victory over North Greenville in 2014. The team also boasts a 12-match winning streak.



More than 450 girls age 6-14 come to campus for the College's first annual Girls' Day, coordinated by Converse Athletics in 2007. The multidisciplinary event, with stations across the campus led by students, faculty and staff, aims to introduce girls to new ideas and experiences and to encourage them to dream big.

In 2012, the National Collegiate South Carolina Association (NCSA) places Converse College 29th in the nation among NCAA Division II South Carolina schools for overall quality of athletics and academics. The NCSA assesses all NCAA athletic programs across the country, and less than 6% of the schools evaluated finished in the Top 100.

An Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) affiliated equestrian program is established at Converse in 2011. In 2015, freshman equestrian rider Cate Billings places 14th in the Cacchione Cup at the IHSA National Championship, the highest level of collegiate riding in which an athlete can compete.



Building on the momentum of successful new swimming, lacrosse and equestrian programs, Converse announced the addition of golf in 2011. With a great golfing environment in Spartanburg, a golf team also gives Converse an opportunity to partner with the community.

In 2015, Converse announces softball as the 11th intercollegiate sport on the College's roster. With more than 5,000 female softball players in South Carolina alone, softball provides opportunities for Converse to further serve students in our home state.

By 2012, Converse doubles its number of sports programs (from five to 10, plus plans to add track and field in 2013) and nearly quadruples its number of student-athletes (from 37 to 137). Student-athletes have shifted from comprising 7% to 25% of the student body. Responding to the tremendous growth a \$2.5 million gift helps fund construction of the 14,000 square-foot Marsha H. Gibbs Field House and enhancements to the playing fields.

In 2006, Converse names Joy Couch as Athletic Director. Couch brings an outstanding record and diverse experience that is well matched with the College's vision for growing the athletic program. Shortly after arriving at Converse, Couch is named Russell Athletic/National Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and is inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Conference Carolinas grants Converse full membership status in 2007, enabling the College to compete for the conference championship and NCAA Division II tournament. Converse also announces the Valkyries as the overwhelming winner in a naming competition for a new athletic mascot.



The NCAA announces that Converse College freshman lacrosse player Bridget Dullea led the nation in goals per game for the 2010 season. Student-athletes like Dullea demonstrate that Converse is a college where student-athletes can compete on a high level while also excelling in academics and enjoying a vibrant student life.



Imagining the Possible: **BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE**

“President Fleming and faculty leadership believed that a path forward existed that would lead to a rejuvenated Converse and increased enrollment.”



For Converse students, a hard day's work includes the magic of music, the platitudes of Plato and the mysteries of molecules. Coming home to the contemporary comforts of The Heath, where form and function merge to create community and independent living, perfectly compliments their preparation for life after Converse.

The apartment-style housing is one of higher education's most stunning, and arguably fastest, capital-improvement initiatives. Converse and its supporters rallied to raise \$12.3 million in just three months – with no lead donor – to build Kate Hall, Howard Hall and Zimmerli Commons, collectively known as The Heath. The explosive giving came in 2009, at the height of the great recession, when the volatile Dow Jones industrial average was nearly 40% lower than it is today. Colleges were facing tough times nationwide, and the Converse Board of Trustees' decision to push the project forward came at a time when many were putting dreams on hold.

“At that time, enrollment was actually declining,” says Billy Webster, a businessman who spearheaded the drive and chaired the Board, “but President Fleming and faculty leadership believed that a path forward existed that would lead to a rejuvenated Converse and increased enrollment. As we know now, that came to pass.”

The world beyond Converse took notice when The Heath opened in 2011. LS3P, a tradition-steeped architectural firm based in Charleston, SC, ensured the apartment-style housing achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, the world's premier green-building designation. The Heath also earned The President's Award and a Merit Design Award from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Despite the impressive flourishes, it wasn't the promise of balconies, brickwork or bay windows that mobilized supporters. Converse's success was in its compelling vision to build partnerships around impactful projects that empower students. It set the course for what has become Converse's signature approach to every aspect of operations and new initiatives: Maximize resources centering around the needs of students.

The two-and three-story buildings offer a taste of real-world living – “a distinctly Converse experience that really helps set students up for life after college, the capstone of progressive housing for becoming an independent and productive adult,” Fleming says. “We weren't just trying to do what other colleges were doing. We wanted to offer an exceptional learning environment, helping to activate students' unique voice, deepening their sense of value, and developing their vision to make a difference in the world.”

The project affirmed the vibrant future that lay ahead for Converse. “This story of optimism and a can-do spirit demonstrates that when people are willing to think differently about operations and avenues to success, great accomplishments can be made in the face of adversity,” Fleming says.

For Webster, that's a rock-solid return on investment: “The Heath, as well as the other significant capital projects undertaken during President Fleming's tenure, demonstrates an unwavering confidence in the power of single-gender education at Converse.”



A Decade of **GIVING** Milestones



After an 18-month, \$6.5 million transformation, the renovated Montgomery Student Center is unveiled. Located in the heart of the campus, the student center plays a major role in shaping Converse's culture of community.



An endowed chair of philosophy is established in honor of longtime Spartanburg physician Dr. Harold E. Fleming, bringing Dr. Kevin DeLapp to Converse as coordinator of the philosophy program. The position is funded through a \$1.25 million gift from longtime Trustee Billy Webster.



Converse opens the brand-new, \$3 million Marsha H. Gibbs Field House, providing a top-level experience in collegiate athletics, thanks to a lead gift of \$2.5 million from Jimmy Gibbs and his wife, Converse Trustee Marsha Gibbs. The Field House opened in 2014.

A \$500,000 gift from The Wayland H. Cato, Jr. Foundation, Inc. makes Converse more accessible for young women who demonstrate a strong work ethic and commitment to volunteerism. The Marion and Wayland H. Cato, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund provides annual support to students for tuition and fees, books and supplies.



The First Year Experience, jumpstarted by a challenge gift from Life Trustee Don Bain, receives a transformational boost through the \$9 million renovation of historic Pell Hall. More than 400 donors stepped forward to fund the project, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1 million.



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) award Converse more than \$626,000 in support of biomedical science research and student training. Converse will use the funds for research initiatives, enhancements to laboratories and equipment, and expansion of K-12 outreach.




Advancing Converse's commitment to science and an athletic program that prioritizes academic excellence, a \$1 million endowment gift from Agnes Binder Weisiger '63 and her husband Ed Weisiger, Sr. establishes The Weisiger Cup and Weisiger Scholar Athlete Scholarship program. The cup is awarded annually to an outstanding graduating student-athlete. Weisiger scholarships are awarded each year to two incoming student athletes who plan to major in the sciences.

In a unique partnership among liberal arts institutions, Converse joins with Agnes Scott College, the University of North Carolina-Asheville and Wofford College to assess the impact of integrative learning experiences for first-year students. The project is awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation of New York.

Award-winning teacher and scholar Dr. Melissa Walker is named as Converse's inaugural George Dean Johnson, Jr. Chair in History, made possible by a \$2.5 million gift by Stewart and Ann Cobb Johnson of Spartanburg in honor of Stewart's brother.


Ruth Paddison '47 leaves a permanent legacy for her *alma mater* by creating two scholarships, one for students in music and one for the arts and sciences, through a planned gift of \$4.2 million.





Converse became the first women's college in the nation to earn All-Steinway School status, thanks to a \$1.3 million campaign led by Converse Trustees Bill Barnet, Betty James Montgomery '72 and Kurt Zimmerli. More than 60 project donors enabled the purchase of 23 Steinway pianos.

Beautiful community-enhancing spaces across campus are created by groups of donors to pay tribute to some of Converse's most dedicated supporters. The Betty James Montgomery Rose Garden next to Montgomery Student Center honors alumna Betty Montgomery '72; The Barnet Commons behind Wilson Hall honors longtime Converse Trustee Bill Barnet; and a new plaza in front of Wilson Hall honors Susan "Susu" Phifer Johnson '65 and her husband, George Dean Johnson, Jr.

A man in a dark jacket and khaki pants is operating a professional video camera mounted on a tripod. He is standing on a brick-paved area in front of a large, historic red brick building with white arched windows and doorways. The building is labeled "WILSON HALL" and "1892". Two women are standing in the background, engaged in conversation. The scene is set outdoors on a clear day.

Reconnecting in historic Wilson Hall are two women who have dedicated the last decade to growing the most distinctive and best aspects of Converse College. In this heartfelt conversation between Betsy Fleming and Sally Jeter Hammond '81, former Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing, President Fleming reflects on her time at Converse and reveals a heart that bleeds purple and gold.

On Inspiring Lives of Impact, Purpose and Passion...

and on Cactus Injuries and V8 Juice



Sally Hammond (SH): You were 36 when you were named President of Converse. Do you remember any particular advice given as you assumed that position in 2005?

Betsy Fleming (BF): Yeah, don't do it. [laughs] Seriously, when the announcement came out, I was at a seminar for the Aspen Institute. One of my colleagues had been the President of St. Johns University and was eager to give me a variety of advice, as well as some of his speeches so that I got a sense of how an unconventional president might enter into an academic community. Bill Barnett, a beloved local businessman and Life Trustee [of Converse] told me to always trust my instincts. He wanted to reassure me that I was chosen for a particular reason and that I was not expected to be a conventional college president. I think the final bit of advice I received early on came in a package from John Stockwell, who at that point was the Chancellor of USC Upstate. He sent me a book called *The Contrarian's Guide to Leadership* with a note saying "read this and then let's have lunch." That was an amazing resource for me. It was written by a college president who urges college and university leaders to move beyond traditional and strike out in bold new directions. I still have the book, now underlined and with dog-eared pages throughout.

SH: Good advice then?

BF: Yeah!

SH: Early in your presidency, Converse launched a new strategic vision centered around creativity and community. How do you think that focus has impacted your presidency?

BF: Creativity and community came out of broader-based conversations with the strategic leadership team as well as focus groups about what set the institution apart. It became infused in everything that I have done, and I hope just about everything we've done as a College. We developed a very extensive white paper that defined creativity in much broader terms, providing the flexibility and adaptability to be applied across the disciplines. It even changed how we approached meetings, conversations and planning sessions. The internal Creative Collaboration Grant Program is another example where we really worked to break down traditional boundaries and to create broad-based creative endeavors to energize our community. On the community side, I think that it's just my leadership style—to be as inclusive as possible in discussions, understanding the issues and ensuring we are doing what's best for our community members, especially the students.

Watch the full interview
video online at
converse.edu/Betsy.

"All my beloved stories have a common thread – students who were their authentic selves with me."

SH: There is so much conversation now about creativity in a way that there wasn't a few years ago.

BF: Converse was really on the leading edge of that conversation. One area where you can see exponential growth along those lines is the emphasis on faculty-mentored research with students. Converse is urging students to identify and explore questions, do the research and engage in a hands-on discovery process. The outcome is that many of them end up publishing papers or the experience becomes their key to getting into graduate school.

SH: You have four nieces and now, as a result of your marriage to Ed, you have the opportunity to experience young adult women in your own home. What do you hope you model for these young women, as well as for the students of Converse?

BF: You know that I take very seriously my position as a role model...I love to be surrounded by girls and young women, and young people in general. Most especially, I hope that I am an example for them in terms of how they can live lives of meaning and impact, purpose and passion—outside the normal social parameters or expectations. There is not one way to go about living a full and satisfying life, but I do think society today still sets up very particular and sometimes limiting expectations for women's aspirations and dreams. I hope that I am a role model for dreaming big, for how you go about making your life meaningful to yourself and to the other people around you. I consider my nieces, my stepdaughters, and the 600 Converse women I interact with each year as my daughters, even though none of them are of my own flesh and blood. I hope they use me as a resource as they are trying to figure out their path and place in the world.

Watch the full interview video online at converse.edu/Betsy.



SH: Is the Converse that you remember as a child when you lived down the street wholly different than the Converse of today?

BF: I think that we have just evolved that Converse. Much of what Converse is today is fully grounded in what it was back in 1889. Our charter talks about providing access to a quality education. The Founder's Ideal also includes a point about the well-being of the country depending much upon the culture of its women. It's about access and opportunity...to advance culture, the country, society at large. My mother got a tremendous amount out of Converse. But what she needed in the 1960's is very different from what students in the 21st Century need, and so what we have done is stayed very committed to that core reason for our existence but continually evolved it over time. Converse is different, but fundamentally very much the same.

SH: What do you believe have been the most critical advances as a result of your leadership?

BF: You probably asked that question expecting a building project, or the tuition reset or some other large initiative. But, I think my biggest impact on Converse is giving her, giving us, back our sense of pride—kindling a real sense of value and confidence in our unique and distinctive nature, and running with

"I have come to appreciate just how much an education is the ticket to changing a family's trajectory."

it...[It is] our sense of courage that drives our ability to do bold things like fundraising for and building The Heath at the start of the great recession, and announcing our tuition reset. I think it was really beneficial for Converse and Spartanburg to have a native daughter, who grew up here and who had extraordinary experiences all over the world, to come back and say, "Wow. Look at all the strengths this institution has. From the success and experiences of our alumni, to the accomplishments and commitment of the faculty, lets play to those strengths and be confident and courageous in how we make that relevant and activated in the world today."

SH: I have to tell you, as an alumna I love that. What is one message that you think every alumna needs to hear?

BF: Be proud of Converse College and invest in your alma matter. I think that is so important. We get caught up in our



High Heel Hundred

everyday lives and we forget that a strong Converse means a strong degree from the institution. It means a stronger network for you as an alumna. Give every year to the Annual Fund—it doesn't matter the amount. Just by being engaged you're saying "Yes, this is important for me." Give of your talent and your time. You can mentor students, provide internships, serve on an advisory board, or connect with alumnae through your local chapter - but invest in your alma mater.

SH: Okay, surely you have a favorite story about a Converse student—or maybe multiple favorites?

BF: All my beloved stories have a common thread – students who were their authentic selves with me. Those individuals who feel comfortable enough to talk about career aspirations, academic challenges and personal struggles. One of the stories that bubbles up to the top of my head is Tiana Pires, who was an incredible student and our first [to graduate with an] Individualized Major. She came to every single one of my open office hours to talk to me. Sometimes it was about personal or academic things, but more often than not Tiana was "working it". She would be trying to sell me makeup, trying to get me involved in this organization or that organization, and I loved her for it. She was the embodiment

of boldness and used the Converse culture to grow into the woman she is today.

SH: How has being a college president shaped the way that you see the world?

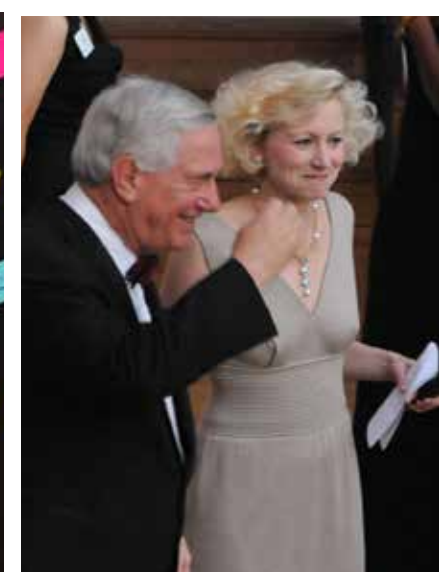
BF: Being a college president, and being the president of Converse, in particular, has really transformed how I look at the world. First and foremost, I think I came into this presidency taking a college education for granted. Based on family, financial, social and psychological demands, I did not realize how challenging it is for so many young people and families today to get to college. I had been prepared from the time I arrived on this Earth to go to college, and had a support network funneling me in that direction. I didn't realize how fortunate I was to have that support from the get-go. I have come to appreciate just how much an education is the ticket to changing a family's trajectory. For a first generation college student, it can transform their entire family's idea of what a college degree is and what a college education can do for you. Having that kind of acumen in your toolkit is really important—not just to survive in the world today, but to flourish and contribute.

SH: *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reports that the average president is in that position for six to seven years. What has kept you going ten years and counting, and why step away now?

BF: The people and the energy around Converse's vision of becoming a leader in creative teaching, thinking and learning has kept me here. It was important to me to make sure that the foundation we established had momentum. It has been the dynamism of the institution, and the importance of finishing what we started together. We have done far more than I even dreamed possible back in 2005. It seemed like the right time...for new leadership...for new energy. On a personal note, I happened to get married about a year-and-a-half ago, and I thought it might be a good time to experience what it would be like to live under the same roof with my husband. Now mind you, he is fully supportive of my being president of Converse for as long as I thought it best. But, it seemed like the right time and I didn't want to wait until you all kicked me out.

SH: You and I have had many conversations over the years about always being our parents' children. What do you believe your presidency has meant to your mother, and what did it mean to your father when he was alive?

BF: That question makes me a little emotional on both of those fronts. My mother and I have talked about this regularly. She gets quite emotional about having me come back to her alma mater to assume a leadership position and help the College find its confidence, competence and courage. She



From left to right: Groundbreaking of The Heath; Spring Spectacular Drum Circle; Montgomery by Moonlight; Annual SGA Christmas Party; A Thousand Thanks Donor Gala; Happy Birthday Converse Supporters; Be-YOU-tiful Selfie Project; Barnet Commons Unveiling

found that here for herself, so I think she has been really proud, grateful, engaged, and excited to watch her daughter lead this place she loves to such a wonderful moment in its history.

My father made a point to attend every single one of my Founder's Day, Opening Convocation and new student assemblies that he could, and he always would sit in the back row. Kathy Worley started to understand his habits and keep two seats reserved for him. As you know he was ailing, he was battling cancer, and so that was really wonderful for her to do. I had gone away to boarding school, away to college, and had worked in a variety of different cities, so he relished the opportunity to see me as a professional woman doing what I clearly loved.

I'll tell you a little story: In my early years, I would go over to my parents kitchen with a draft speech before I would give it, and I would have them sit down and listen to me practice. They would give me pointers...and I would go home and do my editing. It made it a better speech, and it made the experience of my serving as president...so much more personal and memorable.

SH: What has made Converse home for you?

BF: I really think it goes back to relationships, conversations and our collective investment in preparing the next generation of women to have meaningful lives of impact. And I love that it's

the relationships that make Converse feel like home to me. You know that saying, "Home is where the heart is;" I think that it's the relationships here that stole my heart, and so my heart will always be here at Converse.

SH: And I love that I got to be a part of all that. Alright, we are going to flip things around a bit so that you don't cry. I have a couple of fun questions for you.


BF: Good!

SH: What is something you have done that [students] would find completely out of character?

BF: The students might not know that I am a very accident-prone person. In my family I am notorious for being injured. When we lived out in Arizona, I slid down a sliding board into a cactus. I had a hundred needles in my little bottom. My father had to pick out every single one of those, while my mom held the flashlight. So, that is just one example but I've had more stitches in my head, behind my ear, in my forehead from being daring.

SH: What does a college president keep in her refrigerator?

BF: Oh gosh...[laughs] it has been the subject of several



"I think my biggest impact on Converse is giving her, giving us, back our sense of pride."

Dedication of The Heath apartment housing

Commencement



Fireside Chat



jokes over the past decade. I keep low-sodium V8 juice, a lot of yogurt, 2% milk and skim milk, water, a lot of beer, blueberries, cheese sticks, usually bacon, boiled eggs and some vegetables that I can pull out and get ready if I'm moving really quickly. But the funniest part of my refrigerator is that everything is lined up. I don't just have one yogurt container, I have, like, 12—and they're organized by flavor. The V8 is in a very particular line up too.

SH: Throughout your presidency, you have talked a lot about educating women to effect positive change in the world. What kinds of positive change outside of Converse do you look forward to being involved with in the future?

BF: I will forever be committed to activating, celebrating, and strengthening human creativity, expression, and accomplishment. In my mind it's all about building human capital—which is how you build community capital, national capital, and global capital. If we don't have the human resources engaged and equipped to meet the needs of the world, we are in trouble as a society and world. I hope I keep telling stories, sharing stories, activating and helping to grow equity in the workplace, in the political arena. I want my life

to continue to be about...helping to inspire confidence and courage in others.

SH: We started this interview talking about advice that you received. What counsel would you share with your successor?

BF: I think my first point of advice would be that this job is about continuity and evolution. This is an institution with a rich and dynamic history and its own culture. The second piece of advice is to ask questions. It is a really important way to understand how much expertise, knowledge and talent exists on this campus—with staff, faculty, students, alumni and other constituents. I think my final piece of advice would be to have fun. It is a really fortunate person who gets to serve as president of a college, and especially a college like Converse that is so focused on being creative and building community. Have fun and build relationships, because it makes everything worthwhile.

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

President Betsy Fleming once said, "We believe your voice can effect positive change in the world." Strong statement? Yes! But that belief is and always has been the hallmark of Converse.



The blueprint President Fleming envisioned in 2005 has come to life with the transformation of Converse's curriculum, a bold tuition reduction, new and renovated facilities, the addition of many competitive athletic sports and dynamic student life activities.

We are also building a stronger alumnae community that is as vibrant and dynamic as the students of Converse. We are dedicated to finding ways to communicate and celebrate our common sisterhood, and our individual and collective greatness. Groups of alumnae have made a commitment to initiate alumnae chapters in Spartanburg, Greenville, Columbia, Charleston, Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Washington, DC. No need to worry if you don't live in one of those areas – we've created a simple step-by-step process so you can start your own Chapter!

The Alumnae Board has established a Career and Entrepreneurial Networking Committee to support each other through our businesses, companies and careers. Wouldn't you prefer to hire a Converse alumna, sure to exceed all of your requirements? Wouldn't you prefer to purchase goods and services from an alumna? We want to make that happen.

In collaboration with the Center for Professional Development and the Board of Visitors, Converse has also launched a mentoring and internship program. We encourage you to help a student fulfill her experiential learning requirement. You can learn more and sign up to participate at converse.edu/alumnae.

Reunion Weekend (April 22-23) is the perfect occasion to return home and renew your ties to Converse and your sisters. And remember, ALL Converse alumnae, regardless of your graduation year, are invited to Reunion Weekend. You can learn more at converse.edu/reunion.

Our liberal arts education prepares agile, multi-disciplined, entrepreneurial and innovative women who embody "Voice, Value and Vision."

We ARE Converse,

Haidee Clark Stith '76

P.S. We'd love to hear from you! Keep in touch via email (alumnae@converse.edu) or check out the Converse College Alumnae Association page on Facebook!

2015-2016 ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION BOARD

- Sara Rebecca Airheart '76
- Elizabeth Harkins Biosca '64
- Shannon Gosnell Bishop '97
- Melissia Heatherly Brannen '03
- Elizabeth Ann Brown '91
- Kimilee Bryant '88
- Laura Massey Crawford '01
- Dawn C. Davis-Deck '99
- Rosa Looney Edgington '11
- Heather Keller Eldridge '97
- Austin Price Faulk '95
- Stinson Woodward Ferguson '07
- Laura White Foerster '85
- Martha Team Garrison '89
- Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57
- Sandra Russell Hartnett '75
- Adelaide Capers Johnson '69
- Susan Secord Marion '80
- Sarah Whitfield Marion '08
- Claudia Jowitt McCollough '62
- Caroline Watts Morris '64
- Nora Nassri '08
- Samantha L. Nicholson '12
- Kiley Ellen Rikard '00
- Amanda Marie Ripley '11
- Laura Bingham Ritch '75
- Emily Jones Rushing '73
- Anne Argo Sanders '59
- Carrie Lamae Jackson Saxon '10
- Christi von Lehe Sellars '76
- Elizabeth Anne Skinner '96
- Emily Kerr Stay '63
- Haidee Clark Stith '76
- Elizabeth Law Walker '06
- Agnes Wallace Williams '57
- Pamela Medeiros Woods '85

Nominations for the 2016-2017 Alumnae Association Board can be viewed at converse.edu/alumnae. The slate will be voted on during Reunion Weekend.



CLASS NOTES

1949

Kitty Peeler Carson tells us that she recently heard from Martha Paxton Beale. Martha writes that “Debra Griggs ‘75, Tris Gowan Graybeal ‘65 and Julia Miles Brock ‘65 all went to Converse many years ago but they all have been to see me and have lunch. That Converse spirit! Happy 2016 to you all.”

1951

Jane Taylor Milner tells us that she gets to see Lil Lindsay Sachs in Blowing Rock often.

1954

Jeanne Foster Clark says that she and Shelby have four wonderful children, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren! Virginia Ouzts Cobb still keeps in touch with Jeanne and Lib Massey Gage, “my two best friends then and always.”

1955

Amaryllis Doar Duvall and her husband, Hal, moved to Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community in Columbia, South Carolina in fall 2014.

1957

Hazel Peery Cauthen writes that in summer 2014 they celebrated two granddaughter’s weddings, four graduations (kindergarten to grad school), six birthdays, and a 57th anniversary dinner for she and her husband Charlie. In summer 2015 they only had one wedding, bringing the family’s total up to twenty-two! Neltie Sanders Linker is still playing tennis and went to the Nationals in Arizona last year (playing in over 65), the state playoffs this year in Hilton Head and will celebrate her 80th birthday in November. Margaret Dick Wyman and her husband, Bubber, moved to Still

Hopes Episcopal Retirement Center in Columbia, SC, in March 2015. Kathryn Blake Pearce has 12 grandchildren and had a wonderful cruise this summer with all 22 of her family.

1958

Janet Lee Joyner’s collection of poems, *Waterborne*, has won the 2014 Holland Prize and will be released by Logan House Press this fall.

1959

Harriet Marshall Goode was delighted to be part of Mary Ann Medford Claud’s promotion of her book, *DANCIN’ MAN*, in Rock Hill. Her time is still devoted to painting - “In my studio. Every day. I’m a lucky girl.” Jean Poole Ross has a new left knee as of June 2014. She missed the Tink Macaulay Carney/Douschka Thatch Hutto meetup in Columbia but they have plans to attend their 60th reunion together. “Cudd rocks!”

1960

Joyce Seeley Barnett is in her 31st year with The Boys’ Latin School of Maryland. She has one son, Jason, and two grandchildren, Cody (16) and Caroline (11). Mary Nance Koon loves traveling: “In late August 2015 we took an 11 day river boat trip in Russia between Moscow and St. Petersburg. Fantastic!”

1961

Sydney Herlong Johnson returned to her hometown, Leesburg, FL, in December 2012 after 50 years working in Washington, DC. Betsy Blythe Frazer tells us that in August 2014, Betty Lake Orr, Sylvia Harley Arant, Ann Carol Hall Price, and Betsy spent a day together reminiscing in Montreat, NC. Betty’s daughter, Catherine Cauthen Turner

‘89, married that summer. Sylvia visited the Holy Land and was impressed with the fruit tree groves at the Sea of Galilee. Ann Carol has been to England, Scotland, Ireland, and Paris recently. Betsy visited a son’s family in Ireland in July and had a fascinating fall trip to Italy. She also visited grandsons in NYC, granddaughters in Ireland, and last fall traveled from Barcelona through Basque France to Paris. Frances Taylor Meisner visited old plantations while traveling to visit her children in Texas over Christmas. Noni Miller Lurding and Piedy Mahaffey Waterfall both have two sons, have a granddaughter and a grandson, and had sons marry recently. Susan Hawkins Bruns and her husband still travel to Indonesia to dive every year. She welcomes calls from classmates while back in Murrell’s Inlet, SC. Sara Kirkland Purcell’s daughter Katharine attended a culinary conference at Converse. She enjoyed every minute! Katharine has a PhD in English and is chair of Foreign Studies at Trident Technical College in Charleston.

1962

Novie McCree Greene loves living in Rock Hill, South Carolina and reconnecting with the SC and Converse culture. She has retired but is still teaching a few voice and piano students. Amelia Giles Riddle is still retired and enjoying the Florida weather! Laurene Rothrock Dick has published a novel through the expertise of her NY agent.

1964

Anne Mayo Elliott writes that she and Rosanne Dargan Brasington had a good reunion and concluded that “we are all doing very well. Rosanne just drove away to spend the weekend with her son, George and his family.” Agnes Binder Weisiger tells us that she and Ed traveled to just outside of Nice, France with their golf group in May. They are now in the process of building a guest house at their



farm which she says is fun “even at this age of life.” She also writes that “We are enjoying having our new daughter-in-law (Betsy Fleming) in our lives and look forward to many more years.” Eunice Lee Haynsworth Forbes is still actively painting portraits, landscapes and caricatures. She and her husband Salty have lived at The Landings on Skidaway Island for 28 years and have 13 grandchildren with one on the way.

1965

Mary Ann Remaklus Ready says that the Golden Class enjoyed a splendid Reunion Weekend at Converse this spring - “We were finally acknowledged to be the rock stars we always knew we were. We were entertained at the Cabin, on back campus, the front campus and at President Fleming’s home. Founder’s Day was a celebration of our college, its past, its present, and its bright future. Bouquets and hugs to our classmates and Trustees Susu Phifer Johnson and Marion Rivers Cato for making phone calls and writing notes to get us all there. The campus looks glorious. Highlights of the weekend were a visit from Kathy Cohen Willard, Perry Russell Gilreath’s distinguished alumna award, and the return of Dixon Taylor! It was lovely to enjoy an evening with Lib Burnett Fleming, her daughter, Betsy, and Betsy’s new husband in the President’s home. Thanks to everyone who submitted their pictures and stories to the Memory Book. It is a treasure. Thanks to Anne Wing Coffey and Peggy Clotfelter Allen for being our faithful class correspondents for the last five years. Reunion was a wonderful reminder of the blessings we enjoy as members of the incredible class of 1965. Keep those friendships close until we meet again.” Thomasine Harvin Rogas tells us that she is back at home in California after taking people from the UK on 10 day tours from Washington through Virginia, the Carolinas, and down to Savannah.

1966

Louise Davis Gwinn is retired after teaching 1st grade for 26 years. She and her husband enjoy traveling. Mary Anna Baum Vincent works as a Parent Liaison for the parents of students learning English as a Second Language (ESOL) in Newnan, GA. Linda Whitnel Crimm and her husband continue to work and are active members of Southside Methodist Church. They enjoy travelling to Bethesda, MD, to visit their son and his wife. She says “I look forward to our 50th reunion in April!”

1967

Nell Stevenson Chastain has retired from the antiques business but continues as an independent distributor of SeneGence cosmetics. She enjoys showing her Standard Poodle in AKC Obedience, Rally, and Agility trials. Judy Coe had a wonderful trip to Panama in

February 2015 with 5 Converse classmates (Beth Brewer Franz, Lee Tabb Lauterbach, Karen Stratton Schlag, Margot McCord Campbell, and Jane Moody Galbraith). She says “we try to get together annually and this was to celebrate our 70th birthday year!” In the Fall of 2014 they gathered in Charleston, SC, and were delighted to link up with Robbie King Staubes. Robbie tells us that she is having great success with her painting and advertising on Facebook. Suzanne McMillan Johnson has been the Head of School for Robert F. Munroe Day School in Quincy, FL, for the past six years. Lucia Cleveland Johnson celebrated her 70th by going on a cruise to Cancun and Cozumel, with the main focus being on swimming with the dolphins. She says “What an experience! It was at the top of my bucket list-now checked off.” At Reunion 2015, she reconnected with Perry Russell Gilreath, Anne Wing Coffey and Cathryn Holman Callahan from the Class of ‘65. Terence Lee Forbes says that while in Miami she reconnected with Melinda Crow Harper and Susan Holmes Burkart. Lots of lunches and getting their hair done! She is now mainly back in California.

1968

Blair Blackwell Cooper has retired after 40 years of teaching. She is enjoying being with her husband Pete and spending time with their children and 6 grandchildren. Louise Kelley Diehl says that she and her husband Lon have been working in northern Thailand since 2005, running a training school for Chinese Christian workers. They plan to return to the US in August 2016. Ann Wallace Nichols is still living in Brevard, NC. Her husband Nick is recovering from a stroke and she says “I have learned a lot about Medicare.” Anne Carow Lian enjoys lake life with Steven, time with her daughter and grandkids, poetry classes, making quote books, and volunteering at her old school. She writes “We miss our son, Craig, so much. Comforted by memories and others.” Justina Lasley Minifie enjoys sharing the world of dreams with radio hosts in US and abroad. Her new book *Wake Up to Your Dreams: Transform Your Relationships, Career, and Health While You Sleep* was released in 2015.

1969

Katharine Zahniser Bailey tells us that she had a stroke in November of 2013 but was “restored to full-function within hours thanks to the WONDERFUL medical staff at UMass Memorial Hospital!”

1970

Sherri Lynn Bowers is playing piano for the Washington Little Theater Company (Washington, GA), and working on her bucket list with voice lessons and organ lessons. Dorothy E. McDuffie has been working as a contract technical and biomedical editor since 2011.

Thayer Cheatham Willis works with individuals and families to create freedom beyond financial wealth. She says "I'm very fortunate that I found work that I love!"

1971

Sarah Levi Freeman writes that they welcomed granddaughter Evelyn Clarece in August. Her oldest granddaughter, Virginia, turns 7 in November and they are going to see the Grand Canyon. In January she is going with the Arboretum to visit Cuba. Linda Waller Holden tells us that after retiring from 32 years in Elementary Education she has started her own skincare business with Rodan and Fields. Vicky Vann Meyer says "I love retirement! Mark is still working, but he took time off to travel to Eastern Europe on a river cruise with a group from Wofford last August. We made such nice friendships." Sarah Middleton Pritchett has been retired from Delta Airlines since 2008 and loves playing golf and volunteering for the Fayette Humane Society. Patricia Womack retired approximately 4 years ago and moved to Columbia, SC to be near family. Nancy Beers Parsons moved to Annapolis, two years ago. With their boat is nearby, they spend a good deal of time sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Nancy retired in December 2010 from the National Geographic after more than 38 years, 35 of which were in the National Geographic Museum.

1972

Betty Blanton Lewis writes that she and her husband Rod moved to Winter Haven, FL to take care of her mother. She can now visit her good friends Patti Snively Herndon '73 and Mary Margaret Smith Dolcimascola. Frances Stoddard Loudon tells us that after teaching for 40 years, she has retired and she and her husband have been seeing the beautiful USA camping. They just recently camped for 49 days - 10,111 miles seeing many national parks! Cotten Butterworth Moring welcomed their fourth grandchild in March 2015. Her husband retired in July 2015 and they are looking forward to traveling with friends. Alice Kraus Palmer has two granddaughters born 2013 and 2015. She and Ann Williams Brinson got together last summer with their husbands in Vermont for a long weekend. Victoria Hunt Cox is retired, working part-time and volunteering on committees for the National Research Council, the Systems Engineering Research Center, AIAA and the Governor of VA as a member of his Unmanned Systems Commission.

1973

Glenda Atkinson Coker and her husband enjoyed seeing old friends at Wofford College's 2014

Homecoming. The Converse campus looked terrific! Robin Maxson Crandall still lives in Mystic, CT. She is the Music Director at Union Baptist Church in Mystic. She founded and is directing The Seraphim Consort and attends Camp Gone to the Dogs annually.

1974

Elodie Hale Craig is living in Utah. They adopted two wild Mustang yearlings off the Wyoming range and now have 3 dogs and 4 horses. Their time is spent horse training, trail riding, skiing, hiking, and fence mending. "Life is good!" she says. Janie Kerr Pride and her husband, Sam, have been traveling. Their favorite destination was Alaska. They are also going to Germany and Austria in December of 2015. Jackie Clement Herbein has gained a national reputation in the area of musician wellness and injury prevention. She recently spent a week at Converse, bringing specialized biofeedback monitoring to the music students. Grazier Connors Rhea reports that "Those who attended our 40th reunion in April 2014 had a great time. Make plans to attend our 45th in April 2019!"

1975

Sarah Edwards Dargan tells us that her oldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, is a senior at Davidson College and has just published her first short story in a journal called *Minerva Rising*. Sandy Russell Hartnett has been traveling extensively and enjoying her wonderful grandchildren. Elise Warren reports that in September a fun time was had by all as classmates Sandy Kopp Roberts, Julie Forbes Lybrand, Kathryn Perry Bumgardner met for a weekend at Elise's home in Highlands. Kathy Lott Garrick became an owner of Prudential Midlands Real Estate of Columbia, SC in 2008. They were excited to transition to Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices in August 2015. She also tells us that she had a great time at the 40th reunion! Julie Forbes Lybrand reports that after 35 years of pumps and suits, she retired about a year ago. Her new life of volunteering, gardening to her heart's content, reading for pleasure and being a help to her 90 year old mom is pretty great. She says that she especially enjoys supporting Converse through serving on the Board of Visitors. "I have learned that the class of 1975 is held in high regard by Converse. Let's keep that reputation by attending alumnae events when they are held in our home areas!" Jamie Tuck Self tells us that after 40 years in Columbia, SC, she's moved to Surfside Beach, SC, with her husband Larry Reed, 5 blocks from the ocean. "We have a 2nd unit for guests, and would love to host classmates in the area!"

1976

Elizabeth Starr Patterson retired and moved from Massachusetts to Mississippi, then went back to work at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. She tells us that she will stay there "as long as they will let me."

1977

Ansley Hassell Boggs traveled to Cusco, Peru last May to volunteer with impoverished children. Chris Wood Lynn had a wonderful week with Bradley Clinton Lynn in October. She says "Being a grandmother is just the best job on the planet!" Deborah Trigg Varga recently visited her son, daughter-in-law, and 4 year old granddaughter in Chicago. She also travels to watch her 20 year old daughter, a junior at Cornell University, play field hockey. Deborah Bradley Trusty tells us that business divides her between SC & the US Virgin Islands. She says that "when not behaving like an adventurous pirate, I'm a Real Estate Appraiser and USTA Tennis official. Staying busy is the best way to not count passing years!" Caroline Bradley Smith is a voice professor at DePauw University, as well as an active recitalist, masterclass clinician and adjudicator. She judged and gave master classes at Beijing's Conservatory for Classical Singer's 2015 International Vocal Competition.

1978

Perry Tison Wilson has been working as Director of Admissions at Francis Marion University since 2010. Her youngest child graduated from college in May 2015. She says that was a "Nice raise!" She is enjoying her granddaughter and time with family at the beach.

1979

Suzanne Bridges Coggins retired in June, 2013, after teaching elementary music for 33 1/2 years. She and her husband moved to Hendersonville, NC in May 2015. Janet Johnston Saczawa is a retired teacher and librarian and now volunteers for US Fish & Wildlife in Alaska 2-3 months a year, putting a small lending library online & doing outreach in village schools. Libby Cuttino Tilson tells us that her daughter, Hayes, married Zach Boylston on September 5, 2015, in Charlotte, NC. "Hayes is Assistant Director of Admissions at UNC-Chapel Hill and she and Zach reside in Chapel Hill." Georgia Mixon Miller, a Homewood Middle School ESL teacher, received the Motivating Woman's Award at the recent Birmingham International Center's (BIC) International Women's Day celebration.



1980

Mona Burris Dukes reports that she and Steven are now in the magical world of grandparenthood! She also tells us that she enjoyed a visit with Patty Babb '81 in London and that she and Lisa Livingston '81 visit as often as they can. She says "Keep Facebooking, Connies!" Janit Llewellyn Allen celebrated 5 years of marriage to Greg Allen last May. She says that her children Forrest, Christian, Anna and Iva are doing great! She also reports that Sable, her retired racing greyhound, joins in family fun and travels every chance she gets. Susan Sieweke Weathers has been very busy with her Etsy store "Two Weathered Roosters". Her first grandchild arrived in April 2015 - Sadie Leigh Weathers. Her youngest son is a senior at Clemson. Betsy Gantt Wittenmyer works for her husband's law firm as a legal assistant. She is also enjoying pursuing a Master of Liberal Studies at Rice University. Betsy and John's children are all in Austin, Texas. John Jr. is in the data management field with SailPoint Technologies; Margaret is in her second year of law school at the University of Texas; Anna is a junior at UT double majoring in Civil Engineering and a liberal arts program called Plan II. She sends her best wishes to all the Converse community!

1981

Jane Rinehart Crosby became a Grandmother in the fall of 2015 when her daughter and son-in-law, Retta and Andrew Hawkins, had a healthy baby girl on November 4. She says "Mary fills our family with joy and thanks!" Sally Jeter Hammond took a position as the Chief Communications Officer for Spartanburg School District 7 in August 2014. Sally served Converse for over 10 years, working both in the President's Office and as the Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing at our alma mater! Sally Herlong is loving her 5 year journey at Union Presbyterian Seminary-CLT (all-day Sat. classes). She says "Tho' stressed, lacking sleep and free time, I'm joy-filled! My ordination will coincide with your retirements!" She also asks for prayers for and a shout-out to Ann Moorman Price (and all others) who experienced the devastation of the flooding in the Columbia and Charleston areas. Kathryn Young McDowell has been in Louisiana for over 30 years now working as principal of an elementary school. They travel to NC, VA, MS, and GA frequently to see family including their one year old grandson. Denise Tapp Oliver recently retired after teaching special education for 34 years. She is now working part-time at Westminster Elementary School in Westminster, SC and also staying busy as a substitute teacher. Allyson Culbreth Ware is self-employed, teaching piano and voice. Her daughters are 26 and 20 and her husband is an actor and works with exceptional children in a local elementary school. Brenda Sander and Mario Portela married on March 7, 2015 at the Citadel Beach House on Isle of Palms, SC. Marianna MacIntyre, former Alumnae Director has accepted the position of Senior Philanthropy officer.

1982

Antoinette Guzzi Erdman has worked in their dental office for 27 years. She received her Masters in Pastoral Studies in 2013 from Loyola University in New Orleans. She and her husband celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in August 2015. They have 3 sons, no daughter-in-laws - yet! Bobbie Janiec Rafferty moved from Louisville to Chicago in 2014 to become Director of Individual Giving for the Chicago Symphony. She would love to reconnect with other Converse alums in the area! Eva Ramantanin Poteat attended graduate school in Education. She is retired from teaching and she and her husband are full time caregivers for her 97 year old Mom. They enjoy their grands every chance they get. Elizabeth Williams Grayson and Bo Taylor married on July 26, 2014 at Garden City Beach.

1983

Elise Neil Bengtson saw Emily Watson when living in Tampa. Her family returned to her Alexandria, VA home in 2015 where she is the CEO of Volunteer Fairfax. She visits with Caroline Rothfield, Alicia Coleman and Ginny Howerton. Alicia Cremins Coleman trekked up to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia last year to attend her son Wesley's school and community theatre shows. Ann Bower Ellis began working as a realtor with the 86° West Group/Keller Williams in Grand Rapids, MI as a buyer's agent specializing in executive and physician relocation.

1984

Mindy Moore Barker established a CFO - Chief Future Officer - consulting firm in 2012. She recently was nominated for the Small Business Leader of the Year - 2016 for the Jacksonville, FL Chamber of Commerce. Ann Albrecht Pressey has been in Athens, GA since 1985 and happily married for 23 years. Their daughter is at GA Southern and their son is a senior in high school. She tells us "Through the storms of life we feel blessed and secure! Praise God!" Kevin Plonk and Chet Pressley were married on June 25, 2015.

1985

Dr. Jayne Stewart Reuben was named the Chair-Elect of the Division for Pharmacology Education of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and will become the Division Chair in 2016. Floria Thomas Washington is the Senior Manager of Human Resources for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. She is looking forward to completing her Masters of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in 2016.

1986

Jenny Burnside Davison has been teaching middle school French at Augusta Prep in Augusta, GA where her husband practices law. They have 3 children who are in and approaching college years. She says "Life is good!" Deborah Tindall Hargis tells us that her daughters, Ellison (26) and Mary Bryce (23) are both in grad school - Ellison pursuing a MEd in School Counseling at UNC-G and Mary Bryce a PhD in Cognitive Psychology at UCLA. Elizabeth Mamoulides Hockaday has one daughter graduated from APP and the second is in her last year of high school. She is a Fitness Coach with Beachbody and has loved working with some of our Converse classmates! She lives in Cary, NC with husband, Ben. Cathy McAllister Watson and her husband, Cal, live in Columbia, SC. Their daughter Catherine is a senior at Wofford, son Jay is a freshman at Furman, and youngest, Bess, is a 10th grader at AC Flora. She just rotated off the Alumnae Board. Angela Spence Nelson was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University in August 2015. Thelia Price Stevens moved to Atlanta, GA, this year to take a new job.

1987

We have made it to our 50th year of life and it seems that birthday gatherings were highlights of many of our lives this year. Wallis Crum Bond, Peggy Hair Alford, Beth Woods Sessums, Julie Norville, Martha Lynn Mercer Gaskins, Sherrie Moss Board, and Rebekah Jennings Murphy celebrated on a cruise to the Bahamas last February with lots of stories and laughter! Jane Harlan, Cindy Kuhlke Gibbs, Nancy Davenport, Lynn Dye Smith, Jennifer Bray Fant, Elizabeth Smoak Groce, Donna Mason Burnside, Marion McNair, and Laura Chappell Bauknight all had a great birthday party last winter at a spa in Charlotte. Anne Pleasanton Longley is now in her fourth year as Head of Upper School at the Nightingale-Bamford School (K-12 all-girls school) in Manhattan. Janet Lynn Bean joined Clemson's Mechanical Engineering Dept. as Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator in July 2015. Holly Manly Gosnell completed her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Converse in 2010 and has been teaching 5th grade Social Studies and Reading in Greenville County Schools. Angela Rogers McCort spent 3 weeks driving around Europe last summer

with husband Scott Stradley and daughter Kaitlyn McCort. Cheryl May Hawkins Steadman and her family visited Paris and St. Jean Cap Ferrat over the summer. Laura Calk went on a fabulous cruise to French Polynesia in October before returning to Aspen for ski season. Pam Sims Rutledge and her husband always seem to be traveling - Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and the Dominican Republic are just a few places they visited in 2015. Toni Malone Atchley and family took a special trip to Monaco and France. Sheila Wilkerson Chatto and her family are involved with equestrian life. Wendy Rogers lives at Pawley's Island and works at a local retailer. Rachel Hean stays busy with three children in Macon, GA. Elizabeth Finlay Vingi's oldest son is working in New York, her middle one is at Wake Forest and her youngest is in high school in Charleston. Dr. Paige Pennington has changed from owning her own dental practice to being the Director of Dental Hygiene at Meridian Community College. Elizabeth Shelton Roddy and family moved from Kenya to their new assignment in Bern, Switzerland. Adele Penland Boyce's daughter, Meredith, is now a freshman at Converse and living in Pell. Shortly after she started,



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she was awarded the White House Champions of Change Award for young women empowering their communities. Adele and Meredith attended the awards ceremony in Washington in September. Sallie McCutcheon Free and her husband, Dagnall, moved from John's Island, SC to Staten Island, NY where he was installed at the new rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in November. Ann Trenning launched her new album, *The Sunflower Waltz*, now available on iTunes. If you haven't heard her music, you are missing out!

1988

Kristine Rao Haimbach currently teaches Special Education at Chapman High School in Spartanburg County. Elizabeth Brown Snyder is still working with Amedisys HH. She is now traveling to train staff on the new EMR system. She is exploring new areas of the southeast. They have moved to Charleston and are enjoying that. Katherine Buchanan Davis reminds us "This year is the year many of us turn 50 so we are taking turns attending birthday celebrations. Recently Carter Willard Smith, Laura Graham and I celebrated Alice Fuller Littlejohn's birthday at a bash at her home in Greenville." Katherine has three girls - one a senior at Wofford College, one a freshman at Furman University and a sophomore in high school in Greenville. She continues to work as a freelance web designer. One of her family's favorite activities is to travel and 2014 brought them a grant to travel for six weeks in Greece and Italy! Marjorie Elizabeth Lamb was promoted to Operations Manager at Alpha Genesis Inc. Daralyn Scharmer remarried and has a second son now attending the Citadel. Jeannie Creech remodeled a historic home in Beaufort, SC.

1989

Christine Hull Manley has been busy with her growing family while successfully continuing a great opportunity with Avon for the last 10 years. Teresa Hopper Spire says that the big news in her life this year is that her daughter, Jenni, is a freshman at Converse! Her son, Will, earned his MAT from USC this May. Hilary Ann Thornton is interested in reconnecting with alumnae in Kentucky & Tennessee. Kim Jackson Cameron says that much has happened since you all were together last year. In family news, Joy Johnson Daskalakis and her family are traveling to Greece to visit Demetri's relatives. It will be her first trip as well as the first for their daughter, Alexandra. Susan Nickles Moore, Pam Page Bean, and I celebrated with Elizabeth Hyatt at her wedding last March. Elizabeth and Wes were married in Lancaster, SC's historic courthouse...no better place for a lawyer to say "I do"! Caroline Walters Sims and her husband, Steve, are adjusting to a newly empty nest. They have a senior and a freshman in college this year. Patty Cestaro Roger's son, Jonathan Davis,

recently graduated from law school and married a Wofford graduate. Cindy Cox Winston is planning her daughter, Hannah's, upcoming wedding. She says "How are we old enough to have kids in college, graduating, and getting married? We just graduated last week!" Our children aren't the only things growing up...so are our careers! Converse College has named Tania McDuffie Assistant Dean of Academic Support Services. Tania will continue to teach math, and her new position will focus on academic support and retention. Shay Montgomery Greene was awarded Chaplain of the Year by the NC Chaplains' Association last April. In June, Kelli Waters Taylor took a new position at Methodist University as Vice President for Community Engagement and Campus Ministry. She and her family have moved to Fayetteville, NC. Congratulations to everyone on beautiful families, advancing careers, and lives well-lived!

1990

Lynn Pettus tells us that the Class of 1990 enjoyed their 25th reunion last spring and that everyone had a fun time catching up and seeing the sights in Spartanburg. She reports that since the reunion, Lesa Underwood (the world traveler) has bought a new house and is in the process of renovating. We wondered if that meant that she would be traveling less! But, of course not, she has visited Half Moon Bay, California for work and Switzerland for pleasure. Mary McDaniel Ridgeway reports that Deborah Stanford Harris is keeping busy in Raleigh, NC. Like many of us, she is visiting colleges with her daughter, Savannah. Debbie Currin Conner received the Alumnus of the Year Award for the University of South Carolina Higher Education Leadership Program. She also gave the commencement address at the hooding ceremony. Way to go Debbie! Mary ran into Caroline West McDowell and Pam Moran Conner at a Clemson football game this fall. It was fun to catch up and see everyone's children. If you are a member of Facebook, please "like" our page, Converse College Class of 1990!

1991

Dr. Polly Butler Cornelius is the Coordinator of Vocal Studies at Elon University. Her students are performing leading roles on Broadway in *Wicked*, *The King and I*, and *Newsies*! Lucy Elliott Ennis is now living in Austin, TX working as a nonprofit fundraising agent at Corcoran and Co. Daniela Birgit Strueder-Krenzlin has moved back to the US and is teaching 5th grade at a local Episcopal School. Monica Harman Pierce works part-time jobs - at PetSmart as dog daycare keeper and Michaels as a cashier. Julia Weston Daniels was the President of the Junior League of Charleston for the 2014-2015 year. Junior League of Charleston has over 1,000 members and raises over \$100,000 annually. Julie is the first Converse graduate in 36 years to hold this post. Last

Converse woman to serve was Katharine Shertzer Robinson ('68) in 1978–79.

1992

Stacy Brabo Childers and her husband, Travis, and have a farm in Gaffney. They raise and sell all-natural beef, pork, and eggs. She homeschools their children, Daniel (12) and Mary Anna (6). Robbie Moseley Richards has been living in Ohio for almost 7 years. Their son is 17 and their daughter is 12. She is working part-time at the University of Toledo. She says that they miss SC, "but OH has been a gracious home away from home!"

1993

Karen Corn Daugherty has owned Mill Street Florist in Inman, SC with her husband Shayne (Wofford class of 1993) for 12 years. Erin C. McGee is a commercial bankruptcy attorney in Dallas, TX. She is also in the process of recording an album as catmcgee.com. Leigh Anne Priest has moved to Birmingham, AL and is working as a realtor. Elizabeth Anne Strickland is still teaching Special Ed in NYC. She has started taking Tae Kwon Do and is about to test for her green belt!

1994

Laura Walters Firoozi has moved to Orlando but is still working out of her house for Nationwide Insurance. Sarah Rueff Ryan moved to Las Vegas to become one of the only Female Urologists in the greater Metropolitan area. She always welcomes a visit from a Converse alumna! Holly Miller Smith says that classmate Catherine Fuller married Daniel Zarillo in Charleston on March 22, 2015. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Zarillo!

1995

Mary Margaret Wright Ryan completed her Ed.S. in Literacy from Converse. She continues to work as a Learning Specialist at Collegiate School in Richmond, Virginia. Betty Richards Wilson is currently enrolled in the online Master's of Music Education program at the University of Florida. She was nominated for the Jacksonville State Teacher Hall of Fame for DVES in 2014.

1996

Patricia Doty Bradshaw and her husband, Michael, moved their family to Memphis, TN in 2011. Stephanie Olive Crofton won a Scholarly and Professional Achievement Award recently. She keeps up with Kerry Ashley Easler and recently met

her at the beach for a weekend. This New Year's she and her husband will celebrate their 17th anniversary in Paris. Cecelia Conlan Grinstead tells us that after obtaining her Professional Educators License, she has been working as a substitute teacher in Birmingham, AL suburbs near family and friends. Katie DePascale Williams is in her 20th year of teaching chorus and has been at Oconee County High School for the last 16 years. Her husband Richard and their boys James (12) and Charlie (6) live in Athens, GA. Carrie Hill Coleman just recently resigned from her position in Converse's External Affairs Office to spend more time with her children, but she's not going far! She's teaching one Pilates class per semester to Converse students and says that it's the highlight of her week. Pamela Hughes Foster is the acting VP of Centre Stage Theatre's Board of Directors, was chosen as one of *Talk Magazine's* 10 Most Stylish, and was one of 4 persons nominated for AFP's Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award in Greenville, SC. Way to go, Pam!

1997

Casey Thompson O'Dell and her husband, Robert, own O'Dell Landscaping LLC, a gardening company in Charleston, SC. They are celebrating 15 years in business this year! Nina Couch Cardona tells us that after 11 years as a news reporter at Nashville Public Radio, she's returned to her music major roots. She's now the Music Director of Nashville's all-classical station, Classical 91.1 (WFCL). Susan Michelle Miskelly is serving as President of the Junior Welfare League of Rock Hill, SC. She earned a Master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications in 2013 and enjoys working as a writer, both in a corporate job and as a freelancer.

1998

Heidi Baker Jameson's daughter, Emma, has been accepted as a member of the Converse College Class of 2020. Congratulation, Emma and Heidi!

1999

Persephone Emily Harbin tells us that she and Julie Padgett Jones are representing the class of '99 as Converse faculty in the English and Education departments, respectively. Alvetta Smith is currently working at Dorman High School as Fine Arts Support for the Chorus and Theatre Departments, where she most recently co-directed the first district-wide musical - ANNIE!

2000

Beth Welborn Knight graduated from UNC Chapel

Hill with a PhD in Neurobiology. She sees Annaleise Helm Jones, Lindsay Birmingham '01 and Katherine Adams regularly. She tells us that Annaleise and Lindsay each have beautiful babies! Tabitha Sanders Pruitt is a social studies teacher and Department Head at Greer High School.

2001

Gretchen Melinda Basdon is a Systems Integrator in Northern VA. In her spare time she volunteers for nonprofit organizations in her community and participates in various adventurous activities and trains for endurance races. Caroline Cuttino Kuhn got married in February of 2015. Congratulations Caroline! Trisha Priester Southergill's family relocated from Clemson, SC to Butte, MT. She is the Grant Support and E-Thesis Manager at Montana Tech. She is getting used to high elevation living and the cold weather!

2002

Katie Landon Fitch and her husband, Brad, have moved to Texas. Katie has returned to the Young Life staff as Regional Development Director. Marlee Beckham Marsh is working as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Columbia College. She has been elected to the Steering Committee of the Association of College and University Biology Educators. Michelle Marie Wietbrock tells us that she started her own business! Coverz makes designer children's bedding & blankets, and then donates a portion of the profits to charity. There's also an adult throw blanket line too!

2003

Melissia Heatherly Brannen was recently promoted to Director of Multicultural Affairs & Community Resources and Assistant Dean of Students at Columbia College. Sarah Rowan Dahl is now an Australian citizen and will be on Australia's Got Talent 2016 with hubby Jared on cello and Sarah speed painting! Kristin Smith Nabors got married in October 2015 to Chad Elliott Nabors. Congratulations Kristin! Aline Nahhas-Rubio spent 11 months in 11 countries from July 2013 - June 2014 as part of The World Race. In May 2015 she returned to Communities in Schools of Houston as a Project Manager. Robyn Hill Sanderson reports that after 7 years of working in higher education at Sweet Briar College in VA, she returned to Upstate SC to accept the position of Dean of Student Development at Anderson University. Anna Steenerson Young and husband, David, moved to Nashville, TN where David is a resident at Vanderbilt University and Anna is the Director of Education at Nashville Opera.

Amy Cetone Vaz was recently involved in bringing Holocaust survivor, Robbie Waisman, from Vancouver to the Upstate. Thanks to President Fleming and Dr. Melissa Walker for supporting the program held on the Converse campus in November 2015!

2004

Ashley Peden Bailey was promoted in October 2015 to Coach/Trainer for Sealed Air's Food Care Division. Amanda Cartwright Conschaffer is now the Communications Director at the Alliance for Patient Access. Kelly Wilson Hall currently works for the Department of Justice as an Assistant US Attorney, prosecuting narcotics and violent crimes. Her husband Michael's (Wofford '02) job has just moved them from SC to TX. Erin Poston Smith is now the Director of Public Support at the Humane Society of South Carolina. Cindy Diane Witherspoon tells us that in October 2014, she published her first full length novel, *The Oracle Series, Vol. 1: The Sibyl*. It is currently listed on Amazon's Bestseller list for Teen and Young Adult Mythology at #4! Jennie Elizabeth Zehr changed professions and is now a Sales Professional at Hendrick Toyota Scion in North Charleston, SC. Katherine Carr Sullivan got married in September 2015 to Phillip Wayne Sullivan. Ashley Bailey, Quinn Burgin Saleeby, and Allison Shull Little were all in attendance! Rachel Schultz Barnes celebrated 10 years of owning her own photography business in 2014.

2005

Elizabeth Rowland Allison graduated from the University of Alabama with a Ph.D. in Elementary Education in 2014. In 2015 she was hired as Assistant Professor of Science Education at the University of South Alabama. Josie Fingerhut Shaheen was promoted to Major in the US Army in October 2015. Sarah Holman Peavler tells us that in 2015 she was approved as a foster parent for the state of Tennessee. This past summer she had a 6 year old boy and looks forward to having other children stay with her in the future. Shakira Hasan Anderson says that every year she and some close "Connies" have a girls weekend just to catch up!

2006

Mary Beth Brown Earp was named as the 2015 - 2016 Cox Mill High School Teacher Assistant of the Year. Martina Annette Jones has been promoted to lab supervisor at Patheon in Greenville, NC. She spent last August and October on a work trip in Ferentino, Italy and had a blast exploring the area! Ashley Greenway Moss was hired to teach in Spartanburg School District 7 in 2014. She also owns a small

business called "Sew, Actually" and specializes in purse making and monogramming. Kelly Cordle Cannon received the certification of Master Instructor in both English and Western disciplines from the Certified Horsemanship Association.

2007

Grace Bagwell Adams accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Health Policy & Management in the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. Emily Leland Bridges has just accepted the position of Data Governance Analyst at Troutman Sanders LLC. Brittany Harrelson is the Lead Gifted and Talented Teacher for Spartanburg School District One. She is engaged to Brian Smith and will marry in October 2016. Brittany Jones was recently promoted to Territory Manager at iD Tech, a Summer STEM Program for kids, overseeing operations for southeast programs. Bianca-Martina Rohner has joined the Asian Development Bank as an Investment Specialist and is now based in Manila. She is responsible for private equity investments in developing countries in Asia. Andrea Lauren Stokes is currently working in India with Seven Sisters International, an organization that provides aftercare for minor girls who have suffered from trafficking and abuse.

2008

Christine Hendershott Blair is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Lactation Consultant in Knoxville, TN. Madison Graham Boyd got engaged in March 2015 and will be getting married in June 2016. Sarah Walters DeMeola moved to Denver, CO in May 2015. Audrey Shanielle Jaccard recently moved to Utah to become a full time studio potter. Sarah Whitfield Marion started teaching architectural drafting and computer-aided design courses as an adjunct professor in the Interior Design program at Converse in the Fall of 2015. Kristina Marie Blanchard Robbins is the Move-In Coordinator at Brookdale Skylyn, a retirement community in Spartanburg. Ashley Joyce Smith works with the Spartanburg City Police as an investigator in the Narcotics Unit. Kelsey Inez Smith relocated to Denver, CO after completing her Masters in Public Health. Kelly Orner Toney got married to Chad Toney in May of 2015 and works as a Primary therapist at a Hearth Center for Eating Disorders. Baye Garnette Williamson is currently in a Neurology and Neurosurgery Residency at Cornell University. Candice Lau Kunze tells us that in May 2016 she will graduate from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Radford University in Roanoke, VA. She recently won the 3MT Judge's Choice Award and will compete at the CSGS in Charlotte, NC. Susan R. Wines just got engaged! Amber Nicole

Shearsmith was inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society for women educators, in 2013 and was named its legislative policy chair for the state of South Carolina in August 2015. Anna Kathryn Smith Backer is managing and directing the Cincinnati School of Music which was recently voted "Best Music Instruction" in the local press!

2009

Chelsey Jeffers Boggs is a lawyer (JAG) for the United States Navy stationed in Japan. Earlier in 2015 she worked on the aircraft carrier and is now working in the trial shop shoreside. Amanda Lin Chassereau teaches English as a second language for the Abu Dhabi Education Council in Ain Ain, United Arab Emirates. Mary Linton Smith Kops will be finishing nursing school in May 2016 and got married in December 2014. Jessica Lauren Looney is the Assistant Director of Residence Life & Housing at Clark University in Worcester, MA and in June 2015 she got engaged to Joseph Eckstrom. Laura Katherine Miles graduated from George Washington University in 2013 with MA in Art Therapy and is the Facility Administrator and Art Therapist at a treatment center for teens with eating disorders. Jennifer Leigh Radford has been designing kitchens

and bathrooms for a local wholesale company. Allison Jones Petralia is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Project Hope Foundation, working with teens & adults with autism in the upstate. She recently started a program for adults focusing on life, jobs and social skills. Sara Elizabeth Sipe earned her license in Marriage & Family Therapy and is a LMFT at a non-profit organization, West Gate Family Therapy Institute, in Spartanburg, SC.

2010

Sara Elizabeth Hamilton organized a local craft fair, Holiday Handmade Hoopla, was the treasurer for two successful City Council Campaigns and obtained her La Leche League Leadership Certification. Anna Grace Owens is getting married in April 2016 and graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary with her Master of Divinity in May 2016. Caroline Keiser Pantoja De Alba got married in July of 2015. Carlon Steller is currently working on her Masters in Art Education at Converse and will graduate July 2016. She has been working at Beck Academy teaching middle school art for six years. Gwendolyn Eve Stembridge serves as Director of Programs at HandsOn Northeast Ohio, is on and off stage at Near West Theatre and teaches private voice & music

theory. Nichole McGehee Martin got married to Terry Martin in June 2014. Elizabeth Powell Dunaway graduated from Auburn University with her PhD in Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences in August 2015 and started a new position as Assistant Professor of Psychology at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA. Kourtney Briana McKinney got engaged in November 2015 and is hoping to get married in the summer of 2016. She also received her Master's degree from Converse in December of 2014. Jennifer Brown VanDerwerken graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in the summer of 2013 with a masters in Information Technology. Morgan Elizabeth Anderson currently works on staff at City Year Miami as a Program Manager at the same school where she served as an AmeriCorps Member in 2011 and is getting married in April 2016. Nicole Dumouchel Watford decided to branch out and start her own photography business based in the greater Columbia, SC area.

2011

Taynesha David Adams is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy intern. She provides counseling and therapeutic programs at Middle Tyger Community Center in SC. Emily Frances Bracey is currently

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President Betsy Fleming

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Annual Fund



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CONVERSE

working as an IT Program Assistant at USC School of Medicine and playing in a Celtic folk rock band in Columbia, SC. She will be getting married to James Neff in October 2016. Kathryn Elizabeth Chicoine graduated with an MFA in Interior Architecture and Design from Academy of Art University in May 2015. Francesca Mayer is a LEED AP BD+C and ID+C and is the new CEO for the Perú Green Building Council. Meghan A. McCraw has been with Southeastern Freight Lines in Columbia, SC since April 2012 and was recently promoted to the National Accounts department. Rachel Beasley Rhodes just returned from 2 years of teaching in South Korea. Ashton Danielle Lesiak received the Carol De Forest Research Grant from the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists and Graduate Student Research Award from the Eastern Analytical Symposium. Aundreana Kiara-Briet Hunter tells us that after two years serving in AmeriCorps in Montana, she's returned to Sparkle City and has been happily employed at the Alzheimer's Association since January 2014!

2012

Kristen Leah Downs made a big move from NC to Aiken, SC and has started working at North Aiken Elementary as a Special Education teacher. Patricia Dianne Drummond received her Master's of Fine Art from James Madison University in 2015 and is currently teaching art history and photography at Owens Community College. Jessica Dawn Lee recently moved to Milwaukee, WI to work as the Content Marketing Producer for an international software company.

2013

Jessica Jordan Bosak resigned from Bosch Rexroth after 2 years as a plant accountant to take a position at Southern Tide as a forecast analyst and demand

planner. Maggie Lawter graduated with her masters in Student Affairs and Higher education and has started her first professional job working in residence life! Erica Lane McDonald got married in 2013 and began a career with Warby Parker in Nashville, TN. Lainie Sowell completed her Teach for America service and is now a Special Education Coordinator in Baton Rouge, LA. Bailey Rotenberry is now attending a Clinical Massage Therapy program. Yam Watthanasuk Burke is married and living in Hendersonville, NC. She's working at a Christian homeless shelter and just had a baby boy!

2014

Jessica Pope Coffey got married in May 2015 and began graduate school to obtain her Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the Medical University of South Carolina. Kimberly Nicosia Nguyen is living in Greenville, SC and teaching kindergarten at Pelham Road Elementary. In the summer of 2016 she will be starting her masters. Arnisha Te'kiale White is teaching ACT Prep, Personal Finance, and 3rd-6th grade music in Hollandale, MS.

2015

Kellie Joann Frazer says that she has been "doing pretty well!" She got a head cashier position at Low Country Shrimper in Mauldin, SC, which opened in early November 2015. Lauren Victoria Miller is currently attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, where she is studying to get her MFA in Theatre Pedagogy and Performance. Sarah Elizabeth Smith is currently working on her Master's degree in Medieval Studies at the National University of Ireland Galway. She is enjoying living abroad and learning more about the history of Medieval Ireland. Audrey Peace Smith just accepted a job offer to be an Invoice Analyst at Coats & Clark.

In Memoriam

1928

Jessie Debnam Cross
March 7, 2014

1929

Elizabeth Mullins McIntyre
October 21, 2015

1933

Mary Ella McCredie Gifford
August 3, 2014

1936

Elizabeth Sheldon Fowlkes
July 15, 2014

Margaret M. Lanham
June 2, 2014

1937

Virginia McMillin McCown
October 23, 2015

1938

Mary Moffett Hutcheson
June 19, 2014

Elizabeth Rhett West
March 7, 2014

1939

Dorothy Ward Brown
November 21, 2014

Rachel Weyher Dillard
November 21, 2014

Marjorie Henry Hobbs
July 20, 2015

Marbeth Sompayrac Huff
June 3, 2015

Jean Graham Mason
August 28, 2015

Augusta Loevernich Milhaupt
August 24, 2014

Margaret Sibley Stearns
May 26, 2015

1940

Florence Savage Blackwell
February 27, 2015

Mary Glenn Stone Copenhaver
July 23, 2015

Harriett Easterby Faris
May 11, 2015

Jeanne Cushman Gmeiner
January 8, 2013

Frances Holland Hardy
May 18, 2014

Erwin Wallace Parrott
December 3, 2014

1941

Margaret Harrison Austin
March 23, 2015

Sarah Leonard Jernigan
November 5, 2014

Virginia Reynolds Hodges Lee
March 16, 2014

Dorothy Jenkins McElveen
April 2, 2014

Adeline Godfrey Pringle Merrill
July 15, 2014

Margaret Osborne Myers Pitts
July 31, 2015

Harriet Glasgow White
March 6, 2014

1942

Ida Penn Shackelford Ball
January 1, 2015

Martha Cloud Chapman
October 22, 2014

Helen Irby France
December 14, 2014

Eleanor Wilcox Shelton
December 25, 2014

Marion O'Bryan Vaughan
April 28, 2014

Nancy Barwick Wilson
May 18, 2015

1943

Virginia Modlin Garrison
August 18, 2015

Eunice Purnell Hodges
March 25, 2015

Elizabeth Lyles Jones
December 23, 2014

Helen Bishop Kanipe
June 9, 2014

Barbara Brown Lee
April 13, 2015

Kathleen Willis McClellan
February 25, 2015

Betsy Gilmore Milsteen
February 3, 2015

Dorothy McDowell Morton
January 16, 2015

Margaret McAlister Sealy
February 1, 2015

1944

Norma Thatcher Barton
March 9, 2014

Janet Kelly Bryan
March 5, 2015

Julia Bridger Cox
October 27, 2014

Laura Bryson D'Ambola
January 28, 2014

Virginia Faulkner Fleming
October 31, 2014

Jane Fishburne Hipp
May 6, 2015

Caroline Woods Peterson
August 27, 2015

Penelope Parker Peterson
May 16, 2014

Carroll McDaniel Petrie
January 22, 2015

Raymoth Ezell Rivers
May 25, 2015

Richard H. Zimmerman
June 16, 2013

1945

Mildred Ames Anders
November 9, 2014

Carolyn Barr Carson
September 23, 2014

Mildred Hart Ewell
September 27, 2014

Wanda Wayland Keeling
February 22, 2015

Martha Harrington Ludlam
April 22, 2014

Dorothy Harris Montgomery
March 5, 2015

Margaret Jarrett Morris
July 5, 2015

Susanne Lyles Reaves
July 31, 2015

Mary Fabisinshi Roberts
July 21, 2015

Betty Hamiter Taylor
January 17, 2015

1946

Ann Smith Bertini
February 22, 2014

Janet Bloom Brooker
April 16, 2015

Ann Llewellyn Ditto
April 2, 2014

Shirley Shepherd Johnston
November 19, 2014

Rosa Anderson Keith
December 27, 2014

In Memoriam

Doris Byrd Parker
March 7, 2015

Mary Upshaw Pike
May 22, 2014

Rosa L. Strait
February 17, 2015

Betsy Stephens Williams
July 14, 2014

1947

Betty Jane Bramlett
February 1, 2015

Claire Shealy Haltiwanger
December 10, 2014

Lily Talbert Rowan
April 6, 2014

Julia Clinkscales Warren
October 8, 2015

1948

Helen Blount Collins
September 20, 2012

Jean Love Hambright
March 15, 2015

Nancy Tysinger Haynes
December 26, 2014

Nancy Horner Hulin
April 3, 2014

Nancy Harris Roberts
February 3, 2015

May Bynum Sharp
January 23, 2015

Doris Lefler West
April 14, 2015

1949

Cynthia Townsend Bolling
July 3, 2014

Marth Jean Bolus
August 12, 2015

Betty Jo Putnam Carpenter
September 18, 2014

Molly Leatherwood Cuttino
April 2, 2015

Jean Dodge Gore
July 1, 2015

Anna Jean Altman McQueen
August 5, 2014

Jean Hodo Miller
June 6, 2015

1950

Vera Starr Preston Green
June 25, 2015

Dorothy "Dot" Ormond Grier
December 2, 2015

Barbara Williamson Paul
May 21, 2014

Peggy Minnis Rugheimer
August 28, 2015

Gertrude Johnston Williams
March 15, 2015

1951

Ann Gwathmey Badgett
December 26, 2014

Betty Littlejohn Kirby
June 3, 2014

1952

Dorothy Fudger Bassett
July 22, 2015

Susane Wilcox Braithwaite
February 19, 2015

Katherine Hester Field
January 17, 2015

Mary Riddick Ovrevik
June 14, 2014

Alice Erbeling Shuford
February 2, 2014

Anne Moore Snellgrove
June 13, 2014

1953

Annette Edgerton Brothers
June 6, 2015

Virginia Lee Hunt
January 14, 2015

Sara Barrier Sims
December 10, 2015

Carol Mahon Tate
May 22, 2015

1954

Betsy Shepherd Ancrum
June 20, 2014

Gloria Grantham Emanuel
May 4, 2014

Janet Eaddy Langley
August 23, 2015

Mildred Roberts Robards
July 17, 2014

Delores Miller Williams
May 12, 2014

1955

Mary Amelia Anderson Higgins
November 18, 2105

Lucille Mellette Thomas
January 3, 2015

1956

Nancy Davis Nickles
November 12, 2014

Anne Gignilliat Clarke
July 27, 2015

Mary Derrick Coxie
May 23, 2015

Frances Boykin Maynard
December 7, 2015

Mary Anne Redfearn Teal
October 13, 2015

1957

Dorothy Comyns Berg
November 17, 2014

Judith Steidinger Hamre
December 1, 2014

Margaret McMaster McNeely
January 6, 2015

1958

Catharine "Tina" Nunnamaker
Fletcher
August 10, 2014

Phyllis Wilson Lynch
November 17, 2015

Mary Searle Rowland
April 4, 2014

1959

Martha Ann Burnet Carlisle
January 5, 2015

Gayle Bell Durham
April 22, 2015

Betty Hawthorne Grymes
November 13, 2015

Frances Crews Myers
March 11, 2014

Matilda Beck White
December 3, 2014

1960

Nancy Hopkins Brigham
August 19, 2014

Frances Reddy Buyck
May 11, 2014

Beverly Andrews Guarino
June 25, 2013

Jo Hartness Guinn
April 13, 2014

Marilyn Risko Lamarre
May 24, 2014

Joanna Bobotes Zanetakos
May 23, 2014

1961

Cherie Lewis Linko
February 13, 2014

1962

Harriet Jolene Willard Bryant
April 7, 2015

Anne Gilliam Carroll
April 28, 2014

1965

Pedgy Friar Ficken
October 1, 2014

Becky Hucks McKibben
June 22, 2014

1966

Virginia "Merrie" Nash Boone
July 14, 2014

Margaret Goettee Brooks
October 16, 2015

Dianne Kennedy McLees
March 18, 2015

Mary Stringfield Oates
August 23, 2015

Mary Louise Vaughn Vallotton
April 13, 2014

1967

Lucia Mullen Balmer
June 22, 2015

James Edward Brown
December 24, 2014

Shelby Fairey McCutchen
November 1, 2014

1968

Ruth Trowell Watson
June 7, 2015

1969

Ellen Goforth Hanna
April 8, 2014

Martha Wofford Holcombe
December 8, 2015

Clifford Barrington Smith
May 28, 2014

Ann Barrow Weiler
February 14, 2014

1970

Dorothy Jarrell Draughon
July 6, 2015

1971

Nancy Hebb Freeman
August 1, 2015

Margaret Thomas Thompson
June 19, 2015

1972

Charles Furman Adams
March 3, 2015

Anne Lamberson Fisher
August 2, 2014

Harriet Gardner Watson
March 20, 2015

1973

Stewart Witney Elliott
June 5, 2015

1974

Kenneth Wayne McIntosh
July 9, 2014

Jane Lefevre Stackhouse
April 21, 2015

1975

Carol Doxey Starnes
October 28, 2015

1976

Carolyn Bunch
July 2, 2015

Peggy Gooch Kelly
July 12, 2014

1977

Karen Louise Cousins
August 26, 2015

Janet Susan Andrews
March 31, 2015

1979

Anne Cushman Prettyman
January 17, 2015

1980

Minnie Durrah Smith
May 29, 2014

Patricia Larimer
November 24, 2014

1981

Julie(a) Martin Hanes
January 27, 2016

Julia Walker Smith
June 21, 2014

1984

Ruth Jerkens Boehning
February 3, 2015

Louise Murphy Rhodes
July 5, 2015

Debra Ann Whittingham
July 1, 2015

1985

Pamela Boyd Middleton
November 25, 2015

1986

Stephanie Gibbs Freel
March 19, 2014

1987

Nancy J. Mabry
September 12, 2015

1991

Mary Charity Stortz
April 24, 2015

1995

Stacy Johnson Bradey
September 16, 2014

Cheryl Woody McIntyre
November 30, 2014

1996

Matthew John McKenzie
December 28, 2014

2001

Kimberly Ann Terry
April 4, 2015

Bridgett Vergara
July 17, 2015

2002

Katherin Strong Barnes
January 21, 2014

Paula Jean Trimmier
February 12, 2015

2003

Carol Darlene Ryan Warren
August 19, 2014

Sympathy

1941

Mabel Culler, January 26, 2014,
daughter of Coan Turner Culler '41

1946

Jacques Smith, June 1, 2013,
brother of Marguerite Smith Compton '46

John Philip Compton, January 18, 2014,
son of Marguerite Smith Compton '46

1948

Carolyn Bunch '76, July 2, 2015,
daughter of Bertie Hemingway Bunch '48

Mildred Hart Ewell '45, September 27, 2014,
sister of Virginia Hart Fife '48

Martha Cloud Chapman '42, October 22, 2014,
sister of Elizabeth Cloud Malloy '48

1949

Andrew Jackson Airheart, Jr., August 11, 2014,
husband of Sara Stonesifer Airheart '49

Guy R. Beale, Jr., July 25, 2015,
husband of Martha Paxton Beale '49

1952

Carolyn Barr Carson '45, September 23, 2014,
sister of Nancy Barr Carson '52

1953

Margaret McAlister Sealy '43, February 1, 2015,
sister of Mary McAlister Pinson '53

1954

Lynne Cameron Slaughter, April 9, 2014,
daughter of Marjorie Williams Fiorilla '54

William N. Rutledge, November 17, 2014,
husband of Helen Chapman Rutledge '54

1955

Rex Lyle Carter, June 9, 2014,
husband of Floride Gullede Carter '55

George Turner Perrow, May 17, 2015,
husband of Sara Bull Perrow '55

1956

John Harris Cathcart, Jr., August 25, 2013,
brother of Marion Cathcart Waters '56

1957

Richard Edmunds Boyd, Jr., March 31, 2014,
husband of Peggy Porter Boyd '57

John Thomas Eli Cribb, Sr., March 3, 2015,
husband of Katherine Warner Cribb '57

William Johnston Spillers, May 27, 2014,
brother of Mary Lib Spillers Hamilton '57

1958

John Harris Cathcart, Jr., August 25, 2013,
husband of Elizabeth Richardson Cathcart '58

Russell Paul Clary, June 29, 2014,
son of Virle Tweed Clary '58

David Shriver Soliday IV, July 1, 2014,
grandson of Lynn Peterson Jones '58

Charles P. Parker, March 14, 2014, husband of
Nancy Rivers Parker '58

Hendon Bynum Poe, May 5, 2014,
grandson of Wesley Smith Poe '58

1959

Thomas Reed Burton, Sr., April 29, 2015,
husband of Jayne Callaham Burton '59

William Robert Jebson, Jr., November 6, 2013,
husband of Sally Howie Jebson '59

1960

Eric Phillpott, September 21, 2015,
husband of Diane Schenck Phillpott '60

1961

James Austin Neal, February 22, 2014,
husband of Leonette Dedmond Neal '61

1964

Stewart Witney Elliott '73 MEd, June 5, 2015,
husband of Anne Mayo Elliott '64

Harriet Jolene Willard Bryant '62, April 7, 2015,
sister of Malinda Kaye Willard '64

1965

Fitzhugh Elder, Jr., June 5, 2015,
father of Elaine Elder King McCarrick '65

1966

Andre Stephenson Hart, March 19, 2014,
mother of Lucy Hart Rentz '66

1967

Ruth L. Crabb, January 23, 2015,
step-mother of Peggy Crabb Henderson '67

1968

Dale William Player, February 6, 2014,
brother of Maxine Player Blakely '68

John Thomas Tanner, June 21, 2015,
husband of Lynne Peoples Tanner '68

William Spaulding White, May 13, 2014,
husband of Ida Jordan White '68

1969

Elizabeth Lyles Jones '43, December 23, 2014,
mother of Jacquelyn Jones Thomsen '69

Margaret McAlister Sealy '43, February 1, 2015,
mother of Josie Sealy Zurav '69

1970

Harriett Easterby Faris '40, May 11, 2015,
mother of Gregory Faris Morton '70

1971

Margaret Goettee Brooks '66, October 16, 2015,
sister of Laura Goettee Livingston '71

Penelope Parker Peterson '44, May 16, 2014,
mother of Sallie Peterson White '71

Carolyn McKay McGoogan, October 6, 2015,
mother of Jane McGoogan Wilson '71

1972

Virginia Nash Boone '66, July 14, 2014,
sister of Susan Nash McClellan '72

1973

May Bynum Sharp '48, January 23, 2015,
mother of Ester Sharp '73

Frederick Eugene Schroder, Jr., October 24, 2015,
husband of Caroline Wrigley Schroder '73

1974

Harriett Easterby Faris '40, May 11, 2015,
mother of Harriett Faris '74

1975

Andre Stephenson Hart, March 19, 2014,
mother of Sarah Hart Neighbors '75

Mary Self Bingham, November 29, 2015,
mother of Laura Bingham Ritch '75

Paula Jean Trimmier '02, February 12, 2015,
daughter of Sonja Mullinax Trimmier '75

Robert E. Gaunt, January 26, 2014,
husband of Betsy Wigington '75

1976

Andrew Jackson Airheart, Jr., August 11, 2014,
father of Becky Airheart '76

Betsy Stephens Williams '46, July 14, 2014,
mother of Leslie Williams Joyner '76

May Bynum Sharp '48, January 26, 2015,
mother of Elise Sharp Moore '76

Mary Louise Vaughn Vallotton '66, April 13, 2014,
sister of Elizabeth Vaughn Sharpe '76

1977

Mayo Mac Boggs, March 10, 2014,
husband of Ansley Hassell Boggs '77

Henry Prentice Graham, September 16, 2015,
father of Anne Prentice Graham '77

Bobbie Frances Cobb Nix, January 29, 2015,
mother of Nancy Nix Jones '77

Jesse Gray Taylor, March 15, 2014,
step-father of Chris Wood Lynn '77

1978

Rex L. Carter, June 9, 2014,
father of Lucy Carter Ault '78

Lucille Mellotte Thomas '55, January 3, 2015,
mother of Elizabeth Thomas Johnson '78

Carlton Stanley Duggan, January 20, 2014,
father of Cina Duggan Smith '78

James Lamar Spence, June 27, 2013,
father of Melanie Jean Spence '78

1979

George Lucktenberg, October 26, 2014,
father of Judith Lucktenberg Arrants '79

E. Owen Kellum, Jr., May 22, 2013,
father of Vera Lynn Kellum Sheets '79

1980

Robert Paul Brubaker, July 6, 2014,
father of Susan Brubaker Roquemore '80

James Monroe Johnson, December 21, 2014,
father of Lynn Johnson Salters '80

1981

George Bowman Hartness, June 9, 2015,
father of Sherrerd Hartness '81

Rex L. Carter, June 9, 2014, father of
Kimberly Carter Johnson '81

David Shriver Soliday IV, July 1, 2014,
son of Ruthie Jones Soliday '81

1982

Jonathan Efrd Faggart, March 11, 2014,
brother of Janet Faggart Ashley '82

Katherine Hester Field '52, January 17, 2015,
mother of Molly Field Brown '82

Janet Grande Guzzi, January 9, 2014,
mother of Toni Guzzi Erdman '82

Walter Herbert Jones, October 22, 2015,
father of Melissa Fontaine '82

Jean Adrienne McCown McGurk, June 16, 2014,
mother of Jenny McGurk Fulton '82

Evelyn B. Perrin, December 24, 2014,
mother of Phyllis Perrin Harris '82

Patricia Mock Benton, March 12, 2013,
mother of Clare Benton Pollock '82

Robert Paul Brubaker, July 6, 2014,
father of Beverly Brubaker Wade '82

Joe Griffin, September 6, 2015,
father of Cindy Griffin Wynkoop '82

1983

William Henry Gooding, Jr., March 5, 2015,
husband of Nancy Harlan Gooding '83

1984

Jon Hugh Ryall, July 3, 2015,
husband of Kimberley White O'Quinn Ryall '84

Julius Harshaw Corpening, April 2, 2014,
step-father of Palmer Davison Ball '84

Coleman Kapiloff Hammond, April 21, 2015,
son of Susan Kapiloff Hammond '84

Katherine Hester Field '52, January 17, 2015,
mother of Katherine Field Helms '84

Pinkney C. Froneberger, June 7, 2015,
brother of Catherine Froneberger Siarris '84

1986

Dale William Player, February 6, 2014,
father of Jennie Player Lambe '86

1987

Jean Adrienne McCown McGurk, June 16, 2014,
mother of Debbie McGurk Atkins '87

Robert Grant Calhoun, January 8, 2015,
husband of Karen Jones Calhoun '87

1988

Carlyle Randolph Bryant, March 8, 2015,
father of Kimilee Bryant '84

1989

Raymond William Lee, Jr., June 25, 2014,
father of Sally Lee Danneman '89

Julius Harshaw Corpening, April 2, 2014,
step-father of Wallace Davison Prestwood '89

1990

Carroll Davis Strider, February 27, 2015,
father of Linda Strider Haynes '90

1991

Harriet Jolene Willard Bryant '62, April 7, 2015,
mother of Laura Bryant Palmer '91

David Wilson Caraway, February 10, 2014,
father of Susan Caraway Strickland '91

1992

Frances Reedy Buyck '60, May 11, 2014,
mother of Rose Buyck Newton '92

James Austin Neal, February 22, 2014,
father of Heather Neal Stone '92

1993

Phyllis Davis, May 24, 2014,
mother of Cheryl Davis '93

1993

Emily Elizabeth Davis, October 1, 2014,
daughter of Cheryl Davis '93

1995

Elizabeth Wade Greene, March 7, 2014,
mother of Rebecca Hoehn Becker '95

1995

Mayo Mac Boggs, March 10, 2014,
father of Gretchen Boggs Smith '95

1996

Andre Stephenson Hart, March 19, 2014,
grandmother of Lathrop Hart Mosley '96

1997

Marilyn Risko Lamarre '60, May 24, 2014,
mother of Kelly Lamarre Doherty '97

2000

Andrew Joshua Warmesley, April 28, 2014,
son of Malika Young Warmesley '00

2001

John Thomas Buice, July 27, 2015,
husband of Kimberly Creef Buice '01

2002

Bridgett Vergara '01, July 17, 2015,
sister of April Marie Vergara '02

2005

Debbie Cassidy Minor, March 29, 2014,
mother of Meredith Hardwicke '05

Molly-Cate Painter, July 18, 2014,
daughter of Trent and Carly Stevens Painter '05

Millington Gantt Pogue, January 15, 2015,
daughter of Kevin and Catherine Woodrum Pogue '05

Charles Lippold, November 2, 2014,
father of Sasha Lippold Smith '05

2006

George Lucktenberg, October 26, 2014,
grandfather of Kathryn Rose Arrants '06

Margaret Goettee Brooks '66, October 16, 2015,
mother of Demaris Brooks Schwab '06

2010

Howard Cecil Pittman, March 19, 2014,
grandfather of Mary Alison English '10

Mary Self Bingham, November 29, 2015,
grandmother of Mary-Sidney Ritch '10

2013

Wilma Jackson Martin, November 10, 2014,
great-grandmother of Brooke Rowell '13

2014

Billy Ray Bateman, December 3, 2014,
father of Briana Bateman '14

Sandy Doncaster, August 22, 2014,
mother of Jesse Pope '14





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